



Director's Report May 2024

Special Highlights

OLA

JCLS shone bright at the Oregon Library Association Conference at the end of April. Thirteen staff and two board members attended, and members of the Outreach, Programs, and Digital Services teams along with Collection Development and Marketing departments held the special honor of presenting at the conference. Area Manager



Carrie Turney Ross and Digital Services Supervisor Eric Molinsky provided a talk called *Turning Technology Education Inside Out*, in which they discussed the Digital Services team at JCLS and their three-pronged approach to supporting patrons in gaining digital literacy skills for free through their libraries. Community Literacy Librarian Evelyn Lorence, Selection Librarian Monica Owens, and Marketing Manager Ryan Bradly presented *Bobbing for Readers: Bringing OBOB to Everyone*, where they discussed the new approach JCLS took to the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) over the past year, and how to make the program approachable for readers

of all types. Programs Coordinator Brystan Strong participated on a panel titled *Not-So-Passive Programming: Creative & Budget-friendly Ideas for All Ages*, where she shared some of the amazing passive programs seen throughout the JCLS libraries that allow patrons to participate at their own pace.

It was a full weekend of networking, learning, and fun. Popular sessions included presentations on grants, project management, reader's advisory, AI, career development, and inclusivity and accessibility for patrons. There was time to socialize and connect with other library professionals from around the state, with opportunities to browse through vendors, authors, and exhibits. Upper Rogue Area Manager Masyn Phoenix struck up a conversation with a vendor, who ended up generously donating a new chair to the Gaming Cave in the Eagle Point branch and other furniture to the District.

JCLD 10th Anniversary

Excitement is building for JCLD's 10th Anniversary Celebration in July. Outreach and Programs Area Manager Carrie Turney Ross, Programs Coordinator Brystan Strong, Digital Services Supervisor Eric Molinsky, Jacksonville Branch Manager Rina Pryor, and Board Member Susan Kiefer are planning the event, which will take place in the Medford Library in the Grand Reading Room on Saturday, July 20 at 5:30 PM. The theme is "Libraries are Timeless," and attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite era's attire, although costumes are not required. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and all in attendance can mix and mingle with other library supporters- both those who were instrumental in the "Libraries for All" campaign of 2014 and those who continue to play a role in keeping our libraries the vibrant places they are today.



Public Services

Earth Day

Earth Day celebrations lasted most of the week at JCLS, with events stretching across the county. Many took to the great outdoors and celebrated the best of what our region and residents have to offer. On April 19th, Ashland Teen Librarian Katie Fischer, Library Associate Clare Taylor, and Teen Library Specialist Lynn Snell ran a booth at the 2024 Rogue Earth Day event at SOU. The booth was popular, and people continually streamed up to chat, plant sunflower seeds, and sign up for library cards. The event was also a wonderful networking opportunity, and staff made some great connections with local community organizations.



Meanwhile back at the branch, Magdalena Winter of Ashland Community Composting lead a program on Easy Bokashi Composting at Home. Magdalena explained this technique, which speeds up the process of decomposition and takes up less space than some other types of composting. Several individuals attended, including representatives of Rogue Creamery, who are interested in finding sustainable ways to dispose of the byproducts created by their cheesemaking processes.

The next day, Phoenix Branch Manager Jody Fleming and Mobile Services Specialist Leah Finney brought the DART van to the Earth Day Celebration at Blue Heron Park. They spoke to more than 100 people about the library and the Summer Reading Program. Many folks recognized the van and the JCLS logo and stopped by to say just how much they love the library.

At the Medford Branch, Earth Day and a break in the rain were both celebrated with an event in the outdoor garden area. Library Associate and plant enthusiast Cal Baze hosted a “Cool Trees, Cool Climate” special tree-themed storytime. Baze read a story, and then, with help from Library Associate Sydney Salisbury and Librarian Elanna Ehrhardt, everyone got their hands dirty and their thumbs green, planting small trees into recycled containers. Eighty-two sapling trees were handed out to patrons, each with a hand-embossed label, ready for them to plant in their gardens at home.

In Children’s, patrons could also pick up take and makes to create bird feed ornaments to hang in their outdoor spaces. Spring is the season in which many songbirds are migrating, and patrons are sure to delight in observing the birds that come to partake in their creations.

Taylor Swift Album Release Party

Because her albums are available on Hoopla, the Marketing Department created a series of promotions centered around the release of Taylor Swift’s new album, *The Tortured Poets Department*. In preparation for the release, they prepared materials that highlighted the digital resource, including bookmarks, stickers, and pathfinder cards that were available system-wide. The weekend kicked off with hosting a Hoopla listening party at the Medford library, full of references for die-hard Taylor Swift fans. All around the room there were hidden QR codes — 13, of course — as well as delicious lavender cupcakes and lemonade for attendees to snack on. A special Tortured Poet-themed video produced by marketing specialist Ryan Pfeil looped on a large TV at the front of the room. There were also stations to make friendship bracelets, build Perler bead album covers, write poems, register to win albums, cats, and movie passes. Patrons named every Taylor Swift song within 25 minutes, which is



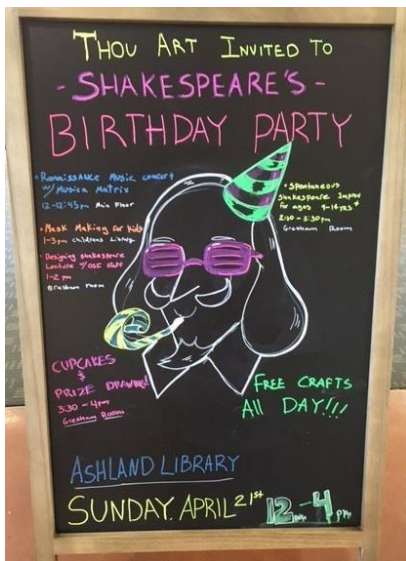
impressive, given that there are 274 of them. Patrons got to know the library better with a scavenger hunt that held clues in all the public areas they needed to find to win a prize.

Librarian Ethan Craft hosted Ashland's Taylor Swift Album Release Party on Saturday. A large, happy crowd of Swifties listened to the new music while enjoying snacks, crafts, and trivia.



Central Point Taylor Swift fans of all ages came out to celebrate the release, too.

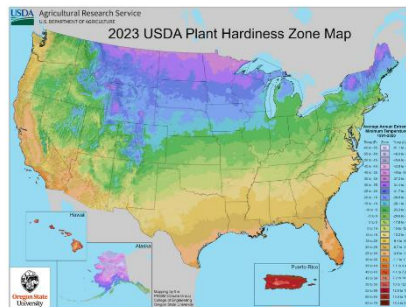
The friendship bracelet booth was particularly popular, as was the station for bejeweling heart shaped glasses. The photo booth was met with squeals of adolescent jubilation. Lots of people came dressed up and glammed out. A patron said of the Taylor Swift release party, "This was a great event! Thank you for putting it on. My daughter had a blast!"



Bear Creek

Though Shakespearean programming has always been popular in Ashland, staff pulled out all the stops for an extra-special Elizabethan bash on April 21st. The Shakespeare Birthday Party was an event the Bard would be proud of, extensively organized by Ashland's Head of Adult Services Ellie Anderson, ably assisted by Librarian Ethan Craft, and supported by many staff members throughout the day. Throughout the four-hour event, nearly 200 patrons streamed to the branch for a Renaissance music concert, a lecture with OSF Costume Designer Melissa Torchia, a Shakespearean Improv workshop for kids, a Shakespeare Open Mic, lots of crafts, and a cupcake party to "send him many years of sunshine days!"

On April 25th, Teen Librarian Katie Fischer and Teen Specialist Miki Hocker visited Ashland Middle School to lead an outreach activity where students painted small canvases and bookmarks. As the school year draws to a close, they emphasized sharing Summer Reading Program information with students and AMS library staff.



Another popular program at the branch was an overview of USDA Zone Changes: Gardening for Today in our Changing World, a presentation by local Landscape Designer Lucretia Weems. The USDA recently updated the zoning map for plants, and Weems explained how to look up the current planting zones and recommended some plants that succeed in this area. She also spoke on plants that were adapted to hot weather and firewise gardening techniques.

Ashland Adult Services celebrated National Poetry Month by creating a display of poetry on the main floor. Usually, poetry is shelved upstairs in the nonfiction collection, and staff kept the display well-stocked. It became clear that placing selections from the poetry collection in a high-traffic location meant that they proved much more popular than one might imagine at first. As National Poetry Month ends, hopefully it has encouraged patrons to seek out poetry, even when it is not on display.

Phoenix

Phoenix Branch Manager Jody Fleming visited Phoenix Elementary for their annual Kinder Round Up. This event invites families that have children starting kindergarten in the fall to come to the school and meet the staff. They also invite local organizations to attend so they can show the parents and students what resources they offer to the community. Fleming gave out take and make kits while talking to every family about the Summer Reading program.

Talent

Though April showers were doing their best to bring about the flowers of May, Spring was perhaps even more abundant inside the Talent branch. In addition to a Spring-themed book display in the children's area, two bulletin boards featured art by local students. One board features a garden of watercolor flowers painted by Mr. Glicke's 5th grade students from the Talent Elementary School, and the other featured "Portrait of Spring" marker, crayon and colored pencil art created by patrons in the library.



The adult book display this month was titled "From Page to Screen" and featured books that have been adapted into movies. This was the first display in a newly expanded space that allows more room for face-out selections. Patrons have enjoyed seeing more book titles on display, and in this case, the contrast between a familiar movie poster and a novel's cover art often made it fun to judge a book by its cover.



Adults enjoyed the music and song-writing virtuosity of Grammy-nominated folk singer Mark Turnbull. Turnbull has been in the business since age five when he played the accordion on the Jimmy Durante Show, and he delighted the audience with songs and stories from his long career. This popular event was organized by Program Coordinator Brystan Strong and co-sponsored by The Guitar Society of Southern Oregon. It was well-received by the patrons who attended, and branch manager Patrick Mathewes hopes to set up more programs with The Guitar Society in the future.



Central Area

Central Point Library Specialist Noel O'Brien hosted Slime-a-Mania, which was a huge hit! The kids made their very own "cloud" slime, complete with custom color, scent, and fun sensory bits. They enjoyed the customization process, selecting their preferred items to make it special to them. Some made themed slimes such as ocean or candy. Many of the attendees asked if there would be more slime programs in the future. Sticky, sensory, and science-y: they all loved it.



A branch passive program on Blackout Poetry has been very popular throughout the month. Facilitated by Library Associate Erin Vieira, participants chose a page from an old, withdrawn book, and made a poem by blacking out portions of the story with a Sharpie. Finished poems were collected by staff and displayed in the branch.



Medford

Librarian Carrie Tannehill and Library Specialist Jackie McGarry facilitated the molecular gastronomy systemwide program. Attendees witnessed tasty science as they used handheld frothing wands to create foam with soy lecithin. The lecithin, which is used as an emulsifier when added to food or liquid, was paired with either vegetable broth or fruit juice. The finished foam was sampled on crackers for a savory taste or vanilla wafers for a sweet

taste. People enjoyed seeing how foamy they could get their mixtures. One attendee had previously attended the multi-branch program at Gold Hill. After finishing at the Medford event, she said "I'm so glad I got to come to this one." Once the event wrapped up, most of the attendees headed over to the garden area to check out the Earth Day event.

Librarians Kayla Samnath and Spencer Ellis visited Concord Apartments to do outreach at an outreach event hosted by the Housing Authority of Jackson County. Participants created spring-themed gnomes made from Styrofoam, socks, and decorative buttons and felt pieces.



The Children’s department continued their engagement with STEAM concepts in the Science and Math Extravaganza program. This included making looms out of cardboard to make friendship bracelets together, becoming “boxitects” and creating cardboard box structures, and an exploration into fractals.

On April 5th, the Medford Teen department hosted the Ashland TRAILS Outdoor School for their annual bike ride from Ashland to the Medford Library. Students and chaperones came for book talks, upcoming program promotion, a tour of the library, and free browsing time. Most students left with a new understanding of what it means to have a library card. It was Library Associates Ari Shaneyfelt and Sydney Salisburg’s first time with a school tour group, and both did a great job of creating excitement for the books they presented and helping all students find the materials they were looking for.

Lower Rogue

Applegate

The Applegate community was treated to a phenomenally talented and generous group of musicians during the Second Annual Applegate Music Festival, including an aspiring young fiddler. Adding to the festive atmosphere, concert-goers were welcomed with bubbles on the lawn thanks to a machine checked out from the Library of Things. Patrons of all ages danced with delight, and everyone agreed it was a hit.



Gold Hill

Gold Hill hosted the Chemistry Magic Show with Board Member Marissa Shepherd on April 27. During the program, one child could no longer contain themselves and summed it up for everyone in attendance when they yelled out, “This is AWESOME!”



Lower Rogue Area Manager David Haywood and Gold Hill Branch Manager Julie Doty attended the Patrick Elementary Kindergarten Launch where they promoted JCLS services, answered questions, and gave out goodie bags to the incoming kindergarteners.

Jacksonville

For National Poetry Month, Jacksonville hosted two poetry-related events: Publishing Your Poetry in Today’s Literary Landscape with Amy Miller and a STEAM-related poetry reading with local poets.



It was standing room only in Jacksonville for the Chemistry Magic presentation; kids and adults packed the patio to watch liquids and gases transform and to eat ice cream made from dry ice.

Rogue River

The Rogue River Branch was happy to host local firefighters, along with a fire marshal and representatives of the Wards Creek Restoration Project, who presented a program on the very important topic of fuel mitigation. Patrons learned about creating defensive space around their homes and how to best prepare for fire season.



The Rogue River staff received some love from their community in April. In addition to a longtime patron delivering a thank-you note to staff along with some very tasty baked goods, there was a note left in their comment box reading “Thank you to the staff at the Rogue River Library for being amazing, always friendly, helpful, kind, and full of knowledge. Whether I come in to update my gaming console, find a book, or use the computers, it is always a wonderful environment! Thank you for creating an amazing space with excellent energy and more for our community!”

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

We want to hear from you!



Thank you to the staff at the Rogue River Library for being amazing, always friendly, helpful, kind and full of knowledge. Whether I come in to update my gaming console, find a book or use the computers, it's always a wonderful environment! Thank you for creating an amazing space with excellent energy and more. Would you like a response? For our community!

Ruch

Just in time for planting season and ahead of fire season, Ruch hosted two timely programs: Seed Saving for Gardeners with Don Tipping, the owner of Siskiyou Seeds, and Fuel Mitigation Close to Home: Defensible Space and Home Hardening with Local Fire Experts. Patrons are already eager to start saving seeds from their gardens to plant in future years, or to gift to the ever-popular seed libraries seen in many local branches.



In 2023, Ruch received funding from the Ready to Read Grant to redecorate the Children’s Department. In April, the last few items arrived, including a new child size couch and three busy boards that are already a hit.



Upper Rogue

White City

White City has a steady group of young patrons who enjoy attending programs.

In April, these programs proved particularly tasty. A sip and paint held early in the month had attendees applying their artistic skills towards painting their favorite things while sipping sparkling cider, and later in the month, things got decidedly messier with a science program focused on extracting DNA from strawberries. Attendees were instructed to smash the berries to start the experiment, and many agreed that it was one of the best parts of the procedure.

The branch has started monthly movie screenings in which the first Thursday is for a movie in English, and the last Thursday is for a movie in Spanish. Staff are happy to see an increase in families and younger patrons enjoying this time to relax and enjoy a movie at the library.

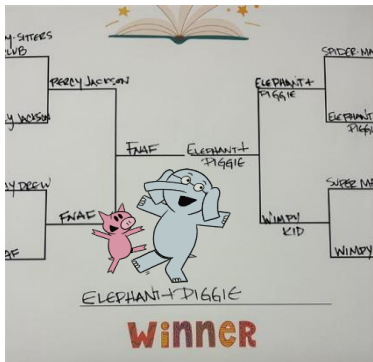
Shady Cove

Shady Cove welcomed back world travelers Dan and Carole Nielson, who presented a program on Mexico. The Nielsons have spoken in the branch before, and again delighted audiences with their travels to new locales. They described Teotihuacan, which has majestic pyramids; Chichen Itza, a large pre-Columbian archaeological site; and the Mayan ruins of Tulum.



Younger patrons were very excited to try their hands at the systemwide programming of Trebuchet vs Catapult. In this program, kids learned the difference between a catapult and a trebuchet and were given supplies to make them. The trebuchet proved a little difficult for the attendees to make, so the kids focused on the catapult instead and soon engaged in some friendly competition. They had a super enjoyable time with the catapults as objects flew around the meeting room.

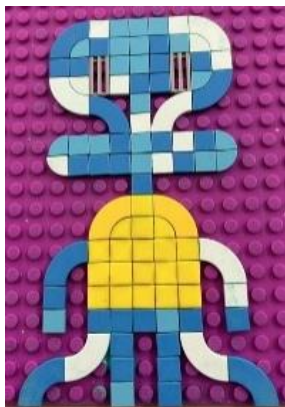
Shady Cove was grateful to host volunteer Mary Stirling, who brought Yarnia on the road. Originally a program in Eagle Point, she visited Shady Cove twice in April, where she taught eager patrons how to crochet.



Prospect

Prospect's first First Friday Art Lab was a huge hit. Lego printing had patrons creating printing plates with a base and thin Lego bricks before carefully rolling on a thin layer of acrylic paint to produce unique prints. Special challenges included creating designs backwards to print a mirror image, removing Legos from the bases, and finding just the right amount of paint and pressure to make a stunning print. Creativity and problem solving were on display in the designs, and the results were marvelous.

In a nail-biting conclusion to the March Reading Madness, Elephant and Piggie triumphed over Five Nights at Freddy's bracket... by a single vote! Beating out crowd favorites like Nancy Drew and Diary of a Wimpy Kid, these two beloved characters by Mo Willems continue to prove that they truly put the "Best" in Best Friends Forever.



Eagle Point

On three consecutive Wednesdays this month, Library Associate Sam Caredig hosted a Life Planning for Seniors series along with local community experts. One week focused on the legal aspects of aging like estate planning and living wills, while the next week focused on long-term medical care. The final program was about end of life and after death care options. These sessions were well-attended, and patrons responded that they had learned a lot from the sessions.



In a celebration of Spring having finally arrived, Library Associate Hailey Graybill held a Fairy Garden program. Materials were provided to create and decorate a tiny garden including succulents, soil, tiny ceramic animals, and mushrooms. Participants were delighted to let their imaginations run wild while they crafted perfect tiny houses for the fairies to come live in. Even more delightful was the fact that the weather cooperated with Graybill that day, and everyone was grateful to be outside in the Eagle Point Garden.

In keeping with this quarter's theme of STEAM programming, Library Specialist Jenna Steigleder put on a couple science-related craft programs for patrons of all ages. Younger patrons had a blast with a slime program. This sticky, messy, fun program had kids portioning, mixing, and playing with slime that they were happy to take home with them after the program.

For older patrons, Steigleder offered take and makes with all the supplies needed to make bath bombs at home. Though perhaps not quite as messy as the slime programming – and definitely not as sticky – it is just as sensory and hopefully even more relaxing, with a small amount of lavender essential oil included in the kit so that their self-care time smells amazing.

Community Resources

Community Resources has been working hard in the last month to offer supportive programs and has seen an increase in patron attendance. The department hosted a program which taught participants how to waterproof household items such as backpacks and shoes using beeswax and an iron. Community Resources have also continued the movie matinee program and have seen great attendance.

A highlight for the department this month has been helping three patrons find jobs to better support their lives. The patrons are happy to report that they have been flourishing in their jobs for a month now.

Outreach, Programs, and Digital Services



Outreach

The Outreach Department was out and about at many events and festivals this month. DART was in the parade and then stationed at the Pear Blossom Street Fair, where staff interacted with almost 700 individuals at the booth. The parade team brought the bubbles and saw many happy faces. The following weekend, staff spread out at three different Earth Day Celebrations in Medford, Phoenix, and Ashland. That same weekend, staff attended Medford Metalfest for the second year in a row with some of the most metal moments in library history. One of the bass players might look awfully familiar to local patrons, even if he wasn't staffing the JCLS table that day. Library Associate Joseph Ritchie was on stage wowing audiences with the band Embers Through the Fog, but was happy to pose with his library fans, too. It is always a fun day when librarians get to shout to be heard, and staff had an absolute blast at the event.



Outreach staff teamed up with Human Resources to attend the Careers in Gear event at the EXPO and saw about 250 people. Their booth proved so popular that they had had to make a mid-event run to the Central Point Library to print more fliers.



At Home Services

Library Specialist Kateri Warnick and Outreach Coordinator Katrina Ehrnman-Newton attended the ACCESS Senior Fair at the Medford Armory on April 2nd and had an amazing turnout. As the school year draws to a close, Project Sunshine is wrapping up. The National Honors Society of South Medford High School and the students at Innovation Academy have created tea towels and cards for At Home Services patrons. The gifts will be prepared by staff and ready to be distributed in May.

Business Librarian

April began with a special program to promote National Library Week with downtown Medford businesses. Thirty-six businesses participated in Sticker Search where customers could show their library cards at checkout and receive a "Libraries Will Blow Your Mind" sticker.



Business Librarian Roslyn Donald gave a presentation on "Grow Your Business with the Library" for the Eagle Point Chamber in April. Chamber members enjoyed the presentation, which included an overview of business resources offered by JCLS and a short case study of how they could use AtoZ database to bring in more business.

DART

DART visited Rogue Food Unites No Cost Farmer's market for the second time, this time with Spanish speaking staff along, and saw an increase in the quality of interactions. The Sweets N' Eats parking lot in Ruch was added to DART's regular visits, which will allow visitors access to internet, technology, and library services before the Ruch Library officially opens for the day.

Education Services

At the Southern Oregon Education Services District's (SOESD) Curriculum Director's meeting, Community Literacy Librarian Evelyn Lorence and Education Services Specialist Bella Silva were given a 15-minute slot on the agenda to put forth a proposal to add JCLS library card applications in all student registration packets, with the

goal of reducing barriers to access and getting JCLS resources to students on a mass scale. An Ashland District staff member has since contacted Lorence and Silva and stated that he will endorse this plan and assist in the district approval process.

At the Jackson and Josephine County Library Symposium hosted by the SOESD, Lorence and Silva presented on how students can utilize the library's digital resources for free, even without a library card, via the student reading app Sora, in front of 60 school library staff members. Based on feedback from attendees, this will benefit the educational community, as schools have been weeding books but have not been able to replace them due to budget shortfalls. It has been confirmed that the Medford and Ashland school districts have signed up for this feature, Public Library CONNECT, and can now offer the JCLS collection to their staff and students.

Digital Services

Digital Services had a busy month in April as staff increased the number of programs offered. Specialists Nicole Vukcevic and Laurel Bucher presented the program Preparing for Your Digital Legacy multiple times, and it continued to be very popular with patrons, with branches and partner organizations asking for either repeat or initial instances of this class. The monthly scheduled class at Ashland Senior Center saw a group of attendees for the iPhone basics class, which also received positive reviews.

Good progress was made on the ongoing transition of responsibility for hotspot management from the Digital Services team to the Circulation department. This transition will allow for an easier and more efficient circulation of the mobile hotspots, meaning that patrons' holds will be filled more quickly, with less staff management of each device.

Finance

Now that the finance team is fully staffed, the focus has been on catching up on transactions and reconciliations to get the financials up to date and prepared for year-end closing. As the department prepares for the upcoming audit, internal controls and processes will be reviewed in detail and updated as necessary. In addition, finance will be integral in the transition to the new HRIS system, Paylocity, and is gearing up for training and providing the necessary payroll data required for integration.

Human Resources

Evaluation season is upon us! Self-evaluations were launched, and once those were completed, managers could start their evaluations of their direct reports. The HR Team is reviewing all completed evaluations prior to the sit-down meeting with the manager and director reports. Evaluations will be completed for all staff by the end of May.

Marketing

April was a big month with National Library Week promotion. The Marketing Team also enlisted ten local food trucks to give library card holders a discount during National Library Week. Participating trucks also received a special sticker to give out to customers. Afterward, the food truck owners responded positively to the promotion, saying that the stickers had been popular, and that they would be glad to partner with the library in the future. The library also unveiled an ad at the airport, advertising Libby as free in-flight entertainment. All travelers need is their library card for a world of adventure!

The JCLS District YouTube is now live! It can be found at www.youtube.com/@JCLSboard. One of the videos that has been uploaded is the recording of the Facilities Master Plan listening session, which has also been

embedded into the JCLS website on a designated page that keeps track of all of the Facilities Master Plan updates. <https://jcls.org/future-of-jcls/>



Media Coverage:

KOBI on National Library Week: <https://bit.ly/3xplW0V>

Press Releases:

National Library Week: <https://bit.ly/3VPUtPZ>

Windows in Time: <https://bit.ly/4ar819k>

Support Services

Collection Development

Collection Development Manager Laurin Arnold attended the Public Library Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio. She focused on learning about digital resources and database vendors and current trends in collection development.

There has been a lot of work in the department with the Library of Things the past month. The Book Club Bag Committee chose six titles that will debut as new book club bags in June, including *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. These are some of the most circulated and requested titles in the system and are sure to be popular among area book clubs. More items are also being added to the larger LOT collection, including indoor air quality monitors, a bread maker, and lots of lawn games just in time for Summer.

The April Database of the Month was Novelist Plus. Novelist is the best friend of any librarian who engages in readers advisory or patron who is a heavy reader. It is a great resource when trying to find author read-a-likes or when someone knows what types of books they enjoy but is not sure where to start. For parents and kids, Novelist Plus K-8 provides the same services that Novliest Plus does, but only features books for this audience.



Technical Services

The steady growth of interlibrary loan (ILL) service has prompted Technical Services staff to survey regional and national libraries to gather information on current practices. Shipping costs, staff time, and other factors are also being considered as part of the analysis. The data collected is being used to inform decisions to restructure the service to make it sustainable and affordable.

Information Technology

The IT department purchased new computer monitors and are upgrading staff workstations across the district according to the JCLS Technology Plan's equipment replacement schedule. Part of this project involved repurposing the old staff monitors to replace public catalog monitors, as it is generally District practice to cycle equipment through appropriate alternate uses throughout its viable life. This ensures consistency across branches and represents JCLD's commitment to resource stewardship. Sean Northcutt, IT Technician, traveled to all branches throughout March and April to complete this project.

Another long-awaited accomplishment is the implementation of Starlink Satellite Wi-Fi for the DART Van. Many months ago, the Outreach DART team reached out to IT because they found the cellular Wi-Fi available on the van was inconsistent across the Valley and caused a lot of challenges.

Facilities

Last month, the Ashland library installed a new cell phone charging locker. Staff and patrons alike report that this new locker is a welcome addition to the branch. A patron who has been a regular user of phone lockers stated that the new model feels more secure and works better than the prior model. Staff feedback is also positive. Medford library will be upgrading their locker by the end of June as well.

The scheduled roof replacement in Ashland was recently completed. This project had previously been delayed due to contractor availability and weather.

New drinking fountains with water bottle filling stations were installed at the Medford library in both public and staff areas. Other branches including Applegate, Prospect, Ruch, Shady Cove will be receiving them in the coming weeks as well. Staff enjoy watching the count of water bottles saved add up on the fountain's monitor.

After attending the OLA conference, Operations Coordinator Crystal Zastera took a personal tour of two of the Multnomah County Library buildings on a visit to Portland. Multnomah County Library recently contracted with Group 4 for a Facilities Master Plan, and Zastera visited their Central Library and Operations Center with the architects who designed and completed the work.

