

Moorhead Library Board
Regular Meeting
November 10th, 2015
Director's Report

Materials and Services

- LARL continues to highlight a database or set of databases each month. November and December's selections are as follows. Please see the additional handout for further information on each database.
 - November - Ancestry.com and other Genealogical databases
 - December - Overdrive and Oneclick Digital
- LARL launched a new Integrated Library System, Evergreen, on October 26th. Staff are still working through bugs and other issues.
- The Moorhead Library plans to expand its Read& Return collection. We will supplement this collection with discarded items from the LARL collection and will feature popular authors. Anyone is welcome to borrow from this collection, however our hope is to provide a better selection of materials specifically for use by our customers who are not eligible for library cards.
- The Moorhead Library is partnering with WARMY (the Wise and Resourceful Mavens of Yarn) to launch a free mitten tree this winter season. This project is an expansion on the Mitten tree project the Moorhead Library has participated in during the holiday season in years past. While in other years the library has collected cold weather gear during the holidays and donated it to a local shelter, this year the tree will stay up for the entire winter season (starting Monday, November 2nd). This project is also different in that, rather than donating the items at the end of the season, people are welcome to take from or contribute to the tree at any time, much like a Little Free Library.

Library Activity

- Moorhead Library staff are currently working on a shifting project that involves moving the Young Adult materials back to the front of the library. Two years ago, library staff moved the YA materials to the back of the library in order to create a designated teen space. We have found that the space is not used by the intended age group and have noticed a drop in circulation of YA materials. There may be other factors in the drop in circulation, but we feel the materials will be more visible near the front of the library. Staff are currently shifting our non-fiction materials in order to make room for the YA materials.
- One Book, One Community final report (submitted by Jenny Rodger, Public Services Librarian):
 - Our book this year was "Fractured Land: The Price of Inheriting Oil" by Lisa Westberg Peters. We had about 300 people participate at 15 events, which ranged from topics on geology, genealogy, geography, writing workshops, and movie screenings. We had 90 people at the author event on October 6th at the Stage at Island Park. Lisa also spoke with the Friends of the Libraries and Library Board members at the private tea at 2pm that day, where we had 25 people attend. She also separately visited Detroit Lakes to do an author talk at their branch.

The collaboration between West Fargo, Fargo, Moorhead Community Ed, Concordia, and ourselves went very well and we're looking forward to doing it again next year.

- This fall, library staff have been experimenting with one-on-one computer help and open computer lab sessions rather than teaching formal computer classes. We found that formal computer classes were not meeting the needs of the community and have found these informal sessions to be a better fit. We typically see 3-5 people during open computer lab on Mondays and Wednesdays and our reference librarians meet with customers for one-on-one appointments about twice a week.
- Our annual fall event with Chad Lewis drew in 110 people. This year Chad presented on the most haunted places in Minnesota.
- On November 2nd the library hosted Jack El-Hai, author of *The Nazi and the Psychiatrist* as part of LARL's Arts and Cultural Heritage Series. Forty people attended this event.
- On October 1st the Moorhead Library hosted Ten Thousand Things Theatre who performed "Henry IV Part I." Ten Thousand Things, a theatre company from Minneapolis, has made it their mission to provide theatre to those without normal access. They have performed in community centers, homeless shelters, and correctional facilities across Minnesota. Twenty-five people attended this event.
- Candace Perry, our Youth Librarian, has been hosting an American Girl book club this fall that has been very popular. The book club will culminate with a visit from Author Mary Casanova on Saturday, November 7th at 3:00pm.

Outreach Efforts

Library staff are excited about the future of outreach efforts as we are able to use Evergreen, the library's new Integrated Library System, offsite. This means that we are now able to do things like sign people up for library cards, access their customer record, checkout materials, etc., when we are outside of the library building. We were not able to do this with our previous computer system, so we are hoping that our outreach efforts will be more fruitful with our new abilities. Some upcoming opportunities include:

- Megan will host a booth for the library the Fall Festival Luncheon at Grace United Methodist Church in Moorhead on November 7th.
- Megan will host a booth for the library at Pangea, an cultural event at the Hjemkomst Center on November 14th.

Continuing Education

- Megan and Jenny attended the Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference October 8th and 9th.

Events and Programs

- Nov. 14th – The Moorhead Library will host a NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) panel with writing session drop-ins happening Mondays from 5:30-8:30 and Wednesdays from 2:30-5:30 in November.
- See event brochure and Legacy booklet for other events.

Friends of the Moorhead Library

- The Friends of the Moorhead Library held their Fall Book Sale October 23rd and 24th. This sale brought in just over \$3,900.00, making this their best sale yet. Most proceeds from this sale will go toward the meeting room remodel project, and will be matched by the Otto Bremer Foundation.
- The Friends have an overabundance of donated materials, and are hoping to hold a third book sale this year in order to clear out their inventory. This sale would be a bag sale.

Building Issues

Bremer Grant Update:

- Youthbuild painted the library meeting rooms in September and October.
- The next step will be to order new carpeting for the rooms.
- The public is still able to donate to the meeting room project. The library still needs to raise just over \$8,000.00 in order to complete the entire project.

Building upkeep issues:

- There are several small projects throughout the library that have gone unfinished. Examples include installing a new toilet paper dispenser in the upstairs men's room, gluing down loose carpet squares and fixing door handles. While the City of Moorhead provides a budget for building maintenance, it is up to library staff to contract and hire any work done. It can be tough to find someone to come over for smaller jobs – often they don't even return phone calls or they never show up to complete the work. My guess is that smaller jobs aren't a high priority. This is an issue because small jobs tend to add up when they should be taken care of more quickly. It has also resulted in library staff (and volunteers) taking on these tasks. It is not an ideal situation and something the board should be aware of as advisors on matters relating to the library building.