



# County of Fresno

Fresno County Public Library  
Laurel Prysiazny, County Librarian

## County Librarian's Report

September 2011

Hello! A lot has been happening in the last month!

### Citizen Involvement

- We are wrapping up our meetings with the **Collection Management Citizen's Review Task Force** this week. Their observations and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall.
- Central Library staff are creating a Development Plan for the California history and genealogical collections. To ensure the Library and community agree, the **Leading the Future of Our Past Citizens Advisory Board** has been established to help guide library staff in the creation of the Development Plan. Invitations have been sent to most history and genealogical societies in Fresno as well as the Board of Supervisor's Measure B Citizen's Review Panel and the Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission. The Development Plan addresses planned initiatives including securing a vault for precious archival materials; setting priorities for the digitization of fragile collections; and improved marketing and outreach initiatives to highlight the treasure-trove of materials in the collections. The Advisory Board will meet in October.
- The **Measure B Citizen's Review Panel** met this month at the new Tranquillity library. The Panel was pleased to see the new building. Sadly members also observed the passing of **Sharon Thomas**, a long-standing member of the Review Panel.
- The Library is commencing work on its Strategic Plan and will convene a Stakeholder's Focus Group shortly. The County Librarian in partnership with the Friends of the Library conducted ten community focus groups throughout the county during January through June entitled, **Visioning for 21<sup>st</sup> Library Service**. The results of these focus group meetings are a critical component of the strategic planning process and will play a significant role as the Library, stakeholders, and staff develop strategic directions for the Library.

### Facility Updates

- Renovations at the **Central Library** continue. Painting is now complete in the Doris Gates Children's Library and new signage is on order. We are working on replacing service desks and RFPs have been issued for those items. We finally settled on a new paint color ~ a mocha color ~ that matches the floor tiles. It is definitely making things look fresher. Staff continue to move collections around as we work through the renovations. It is like a giant moving puzzle with stacks being moved and re-oriented in different directions.
- **Bear Mountain Library** had an electrical fire in an air conditioning unit. Fortunately staff were there and everything was attended to quickly. The library only had to be closed for a very short period of time until repairs were completed. Kudos to the quick thinking staff and all of the facility staff who helped with this.

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### Staff Focus

- We plan to introduce a new service called ***In the Spotlight*** on our website featuring staff from all over the library system. We will start with ***Nance Espinosa***, our new Special Collections Librarian who is a long-time Fresnoian herself, and is now the librarian handling our California history collections.
- A new staff person will join our staff very shortly, namely ***Kit Fox***. Kit is named after the local Kit fox here in the San Joaquin and is the Library's new mascot. He is going to have a very busy schedule with many activities planned for him. I am sure you will see him at several events throughout the county.

### New Services

- The new ***Bookflix*** service was introduced last month. This is an online early literacy product that lets you watch and read animated storybooks online. It is designed for preschool to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children and is perfect for early readers, reluctant readers and English Language Learners at home, in the classroom or in the library. It is available through the Library's website.
- The ***New and Now*** service is expanding to six more libraries in the Fall: Woodward, Sunnyside, Reedley, Fig Garden, Gillis and West Fresno. This expansion ensures that each branch cluster has two locations where customers can find the New and Now materials.

### Measure B Renewal

- The ***Citizens for Libraries and Literacy Committee*** is ramping up its efforts to get the renewal for Measure B underway. Information sheets for staff have been completed and will be distributed shortly. Anyone interested in helping with this endeavor should contact the Friends of the Library office for details. Sign-up forms are available at all library branches and can be returned to the branch who will forward the information on to the Friends. The vote for renewal is slated for November 2012.
- The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has asked the County Librarian to present a ***Contingency Plan*** to the Board by the end of the year. Library Administration is presently examining options and costing out scenarios for the BOS to consider should the measure fail. This report will go before the BOS in December.