



# County of Fresno

Fresno County Public Library  
Laurel Prysiazny, County Librarian

## County Librarian's Report

### November ~ The Year in Review

As you read this the Holiday Season is fast approaching. I want to first start off by wishing each and every one of you the very best of the Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

As I look back at this last year the Library System has undergone tremendous challenges and change and is a stronger organization as a result.

### Our Accomplishments ~

We do have many accomplishments to our credit this year.

- **New Library Structure**

The Library was not immune from the economic downturn which did require our restructuring and downsizing to address a disparity between our revenues and expenditures. With declining Measure B sales tax revenues which had dropped 21% [\$3M] and increasing salaries and benefit expenditures [increase of 20% or \$2.98M since 2006/07] the Library had to make changes. Using the Goodrich Operational Audit conducted in 2008 as our roadmap, we implemented new models of service in June of this year.

While it has only been six short months, staff have reported that they are enjoying their new assignments and are appreciative of the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people. Our customers have also indicated that they are happy with our services which remained largely unchanged.

- **New Library Foundation**

The Foundation for the Fresno County Public Library was incorporated in October. This fundraising organization will differ from the Friends in that it will focus on fundraising for capital projects so that we can continue to support the development and renovation of branch libraries.

- **New Services and Programs**

In late summer we introduced a new library card design that makes use of the Library's new logo and tag line, A Place to Grow. The new colors and design allow us to embark on a re-branding process for all of our published materials so the Library is clearly identified with a unified design on anything produced. We also introduced the **New&Now** bestseller program and **BookFlix** for kids. We also added e-books to our collections with our opening collection achieving 100% circulation in the first month...clearly a popular service. On the lighter side of things **Kit the Fox**, the Library's new mascot arrived in October. Kit was generously funded by the Friends of the Library and will be out and about throughout the community at various events.



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- **Community Involvement**

We have also looked to the community for guidance with our **Collection Management Citizens Review Task Force**. Their report is in the review stages and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors shortly. Additionally we are presently working with the **Leading the Future of Our Past Citizens Advisory Board** which is providing input into the way the Library manages its special collections with particular reference to our history and genealogy collections as our starting point. And we of course receive tremendous support and advice from our **Measure B Citizens Review Panel** which meets quarterly. The County Librarian in partnership with the Friends of the Library also conducted community focus groups throughout the County during the year entitled, **Visioning for 21<sup>st</sup> Library Service**. The feedback from the community was most welcome and very enlightening.

- **Facility Improvements**

We had the opportunity to open the new Tranquillity Library thanks to *California Library Bond Act* funding. It is a great community center for Tranquillity and is turning out to be a highly used facility. Clovis also received new carpet, paint, and lighting, making that facility much more welcoming. The Central Library has also had some minor upgrades with painting and stack re-arrangements. Soon new service desks will appear, offering a more friendly and less intrusive point of service.

### Next Year ~

- We will complete our Strategic Plan which will become our map for the future. This will bring the community, staff and stakeholders all on to the same page and will serve as a good direction finder for all.
- We will work with the **Citizens for Libraries and Literacy Committee** which is working on the renewal of Measure B. The Library staff will act as a resource for information when needed.
- We will expand the **New&Now** bestseller program.
- **Plan C, the Contingency Plan Should Measure B Fail** will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for review and comment.

As you can see, this has been a very busy year for the Library and I am proud of all that we have accomplished. We have a tremendously dedicated group of people working for the system to deliver exemplary customer service everyday...and they do just that, everyday. This is by far the best library team I have ever had the pleasure to work with. It is also the most supportive community I have ever had the pleasure to work with and we are truly blessed by the collaborations we have with various agencies in the community, especially our Friends of the Library groups. Thank you to all for a great year. I know next year will be just as exciting. Happy Holidays!