



County Librarian's Report

November 2013

By the Numbers

As you know, many businesses start to slow down at this time of year. Not so for the library. Here are some notable figures that show business is booming for us:

- Since opening one year ago, Biola monthly circulation has increased by a whopping 1,100%!
- We're up 3% from this time last year for circulation across the system.
- We're up one-half percent (.5%) from this time last year for new borrowers.
- Digital Branch circulation is up almost 55% from this time last year.

Cluster	Current Month	Past Month	YTD	Past YTD	% Change Month	% Change YTD
Digital Branch	24,349	24,285	81,809	52,934	0.26%	54.55%
Raisin Vine	46,564	44,711	198,972	190,943	4.14%	4.20%
Park View	71,765	70,216	301,959	295,455	2.21%	2.20%
Cotton Fields	53,801	50,208	222,043	219,562	7.16%	1.13%
Blossom Trail	51,340	50,379	221,470	222,196	1.91%	-0.33%
Sierra Gateway	71,882	69,163	299,827	302,583	3.93%	-0.91%
Water Tower	35,349	36,098	150,438	152,049	-2.07%	-1.06%
Grand Total	355,050	345,060	1,476,518	1,435,722	2.90%	2.84%

Sorted by highest increase in year-to-date circulation compared to this time last year.

Board Source Leadership Forum 2013

I was fortunate to attend the 2013 Board Source Leadership Forum in L.A. last week. What a great opportunity ... an entire conference dedicated to non-profit board governance! Some key take-aways for me were the need for strategic planning for boards and the importance of board accountability. Many sessions stressed the need to plan, set goals, and follow-up and re-evaluate continually. Additionally, making sure the board and director really understand the mission of the organization and core activities was stressed as critical components to success.

Facilities Update

- The WoW! Mobile Branch Library will launch in January.
- The Out of the Box kiosk branch will launch in January.
- Renovations will commence on the Sanger Branch in December.
- The hunt for administrative and headquarters facilities continues.
- Administrative staff have met with officials from Clovis and Reedley regarding plans for new libraries. Discussions are on-going with no definite plans at this time.

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Partnerships

- The Grizzlies Community is collaborating with the Library to expand its decade-old *Wild About Reading* program, which focuses on improving literacy through an agriculture education platform. Currently, *Wild About Reading* is offered to 175 schools, reaching over 102,000 students annually, throughout the Central Valley of California. The Grizzlies have offered Fresno County libraries educational materials and support, including *Farm Grown* magazine and scheduled visits by Parker, to all various library branches. The first group targeted by the newly expanded program will be children who are home-schooled. As with the traditional school-based program, the Grizzlies will offer free baseball tickets as incentive to complete "Parker's Challenge," which requires reading ten books in five weeks.
- The Library is working with the Children's Movement to advance the need to have children reading on grade level by Grade 3. The Library is ideally positioned to assist with this important initiative and we will participate in reading programs, parent education, and other events to improve our children's standing in Fresno.
- The Library is working with the Maddy Institute to launch a Citizenship Academy which will enable participants to improve their English language skills and study for the citizenship through classes offered at select libraries in the County. We are also partnering with Radio Bilingue and FUSD on this important initiative.

Happy Holidays!

As this will be my last column of the year, I want to thank each one of you for all of your support this past year. Our libraries are healthier than ever and as you've seen, business is brisk. As we head into the holidays, I count my blessings that we have such wonderful people working to deliver fine service to our community. Happy Holidays to you all.

Sincerely,

Laurel Prysiazny