



County Librarian's Report

May 2013

New Public Information Officer

Connie Urquhart is the Library's new Public Information Officer (PIO) and Marketing Librarian. She takes over this job from Roberta Barton who held the post for 12 years. Roberta will now work on special projects for Library Administration as a Staff Analyst II. Connie is bubbling with all kinds of marketing ideas to get the message out about what the Library is doing. This will dovetail nicely with her also performing the role of PIO.

Grants Awarded

In my last update I mentioned that we were heavily engaged in applying for grants. I am happy to say that we have received \$4,000 from the Packard Foundation and State Library to provide lunches to kids at the Central Library throughout the summer break. This is a pilot that we hope will be expanded next year. AND, the Library Foundation just received a \$4,000 grant from the CSU Fresno Humanics Program to buy books for children receiving the lunches. This grant includes funding to hire an intern to assist during the events.

We have also received \$50,000 for the LEAP (**L**earn, **E**ngage, **A**chieve, **P**lay) project which will allow us to create a service program for families with children that have special needs. This will be based out of the Sunnyside Library. This is funded by the federal LSTA program, managed through the California State Library.

We also just received \$10,000 from the California State Library for the *Books4U Program* for the purchase of library materials. This award came totally unsolicited and we are so grateful to the State for this terrific gift.

And lastly, we just received \$3,000 for the *Book to Action Program* that will be based out our Reedley Branch, focusing on recycling with the book titled *Garbology* by Edward Humes.

Library Foundation Entering Into Fundraising Initiatives

The Foundation for FCPL just completed its Strategic Plan, and now has a solid plan for fundraising for the next three years. Specifically, the Foundation plans to assist the Friends of the Library with the completion of **WiFi** installations at all libraries. Fundraising efforts this year will focus on this initiative. The Foundation also plans to fundraise for **Early Learning Center** sites at several branch libraries. These installations cost approximately \$5,000 each and the Library has identified sites that could benefit from such a service. Lastly, the Foundation will help the Library by fundraising for the **Digi-Bus**. The **Digi-Bus** is a high-tech mobile lab that will give the Library the ability to do video, audio and music recordings anywhere at any time. This is a very specialized service that could be useful to all residents in the county and most specifically teens. The cost for this bus is still being calculated, but it will likely be in the \$500,000 range when fully outfitted.

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New Sierra Vista Mall Branch To Open

Well, it is sort of a branch...The Library is purchasing a mobile book kiosk that will be housed at the Sierra Vista Mall. Customers will be able to browse the collection, select items, place holds using a direct connection to the Library's catalog, and pick up materials that they have on hold all from this kiosk. It is a totally self-contained unit that will not be staffed.



Fresno County Public Library will be the first library to install this product in a shopping mall. Other installations (only half a dozen or so) are located in train stations for the most part. The current Clovis Regional Library located in the Clovis Civic Center is the second busiest branch in the library system. This kiosk will help to reduce the volume of business conducted out of the regional library until we can secure a new facility. We have had discussions regarding a new branch with Clovis city officials and we are hoping to see some progress in that area soon. In the meantime the kiosk will help out with the demand for library services. Once a new library is built, we will be able to move this kiosk to another part of the county that requires service. We are hoping to have the new kiosk open in August or September.

Office 365

The San Joaquin Valley Library System (SJVLS) has obtained licensing for Office 365 for all of the library systems that are part of the cooperative, including FCPL. Through the Gates Foundation, SJVLS was able to obtain this software for \$0.00. Yes, free. This is a real coop for all of our libraries as Office 365 is a powerful suite of products including e-mail, web conferencing, and MS Sharepoint, an intranet product.

Without Walls Mobile Branch Library (WoW)

In January I mentioned the Library was implementing a new service which at that time I referred to as field librarianship. We now have a name: it is the **WithOut Walls** Mobile Branch Library (WoW). The implementation team is working on logistics, but things are progressing nicely. We have applied for a Clean Air grant to purchase Prius vehicles to use while out in the field. Stay tuned for more information on other issues related to this new initiative as things progress.