



- For the benefit of new Board members, I'll remind the Board that the host of our library system—Lyrasis, based in Atlanta—upgraded our Evergreen installation in November from version 2.1 to version 2.4. We started testing in October and had very high hopes for a successful upgrade process. Sadly, it has been anything but successful. We, and our Michigan Evergreen (MIEG) partners, have had numerous problems with our host and the upgrade process. At one point we were tracking over 45 concurrent issues with the upgrade (currently we are still tracking 18). There have been over 170 support tickets opened since the upgrade, and most of these have been related to upgrade problems.

I, personally, have been majorly set back by the post-upgrade difficulties. I have spent an inordinate amount of time tracking down issues, documenting them, and testing the fixes. Since October, dealing with Evergreen has been the bulk of what I've been doing.

We have communicated our unhappiness and have received assurances that the situation will improve. Our contract with Lyrasis hosting the MIEG group expires July 1. The MIEG directors have met via conference call, and have more meetings scheduled, and we are considered all available options. We will keep the board informed of any changes we may have to make.

- We have installed new people counters, approved by the board late last year, at the Sherwood and Union Twp. branches. Hopefully, these will perform more satisfactorily, though if not perhaps we'll need to try a different model.
- I have installed our home-grown computer lab timer at the Algansee Branch. All 6 branches are now using the same software to limit session time on the computers and track statistics, though the 6 computers at the Coldwater Branch Kids' Place are not yet. As soon as I can set things up in a convenient way for the children to use the system, I will deploy it there, too.
- The Friends of the Union Twp. Branch library kindly donated 3 Barnes and Noble Nook e-readers to the Union Twp. Branch. These will be available for patrons to checkout and come preloaded with a variety of free, public-domain titles as well as commercial titles purchased from our book budget.
- Related to this donation, I held a talk and demonstration on "E-books and Your Library" at the Union Twp. Branch on Saturday, February 8th. This talk was well attended and there were a number of good questions.
- The Branch County Literacy Council, while separate from BDL, does occupy office space within our building and the library supports the Literacy Council in many ways. To save money, the Literacy Council recently canceled their web-hosting plan. Their site is quite small and low-traffic, so the Library has offered to host it for them. The Literacy Council pages may be found on our web site at <http://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/literacy>

Submitted by

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