

Some months as acting director, most of my work has be directorial, others more IT/Building. This month is strongly in the latter category. But here are some highlights from the director's desk:

- We have added to our normal pest control services a quarterly regime of spraying for bedbugs at all library branches. Once a year we will have inspections by an independent canine inspection team.
- Amnesty Month: in December 2015, we forgave fines totaling \$1,863 on 996 items that were brought back, either lost or just overdue. In addition, we collected half-off fines from 458 additional people totaling \$889.07. To put that in perspective, the first 11 months of the year saw an average of 727 fine payment transaction made each month. December saw a combined 50%-off and forgiveness total of 1454 transactions. Anecdotes from multiple staff members was that patron response was extremely positive and that it was a great time of year to do it.
- Thanks to staff members at the Coldwater Branch, Rosemary Johnson, Jessica Clark, and Salwa Alsuraimi, the last week of 2015 for handling professionally and quickly two difficult situations with patrons having medical issues at the library.
- We've been open two Sundays at the Coldwater Branch so far. Weather wasn't great either day, but the last Sunday nevertheless saw about 80 people through the doors, including families. We are optimistic this trend will continue. With the Academy Award nominations out yesterday we'll be examining what films we can show with our movie license and start a Sunday Oscar-Nominee movie program on Sundays soon.
- The State Aid Report has been filed, a little later than we'd like, but it's in before the deadline and that's what matters.

Submitted by John Rucker