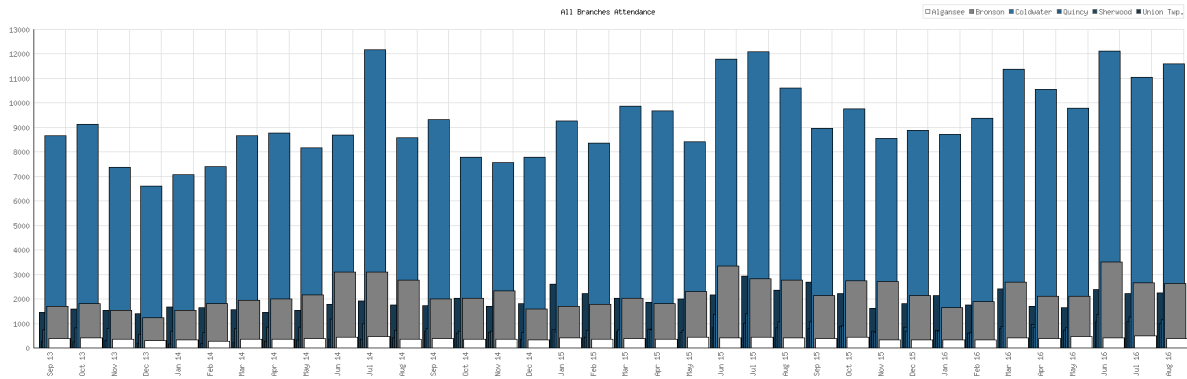




- I have continued tweaking the monthly statistical report, seeking out errors and improving the graphing capabilities. Managers can now view graphs for each category, including graphs to compare branch to branch, as shown below. For the sake of saving paper, these won't be part of the distributed report, but we can pull them off one-at-a-time at any time.



- We interviewed 5 people for our IT support position. Angela Clark will be joining us at the end of the month, and we are excited at the breadth of experience she's bringing to BDL.

- We have been coordinating with Alganssee Branch, Joy Wood, Alganssee Township, and DMCI Broadband to do whatever we can to get our Alganssee Branch on better Internet service. As I've shared with our technology committee, options there are slim: 56kbit/s dial-up or long-range wireless from DMCI. Cable and DSL are not present, and fiber is not a justifiable expense for the amount of usage this location generates: 8 miles of construction from US-12 would be nearing \$100,000, plus monthly pole lease fees, etc. Our service currently comes from DMCI. With the gear we have, we get a theoretical maximum connection of 1.5mbit/s. However, trees and other factors often result in us receiving a much lower speed, and we're really feeling the crunch in recent months. Ever-increasing video traffic and increased patron wireless use combine to a major slowdown at times.



A site survey from DMCI shows that, with an 80-ft tower outside the library, similar to the one shown at right, and upgraded equipment, we can get our speed up to 15 mbits/s, or 10 times faster than our current speed. We'll also be high enough above the trees that future equipment upgrades for even higher speeds will be relatively inexpensive and painless. The labor and equipment for this tower would be \$4,300. DMCI usually charges businesses \$1,373.88 annually for this speed. In continued recognition for our support in getting the tower constructed for them that serves the Alganssee area, we would be charged \$435.64 per year. That's the equivalent of about \$36/month. We can't not do this. Fortunately, all parties involved support putting up the tower.

If the library were to ever move from the present location, all but the concrete base of the tower could be moved and re-used. A new base would be about \$300. Construction can begin immediately. I will be requesting funding for this in our Capital Requests agenda item.

- I enjoyed participating in, and receiving instruction from, our 2nd annual staff training day. I hope we can keep this as a regular occurrence.
- Working with our Evergreen Support team, we solved several mysteries related to cataloging items. I'm enjoying having time again to devote more energy to improving our Evergreen system!
- I completed the installation all of the new branch routers purchased earlier this year and started installing the new network switches purchased last year before I had to take a break from IT to do interim director-type things. The new routers make me very happy, with all 6 locations now running identically-capable systems, just with different amounts of processing power for busier Coldwater. These new routers are making it possible to majorly simplify our networking schema between locations and increase security along the way. Plus, they can handle a higher workload than the ones we replaced.

Submitted by John Rucker