



Branch District
Library

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org

DIRECTOR'S REPORT August 17, 2018

Budget:

August begins the budget process for the next calendar year. I have been gathering numbers together to present to the Finance Committee.

Community Engagement:

The Branch County Fair opened last week and the Branch District Library took it by storm. Supervised by our Director of Public Services, Kim Feltner, we had a table fully staffed every day to tell people about our services—most of them available at no charge—plus hand out goodies, including the ever-popular blow-up guitar.

I attended several meetings since our last Board meeting. I attended the Bronson Advisory Board and told them about the 2017 Annual Report and the Strategic Plan. There were some remarks about the Bronson Board representative and misconceptions about Coldwater and the budget. I answered their questions as accurately as I could.

I also attended the MLA Leadership Academy. Other meetings included the Tech Services Committee, the Public Services Committee, and the Finance Committee.

New staff:



Ben Lyon
Clerk at the Coldwater Branch



Maria Piper
Clerk at the Sherwood Branch



Linda Pickford
Clerk at the Algansee Branch



Ashley McCall
Clerk at the Coldwater Branch



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT August 17, 2018

- The Technology Committee met and made a recommendation to purchase computer time management software. Report in the discussion section.
- I have refined the statistical report some more. I tried to get more library jargon out of the report to make it more accessible to the public. I also added a way to have footnotes on the charts and extra explanatory notes in the opening narrative. You'll see examples of both this month as we try to anticipate items that might need clarification or explanation.
- We are pleased to announce the completion of a large digitization project, the "Coldwater Historic Architecture Survey of 1976-1979". From 1976-1979, volunteers walked the streets of the City of Coldwater, documenting the homes and buildings of the city, and assessing their architectural materials and style. Not every property in the city was documented, but most were.



Completing this digitization of over 5,000 images has been a group effort, taking over 3 years to complete, with Heritage Room volunteers scanning the original documents; IT staff providing back-end support and customizations; and Laura Sachjen, our Technical Services Manager, doing the major task of cataloging and preparing entries for more than 2,500 properties. Thanks to all for their hard work!

You can view the collection at

<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/branch/collections/show/6>

You can browse or search by terms like the address, style, roof material, etc. Two you may be most interest in are here:

<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/branch/items/show/4762>

<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/branch/items/show/5578>

- The IT department did a video of the 2nd annual cardboard boat race:
<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/node/1879>
- Please enjoy these photos, including aerial, of all our branches taken on the same day:
<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/node/1885>

Submitted by John Rucker

- Last month saw the conclusion of Summer Reading 2018 – Libraries Rock! District wide we had 1339 people register to participate. The following totals are reflective of the district and covered the 48 days that we asked patrons to track their reading for the program.

247 Adults	1562 Books Read
712 Children	226,376 Minutes Read
380 Teens	42,884 Minutes Read

This was the first year with several district wide changes including: program timeframe being consistent, all of BDL using the same tracking method (minutes or books), and the use of an online software - Wandoo Reader (provided for free for three years by the Library of Michigan). We have received comments from staff and patrons regarding their experiences and will be reviewing them for 2019.

- BDL spent a week at the Branch County Fair! From Sunday to Saturday, staff from all branches had a shift to highlight library services to the public. Also available, was a library photo booth/selfie station that was put together to let people Rock out Library Style at the Fair.
- After 6 months on a waitlist, I received a call that I would be able to attend a highly recommended training, Disney’s Approach to Quality Customer Service. First, I had to remember that I had even signed up for the training but then was glad to attend. Disney obviously is known for its exceptional customer service that stems from several key training philosophies. These were shared with a very eager, Disney loving group of 150 librarians from across Michigan. These philosophies will be evaluated to see how we can fit them into our very own BDL customer service beliefs and practices.
- Many times, August is a slow month in the library world, with Summer Reading ending and school starting. However, that is not the case this year. Branch Managers have been keeping us very busy at several school open houses and community events. BDL will be at Bronson Schools, Quincy Elementary, Branch Area Career Center, Branch County Children’s Museum, and the Quincy Main Street Festival all within a 2-week window! Several of these events will include library card sign ups that are made much easier by removing the need for a child’s birth certificate. Other events will just provide library information and highlight our great digital services.

- September is Library Card Sign-up Month in order to promote the value of a library card! This annual event aligns with the return to school for many students. The American Library Association partners with libraries nationwide to remind people that signing up for a library card is one of the first steps towards academic achievement and lifelong learning! Ask yourself – do you have this important card in your wallet? If not, what are you waiting for?



Submitted:
Kimberly Feltner



TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN REPORT August 2018

Summer Reading is over, and with its end, we have 4 very happy Coldwater teens! While SRP registration numbers were down slightly this year in Coldwater, we had nearly a 70% completion rate! Coldwater received a total of 446 drawing entries across all four teen prizes. 63 teens turned in entries at this location out of the 92 registered as patrons on Wandoo, with a completion percentage of 68%. 2017 SRP had a completion rate of just over 50%.

The Teen Services Department is looking forward to Fall and the programs that we're providing across the district. There will be "Anime Club", "STEAM-Power", and "Just craftin' around" in all of the branches this Fall. Coldwater will also have "Writing Club". Teen Programming will be conducted by Teen Services Staff – minus myself, starting in September.



Coldwater SRP 2018 Winners:

Jackie Rodriguez – Book Basket
Slaiman Alsuraimi – Movie Package
Muhktar Abdullah – Drone
Zoe Murray (not pictured) – Ukulele