**Librarian Report**

**June 11, 2024**

**Aspen Discovery:** New things are coming.

A new system that integrates physical items with digital and other third-party providers, will give our patrons comprehensive access to all of our materials in one place.

Aspen will allow a good searching system to become a super searching system. There are times when a patron will order the wrong material format, just because our system is not as user friendly as it could be. It will allow searches to become more precise. It integrates 3rd party providers such as Hoopla, Overdrive and Cloud library. If you don’t know the exact name of an author, it gives predictive text suggestions. 1 click search results for ease of material type selection. Tabs that enhance other type of material suggestions such as “Added this Week” “Explore More” “Library of Things”. In short, it brings all of our platforms into one place with more clarity of material types offered. This will also encourage use of a variety items such as Nintendo games, movies and digital platforms. Additional cost of $1,000.00 was added to our yearly fee to bring our cost for our card catalog to $10,248.38. Implementation will take place between July and August.

**Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS):** A new AMHS (Automated Material Handling System) will be put into place at system headquarters. They found this to be a solution to some delivery, staffing, and funding problems they have encountered. High turnover rate among sorters, high sorting backlogs after long weekends, high rate of worker injury and workers’ compensation claims and large increase in volume going through delivery. IHLS did a projection of item volume for the next ten years. It was determined that delivery volume is projected to grow 7% year over year, resulting in projected rise in delivery volume from 3.5 million items to around 6.9 million by FY2034. Project will be done in stages and be finished in late summer of 2025. It was suggested a couple of years ago to begin placing barcodes on the outside of our books and we began the process at that time.

**Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors**: In April, department heads and city officials were asked to attend this meeting. Event had several mayors from the southern Illinois area. Speakers addressed how our area is centralized to become a major area for shipping products across the country in works with the area railroad systems. It was also mentioned that Governor Pritzker would be doing away with the 1% grocery tax and leaving it up to municipalities to implement their own tax.

**Illinois Public Library Annual Report:** Currently in process

**New Hire:** Interviews are still taking place and a new team member will be in place in the near future. I was pleased to receive a total of fifteen applicants.

**Outreach:**  During the Columbia Police departments Safety Town event, the library was invited to have a table at the event. I attended last Thursday and Friday and will attend again this Thursday and Friday.

**Weekly Review:** I included a report that is submitted every couple of weeks to Doug Brimm to share with the city council.

**New Door Counter:** Numbers indicate that since May 4th when device was installed, we have had 5,417 patrons pass through our doors. 270 people the day after Memoria Day. 94 was on a Friday when we are open 9-5. 31 days of operations. Averages to 180 patrons per day.

**Facebook:** Crystal reported that we now have over 2,000 followers

**Advertisement/Sponsorship:** House of Neighborly Service is having a fundraising event at Hank and Lilly’s Fountain Inn on July 6th. I plan to have the library sponsor the event which will allow visibility of our brand and possibly have people that attend like the fact of our support as well as possibly have a few more people join the library. I have included the information so you can review how they place their sponsors on the tables. They will also have our logo on a large banner attached to the front of the main stage.

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|  | May | April | March | February | January | December |
| Physical Items Circulated | 6845 | 6005 | 6473 | 5959 | 6072 | 5197 |
| Physical Items Circulated 2023 | 6990 | 5701 | 6720 | 5708 | 5585 | 5042 |
| Online Items Circulated | 1948 | 1905 | 2105 | 1866 | 1838 | 1581 |
| Online Items Circulated 2023 | 1458 | 1474 | 1433 | 1315 | 1366 | 1260 |
| Online Newspapers | 2731 | 2711 | 3006 | 94 | 2862 | 2924 |
| Online Newspapers 2023 | 3265 | 2355 | 2704 | 1999 | 2432 | 923 |
| New Items Added To Collection | 217 | 247 | 202 | 281 | 224 | 298 |
| New Items Cataloged | 7 | 42 | 10 | 43 | 41 | 63 |
| Library Website Visits | 4161 | 3257 | 2845 | 3497 | 3005 | 2545 |
| New Patrons | 75 | 65 | 57 | 35 | 27 | 25 |
| New Patrons 2023 | 68 | 38 | 59 | 40 | 77 | 24 |
| Program attendance | 263 | 128 | 376 | 66 | 90 | 570 |
| Notary Service | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |

**\*\*** Just this past week, we made 25 new library cards. I am quite certain June will be a great number as well.