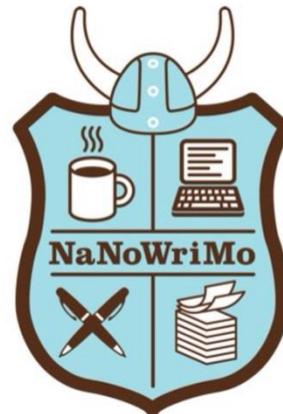




Johnson County Library

County Librarian's Report

November 2013



National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), an annual creative writing project taking place each November, took center stage through a variety of Johnson County Library initiatives. Project founder and Johnson County native Chris Baty spoke to an audience of nearly 100 at the Central Resource Library.

INFORMATION ITEM

January 9, 2013

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors
From: County Librarian Sean Casserley
Re: County Librarian's Report for November 2013

November Highlights

Youth Information Specialist Cassie Coles helped a patron at the **Gardner Neighborhood Library** in his efforts to rebound from a car accident that took place six years ago. While the accident left his right arm and right leg unusable, the patron has since learned to speak again through speech therapy. Cassie helped him locate various pieces of information along with a collection of poems by Billy Collins to read aloud as part of his therapy.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) challenges participants to write a 50,000 word novel over the span of November. Johnson County Library hosted a variety of related activities, including:

- Information Specialists Josh Neff and Jenny Mendez organized a **panel of young adult literature authors** at the Central Resource Library that drew approximately 30 people.
- **Chris Baty, founder of NaNoWriMo and a Johnson County native**, spoke about the past, present and future of the project to 90-plus at the Central Resource Library.
- A NaNoWriMo Finale event took place at the end of November in memory of **Joan Berkley, a Library Foundation member who passed away earlier this year** and bequeathed money to the Library for writing programs. Library staff including County Librarian Sean Casserley and Library patrons read from their NaNoWriMo works.

The Central Resource Library played host to an **Anime Festival**, a celebration of Japanese animated productions. The approximately 100 teens in attendance had fun watching Anime movies, mastering ninja skills and submitting fan art such as the entry below from a 13-year-old patron.



I. Convenient, Delightful & Rewarding Library Service

Susie, an 81-year-old regular at the **Shawnee Neighborhood Library**, let Youth Services Librarian Kathee Goldsich know how wonderful the Shawnee staff is. Susie recently decided to learn how to use the computer. The class instructor at Johnson County Community College went too fast, she said. Kathee and team, on the other hand, have been so patient with her and taught her so much.

A patron visited the **Gardner Neighborhood Library** in search of a German dictionary to translate a 1929 will. It so happened Lynn Davis, a clerk at the library, minored in German while in college. Lynn made a copy of the will to help the patron fully translate it.

A frequent English-as-second-language patron of the **Antioch Neighborhood Library** expressed heartfelt thanks to Information Specialists Dorian Assenmacher and Carol Cichelli:

You and Carol have changed my life! I have spent many dollars at the college trying to gain the language and writing skills I need in this country but they didn't understand what I needed. You librarians understand what I need and have helped me obtain the materials that have helped me so much. I am very educated in my country but need help in this country to be excellent at reading and writing the English language. I thank you so much!

A Kansas City Power & Light staff member had purchased 12 brand new copies of a book for a book group. The day of the event, he discovered all 12 copies were missing the last page of text. At that time the only on-shelf copy of the book in the KC metro resided at the **Shawnee Neighborhood Library**. Branch Manager Terry Velasquez scanned and emailed the missing page, helping the group at the last minute avoid a literary letdown.

Using Library Resources

Work continues on the **redesign of the Library website**. Library staff and patrons continue to be involved in the process via sneak peeks and usability studies that have led to invaluable insights and informed the design process.

After more than two years of indexing work, the **Johnson County Local History Index** reached the 20,000-record milestone. Before computers, researchers used other means to quickly access local information. Local newspaper articles were clipped and stored in a vertical file. When the practice ended in October 2011, Regional Reference volunteers started the process of indexing these newspaper articles into a simple, easy-to-use digital format on JoCoHistory.net.



A woman visited the **Shawnee Neighborhood Library** for help downloading the Library's eBook and eAudiobook applications on her iPad. She had a stroke earlier in the year and greatly appreciated the help from Information Specialist Kathleen Byrd.

Early Literacy and Early Literacy Outreach

Johnson County Library participated in **Kansas Reads to Preschoolers**, an annual event sponsored by the Kansas State Library. JCL staff read "Dog's Colorful Day" by Emma Dodd, the official 2013 book selection, to 492 preschoolers at the library and 550 via Head Start. County Librarian Sean Casserly participated by leading a preschool storytime at the Corinth Neighborhood Library.

Serving Children & Teens

Sean and Kate McNair visited the **Juvenile Detention Center** to interact with incarcerated teens and see firsthand the value the Library provides them. The group read a story from "Machine of Death," a 2010 collection of short stories, and discussed the topics of mortality and death.

The **Lackman Neighborhood Library** added new face-out shelving (see: right) that puts the Easy Picture collection at eye-level for its youngest patrons. The collection's circulation has increased by 33 percent since the new shelving's installation.



A third grade class from Edgerton Elementary visited the **Edgerton Neighborhood Library** for the sixth annual library tour. Despite the challenges of corralling 36 students, the teachers and library staff prepared the students to get their library cards. Most left with a book or two in hand.

Adult Programming and Outreach

Leslie Nord, branch manager of the Lackman Neighborhood Library, joined the Johnson County committee tasked with maintaining **My Resource Connection (MRC)**, a county initiative connecting those in the community needing assistance with resources. Lackman staff has begun working with Johnson County's North Central multi-service center to distribute information about free library services, including storytimes and other family services. The Antioch, Lackman, Gardner and Blue Valley branches all have centers in their service areas and are working to communicate the information.

Collection Development

The Collection and web teams celebrated the successful **launch of eAudiobooks service Axis 360**. Library patrons can access the service via the Library website and with the help of handwritten guides.



The Collection team began a large **government publications weeding project**. Johnson County Library's participation in the Federal Library Depository Program requires these items be offered to larger repositories such as the University of Kansas and then disposed of rather than donated or sold.

InterLibrary Loan

Items Loaned/Requested: $\frac{1,953}{4,319}$ (45%)

Items Borrowed/Requested: $\frac{1,318}{2,090}$ (63%)

II. Serving Underserved Populations

Information Specialists Lynda Hetherington and Margaret Ohmes led a **Stories About Women** reading group at the Johnson County Department of Corrections Therapeutic Center. Fellow Information Specialist Lisa Jordan applied for a grant from the local Walmart to fund the 2015 Stories About Women program.

Lynda and Clerk Deb Reddy staffed the **Quarterly Book Fair at the Adult Residential Center**. A total of 30 clients picked out books to take back to their living quarters.

III. Marketing & Community Engagement

Kinsley Riggs, branch manager of the Corinth Neighborhood Library, was elected to the **Northeast Johnson County Chamber Board of Directors**. Her term begins January 2014.



Director of Communications Kasey Riley met with Nancy Mays, director of public affairs and communication for the County Manager's Office, to discuss the county's plans for implementing the **new county logo** at Johnson County Library locations as well as to discuss other public relations plans for 2014. Kasey shared with Nancy that library use of the county logo must be approved by the county librarian and the Johnson County Library Board. Nancy will likely come speak to the Library board in 2014.

Kasey and Marketing Coordinator Daniel Molina attended two days of **Orange Boy Cluster workshops** with the staff of Orange Boy and other staff from across the Library system. The workshops were an excellent way of ensuring Daniel hit the ground running and has provided clear direction for the Marketing and Communication department's 2014 planning.

Kasey and Event Producer Joseph Keehn finalized plans for thematic programming in 2014. Joseph is working to **streamline Johnson County Library programs** under easy to understand and promote themes and is working with staff across the library system to achieve that end.

Kasey and Daniel attended the **Sustainability Communication Group for Johnson County** and shared relevant 2014 Library events. The group works to promote sustainability across county government and promote related initiatives.

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