

INCOL Director's Meeting

March 8, 2002

Spokane County Library District, Argonne Library

Notes from Libraries:

Pend Orielle County -- The Ione Library moved into their new facility in the Ione Community Center on January 15, 2002. Over the past year, we have had a fund raiser so that the money could be used to buy furniture. We raised over \$7500, which has helped pay for about half of the furniture we purchased.

We are collaborating with Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane Community College, Whitman County Library and Stevens County Rural Library District on a virtual reference grant through the Washington State Library.

We are in the process of trying to raise funds for central air conditioning to be installed in the Metalines Library before summer.

Spokane County Library District

- The 2002 budget is relatively OK. SCLD didn't experience any impact from I-747 this year but expects to in 2003.
- Late last November, two weeks before "going live" on the DRA TAOS software, SIRSI (into which DRA merged in August) announced that it was halting further TAOS software development. The migration was terminated and after three months of evaluation, we'll instead be moving to the SIRSI Unicorn software product on the same terms as the TAOS migration contract. The projected date to go live with Unicorn is early December.
- In late-March/early-April we'll roll out "catalog enrichment"—inclusion of cover art, reviews, tables of contents, plot summaries, etc—in our online catalog. Initially, the content is being provided by Syndetic Solutions, Inc. With the move to Unicorn, we'll contract with SIRSI for its DataStream product used with its I-Bistro user interface. DataStream provides additional content such as best seller and prize book lists and web sites.
- Planning is underway for a branch in the new City of Liberty Lake in mid- to late-2003. From mid-2002 to sometime during the second half of 2003 we'll be providing catalog and database access, as well as pickup and return of materials through a volunteer library operated by the city's Community Library Council.
- Two of the District's 5 trustees were just appointed in January. Another was appointed a little over a year ago. Because of the newness of the majority of the Board, we've initiated a board training program.

Spokane Public Library -- We are working actively with the SCLD to promote the summer reading program in both library systems. We're using the same theme, same art, same rules. It should be fun to see what the results are. The idea is to have the program as "seamless" for participants as possible.

We're starting a "Spokane is Reading..." campaign for October, 2002. The committee to plan and implement is made up of representatives from SCLD and SPL, school district 81 (greater Spokane), and area booksellers. Others who want to participate include the community colleges, lots of independent book clubs, and the like. It should be great fun. We've had a tiny notice in the "Slice" column of the Spokesman-Review, but anticipate a larger article as time gets closer. The book is PLAINSONG by Kent Haruf, currently of Colorado. We wanted a title that would appeal to youth, men, and women. We had a logo designed through a competition at Spokane Falls Community College, and have the high school students working on a web page. Friends of Libraries throughout the area have agreed to supply "seed money" to make sure the effort is successful.

The Downtown Branch of SPL re-opened for Saturday service on February 23. We circulated 2400 items that day, and saw about 1000 people come through the doors. The Eastern Washington Genealogical Society has been very helpful in helping staff that section of the library; other desks are staffed with full-time and part-time Downtown and Branch personnel. It's a crazy quilt of people, but seems to be working.

April 15-20, SPL will host a series of programs for a Steinbeck Centennial Celebration. Visiting scholar Dr. Robert Benton of Central Washington University will present remarks entitled "Pictures of Two Families: Steinbeck's THE RED PONY and THE PEARL" at Shadle Branch at 11 a.m. April 20, and Downtown at 3:00 p.m. that same day.

We have recently reorganized at SPL, developing a set of 5 teams to consider effectiveness of the following service areas: training--both short term and continuing, collection (maintenance and management), facilities use, merchandising the library and its resources, and positive customer services. These teams are headed by a chair and work with a liaison from the Administrative Team (Branch representative, Financial Manager, Dep. Dir for Support Services, Manager of Downtown Library, Human Resources Dept Head, and Youth Services Coordinator). The teams are assigned specific parts of the library's long range plan to study and implement. They are also free to discuss and recommend services or alterations to services for their subject area. Exciting? You bet. Scary? That, too.

Whitman County -- We are in a frenzy at WCL. In an effort to prepare for the lean budget years that lie ahead we are writing grants, focussing on Friends memberships and working to further develop our library foundation.

We are participating in the Gates grant for computers and a computer lab, the Virtual Reference grant cycle, the Early Learning Grant cycle, a Fema grant to move our computer room out of flood danger, remodeling of our Tekoa library, building a new library in St. John and an economic development grant to bring high speed telecommunications to 8 towns in Whitman County and free Internet to the branch libraries within those towns. We also plan to write a grant for an elevator to make our building handicap accessible. If you are aware of any organizations that might fund this type of project, please let me know.

This year we boosted our Friends membership from 25 people to over 100 individuals and organizations. We hope to continue this pattern in 2002. Our friends group sold over 2000

cookbooks with the proceeds benefiting children's programs and projects throughout the county. Let me know if you'd like to buy one of these great cookbooks filled with delicious recipes. It is the best cookbook around!

As I type this list and think of the many accomplishments that I didn't mention, I just want to say what a fine hardworking staff we have here at WCL!