

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Quarterly Managers Report
October - *December* 2022

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ABOITE | Kris Lill, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Throughout the year, Aboite staff and patrons have supported the Friends of the Library with an ongoing book sale, stocked with donated items as well as those that have been withdrawn from the collection. In addition to providing many people in the community with low-cost and good-quality books, magazines, DVDs, and other items, over \$2,000 was collected to support the Friends of the Library.

In late October, Aboite joined with other library locations in housing a shoe donation bin for the Changing Footprints program. The bin is located in the front entryway of the building, where it is easily noticed and accessible; donations have been rolling in regularly and patrons have expressed gratitude for the easy opportunity to help others. Over 120 shoes have been donated in just a few months.



Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning



After working at the Georgetown branch this fall, Aboite branch assistants brought back the idea of having a branch mascot as a fun team-building activity. A ballot of possible animals was drawn up, Aboite staff and branch floaters were invited to cast their vote, and after a rather tight race, the ALPACA was chosen as the mascot of the Aboite branch. During January, visitors to the Aboite branch are welcome to vote on a name for the Aboite Alpaca; results will be shared in my next quarterly update. Many thanks to the staff at Georgetown for the great idea, and for creating a model alpaca for us on their 3D printer!

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

With the increase in our staffing levels, Aboite's youth staff have continued to reach out into the community with the intention of raising awareness of library services to youth.

This quarter, Aboite staff coordinated and/or attended the following events:

- Literacy Night at Canterbury Lower School, providing information on early literacy and library services for young children to parents
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Family Concert, showcasing materials that support music education, including instruments available from the Library of Things
- Short Hikes for Short Legs Storytimes at Eagle Marsh
- Visits to Summit and Woodside Middle Schools, with a focus on library card registrations

Library as Place

Librarians at the Aboite branch received beautiful new endcap display units and are using them in both the adult and children's areas. For adults, urban fiction and several paperback series are now housed in these units. Relocating the paperbacks allows more shelf space for large print titles, which are also very popular at Aboite. In the children's area we will be rotating book displays of various themes.



DUPONT | Erin Warzala, Branch Manager

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

The holidays brought extreme cold weather, but the Dupont Branch provided some cozy passive programs that hopefully made our patrons feel warm and fuzzy inside. One program was orchestrated by Youth Services Specialist, Susan Ricker. Susan provided paper squares for children to decorate, and then she assembled the squares into a quilt for some visiting giraffes! This quilt (and the giraffes) can be found in our picture book section. The other passive program was spearheaded by Senior Children's Librarian, Christi Miller. Christi placed yarn, a crochet hook, and books on how to crochet out by some armchairs and invited patrons of all ages to crochet a row of a beautiful, blue scarf! This cooperative project not only teaches patrons a new skill, but it allows us to bring a little warmth to someone in need, seeing as we hope to donate the scarf to a local shelter once the project is done.



Library as Place

The Dupont Branch received a mini-makeover that was overseen by the Assistant Manager, Amber Hansen. Part of this makeover involved purchasing and assembling 7 new A-frame shelving units to house our adult new books and teen/adult graphic novels. These new shelving units not only look spectacular, but they also provide more space for these popular collections. With this additional space, we are able to display more books face out. We also used our older A-frames to replace the short shelving units we had for music CDs and board games. This switch brings our CDs up higher from the ground which makes them easier to browse. Amber also repositioned some of the branch's furniture to create a more open and welcoming space for patrons to sit and read or meet at tables.



GEORGETOWN | Stephan Platt, Branch Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Stephen Platt attended a seminar featuring the research work of Dr. Lori Desautel entitled *The Integration of Applied Neuroscience, Conscious Discipline and Restorative Justice in Education: How They All Fit to Support Students*. This seminar was an insight into why we see the behaviors we see and, more importantly, how we support students in regulating their behaviors to engage them.

IU Social Worker Graduate intern, Sarah Corely started in her role on January 9th. She will be working primarily with the afterschool children and the staff. Along with library management Sarah will be devising a work plan for supporting the afterschool program. Sarah is very excited to be a part of the work at the Georgetown Branch.

Community Awareness & Engagement

December 2022 through January 2023 we are hosting an exhibition of the photographic works of Jim Gabbard and his colleague Angela Green. Jim is the president of the Garrett Museum and Angela is the gallery coordinator.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

The official last day of the Afterschool program for the semester was Tuesday, December 22. This semester we offered the afterschool program on 88 days. Each day we had an average attendance of 28 students for an overall total of 2,448 children in attendance. The students who were part of the program that had improved their grades had a wrap-up party sponsored by the library at Georgetown Bowl on the last day. The students were treated to pizza and arcade games. 18 students attended this event. We plan to continue offering the after-school program for the Spring semester with enhanced programming. We were pleased to see some great feedback from parents regarding their children's participation in the program. Here are just a few of the parent's responses:

- "Mariya comes home in a great mood after attending the after-school program which gives off positive vibes to all. Thanks for all you do"
- "My child has a safe place to go after school, which means less stress and worrying overall."
- "We did not have any options for after-school care and we're so pleased when the library offered the program. My children love being there to check out books and to hang out with friends."
- "My oldest gets help and completes all the school work now! His grades have significantly improved."
- "It improves her learning more and it keeps her in a positive active space"

Library Administration and Management continue to work on a solution for the afterschool children. Spearheaded by Beth Boatright, an effort is underway to find space locally where an official afterschool program offered by the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne can provide a space for the youth of the North East side of the City. The library administration and management has been in discussion with leaders of both the Boys and Girls Club as well as administrators within Fort Wayne Community Schools regarding the future and solutions for the safety and well-being of the children. Additionally, the library will be hosting several parent meetings where parents can learn more about Boys and Girls club as well as help identify interest and need for structured Afterschool programs in the community.

Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15th to October 15th

During this time, we did passive programming including crafts from Mexican culture that resulted in our own little beautiful ofrenda (for Dia de Muertos on November 1st and 2nd) which was coordinated by branch assistant Hazy Mann, to remember our lost pets. Our amazing After School kiddos painted the skulls. This passive program with the active painting part was a great opportunity to facilitate some simple but sincere conversations with the After School kids about the pets that are dear to us, and what it's like when they pass away. Our passive programming included constructing papel picados, candle covers, and tissue paper cempazuchitl.

GRABILL | Rebecca Wolfe, Branch Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Youth specialist Michaela Cottrell and branch assistant Jadya Saunders went to a Grabill community Santa Claus appearance and passed out goodies to dozens of children. Unfavorable weather kept the numbers down, but our brave staff members endured the cold temps at this outdoor event.

Adrienne Bogard started as assistant manager at the Grabill branch. Adrienne has worked in the system for several years, most recently at Woodburn branch. We're happy to have this energetic and creative new staff member at Grabill! She has hit the ground running, rearranging many of our collections.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

After the success of our three-day book sale during the Grabill Country Fair, we responded to patron requests and started a year-round sale in the branch. It has been pretty popular; in November and December, we took in an average of \$45 each week.

Library as Place

We have been busy moving some of our collections around, creating more space for our most popular collections, such as juvenile graphic novels. Assistant manager Adrienne Bogard has led this effort. The branch is looking good!

HESSSEN CASSEL | Edith Helbert, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

In October, a representative from Hessen Cassel branch attended Adams Township's Boo Bash at Fire Station 2, where hundreds of pint-sized ghouls and goblins talked with a librarian, and several families signed up for library cards and checked out books right there at the event!

As of November, the Books & Beans sessions at Renaissance Restaurant were still not seeing attendance, so we began a new book club for adults at Sharing Peace Café, starting in December. There were 4 patrons in attendance at the first meeting, and we look forward to further collaborations with this vibrant coffee spot.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Our first staff carry-in since pre-pandemic times was a big success! Staff shared food and conversation, wore fun winter/holiday sweaters, and even had a token gift exchange. Opportunities for staff to interact in a fun way are really important for morale and team-building, and we've been feeling the lack of those opportunities for the past few years.



Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Programming staff conducted a survey asking customers what they wanted to learn about, and kept those answers at the forefront of our planning when scheduling spring programs and proposing summer activities. Teen Scene is an open-ended teen time, and we were able to respond to teen requests for a cookie decorating program by using cake frosting on graham crackers for one of our Teen Scene slots. It makes our customers so much more connected when they don't have to wait months to see a program they suggest come to fruition.

Library as Place

Hessen Cassel was a hot destination for many of the youngest members of our community in December! Staff created a post office station with templates for letters to Santa early in the month and thank you cards after Christmas. There are also pretend packages to deliver (and practice writing addresses) with a realistic post office tote bag. We also had "Merry Makers" self-directed crafts throughout the month, allowing our young patrons to practice reading, following instructions, learning to temper expectations and control emotions when things don't work out the same as expectations, and fine motor skills, all disguised as holiday fun. Throughout the season, we also held a self-directed game – participants practiced their estimating skills by guessing how many round objects were in a plastic jar, and the closest won a stuffed animal. The winning entry missed the actual count by only one number!

December finished off with a Noon Year's Eve party from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm on December 31. Participants enjoyed snacks, a ball drop, dance music, a selfie station, and a variety of craft activities.



LITTLE TURTLE | Rachael King, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

The Little Turtle Branch was invited to two local Trunk or Treat events. First, they attended the one held at Price Elementary, and then the following weekend were at Headwaters Church. Staff in attendance said that both events were absolutely wonderful and it was great to get out into the community, seeing the faces of regular patrons, and meeting new friends. The design also featured the branch's pumpkin decorating contest submission, Snoopy on his iconic doghouse.

Kate also attended the Back to School Parents' Night at Bloomingdale Elementary, it was very well attended.



Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Malcolm was able to attend the Indiana Library Federation's (ILF) Annual Conference, here is his recounting of the experience:

ILF was an invaluable networking tool and educational experience, allowing me not only to meet other library workers and enthusiasts from different systems across the country, but also giving me some insights into topics that we deal with daily here at ACPL. One of the topics that I specifically went to ILF to better educate myself on was Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

The specific panel on DEI was useful, focusing largely on inclusive language, but it also brought to attention things that we may take for granted, such as inclusive book displays, flexible furniture for a variety of mobility needs, and even diverse artwork on the walls. Even looking outside of that focused panel, ILF was fantastic this year for keeping me informed and opening discussions about patron access, who our policies impact the most, and how our spaces can be used and perceived by communities. This was all knowledge that I took back with me to my daily job and happily shared with coworkers at future meetings so that the information and experiences could benefit them as well.

Overall, I would say that the experience was extremely worthwhile, and I'm very thankful to have been able to go.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Little Turtle continues to visit North Highlands in order to provide residents with programs on a variety of topics, most notably Device Advice where we walk them through the basics of using cell phones and tablets.

Little Turtle was also the site for a WANE 15 Segment where we highlighted the Library of Things, Board Games, Puzzles, and the Seed Library.

We also once again began offering Play with Purpose. Play with Purpose carefully designs the child's environment to encourage independence and concentration with age-appropriate toys that promote the Montessori belief that play is a child's work. The program is child-directed, self-paced, and actively promotes individualized play developed by the child's natural interests. This is a very well-attended program at Little Turtle and we're excited to see it expand to other locations starting in March.

The Little Turtle Seed Library is proving to be VERY popular, for the year-end total we sent out 1921 packets of seeds to very grateful members of our community.

ADULT SERVICES | Stacey Stamas, Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

The fourth quarter of 2022 brought with it many changes for the Adult Services staff. All seven staff members are now on the second floor and in the same workroom! A plan has been submitted and we anxiously await the re-organization of our workroom.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Staff have been involved with many programs these last few months:

- Stacey Stamas headed up the "Music at the Library" series in the theater of the Main Library which brought "Whoa, Man!", "Whistle Pigs" and the "Sweetwater All-Stars". A harp concert by Jan Aldridge Clark also took place in the Great Hall for the Holidays.
- Craig Bailey ran three programs of "Cyber Safety 101", organized a presentation by "Aging and In-Home Services", helped staff three "Board Games and Brews", ran two ACPL "Writers' Forums", worked on the "Artisans and Innovators Expo" and "Season's Readings".
- Anna Kallemeyn was involved with the "Authors and Ales Book Club", "Virtual Craft Café", "Ominous October", "Artisans and Innovators Expo", "Kayleen Reusser" author visit, "USF Lectures", "Season's Readings" and the "How-to Studio" program.
- Megan Bell led three programs in "Ominous October." Those programs were "Spooky Stories in the Stacks", "Paranormal 101" and the "Paranormal Panel". She was also involved in the ACPL "Poetry Contest", "Kayleen Reusser" author visit, "Authors & Ales Book Club", "Bookends Book Club" and the "Seasons Readings" program.
- Linda Michael was busy heading up collection management with Information Services and Adult Services staff while also working on collection management in storage.
- Sasha Perisic and Sarah Holmes were attending to reference desks, working on collection management in storage, and processing new materials.

AFW, WELT & Maker Lab | Norm Compton, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

We worked with the NAACP to record their annual Candidate Forum in October to meet local candidates running on the November ballot. We recorded seven shows about 3.6 hours of programming that we played heavily leading up to the election. We also work with the League of Women Voters with playing election education PSA's leading up to election day.

We participated in the annual TechFest sponsored by the City drawing area high school students to McMillen Rec. Center. We have participated in this annual event demonstrating the technology from the Maker Labs at Main. We talked with 235 students that day.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

AFW worked with our partners at WBOI to help them write a CFAB grant for \$3,000, to go toward the purchase of a new sound board to help in the recording of Meet the Music here in Studio A.

AFW negotiated with the Allen County Commissioners to successfully renew the three year Inter-Local-Agreement we have with them. Thus, entering the newest phase of this partnership with County Government.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

On December 18th there was a power outage downtown that knocked all of AFW's services off the air for hours. When the power came back on AFW went to work restoring our services, showing self-reliance. Two of the cable channels experienced damage that we fixed ourselves. Because of this we are taking steps to upgrade the uninterrupted power supply with have in Origination and cleaning up the racks and prioritizing what gets backed up.

Library as Place

AFW hosted the ACM's Central States Regional conference here in the meeting rooms and AFW facilities at Main on November 3rd & 4th. Part of that conference was hosting the regional Philo Media Festival Awards that we held on the campus of Sweetwater Sound. Overall, we had 50 people in attendance and brought in vendors from across the nation. This was the ninth time AFW has hosted a regional conference in the 40+ years that we have been part of ACPL.

We hosted a holiday Jingle & Mingle drawing 80 people that are active within our department either TV or Radio. This allowed networking and crossover of the people that make the hundreds of shows seen and heard from AFW.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES | Tiffany Bronzan, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

- In October, librarians went to over 50 daycares to deliver books and present Storytime as part of the Juvenile Delivery Collection. Also, a local Boy Scout troop visited Lego Club and presented Lego Pinewood Derby to participants.
- In October and November, a librarian participated in Fort Wayne's Park and Recreation event, "Create and Play". She had a table filled with fun activities for families to do for free.
- In October and December, Katie Brege, librarian, presented Storytime at Little River Wetlands Project's Short Hikes for Short Legs event. Librarians continue to visit Fort Wayne's Park and Recreation Site, Weisser Park, to present Design-It for elementary children.
- In November, librarians visited Charis House, for a Storytime and Design-It program.
- In December, a librarian went to "Journey Beside Mothers" and presented Storytime to the children. This will be a monthly Outreach event.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

- The two newest librarians in the department are meeting monthly with their children's focus cohort. This allows them to network with other new librarians throughout the system.
- Manager, Tiffany Bronzan, participated in the Active Shooter Training in November.
- In December, Children's Services moved workrooms, which allows everyone in the department to be in the same space and space to work on projects.

Library as Place

Librarians presented the Poetry Contest for all ages during the month of November. Children Services received 138 entries, from five different schools. In December, all the winners were asked to present their poem at the award ceremony.

In the month of November, librarians created the "Thankful Tree" in the front of the department. We asked what are you thankful for this year by writing it on a paper leaf and adding it to our tree. Our tree quickly filled up! At the end of the month we counted 812 leaves on the tree! We had great responses, but this one was our favorite.

During the month of December, librarians changed the theme of the two StoryScape cubbies to a Bakery Shop and Loose Parts Play. At the Bakery Shop, children can practice their math skills by "baking" pies and following picture recipe cards. At the Loose Parts Play cubby, children can use their imagination by creating with fun objects, such as pipe cleaners, wooden rings and cardboard.

A librarian started a program that was put on hold during the pandemic called "Block Party" for Preschoolers. The first couple of events have been met with enthusiasm from kids and caregivers alike.

A librarian is doing "Pop-Up" programs in the StoryScape after Toddler Time, to help encourage parents to stay and play and develop meaningful relationships with families. It's been met with enthusiasm from all the participants.



EVENTS | Leanne Bure, Manager

	October	November	December
Events	92	110	103
Attendance	5298	3581	2609

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

We removed Theater seats to increase accessibility for increased ADA needs.

Community Awareness & Engagement

OCTOBER: The Mexican Consulate was onsite four days to assist the Latino community with document needs and served 673 patrons. The Korea Festival returned to highlight culture, food and K-Pop performances with an attendance of over 2,500 community members.

NOVEMBER: We participated in the annual Night of Lights and handed out hot cocoa and cookies to a large crowd. The Rotary Clock Tower chimed in unison with church bells. We saluted Veterans with the Summit City Barbershop Chorus concert to a full house.

DECEMBER: The Theater was rented eight times for holiday recitals to highlight talents to family and friends. We welcomed four elementary choirs to sing in the Great Hall. Events and MNT installed icicle twinkle lights along with snowflakes created by community children in the Great Hall for the holiday season.



Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

The CME team participated in a retreat to foster professional development and plan future initiatives. The BOT approved a Senior Lead Technician position which will elevate services and build a strong Events team.

Library as Place

Three solar benches were installed on the Plaza. This was a facility project planned by the Strategic Planning Team and Public Service Operations. If the benches work well at the Main Branch, they may be installed at other locations.

INFORMATION SERVICES | Traci Ward, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

In October, we formed a partnership with the Parkview Homeless Outreach Team. PHOT reserve a room in Readers' Services / Information Services every Monday from 11am-1pm. We interact with many individuals of varying backgrounds, homelessness not among the least. The Homeless Team has been a wonderful resource in providing valuable assistance to staff and patrons. Along with building external partnerships, we've hosted a number of programs to help engage our community further, including two separate movie nights, one focused on mainstream movies and one focused on independent/foreign films. We hosted a computer basics classes, a well-attended author visit from our own Jeff Krull, and cookies and hot cocoa during the Night of Lights, just to name a few.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Over the past several weeks and months, staff have adjusted to many of changes. Changed supervisors, moved departments, tested out a new way of scheduling, and worked through a new printing system are just a few of the things we have all worked through as a team. The amount of teamwork displayed, by everyone, has been phenomenal. Many staff members are working at desks they have rarely worked before and this has been a great learning experience for everyone. The information and resource sharing between peers has helped us become closer as a team and has created a newfound respect for what our co-workers deal with on a daily basis, in all departments.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Our use of Libstaffer for desk scheduling really started taking off in Q4. We added more departments and more staff, expanding who could work at which desks. We continue to broaden the usage as more ACPL staff familiarize themselves with the software. We also introduced Zoom Chat and created building-wide channels to help staff keep up with day-to-day activities, patron issues, staffing needs, etc. It is still early in the process, but so far, we have found that communication has become more fluid between Main's departments as well as communication between the branches.

Library as Place

As part of the department changes and staff moves, we also made the decision to take staff away from the circulation desk in AMM so that we could more adequately staff higher volume areas. Along with this, we moved the board games, puzzles, and video games to the first floor, housing them in Readers' Services / Information Services. We are still adjusting to these changes, but staff and patrons are beginning to get acclimated with the new processes. While games and puzzles have moved downstairs, newspapers and magazines have moved upstairs to BST. Communication with staff and among staff has been, and will continue to be, incredibly important as we work through all of these changes.

MATERIAL SUPPORT SERVICES | Keri Favory, Manager

Library as Place

- Inventory complete of all of the upper floors at Main
- Board Games, video games, and puzzles moved from AMM to REA
- Magazines and Newspapers moved from REA to BST
- Shifting project on LL2 – moving the STO OS collection

PAGING STATS						
MONTH	Total Requests	Total Items	Time/per request (Minutes)	Time/per item (Minutes)	Average requests per day	Average items per day
Jan	320	649	9.6	7.3	10	21
Feb	334	526	9.9	7.1	12	19
Mar	396	652	8.8	6.5	13	21
Apr	368	620	11.4	7.6	12	21
May	305	474	11.1	7.9	10	15
Jun	333	663	9.5	7.4	11	22
Jul	408	611	8.8	5.9	13	20
Aug	538	848	14.7	10.1	17	27
Sep	375	543	8.8	6.1	13	18
Oct	383	518	9.3	6.3	12	17
Nov	477	832	14.1	8.3	16	28
Dec	271	462	8.8	7.1	9	15
Grand Total	4,508	7,398	9.55	7.2	12	20

# carts per department							
MONTH	AMM	BST	CHI	REA	STO	TEEN	G.T.
January	36.5	54.5	213	245	100	31	680
February	30	41	219	191	93	31	605
March	43.5	61.5	292	248	114	39	798
April	47.5	64.5	294	251	121	39	817
May	48	64	291	249	118	34	804
June	58.5	82.5	368	286	103	50	948
July	53	70	347	347	107	51	975
August	53	79	317	283	106	50	888
September	41	62	258	246	89	37	733
October	45	68	284	265	103	42	807
November	49	67	288	259	115	43	821
December	46	67	256	239	104	34	746
Grand Total	551	781	3,427	3,109	1,273	481	9,622

TRIP TIME FROM LOADED CART TO COMPLETION

Month	# of carts loaded	Total # of items loaded	Total # of min-shelved	Total # of items shelved	Average trip time from loaded cart to shelf	Shelf rate how long to shelve each cart	How long it takes to shelve each item
January	680	39,292	822	40,114	14:26:39	0:27:30	0:00:31
February	605	38,936	1,149	40,085	14:39:22	0:32:00	0:00:31
March	798	48,537	1,025	49,562	12:14:08	0:26:46	0:00:30
April	817	48,447	956	49,403	12:30:47	0:26:00	0:00:33
May	804	44,996	1,158	46,154	11:27:57	0:27:17	0:00:32
June	948	50,448	1,392	51,840	10:31:24	0:28:50	0:00:35
July	911	50,067	1,508	51,575	10:54:54	0:27:06	0:00:32
August	888	50,392	1,003	51,395	10:29:51	0:27:57	0:00:34
September	733	41,307	1,036	42,343	10:19:10	0:27:08	0:00:34
October	807	43,410	1,227	44,637	10:22:28	0:28:56	0:00:37
November	821	43,875	926	44,801	11:25:07	0:27:56	0:00:36
December	746	40,666	861	41,527	11:20:41	0:28:56	0:00:38
GRAND TOTAL	9,558	540,373	13,063	553,436	11:22:54	0:27:43	0:00:33

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & GENEALOGY | Curt Witcher, Director of Special Collections

Community Awareness & Engagement

This quarter the Genealogy Center continued to support public programming opportunities with local genealogical societies. The third Saturday of the month hybrid programs of the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne gained in virtual attendance, with the presence of presenters and society members in the Discovery Center encouraging attendees to consider visiting in person again. The Allen County Genealogical Society moved their monthly virtual programming to hybrid programming in the Discovery Center the last two quarters of the year. The Genealogy Center provided two of the presenters this fall as well as assisted with the technical support of the programs. Our partnership with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society continues to provide the community and our patrons with expert presenters on Jewish as well as Eastern European ancestral research. Planning in the last quarter of 2022 has produced a great line-up of early first quarter 2023 programs.

Genealogy Center team members continued their engagement as members of the planning committee for the 2023 International German Genealogy Partnership Conference being held in Fort Wayne this June 8-11. The program is near completion, and their conference website is live, being updated regularly, and taking registrations. Significant foundational work also has been accomplished for the 2025 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies conference scheduled for our city. Our friends at Visit Fort Wayne continue to be great advocates for our community, the library, and the Genealogy Center in negotiating between meeting and lodging venues.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Kate McKenzie joined the Genealogy Center team as a senior librarian in the last quarter of the year. Kate brings her strong interest in local and family history as well as her work experience at the Kenton County (KY) Public Library's Local History and Genealogy Department, one of the best known and well used genealogy collections in Kentucky, to the ACPL. Kate is already working on the Center's programming and social media teams.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

In the last third of this year, the Genealogy Center received a donation from the Allen County Building Department—their microfiche records of late twentieth and early twenty-first century building administration permits. These records arrived as 126,672 microfiche. Over the waning months of the year, Genealogy Center shelveers cleaned, organized and filed these fiche for library patrons to use. With the persistent interest in house and property history, these records have already been used including by library patrons including Wayne New Tech students working on a class assignment.

Our annual Family History Month engagement this past October was another great experience for Genealogy Center patrons. During the 2022 celebration, the Genealogy Center engaged with patrons in an extra way every day of the month, and sometimes multiple times a day. The Center hosted seventeen programs with speakers from across the country including some of our own genealogy librarians. There were eight programs given to community organizations by Genealogy librarians, fourteen social media engagements that included videos and questions, and a month-long endeavor to answer patrons' tough, brick wall questions. We directly reached nearly seven thousand patrons that month. At the end of our Family History Month programs, we received many comments such as these:

- These sessions are always fascinating!! Thank you everyone for sharing!!!
- Thank you All soooo much. Great info was shared. I thoroughly enjoyed this!!!
- Great presentation! Thank you!
- We have too much fun and never enough time.
- Fabulous ideas and presentation!

Lincoln librarians continued to add new images to the four digital frames throughout the Rolland Center space as well as to the Collection Kiosks. Refreshing the virtual exhibits encourages Center patrons to continue coming back for new experiences. Significant time was spent this quarter preparing for the next change of the physical displays in the Rolland Center. The Lincoln librarians also made great use of the smaller display case in the Rolland Center to exhibit a couple of seasonal displays. An attention-grabbing case was made of collection items in honor of German Heritage Month in October. As expected, the case received a high amount of interest from around the community as well as regular library patrons. It was of particularly high interest to the German speakers in our area. During the 2022-23 end of the year holiday season, "A Lincoln Collection Christmas" captured the attention of young and old alike.

We continue to enjoy seeing and hearing our patrons experience the Rolland Center. A few examples are in the following.

- "This is so cool. I just read a book about Lincoln and this place is my dream come true."
- "We'll definitely have to come back to this place. This is an exceptional find. We're from Ohio, but we come up a few times every year, and we will definitely be back."
- A couple from Dallas, Texas, was in and Facetimed multiple relatives to show them the space and artifacts.
- A man to his friend, referring to the Lincoln's Time and Place digital feature, "You should take a look at this thing. Last time I was here I spent a whole hour looking through it. There's so much."
- "But this place is so cool!" said a young girl exploring the Rolland Center with her mother when informed it was time to leave for the day.

Executive Director, Susan Baier, and Lincoln Librarian, Kayla Gustafson attended the National Council for the Social Studies Conference November 30 – December 2, 2022, staffing the Friends of the Lincoln Collection booth. With nearly 3500 educators and exhibitors in attendance, Susan and Kayla engaged with many individuals, learning what kind of support educators would like to have and how they prefer to engage with outside organizations and those organizations' resources. That Rolland Center resources are freely accessible and available to anyone anywhere were major selling points to educators and education coordinators.

Another a big hit was the very robust lesson plans our Lincoln librarians had compiled and made available from the Friends of Lincoln website. We successfully leveraged Kayla's classroom-teacher experience in being able to craft fitting worksheets and appropriately short but engaging videos. Educators enjoyed that the lesson plans don't require them to prep anything and can be easily plugged into their classrooms. Many commented that whoever thought of the idea for complete lesson plans and short videos "completely understands the classroom."



As numerous educators use Kami, a PDF editing tool, in their classroom work, they were pleased to know that not only are many of the collection's primary sources transcribed, all the period letters are freely available to download as PDFs. Much excitement was built around sharing that the Lincoln librarians can be in any classroom in the country via Zoom. Within three days of the conclusion of the conference, a high school AP history teacher from New York reached out to the Lincoln Librarians to assist in her classroom project and to Zoom with her students.

TEEN SERVICES | Mari Hardacre, Manager

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Charlotte Hinniger planned and coordinated the Build Your Self-Care Toolkit workshop series for teens in response to requests from teen patrons for a program that supports mental health. The series, offered at several library branches, included topics such as Journaling, Meditation Jars, and Mindful Coloring. Each session included the sharing of helpful information and a de-stress activity. The programs also offered teens an opportunity for conversation while sharing refreshments. Build Your Self-Care Toolkit will continue in 2023 with upcoming topics, dates, and times available on the library's events calendar.

Library as Place

Teens department staff created a fun artwork of a polar bear on a wintry, windy day to decorate the Teens department for winter. The large-scale artwork doubles as a photo backdrop since it is 14 feet wide and over 7 feet tall!



MONROEVILLE | Chris Wiljer, Branch Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

The Monroeville Branch participated for the first time in the Monroeville Downtown Scarecrow Contest. The staff assembled a scarecrow in the likeness of the branch manager, calling it "ScareChris". This entry won third prize in the contest.

Starting on December 19 and running through to the end of January, the Monroeville Branch will have a model railroad layout set up in the meeting room. The public will be able to view the layout and the running of the trains Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The train layout is provided by the Three Rivers and Indiana Northern Railroad Association. T.R.A.I.N. is the oldest HO modular railroad club in the Fort Wayne area. The club constructs modules of various railroading scenes and puts them together for shows and operations.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

As part of a selection of seasonal programs, the Monroeville Branch offered a "Gingerbread Houses" program on December 8. Participants had the opportunity to decorate pre-made graham cracker houses with an assortment of candy. Sixteen patrons attended this sweet program and were able to take home their edible creations.

Library as Place

On December 14, the Monroeville Branch hosted a special story time with a visit from Santa. This has been an annual tradition at the Branch for the past thirty years. Patrons made Christmas crafts and had the opportunity to visit with Santa. Many young visitors brought their Christmas wish lists to share with Santa.

NEW HAVEN | Marie Kaufmann, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

On October 28th New Haven Branch's, children's librarian, Shelia Hoffman went to the New Haven Community Center to attend their Trick or Treat Parade. At this event young children parade through the venue in costume collecting candy and information from local organizations. Sheila was able to interact with the community, promote the library, and plug New Haven's Halloween Maze Program that was currently in progress at the branch.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Branch Manager, Marie Kaufmann, attended the Indiana Library Federation Conference in Indianapolis November 14th-16th. Marie appreciated getting time to interact with ACPL colleagues who don't work at New Haven. Marie also learned about innovative library programming taking place across the state, as well as tools and tactics managers can use to help libraries transition through change.

At the beginning of December Branch Manager, Marie Kaufmann, went on a tour of the Jim Kelly Career Pathway Center. This center intends to help children, teens, and young adults gain trade skills to help create a pathway toward employment. The center will focus on automotive, plumbing, HVAC, robotics, and electrical trade skills. Students will receive help completing certifications and guidance on finding a job once certifications are completed. The Director of College and Career Readiness, Dr. Twana Burney, said they hoped to open the facility by February 2023. ACPL is hopeful that we can partner with the career center.



Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Starting in October the New Haven Branch was one of multiple ACPL locations who partnered with Changing Footprints. Changing Footprints is an organization that collects new or used shoe donations and distributes them to people in need of a pair of shoes. The New Haven Branch collected 295 shoes over a 3-month period.

Library as Place

On October 28th and 29th the New Haven Branch created a Halloween Maze in the meeting room that children and adults could wander through and enjoy. If participants were successful in finding their way out they were given a piece of Halloween candy. The branch had over 100 patrons go through the maze. Many patrons wanted to go through the maze a second and even third time after they completed their first run through. The branch hopes to expand the maze program to more than just Halloween in the upcoming year.



PONTIAC | Deborah Meserve, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Oct: Deborah represented the library at the Renaissance Y's Pumpkin Patch event and shared swag and info with 400 people.

Oct: Meisha, our new Librarian, jumped right in by reaching out to Easterseals and establishing an outreach activity with them, along with taking over a book club there that Rebecca has started and taking over All Abilities Club.

Nov: Deborah started a monthly adult book club at the Charis House.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

Oct: Charlie, our security guard, agreed to work with GEO on Fridays in order to help with the after-school crowd of middle school students.

Oct: Hannah worked at GEO to help Karris with the After-School Program.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Oct: Deborah taught a series of technology classes on Microsoft Office, Social Media 101: What's Best for Your Business?, and Google Suite at the Urban League for entrepreneurs, using the library's grant laptops.

Dec: Amy brought in Santa for a fun program of pictures, cookie decorating and ornament making. Several families came in to enjoy the fun.

Library as Place

Nov: We shifted shelving and tables to make a kids' interactives area again to the great delight of our young patrons; and re-housed our board books, media-tie ins, and J playaways right next to the new area so they are more easily discoverable.

Nov: We relocated our book sales shelves to the front of the branch near the entrance and have seen an increase in sales.



SHAWNEE | Rachael King, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Shawnee attended Abbett Elementary's Hispanic Heritage Fiesta on October 12th. It was a fantastic event and Gabi was able to make a lot of positive connections with so many members of the community.

We were also invited to attend the Parent-Teacher Conferences at Towles, Gabi attended both evenings and was able to chat with parents about the many resources the library offers, most especially Tutor.com.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

Our new Youth Specialist, Gabi, has also been diving into lifelong learning. She first was able to attend the Indiana Library Federation Conference and had a wonderful time where she gained a lot of knowledge and then she joined the first version of the Children's Training Cohort that helps to guide our new youth librarians in their role at ACPL and how they can best serve our community.

Library as Place

While our branch pumpkin didn't win the contest, it certainly one the hearts of many members of our community as it was a loving recreation of a well-known community member's van.



System-Wide Service

AUDIO READING SERVICES | George Johnson-Coffey, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Presentations about the Audio Reading Service were given to: Comfort Keepers Home Healthcare, ACPL New Hire Orientation, River's Edge Healthcare and Wellness Expo, and Salem Senior Apartments.

In October, George delivered radios to 11 EasterSeals Arc clients. Their Community Connections representative emailed us to say, "Thank you so much for the Audio Readers [radios]. They absolutely love them. Thank You So Much."

In the fourth quarter, the Audio Reading Service received \$6,885 in donations. Total gifts for 2022 were \$11,294.00. ACPL received \$15,600 in added value through the services of 75 volunteers. For the entire year of 2022 this added value to the Library is over \$64,000!

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

Chad Butterbaugh, Senior Production Assistant, continues contributing to ACPL's DEI Committee. George participated in the Dementia Friends Training. George also assisted in the partnership program, Great Day Memory Care, with Aging and In-home Services clients, along with Beth Boatright, Library at Home staff, and other staff throughout ACPL.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Our service continues to reach out worldwide. We received this email from a listener in Hong Kong, "It is an amazing service for us foreigners to listen to MP3 audio files and learn English. Thank you very much."

Library as Place

It is both heart-warming and humbling when the Audio Reading Service is selected to receive memorial gifts after one of our listeners pass away. Upon the passing of Diana Evangelidis, we received \$840 in gifts. Her family shared, "Mom loved your service." At Thanksgiving, Audio Reading Service volunteers received cards of "Thanks," and gift certificates from DeBrands.

System-Wide Service

LIBRARY AT HOME | Peg Heinze and Jon Frincke, Outreach Specialists

Community Awareness & Engagement

Thanks to our partnerships, marketing efforts, and word of mouth from happy readers, Library at Home continued to add patrons, stops and services to our calendar this quarter. In October, Peg Heinze and Beth Boatright joined our friends at Aging and In-Home Services for their annual awards ceremony and luncheon at the Mirro Center. Their speaker was the author of a memoir on family and dementia, actor Kimberly Williams Paisley. In November, LAH and Aging and In-Home Services hosted the first Great Day Café at the Main library. A dozen attendees- residents with memory impairment along with their caregivers- reminisced and sang some old favorites, accompanied by musician Jeff Myers. Jon Frincke met again with reporter Ella Abbott of WBOI, to get the word out about ACPL's new memory kits.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

For the Great Day Café event in November, we sought assistance from staff from across the system, and they turned out. We now leave the program in the very capable hands of Nancy Saff. Staff likewise showed interest in the Dementia Friends training, presented by Todd Hunnicutt of Aging and In-Home Services in October. MSS is doing a fantastic job taking some pressure off of the two Library at Home specialists, allowing us to maintain focus on our patrons and facilities. Finally, the Memory Kits project was a huge undertaking that could not have been taken on without the help of experts across many ACPL departments.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

LAH introduced our Memory Kits in November, filling a need not only for our facility partners, but for a more broadly aging community as well. Jon Frincke worked with Aja Michael-Keller and Kara Stevenson to adapt to a new platform for distributing the monthly Library at Home newsletter. This will allow us to better track the interests of our newsletter recipients, and to share library information that they really need.

Library as Place

Library at Home's place is in the community, and this quarter we tried to bring more of a sense of presence and continuity to the places we visit by providing improved signage. It is our hope that the information included acts as a reminder, despite other changes taking place with our patrons and facilities, that the library is there for them.



System-Wide Service

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | Kevin Wells, Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

During the fourth quarter, 1162 tickets were assigned to IT Services between October 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. Of that, we closed 278 tickets on the same day. We end the fourth quarter with a 90.96% completion rate (tickets with a status of Closed or Resolved).

In December IT Services began working on Phase 2 of our printing system upgrade. This work focused on the installation of the new Brother printers for staff and public use. Our goal was to complete this project by 2022 however there are some outstanding issues that need to be resolved. They include Konica Minolta resourcing a copier for the Genealogy Center that supports scanning documents to an uncompressed TIFF file for archival purposes, a monochrome copier for Microtext, and additional paper trays for printers in Financial Services.

December was also the month we migrated our email service to Microsoft 365. Though our mailboxes were migrated in December several email services still reside on our Exchange Server. As we work to remove our Exchange server in January 2023 we will move all email services to the cloud.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

As of November 2022, Tom Manning worked with NSI's installers to complete the inside install for the Wi-Fi Network upgrade for all ACPL locations except for the Main, Grabill, and Monroeville Branches. The remaining install along with the outside access point is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2023.

This upgrade utilizes the latest in Wi-Fi networking technologies that will provide a higher throughput, greater security, and smoother device hand-offs as users move throughout our buildings.

System-Wide Service

TECHNICAL SERVICES | Christine Diederich, Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

Technical Services completed a group cross-training for puzzle cataloging. Everyone in the department who catalogs is now trained to catalog puzzles. The more people we have that can help catalog different material types, the faster we can get them out to patrons. After this training, we were able to get out almost 100 puzzles in a three-day period.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

One of our highlights this year was working with Library at Home on the memory care kits. Processing and cataloging something we've never seen before is always an adventure, and it was extra special to deal with a kit with such deep meaning and potential. Five memory care kits are now available for the public to check out and cover a wide variety of topics, baseball, gardening, camping, farm life, and the beach. We were able to figure out how to put ACPL barcodes on tent stakes, a toy tractor, a baseball glove, and other objects. To hear the impact that these kits have had in the community is wonderful, we look forward to adding more.

Library as Place

We keep track of several stats within our department throughout the year. Beyond the number of items added, these numbers help show the variety of ways we interact with the collection. Our Tech Troubleshooter replaced 3,809 faded spine labels for Storage and made corrections to 5,217 items. This includes non-Storage faded label replacement, updated call numbers, call number changes, new book covers, and much more. We create original catalog records for all material types. This year the most original cataloging was done for adult/teen fiction (409 titles) and board games (237).

System-Wide Service

YOUTH SERVICES | Marra Honeywell, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

January marks the start of the annual SPARK Winter Reading Program, an opportunity for the community to kick-off their reading year with some fun prizes. Interestingly, tracking reading during the winter has primarily attracted adult readers. With the hopes of increasing youth participation, this year's Winter SPARK has an engaging Bingo format where readers combine time tracking with completing learning-themed activities. In November, ACPL hosted a booth at a career fair for high school students in Fort Wayne Community Schools. This was an exciting opportunity to talk about the library and connect interested youth with our remarkable Team Read program. We collected contact information from over 100 students at this event who expressed interest in applying to be a part of the Team Read program this summer.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

In October, Youth Services Assistant Managers Aisha Hallman and Teresa Walls began facilitating cohorts for new teen and children's librarians. New youth services staff are mentored and supported in this team environment. Through facilitated conversations about a variety of aspects of youth librarianship from collections to programming to positive youth development these cohorts have proven to be a dynamic way to engage new staff in learning and create connections across library locations. 10 youth Services librarians from 8 locations have participated in these cohorts thus far, with more to be added as new staff are hired.

TECUMSEH | Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

- Tecumseh Branch Manager Deb Noggle attends monthly North East Allen County Partnership meetings.
- This quarter, Tecumseh staff and Georgetown staff members began planning 2023 outreach programs for seniors at Fort Wayne Housing Authority's Beacon Height Senior Apartments complex. We will be offering device help with tablets and smartphones, arts and crafts programs, and a variety of speakers and activities.
- Tecumseh Staff members Monique Myers and Laurie Walls attended Family Literacy Night at Northcrest Elementary, where they promoted the library and registered families for library cards on-site.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

In celebration of the Soccer World Cup, Tecumseh had an ongoing World Passport program for several weeks where patrons could match up world flags in their passports with world flags posted around the branch. Each world flag in the branch marked an activity station or a task that the patron needed to complete in order to have that page in their passport stamped by staff at the circulation desk. When the required number of stamps were acquired in the passport, patrons received a small soccer-themed gift: soccer pens, soccer bracelets, soccer erasers, etc. (See photos below).

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

- Tecumseh Branch welcomed a new staff member, Heidi Schneemann. Her new position is part-time Branch Assistant.
- Tecumseh Assistant Branch Manager Chris Castaldi and Youth Focus Librarian Monique Myers attended the annual Indiana Library Federation conference in Indianapolis in November.

Library as Place

This year marks a milestone in a tradition that has been cherished for 25 years at Tecumseh Branch! Each year, during the two weeks that most schools in our area are closed for the holidays, we hold a non-religion-specific celebration called Winterfest. We have special programs and passive programs that are all themed around snow, ice, frosty things, and the branch is decked out in all sorts of wintry fun! For 25 holiday seasons we have provided a place for children and families to stop in at their leisure and find something to do. We have a special "Craft Kit of The Day" and a table to gather around to make a snow globe necklace or a penguin thermometer. On Fridays, we offer a Free Hot Cocoa Bar all day long. Even our regular storytimes and programs are transformed into Polar Bear Stories, Countdown to the New Year, and Frosty Glass Etching. It is great fun for us all, and we enjoy celebrating the winter season with our patrons.



WAYNE DALE | Amanda Vance, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

The Waynedale Fall Festival took place on October 1. The Waynedale staff participated in several ways in this brand-new event to our community. Amanda helped to plan the event with the Waynedale Improvement Committee, putting together the STEM activities tent. This tent featured Soarin Hawk, Going Batty, Little River Wetlands Project, and ACPL with creative activities and information. Branch Assistant Liz Hinks did a great craft on monarch butterflies and volunteer Anna Baer provided a fun craft and activity on catapults and propulsion.

Carrie Mikaloff attended family night at Indian Village Elementary, signing people up for cards and sharing library information with the students and parents in attendance.

Waynedale continues to be one of several branches who are collecting shoes for Changing Footprints, an organization that collects shoes for those in need, as well as eye glasses for the Lion's Club. This has been a huge success at our location and the community is very happy to be a part of it.

For the second year back from COVID, the branch hosted the wreaths decorated by the community for the Walk in Waynedale Silent Wreath Auction. The wreaths are always a beautiful addition to our branch and patrons love to see what has been done each year. The auction runs for 2 weeks and benefits the Waynedale Improvement Committee in their goals such as bringing sidewalks and trails to the community.



WOODBURN | Paige Shook, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

October and December were busy with outreach events in the Woodburn Community. The first event was Trunk or Treat at the Woodburn Lutheran School. We decorated our trunk in pirate fashion and competed in the best trunk contest. Over 200 people attended this event.

A few days later, we found ourselves at the Woodlan Elementary School for their PTO Fall Festival. At this event, we set up a table and handed out information about the library, and signed people up for library cards. We had 180 people stop by our table. Next up was Kenn Field's John Deere Santa Visit, where we were invited to read stories and do crafts with the children while they waited to see Santa. We had just under 200 people do crafts and listen to stories. About a week later, Santa came to visit Woodburn once again, but this time he invited Mrs. Claus to come along with him. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by fire truck to the clock tower in Woodburn. Over 100 people attended this event and everyone left with a library goodie bag that included copies of the Woodburn Branch programming calendar for the next two months.

