



LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Library Renovation Project:** The project continues in the planning and pre-design stage. The team is currently identifying areas for value engineering and prioritizing “need to have” elements against “nice to have” elements. Most of the cost savings will be in the “Interior Restoration and Enhancements” portion of the budget which relates to the demolition/reconstruction of interiors and any changes to the internal structure of the building for new uses, such as study rooms. Lighting fixtures are another option for value engineering.
- **Staff:** Two job openings were posted since the last meeting: one Literacy Associate (PT 30 hours) and one Library Associate 3 (FT). The Literacy Associate will support the library’s literacy services, including ESL, and is fully grant-funded. The Library Associate 3 will support the library’s customer service department.
- **AI Guidelines:** Library administration has drafted internal guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for library marketing and support uses. The library aims to use this cutting-edge technology in responsible and organized manner, as such the guidelines will help staff meet this goal. Currently, the library subscribes to ChatGPT as its primary generative AI platform, but also uses Canva.com and is testing the potential of Microsoft’s Design Studio and Google’s ImageFX products.
- **Library Website:** A planned update to the city and library websites has been delayed until the end of April.
- **Staff Development:** The American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference will be held at the San Diego Convention Center this year from June 27 until July 2, 2024. Taking advantage of its local host site, the library will be sending ten staff to the conference. All of the library’s new librarians will be attending, along with library administration. We encourage the Board of Trustees to attend – it’s recommended that anyone interested should register as a “Other Member” with ALA as a “Trustee” for a discounted ticket.





**Escondido
Public Library**

239 South Kalmia Street,
Escondido, CA 92025
760.839.5440

www.escondidolibrary.org

ADULT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to Staff being out, there are no Adult Services Highlights for the April Library Board of Trustees meeting. There will be an update at the May meeting covering programming and events from March and April 2024.





PIONEER ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

- We are pleased to announce that Ashley Hays was promoted to Archivist on March 1st, making her the first full-time archivist dedicated solely to the Pioneer Room. Congratulations, Ashley!
- The Pioneer Room served **58 patrons**. Staff added **11 new finding aids** and **2 new collections** in ContentDM:
 - Check out the [Katherine Fromm Collection here](#) and the [Lorna Underwood Collection here](#).

YOUTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



What an exceptional month March turned out to be with our first ever **Pony Tales** program hosted on Saturday, March 9th! Drawing a substantial crowd of **226 participants** spanning various age groups, the event was a resounding success.

We had the pleasure of interacting with miniature therapy horses and their dedicated handlers from **Hearts and Hooves Therapy**. Delving into the profound impact these horses have on human well-being was both enlightening and heartwarming. Following an engaging presentation, attendees got to engage with the horses through petting, grooming, and taking pictures with them. The program took place next to the library's pocket park and the mural on the west wall. There will be future Pony Tales programs.

