

Adult Services Librarian Report

Programming

Taste of Central and South America

On Monday, April 15 Ana presented a PowerPoint presentation on the culture and history of Colombia. Participants ate a Colombian dish called Cheese Arepas, which consists of white flour, milk, butter, sugar, and cheese!

Coffee and Conversation with Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi

On Friday, April 12th Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi and his team spoke to our patrons about the operations and projects going on at the Kaukauna Utilities. The presentation focused on the upcoming changes to the water filtration system in the city. Currently, the infrastructure needs to be replaced due to age and KU are weighing their options on the various filtration systems they can replace it with. To make matters more complicated, Kaukauna has extremely hard water which complicates the decision. We had about a 30-minute question and answer session after the presentation where many good questions were raised and answered.

Explore Our Trails Walking Club

Donna has begun our walking club on Wednesdays. She walks with patrons along the numerous Kaukauna trails, exploring a different one each week. Patrons enjoy a granola bar, water, and conversation while walking. The first trail they explored was the 1000 Islands Boardwalk Trail!



Explore Our Trails Walking Club enjoying the 1000 Islands Boardwalk Trail!

Games

John has continued hosting board game nights, sheepshead, DND, and Bricks and Brews at TAQ. This month's board game night had a particularly great turnout, with about 15 people coming out to try new games!



Board Game Night (Left) and Bricks and Brews competitors (Right).

PLA

Ashley, Sarah, and I attended PLA the first week of the month. I personally attended the following sessions and took away a satisfying amount of useful information.

RA Meets AI

Despite the title this program had nothing to do with AI. Instead, web programmers employed by a library system created a kiosk that integrated their ILS and Novelist. This lets patrons walk up to the kiosk, scan a book they enjoyed, see read-alikes that are available now or at nearby branches, put it on hold, or print out a call number and location receipt to go find the book in the library. They went into technical detail on how they built the program, which was useful for me to hear since I'm nearly finished with my own computer program that will assist us in weeding and correcting series in our collection. It would be fun to develop such a kiosk at Kaukauna, but it would require a lot of buy in from OWLS as well as time I currently don't have.

Older Adults Need Jobs

This session explained a library's experience holding a weeklong workshop that taught older adults job seeking skills followed by an older adult focused job fair. They had luck encouraging participants to come to all 5 days of the event, and those that did reported they got much more from the experience than those who only came to one workshop and the job fair at the end. Each day they taught a different aspect of the job searching process and gave participants time to practice using online databases to search for jobs. This would be interesting to try especially considering that the job center Menasha will be closing relatively soon. I will keep my notes from this session on hand to assist me in the future.

Dementia Resources

Between our memory kits, memory café, technology classes, and dementia aware training there weren't many take aways from this session that we weren't already doing! Fox Valley Memory Project (the organization who we are partnered with for our memory café's) was even featured in the session for doing such a good job in the community!

AI Education

This session was similar to the AI Education session given by Kristopher Turner from the UW Madison Law Library I attended last year at WLA. It explored the latest AI technologies currently available for the public to use and explained how AI could impact library operations. It is in a librarian's best interest to become familiar with these technologies so we can answer reference questions about them and teach the public about how to use them safely and responsibly. Given the free time I would love to develop my own introductory AI program to educate our patrons about the technology. I will keep my notes from both sessions to inform my lesson plan in the future.

Patron Privacy

This session was a good reminder to take a step back and ask if we truly need to be collection each bit of data on our patrons (this is reiterated in Kaukauna Library's patron privacy policy). If the library does deem it necessary to collect the data, we should list the length of time each bit of data will be held for. We should also be prepared to provide a list of all data we have on a patron if asked for it by said patron. They noted this question is becoming more common at public libraries. There was also a useful website the I can use that will evaluate Kaukauna Library's website for security concerns that gives a "security report card" that I can use to remove unnecessary plugins or other features to make using our website that much more private.

Other Sessions

I attended three more sessions than this, but content of each of them dealt with such large libraries that, try as I might, can't be applied to a library of our size. It was interesting to hear about the trouble of libraries with \$81 million annual budgets, but the scope of their operations simply didn't translate to ours. Thankfully I was able to learn much from the rest of the sessions.