



Library Director's Report 2025 EOY and January 2026

General Report

- ILA with Grand County in place. We have had several county residents that are affected by the contract who have called and inquired about the changes to online access to the Beehive Consortium. Staff have been trained on how to inform the patrons on this new process and how to access the online library through San Juan County Library.
- 2026 Library Budget approved – will need to be adjusted for Maintenance updated expenses and all library staff salaries under correct codes.
- In the process of going through the County EOY detail ledger and check register to make sure all expenses are codes properly and accounted for.
- Finished the CLEF grant application process and have been approved and funding for 2026 is set at \$7636.00. Budget outline has been submitted but adjustments can be made if the expenses are within parameters outlined in the agreement. Contract will need to be approved at the Commission meeting on February 17th then State Library will send 90% (\$6872.40) upfront and then the remaining 10% (\$763.60) after the spending and required reporting is completed and approved.
- I am currently working on the Annual State Library Recertification report which will be due on April 16, 2026.
- 2025 Borrower's grant report has been submitted.
- Children and Teen Book Enhancement Grant books have been purchased and are on display. Money was distributed as follows based on Children and Young Adult checkouts:
Blanding - \$1000 Monticello - \$800 Bluff/Mcreek – \$150 La Sal -\$50

There are parameters of what books were eligible – which was largely dependent on the goals I gave the State Library when I applied for the grant. Also, purchased books were required to have been published within the last 4 years, no more than 2 copies of a title, must be a physical copy, and target children 0 - 18. No adult books were purchased with this grant.

Main Criteria for purchasing books must meet these goals

Goal 1. Expand and update our graphic novel section with a particular focus on titles for teens and tweens.

Reasoning: The San Juan County Library system has seen a significant trend with their tween and teens wanting/requesting/checking out graphic novels, including anime' and manga. They started focusing a larger portion of the collection development budget towards these items and have seen a clear increase in circulation and library visits following the intentional addition of more graphic novels. These materials have been especially effective in engaging reluctant readers, who are now visiting regularly and actively seeking out new titles. The Blanding library branch has also added an 'Anime' Club" for tweens and teens to their bi-monthly activities and this has also increased their circulation

and interest in this genre. The checkout rate per copy is as follows:
Graphic, Anime', and Manga for Teens = 1.54 compared to traditional Teen fiction at .64.
Graphic, Anime', and Manga for Children = 1.23 compared to traditional children's fiction at .57.
This shift has created new opportunities for outreach, literacy support, and programming targeted at this age group.

Goal 2. Refresh and updated teen and children's book collections more broadly.

Reasoning: Many of the existing titles are outdated or worn and do not reflect current reading trends or the diversity of the communities served. Updating these collections will allow the library branches in the system to offer more relevant, high-interest, and inclusive materials that support early literacy, school success, and a lifelong love of reading. This includes replacing heavily used classics, adding current award-winners, and increasing representation across cultures, identities, and experiences. These updates are essential to maintaining a vibrant and responsive collection that keeps young readers engaged and active patrons.

Goal 3. Provide support to local parents by adding more variety of entry level books for various ages and interests.

Reasoning: This is to better help capture those emerging readers.

Goal 4: Pair popular Children's hard copy and audio books at many reading levels as read along options - NOTE: If a library branch followed up on this goal - Audio books must be purchased with local funds and not included in the same order as the Books purchased with GRANT funds due to criteria of the contract.

Reasoning: Give an option for those readers who enjoy listening and help to keep budding readers engaged.

Goal 5: Continue to respond to local patron collection development requests.

Reasoning: This helps fill the needs of patrons' interests and residual users of the library.

Goal 6: Add books by our high circulation authors as well as high circulation subjects.

Reasoning: This will likely increase youth engagement with reading by focusing on authors and subjects that have proven to interest them.

These books were purchased
with funds from the
**Children & Teen Book
Enhancement Grant 2025**



Positive feedback could help us secure
funding in the future.
Please help us by answering 3 quick
questions.

Please scan the QR
code to answer the
questions.



Reporting for this grant will be due March 1, 2026. All receipts have been submitted and reimbursement of \$2000 is pending.

- Online resources through the State Library such as Creative Bug and Gale are promoted through Facebook. <https://www.creativebug.com/>



- Every Kid Outdoor – EKO – Outdoor Adventure Challenges – Public Libraries partnering with Utah DNR (Department of Natural Resources). Goal is to inspire children appreciate and be in the outdoors more often and active living. Libraries are intended to be the community hub for information and distributing the “passports” for adventure challenges. This will be our second year to partner with them. Staff will be doing more training on this in near future.
- I have been reviewing the USAC site pertaining to our Library System information with Jerome Browning from UEN and gearing up for upcoming E-Rate forms that will need to be submitted.
- Governor has announced a Literacy Initiative. Nearly 50% of 5th graders are not reading at grade level. More information will be coming.
- County recently held a Leadership/Supervisor training. Ginnie, Mikaela, and Nicole all attended the 4 ½ hour training. They went over the traits of an effective leader and ideas of attaining effective leadership skills, the importance of setting goals (SMARTS formula) and having a vision and frequent, clear communication with staff whether negative or positive. They also went over Federal and Utah Employment laws. Very informative and worth the time attending. Portions of this training will be shared with all staff at each branch.
- Upcoming Inventory in March for all library branches which will mean a Friday closure to conduct for the 2 larger branches and schedule a day with each Satellite branch.
- Working on applying for the State Library Technology grant – due tomorrow.

Blanding Library

- Ongoing activities/events:



- New activities include Crochet Club for all and Dungeons and Dragons for teens and adults.



- Ongoing activities:
Adult and Teen Paint Night and Art Club



Anime Club, Big Book Sale, and Community Seed Exchange



- Take Home Craft/Activity kits provided by Blanding Library staff and Help ME Grow
- Find POPPY



- Other Blanding Library Events

Pumpkin Carving Contest, Gingerbread House Auction (\$335), Santa visit and craft



- Blanding Specific grants:

Dollar General Literacy Grant = \$3000

HHMI Bird Flight Path grant = \$500 plus materials



Enter to win:
Flight Path Tote Bag, Bird Friendly Guatemala Coffee, Miir Stainless Steel Bottle, or Window Collision Tape.

Watch HHMI Tangled Bank Studios' award-winning series **Wild Hope**, which highlights changemakers from around the globe that shine a light on efforts to protect birds from window strikes and prevent them from getting confused by city lights when they migrate.



Scan to watch the video

Browse the items on display and join the Library wide scavenger hunt and win a prize!



Watch HHMI Tangled Bank Studios' award-winning series **Wild Hope**, which highlights changemakers from around the globe that shine a light on efforts to protect birds from window strikes and prevent them from getting confused by city lights when they migrate.

Explore the materials on offer that give our community the opportunity to learn about bird migration and local and regional birds, and to become local science explorers yourselves!



Scan to watch the video



FLIGHT PATH KIT LIST

AND WE'D LOVE MATERIALS:

- Tangle, Book 2: Tangle Book (2) per set
- Tangle, Book 3: Tangle Book (2) per set
- Magnifying Glass

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

- April: Tangle Tangle Book (1) per set

AND SAFE WINDOW MATERIALS:

- Flight Path (1) per set
- Bird Friendly Guatemala Coffee (1) per set
- Miir Stainless Steel Bottle (1) per set

BOOKS:

- Bird Count by Sarah Johnson (1) per set
- Bird Count by Sarah Johnson (1) per set
- Bird Count by Sarah Johnson (1) per set
- Bird Count by Sarah Johnson (1) per set

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- Flight Path Tote Bag (1) per set
- Flight Path Water Bottle (1) per set
- Bird Friendly Coffee (1) per set
- Flight Path Socks

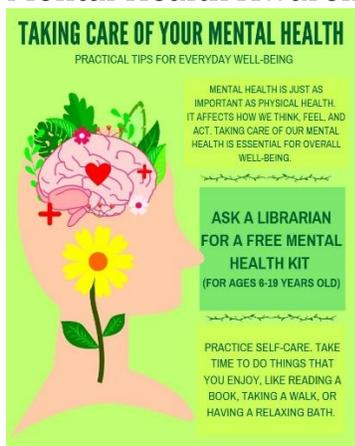


- Example of Summer Reading 2025 Event
Cedar Mesa Pottery Tour and Pottery Painting



Bluff Library and Montezuma Creek Library

- On going Book Sale
- Take -Home Kits geared for Children 3-9 years of age -provided by Blanding Library and Help Me Grow
- Mental Health Awareness



La Sal Library

- Ongoing service to the Senior Center
- Library Patronage is growing