

Library Director's Report for January and February 2021

March 1, 2021

Grants Applied for and Approved by Commissioners

- CLEF (Community Library Enhancement Funds) grant of \$7400 is eligible and will be spent on Programming, Technology for Patron Usage, and Collection Development. All funds must be spent by June 30, 2021.
- Borrower's Support (ILL) grant of up to \$1825 to help cover the postage of returning patron "out of county" ILL requests and checkouts completed between Jan-June of 2021. All receipts must be turned in for reimbursement by June 30, 2021. There is the possibility that this will become an ongoing program sponsored by the State Library.

Grants Applied for and awarded - waiting approval from Commissioners

- Children and Teen Book Enhancement grant for up to \$3000. All funds must be spent between 2/20/21 and 5/14/2021. Books purchased must be from an approved USL list consisting of current, high-quality and well-reviewed books published in 2020 and 2021 for young adults and children. Proof of book purchased must be submitted to USL (Sharon Deeds) by 5/14/2021. Survey by 5/28/2021. Any unspent funds returned by same date.

Grants Applied for and waiting for USL decision on libraries awarded

- Additional Grant Round for COVID Response of up to \$5000 to be used for PPE, Digital Inclusion, Online Programming Creation, Youth Services, and Virtual Summer Reading Programming. Date to notify libraries of those awarded is March 4, 2021.

OTHER

- We have been working with a non-profit organization out of California called [Kisa Kids](#) that distributes Muslim heritage books for children and adult at no cost to libraries. We will be receiving almost \$700 worth of books in the next few weeks to distribute throughout the branches in the county.
- [The Museum of Natural History](#) has developed a "Marker" program that is intended to promote different National Parks and Monuments throughout the state of Utah. I have been attending (or viewing recordings of) trainings on this exciting and fun program. They will be sending out materials to promote the event at each library with resources for programming by the middle of May. Program will begin end of that month.

- World Water Day is March 22nd and we have partnered with a group out of Boulder Colorado called **We Are Water**. [We Are Water](#) brings a traveling exhibit and interactive programs to rural and tribal communities in the Four Corners Region of the U.S. and engages community members in conversations about their personal and community connections to local water topics. This project springs from an exciting collaboration between scientists, Indigenous science educators, learning researchers, informal educators, and library staff.
- We just paid an invoice to Grand County for San Juan County residents that utilize their library. The cost is \$6000. I requested a report on our county residents using the facilities and received a number of 337 patrons. I also asked for number of checkouts in the past 4 years and how many of those 337 patrons have used their library card in those 4 years. Grand County Library reported that all 337 patrons have checked out at least 1 item in the last 3 years but I haven't received total checkout numbers yet. They are still working on that as of this report. I feel that with the amount of \$ we pay it is a good practice to request more information on an annual basis than we have previously to help analyze if patronage is growing, stagnate, or decreasing. Other questions this will help answer: Are we getting our money's worth or are we paying enough to make it fair for Grand County? Do we want to invest (down the road...way down the road) in a physical facility or some sort of other presence in Spanish Valley to serve the patrons in that area?

General Report

Blanding Library

- We (Kalyne Pincock, Blanding Library Lead, was in charge of this from beginning till end) wrapped up our [PBS Read-a-thon](#) grant on January 29th with a social distancing celebration divided up into 2 different groups to ensure smaller numbers. Except for the celebration on January 29th, the Read-a-thon took outside the library. Each time the kids came in to have their reading log signed off on, they would receive a fun book mark. For every day a child met their 20 minute reading goal they received one prize entry into the prize of their choice. Prizes consisted anywhere from a Kindle Fire to book sets. Any children that participated and turned in their reading log at the end of the challenge were invited along with a parent (this was required) to a celebration. We closed the library to the public at 7:00 and had an "After Hours Celebration" from 7:30 pm-10:30 pm. There were 5 games/activities for children to participate in along with pizza and ice cream. All expenses but \$30 was paid for by the grant. We felt it was well worth the time and effort. The following are the statistics collected:

Number of participants: 42

Number of reading logs turned in: 17

Number of children who attended the celebration: 9

Total Minutes Recorded during Read-a-thon period: 11120

- We (Trae McDonald is a big part of this) are working with UEN to get CBRS set up at the Blanding Library which will extend the outdoor reach of WiFi considerably for patrons and travelers alike. This is a future project so will not begin any time soon.
- We have partnered with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for a [service missionary](#) to volunteer with projects big and small. Monticello had great success when they partnered with them to help catalog the “John Morris Collection” when Pat was the Director so we decided this might be a valuable service for us to utilize as well. [Sustainable Shelves](#) program will be our first big project.
How does it work?
 - Library provides Baker & Taylor with weed list
 - List is valued and categorized into two groups (resale and recycle)
 - Library weeds books
 - Baker & Taylor arranges pick up of books at no cost
 - Library is credited for collection within 30 days of Receipt
- [Black History Month](#) was promoted throughout the month of February through social media, a children’s pop quiz, displays for both adults and children including new books, posters, and book marks.
- [4-H and Utah State University](#) is a new partnership for us. They will meet once a month at the Blanding library for activities until the weather warms up at which time they will be meeting at the park. This is for ages 8 and up with all materials provided. Upcoming activities are:
 - February 25 – [Photography](#)
 - March 25 – [Acting](#)
 - April 29 – [Planting](#)
- Our annual [BOOK SALE](#) has been up and running for almost 6 weeks now. It has been significantly slower than years past which could be due to people being cautious still about COVID exposure.

Bluff Library

Due to COVID restriction in the town of Bluff, the library has continued to follow their community guidelines without any group planned events and 2-3 patrons able to enter the building at one time. The fiber optic is all hooked up but we are at a stand-still until UEN delivers the equipment for our IT person to install. Patronage is picking up a bit, as well as ILL loans due to the grant that will cover all ILL postage until June 30th.

La Sal Library

Patrons and community members are beginning to respond well to the new “Hotspot” units available for checkout and have enjoyed participating in the adult book club discussion on the book “An Unseen Angel” by Alissa Parker that they held this past month. March discussion will be on the book “The Invention of Wings”. It was their first “in person” event with COVID precautions still in place. Patrons will sometimes come in

to “warm their bones” or utilize the librarians research skills such as looking up what chainsaws are the best and assisting in ordering one online. The displays are always fresh and applicable to the time of year or current events. They were having some phone issues but that seems to have all been taken care of now, thanks to our county IT specialist, Trae Bushore.

Monticello Library

*See Mikaela’s report

Montezuma Creek Library

The patrons in the Montezuma Creek area have been so appreciative of the library keeping their doors open. Being responsible with the precautions in place and following local curfews set by the Navajo Nation has allowed this branch to continue to operate with near normal hours. It is our goal to slowly expand hours of operation back to pre-COVID when the time is right. No social or group gatherings allowed at this time but we are kicking around the idea of having a grand “re-opening” when it is appropriate. Like Bluff, the Montezuma Creek library has fiber optic hooked-up and ready to go but need UEN to find time to come bring the indoor equipment so as to be able to utilize it. There have been some IT issues with computers able to print but Mr. Bushore has taken care of those as well as installing outdoor access points on February 25th so that even when the library is closed the patrons can utilize the WiFi in the library parking lot. Outdoor Access points installed by Trae on February 25th, which was greatly appreciated by community members receiving their COVID vaccinations in the library parking lot.