

LYNNWOOD LIBRARY – LIBRARIAN’S REPORT – January 2015

Lynnwood Library – Statistical Summary	JAN-15		JAN-14		% Change
Items Checked Out/Renewed	61,768		68,118		-9.32%
Items Checked Out/Renewed YTD	61,768		68,118		-9.32%
Door Count	37,016		37,726		-1.88%
Door Count YTD	37,016		37,726		-1.88%
Program Attendance	1,465		1,301		12.61%
Program Attendance YTD	1,465		1,301		12.61%

WHAT’S NEW

With the start of the New Year, many local citizens prepare to file their federal tax returns, with refunds eagerly awaited by some. For decades, customers have turned to their local public library as a source for tax forms and instruction booklets. The IRS has shipped out pallets worth of paper over the years, but this year was different. Notably, all the library received was basic forms (1040EZ, 1040A and 1040). No instruction booklets or supplemental forms were shipped out. The IRS, facing drastic cost reductions, is asking that more people file online and/or order necessary paper forms from their website, rather than have them sent out automatically. Library staff are assisting customers with this process, in many cases, helping customers print the forms or order the instructions when they wouldn’t have the computer access at home to do so.

Readers Advisory Librarian Jackie Parker was a panelist for a webinar discussing new approaches to reader’s advisory. The panel was moderated by Duncan Smith, the creator of the Novelist database (a tremendously helpful tool in recommending books for fiction readers). The webinar was carried nationally with some 1900 people registered. Participants gave the webinar high marks, and Jackie has subsequently heard from other regional librarians in the same field who want to collaborate with her.

In her dual role as Teen Librarian, Jackie also participated in the Cocoon House “Point in Time” homeless youth count. An annual attempt to get a sense of how many homeless kids are in the area, the 2014 count identified 84 kids in Snohomish County, though it is suggested that the number is far higher.

Technical Assistant Mary Hofbeck has been busy both teaching and preparing future classes. One of the classes for a future date is called Sparkfun Arduino. Arduino uses open source software and hardware to create interactive objects such as simple robots and motion detectors.

Reference Librarian Steve Sandbakken had the opportunity to work more with QuestionPoint, the online chat service that provides reference assistance nationwide 24 hours a day. He fielded several questions from the East Coast, and noted that he had become very “adept at going into other library’s websites and finding answers for procedures, etc. I found I really liked the Brooklyn Public Library’s website.”

OUTREACH

Jackie Parker reports that she has been working with Lynnwood High School to update their AP English list and make suggestions on world literature titles. She also gave her annual digital resource tour to the homeschool group Monday School. She said “Twelve teens and five adults attended. It’s a great group.”

Karin Thomsen delivered “Reading Challenge” t-shirts to local third grade classes participating in this year’s competition. She indicated that she is working with the schools to get their in-school and semi-final challenge dates set. The schools are excited to participate.

FACILITIES

Four new Express Check desks were installed. The new desks are in two different heights giving customers greater flexibility. They are equipped with the latest scanner technology and offer our IT crew better access to the computers inside the cabinetry.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Delury, Managing Librarian