

Quarterly Managers' Report



Allen County
Public Library

Q4 2023

Table of Contents

BRANCHES

Aboite	01
Dupont	03
Georgetown	04
Grabill	06
Hessen Cassel	07
Little Turtle	08
Monroeville	10
New Haven	11
Pontiac	12
Shawnee	13
Tecumseh	14
Waynedale	15
Woodburn	16

DEPARTMENTS

Access Fort Wayne	17
Adult Services	18
Audio Reading Service	20
Communications, Marketing, & Web	21
Community Partnerships and Programs	22
Events	24
Human Resources	25
Information Services	26
IT Services	27
Library At Home	28
Special Collections	29
Technical Services	32
Teens	33
Youth Services	34

Aboite Branch

Kris Lill, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

In November, the Aboite branch offered its first “Dino-vement” in the children’s area. This has been a successful event in Children’s Services at the Main Library for the past several years. Branch Assistant/Circulation Specialist Faye enthusiastically stepped up to plan and implement this event with a book display, crafts, games, a scavenger hunt, and a window display that was updated daily. This was well-received by patrons of all ages and will likely become an annual event at Aboite.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

In November, we joined other branches in offering My Generation, a program for adults with a goal of fostering social connections through art, music, games, and movement activities. Feedback from attendees has been positive; one patron stated that while she understands the importance of library programs for children and how popular they are here, she was grateful for the additional programs for adults being offered at Aboite. In addition to My Generation, we also offer Computer Basics: Guided Help and Creative Canvas for adults.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

In December our two window displays were filled by local organizations. Josiah White’s Foster Care provided information about their services, particularly pointing out the great need for foster parents and how interested adults could get involved. Staff from Fox Island County Park created a display around winter outdoor safety along with a take-home outdoor winter scavenger hunt sheet.



Aboite Branch

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

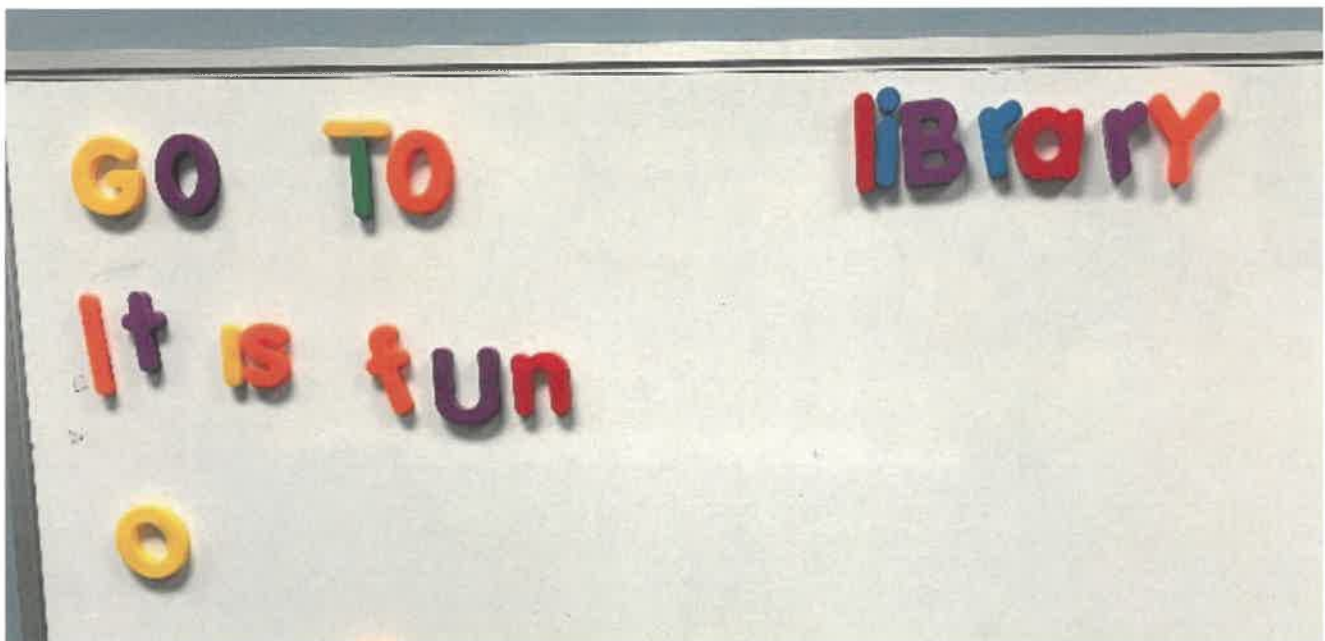
During much of this quarter, we continued to search for our next senior youth librarian. Youth librarians Courtney Pifer and Claire Laisure really stepped up to make sure services to children and teens continued uninterrupted. Under their direction, branch assistants planned self-directed crafts and activities, gathered supplies, and created decorations and displays. Courtney and Claire took care of collection maintenance and most program planning and implementation, with the support of Kris and Ajay, as well as Kelsey and Max from the Main Library, who helped lead storytimes and other programs as needed. I am very happy to report that Max Dion, formerly ACPL's program and partnership specialist for Youth Services, has accepted the role of senior librarian at Aboite and starts in early January.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

At the end of November, the large meeting room at the Aboite branch re-opened for both public and library use, after being closed due to storm damage 2022. Many patrons expressed appreciation for the ability to reserve this space again for their neighborhood association meetings and other uses. Library programs that had been cancelled or had limited attendance during the room closure have been filling up quickly as registration numbers were increased.

In conclusion, I thought I'd include a photo of the white board in the children's area on the last day we were open in 2023, January 30. How heartening it was for staff to see this at the conclusion of a very busy year!



Dupont Branch

Erin Warzala, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Our community's love for reading was highlighted this past October during our two-week limited services period. Patrons returned items that were then placed in tubs and cardboard boxes as we waited for the launch of our new Integrated Library System (ILS), Polaris. On Staff Day morning, Dupont staff – with the help of several coworkers from Main and DiSalle – wheeled these tubs and boxes to a centralized location at the branch to check items in. The pile of tubs was such a great physical reminder of how much our community utilizes the library!

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Keep your eye on this space in our next quarterly report! Dupont was the first branch to receive outdoor holds lockers! The lockers were installed at the end of November, and Dupont staff spent December practicing with the lockers and figuring out logistics. We have a few more things that we need to cross off of our to-do list before we're ready to go live with the public, but we are hoping to launch soon! Patrons have been very excited about this new service.



Georgetown Branch

Stephen Platt, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

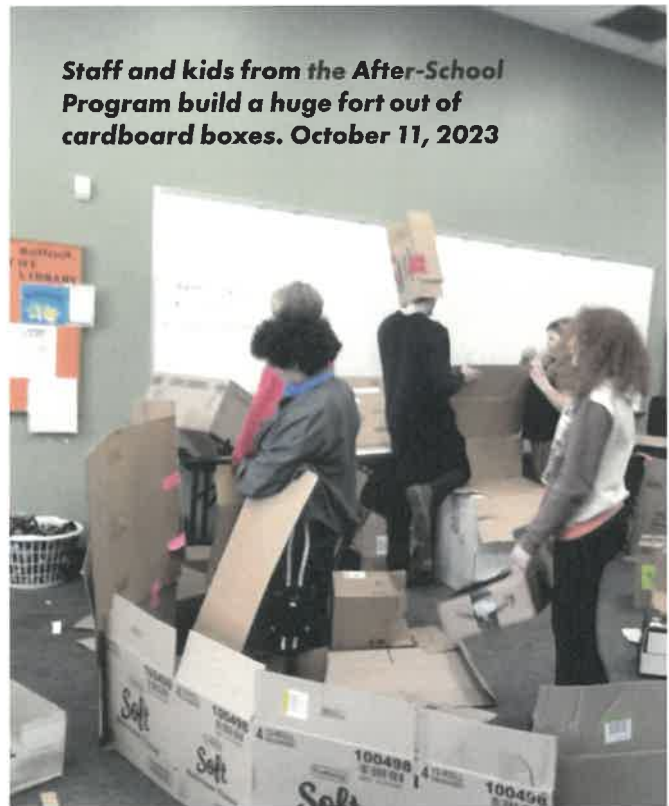
Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

PAWS TO READ PROGRAM

Paws to Read is a long-standing library program that is extremely popular at the Georgetown Library. This past year we offered 45 Paws to Read sessions where children can read to a trained therapy dog provided by a collaboration with Three Rivers Visiting Dogs. In 2023, there were more than 400 persons in attendance for these programs.

COMMUNITY HELPER “MEET AN EXPERT” STORYTIME

This storytime is a pop-up program that takes place at the end of Friday family Storytime. The ‘meet an expert’ event is a way for families and their kids to connect with various figures ‘experts’ in the community who work to keep everyone safe or provide an interesting service that makes our community a better place. The meet and greet follows a themed Storytime that revolves around that day’s particular expert topic, and they talk about what they do to help the community. The expert brings things with them relating to their job. We are just starting this with the goal of introducing kids and parents to all the good things in the community that make us a great place to live. We have a number of folks who are coming now, such as a pilot from Sweet Aviation, an Indiana State Police officer, a 4H representative, a postman, a naturalist, and many others.



Staff and kids from the After-School Program build a huge fort out of cardboard boxes. October 11, 2023

Georgetown Branch

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

AFTERSCHOOL AT THE LIBRARY FALL 2023 SEMESTER WRAP-UP

The official last day of the After-School Program for the semester was Friday, December 22nd.

This semester we offered the After-School Program 75 days. Each day we had an average attendance of 33 students for an overall total of 2,497 children between the ages of 10 and 14 attending.

This is a 28% increase in the overall attendance from the 2022 Fall Semester After-School Program, and it would appear that this program is growing as more and more children are utilizing the library as a safe space after school.

Some of the memorable activities that the staff have planned and presented are interactive and involve physical activity like cardboard box fort building, lava floors, clean your room, and ping pong tournaments. Others involve more thought and inspire creativity like fiber crafts, puppet making and similar art projects as well as Dungeons and Dragons and video and board gaming. Each day there is at least one activity for the children.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We received a donation of two large live plants which we placed in the rotunda of the building.

Themed scavenger hunt and winter décor featuring Sam the 3D printed penguin!

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

NEW EQUIPMENT

A Cricut and Cricut Vinyl Heat press were recently added to Georgetown Maker Lab. The staff is trained on the use of these machines and they are available to use during the Georgetown Library's expanded Maker Lab open hours:

Monday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday: 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Saturday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Grabill Branch

Rebecca Wolfe, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.



The Grabill branch has long partnered with Bob Dispenza of Metea County Park, which is part of the Allen County park system. On the first Wednesday of each month, Bob comes to the Grabill branch to take part in Storytime. He decides on monthly themes, and library staff design a Storytime around the theme. Bob works from the stories we read and teaches the program attendees about nature, often using props, such as animal furs or mounted animal specimens. On the second Wednesday of each month, library staff take Storytime to the nature center at Metea Park. After Storytime, Bob leads the group on a short hike, pointing out plants and animals of interest. It's a popular program, and on these hikes, you can hear adults and children having fun conversations about their observations.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Grabill branch received a new display unit, which will allow us the space to do nice seasonal and celebratory displays.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Grabill branch manager Rebecca Wolfe has visited LIFE Adult Day Academy (LADA) to do modified storytimes for a few years now. LADA is a school for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Recently, she started a new book club in which participants take turns reading out loud from a chapter book; then they have discussions and exercises based on the text. There has been some great sharing of ideas here, and participants are enjoying their first experiences with a book club.

Hessen Cassel Branch

Edith Helbert, Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Our newest employee, Madison Miller, began working in December 2023 after completing an English degree at Ball State. Her work history includes helping students in the writing center during her college years, experience that translates well to helping patrons with their technology needs. She also worked for two summers with the LINK program at Little Turtle branch, so she's very familiar the wide variety of ways the ACPL serves our community.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Jennifer FitzSimons, our children's librarian, recently worked with Catholic Charities to offer a tour for Burmese refugees who live near our location at Autumn Woods apartment complex. A Catholic Charities representative brought a group of families and a translator, and our library staff offered an introduction to the concept of a public library, then offered library card signups and browsing along with additional translation support. We look forward to more opportunities to connect with more residents in the coming months.

A representative of FWHA setup a table at the branch to educate and enroll patrons in their program Your Home Your Internet (YHYI). This program is part of the government funded Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Then in December we hosted the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, which offers a variety of medical services for people without insurance.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Fall was pumpkins and playtime! Family Fun Night's Pumpkin Painting process art set the mood for seasonal fun. At the close of Hispanic Heritage Month kids learned the mechanics of both seed dispersal and seed saving as part of the Let it Grow! pop-up series.

Our Library Garden produced a pumpkin that got its start in a Citizen Science Month greenhouse activity back in April. Now we're digging in deeper, observing a pumpkin as it decays in a sealed container, and recording pumpkin data at a self-directed station. Hopefully by Spring we'll have seedlings to start anew.



Little Turtle Branch

Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

We've had wonderful conversations about our circ-desk terrarium turned science experiment this quarter. In October patrons painted pumpkins at a family program and then in November our dinosaurs took one and created a tiny home for the miniature dinos that hatched from their eggs. Children and adults alike enjoyed watching the terrarium change throughout the month. Educators may be familiar with the books Pumpkin Jack and Rotten Pumpkin which inspired the experiment. Soon the rotten remains will begin to sprout, and the science experiment will continue with the life cycle of a pumpkin. This circ-desk experiment makes for a unique conversation starter about LTL's seed library!



Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Little Turtle Branch took an hour on Staff Day to do a team-building exercise with art! Each staff member was given a blank canvas, and asked to paint it with multiple colors in any creative way that they choose. When it was dry, each staff member was given a big letter sticker to put over their painting, and then they were asked to paint the entire canvas black. When the stickers were removed, the abbreviation "LTL" was revealed. The symbolism is that we are individuals who bring unique skills and ideas to our team. The uniformity of the black on the canvases binds us together as a team, but the colorful individual letters shows the many unique talents and personalities on our team.



Little Turtle Branch

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

These three pictures might look the same to an outside eye but from inside this outreach program preschool children at Foundations First Daycare were building connections with their local librarian (Youth Services Librarian, Haley Downer), discovering print awareness, and learning sign language. This is one of several outreach opportunities our branch librarians plan and carry out each quarter.



Monroeville Branch

Chris Wiljer, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

On Tuesday, December 5, the Monroeville Branch hosted the “Gingerbread houses-Engineering” program. Participants were encouraged to test their engineering skills, and work to design and build a stable gingerbread house. The result was a wide variety of different styles and designs of gingerbread structures generously decorated with an assortment of candy.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

On Wednesday, December 20, Santa continued a very long tradition of visiting the Monroeville Branch during a scheduled Storytime. Our branch librarian started the program by sharing a favorite holiday book with Santa and 38 participants. The participants then had an opportunity to visit with Santa and discuss their wishes for the holiday season.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

On December 17, members of T.R.A.I.N. (Three Rivers and Indiana Northern) set up their model railroading display at the Monroeville Branch. The display will be open to the public from December 20 to January 25. The extensive display is open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays (5 to 8 pm) and on Saturdays (10:00 am to 2 pm). T.R.A.I.N. is the oldest HO modular railroad club in Allen County. They are dedicated to promoting the hobby of module railroading with a particular focus of encouraging the younger generation to get involved in this hobby. T.R.A.I.N. builds modules or scenes that interest them, connect the modules and then display the modules at area festivals and events. They have been setting up their display at the Monroeville Branch for over 15 years around the holiday season.

New Haven Branch

Marie Kaufmann, Branch Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

The New Haven Branch once again created a fantastical all ages Halloween Maze to celebrate the fun and spooky season. This year's theme was centered around a Haunted Castle. The maze featured twists and turns where patrons might run into knights, kings, queens, and other assorted items and characters. This year the maze was extended an extra day and more than 250 patrons enjoyed the event.



Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

This fall, Children's Librarian, Sheila Hoffman started a Storytime outreach event at the New Haven Community Center. This Storytime on the third Friday of every month features many of the same activities, songs and stories that occur at the branch every Tuesday, but it's offered in a different location and time. We hope to make the library more visible, accessible and available by continuing this program at the New Haven Community Center.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

The New Haven Branch staff had a great Staff and Polaris Go-Live Day. It was a long and fun day of mostly checking in all the items that had been returned during the limited services period and then shelving those items. The day also gave staff some time to continue building their bonds as a team.



Pontiac Branch

Deborah Meserve, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Jenn and Meisha participated in school Literacy Nights at Whitney Young, Fairfield, Weisser Park and Bloomingdale with activities like a take-home finger puppet stories, a sensory bin with comprehension words buried inside, and a simple hot chocolate-themed grammar sorting sheet for the littles.

Meisha read, "Ruby Bridges Goes To School" at MLK Montessori School as part of the Urban League's Freedom to Learn initiative.

Meisha and Jenn hosted an ACPL table at BrightPoint's Family Event.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Meisha and Jenn hosted Lincoln Elementary's 4th Grade for Family Fun Night: Crafting Through the Snow and with 90 students.

Jenn and Meisha planned pop-up activities during the school break for our neighborhood students including: balloon Weeble Wobbles, squeegee art, and design-your-own-teapots.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

OCTOBER

- We hosted Pontiac Street Market's Job Fair.
- Meisha and Jenn went to a BrightPoint HeadStart Parent Event.
- Jenn and Meisha handed out stickers and DIY bookmarks created on our Cricut machine at Urban League's Trunk or Treat night.

NOVEMBER

- Deborah attended a Friendsgiving Celebration for the Community Navigator Pilot Program's Destination Ideation and ended up giving an impromptu tutorial of our business Databases A to Z.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Our team began to prep for the construction of our StoryScape by curating materials, shifting collections, and moving shelving.

Shawnee Branch

Edith Helbert, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Librarian Laura Bohnke created an array of bookmarks that Marketing was then able to print for a Halloween outreach event. What didn't get used at the event were offered in the branch. We've received lots of positive feedback from customers, so we'll definitely be calling on her creative talents throughout the year!

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Assistant Manager Linette Miller has begun taking extensive training in anticipation of offering maker equipment and training to the public. We are so excited that we'll soon be offering classes in 3D printing, Cricut, minipress, buttonmaking, and lamination, as well as having the materials and equipment on-site for use by members of the public.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Our staff now regularly offers programs to Young Mothers of America, an organization who serves under-resourced single mothers, at their location on Pontiac Street, as well as bringing storytimes to families at the YWCA shelter.

Tecumseh Branch

Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Toddler Fun! has been a big hit at Tecumseh. In December, we played with melted snowmen, contained in a bag, with buttons and “carrots” to make a face. We had peg board snowflakes, and a snowflake balance activity where toddlers walked along tape and placed cotton balls on a snowflake to decorate it. We also had a wintery sensory table and a frozen dinosaur that the toddlers have been working on getting out of ice for four Thursdays. They were very excited to finally free the dinosaur!



Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Tecumseh Branch took an hour on Staff Day to do a team-building exercise with art! Each staff member was given a blank canvas, and asked to paint it with multiple colors in any creative way that they choose. When it was dry, each staff member was given a big letter sticker to put over their painting, and then they were asked to paint the entire canvas black. When the stickers were removed, the word, “TECUMSEH” was revealed. The symbolism is that we are individuals who bring unique skills and ideas to our team. The uniformity of the black on the canvases binds us together as a team, but the colorful individual letters shows the many unique talents and personalities on our team.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Tecumseh Branch continued our outreach visits in conjunction with Georgetown Branch to provide programs and services to the Beacon Heights Senior Apartments building. We made clothespin wreaths, played Bingo for books, held a Device Advice one-on-one technology help session, learned about jam making, and made rustic trees for the holidays with the residents.



Waynedale Branch

Amanda Vance, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

The December Destination Science program theme was: Gingerbread House Engineering. Kids got to build a gingerbread house and learn about seismic shift, weights of buildings, and structure. They loved trying to make their houses strong enough to withstand all of the elements! Then they got to decorate with candy to top it all off!



Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

This December, we partnered again with the Waynedale Events Committee to hold the Waynedale Wreath Silent Auction. The community could view the wreaths online or in person at our branch. They could then bid online or in person. The money raised benefits the Waynedale Trails and Sidewalks Initiative. This is the 7th year that we have participated in this event.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We have shifted the use of the bulletin boards in our children's area to utilize the space for passive programming. This winter, we have had a turkey coloring event, a gingerbread village, and a way to help the Grinch grow his heart by telling him things you love. Additionally, the space includes two scavenger hunts: a hunt for winter animals and a hunt for ugly sweaters.

These activities provide fun and easy ways for families to interact with each other and our space.

Woodburn Branch

Paige Shook, Branch Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

October, November, and December were busy months with outreach events in the Woodburn community. The library participated in seven community events and interacted with over 1,500 people of all ages.

The first event was Trunk or Treat with Indiana Wild. Next up, was the Trunk or Treat at the Woodburn Lutheran School. We decorated our trunk as a skeleton graveyard and competed in the best trunk contest.

A few days later, we found ourselves at the Woodlan Elementary School for their PTO Fall Festival. At this event we set up a table and handed out information about the library and signed people up for library cards.

Just a day later, the library set up a table at Woodburn's first ever Fall Vendor Event. We handed out information about library services and signed people up for library programs. We also handed out coloring pages that people could take home to color and bring back to the library to be added to our mini art gallery.

In November, the Spirit of Woodlan Band Boosters hosted a Holiday Craft Fair at the Woodlan High School. We handed out information about library services and signed people up for library programs. We also handed out coloring pages that people could take home to color and bring back to the library to be added to our mini art gallery.

In December the library was present at the TRULAND Equipment's John Deere Santa Visit, where we were invited to read stories and do crafts with the children while they waited to see Santa.

About a week later, Santa came to visit Woodburn once again, but this time he arrived by fire truck to the clock tower in Woodburn. We handed out library goodie bags that included copies of the Woodburn Branch programming calendar for the next two months and crafts that they could complete and bring back to the library to be displayed in our mini art gallery.



Access Fort Wayne

Norm Compton, AFW Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

The local elections drew lots of attention. AFW played seven Local Candidate shows to help educate voters. We recorded a League for Women Voters' event, made four shows from the NAACP Candidate Forum and had a producer cover The Urban League forum. We played these seven shows more than sixty times before the November election.

We saw the most Video on Demand views in December (268) as people shared holiday programming across the internet. For the quarter, AFW made 434 TV shows, and 885 Radio shows.

Three AFW staff members attended the Central States Regional Conference in Monroe, Michigan. The use of Artificial Intelligence and the impact it will have on our work was a favorite session.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

The Maker Lab has stepped up the number of programs offered, and the number of people served. For the quarter, the Maker Lab at Main put on 22 programs serving 126 patrons.

We went through Virtual Reality training and started planning VR programs to be offered in 2024. We purchased 16 VR headsets with funding from an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. There are hundreds of VR programs offered from our vendor for education and virtual travel.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

On Fright Night, AFW opened Studio A with the green screen and more than 100 people visited to get photos. WELT DJ's set up a table in the Great Hall and broadcast live as well.

In December we hosted our annual holiday "Jingle & Mingle" event, drawing 85 people that are active within our department as volunteers, hosts, and producers. This allowed networking and crossover of the people that make the hundreds of shows seen and heard from AFW.

Adult Services

Stacey Stamas, Adult Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Anna Kallemeyn offered training to staff on our new ILS system, Polaris, in October. The system went “live” on October 30. The new system will create new possibilities for our patrons.



Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Stacey Stamas continued with her “Music at the Library” series in October with the jazz combo, “Q and the Cold Fusion”. In November, she had “Soltre”, a bluegrass band and in December, the “New Millennium Jazz Orchestra presented a Holiday jazz show. Also, in December, Jan Aldridge Clark, gave us “Harp for the Holidays” in the Great Hall during the lunch hour. Stacey also hosted How-to Studio’s “Watercolor Stencil” in December.

In the Jeffrey R. Krull gallery, Jon Detweiler coordinated the following exhibit: Fort Wayne Artist Guild, October – December 2023.

Adult Services

Anna Kallemeyn co-hosted the "Author & Ales" book club, October – December, "Books & Beans" book club @ GK Café & Provisions in October – November and the University of Saint Francis lecture series in October. Anna helped host a program in November by Dr. William Cooke, MD, author of "Canary in the Coal Mine". Anna attended ongoing Polaris meetings and trained Adult Services staff. She also hosted How-to Studio's "Tapestry Weaving".

Sarah Holmes hosted the ACPL Writer's Forum program in October – December, helped with How-to Studio's "Needlefelting in October and How-to Studio's "Watercolor Stencil" in December.

Megan Bell co-hosted the "Author & Ales" book club October – December and hosted the "Bookends" Book Club in October – December. Other programs for Meg include Spooky Stories in the Stacks, author Angela Jackson-Brown program, Dark History in Fort Wayne, Paranormal 101, author Dr. William Cooke, MD program, ACPL's Pages and Voices podcast and Season's Readings.

Craig Bailey has been hosting Board Games and Brews at Summit City Brewerks every month, as well as, Board Games and Brews: Tabletop Edition at Electric Works. He also helps with Computer Basics: Guided Help each month at the Main Library and participates in Idea Board coordination on a regular basis. Other programs that Craig has been involved with are Dog Days of Autumn: Lutheran Park Outreach, A Writer's Day with Angela Jackson-Brown, How-to Studio's "Needlefelting", Artist and Innovators Market at Electric Works, Photography FUNDamentals, Great Day Café, Season's Readings, and Dungeons and Dragons: Adult Campaign.

Sasha Perisic coordinated Fright Night, helped serve hot chocolate with Night of Lights, held miniature painting classes and helped 1-on-1 with computer assistance and 3D printing.



Audio Reading Service

George Johnson-Coffey, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

The Audio Reading Service provided a monthly average of 736 hours of broadcast, and 300 programs enriching the lives of listeners. Some feedback we have received:

“ I feel someone is with me. I’m not so alone. It has been a big help to me.

Listener Judy

“ I appreciate the photo descriptions in the paper each day. Also appreciate quick response to questions & inquiries.

Listener Rich

“ This radio is fantastic! My son, Matthew, listens every day. It’s been a great tool to have for our son. Thank you!

Deborah, Mother of Listener Matthew

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

In the third quarter of 2023, ACPL received \$14,880 in added value through the services of 73 volunteers (FTE=2.70) who gave 1,402 hours of service. We welcomed two new volunteers.

Chad Butterbaugh, Senior Production Assistant, continues contributing to ACPL’s DEI Committee.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Manager, George Johnson-Coffey serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Audio Information Services. She also gave presentations, or held informative meetings about the Audio Reading Service to the ACPL Foundation, and New Employee Orientation.

With Marketing Manager, Chris Ford, George collaborated with Dena Jacquay, Parkview Health’s Chief Administrative Officer on how to promote the Audio Reading Service and ACPL’s other services.

With Beth Boatright, George met with the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana to investigate how ACPL and the Scouts can partner on like-minded services.

Communications, Marketing, & Web

Aja Michael-Keller,
Director of
Communications

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

In Media Relations, we saw 575 mentions across all media outlets which was up 54% from the previous quarter. This was an average of six mentions per day. Top stories included Curt Witcher's I Love My Librarian award and the Polaris system upgrade. This resulted in a reach of 343.89 million impressions and an earned media value of more than 3.18 million dollars.

For the entire year, the ACPL enjoyed 1,990 mentions for an average of nearly 6 mentions per day. That is a 22% increase over 2022's numbers. We had an earned media value of 7.52 million dollars and a reach of 812.99 million impressions.

In Social Media, comparing Q3 to Q4, ACPL social media page visits totaled 19,429 up 42% from Q3. Top social media posts include: Ominous October; Congrats to Curt Witcher: I Love My Librarian Award; and Digital Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: United Hispanic Americans, Inc. Collection.

In Q4 a complete redesign and reorganization of the website was successfully completed. Communication plans provided information to patrons regarding the Aboite closing, and Polaris system upgrade. The Angela Jackson-Brown author event was filled to capacity.

In November, members of the Marketing team attended the Library Marketing & Communications Conference in Indianapolis, IN. Lots of great information was gathered and we can't wait to roll out some new marketing initiatives in 2024. While there, the team met with representatives from OrangeBoy, a strategic planning and customer segmentation company that allows libraries and other social service and government-related entities, to create targeted email communications. This revolutionary tool is going to be a game-changer for ACPL, as we will be able to communicate the right message with the right audience. We are excited to welcome OrangeBoy this coming spring!

The holidays were nothing short of exciting for ACPL. In addition to the many programs offered this holiday season, Marketing introduced our first ACPL e-card. Our adorable elves Page and Turner captured 1,871 views on the Holiday Card page on our website, 1,990 FB views and 545 views on IG. We received great feedback from several recipients of the e-card.

Winter Spark - Where We Come From, has begun. And we are over-the-moon to report the success we've experienced thus far. Through varied marketing efforts, our winter reading program has seen huge success since its launch on December 18. We have already registered 4,267 participants – a 436% increase over last year (796)! And the program isn't over yet!! Additionally, we've seen 7,447 visits to the website, 1,175 clicks in the mobile app, 4,003 FB views, and 601 views on IG. We are pleased with the momentum and engagement leading to reading during these chilly winter months!

Community Partnerships and Programs

Beth Boatright,
Director of Community Partnerships and Programs

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

This fall, ACPL was honored to be chosen for two author talks sponsored by Indiana Humanities. First we welcomed Kekla Magoon, who shared about both her writing and the way that growing up in Fort Wayne shaped her career.

We also had the privilege of hosting Angela Jackson-Brown and a panel of other local authors for a mini-conference about the art and process of authorship. Jackson-Brown's keynote confronted our nation's struggles with racism and how her own experiences shaped characters and scenes in her historical fiction. In the afternoon, she led a writing workshop where participants learned more about character development, storytelling, and the life of an author. Many thanks to Indiana Humanities, Indiana University, and the authors who joined us for these events.

In November, ACPL partnered with the Network of the National Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to bring Indiana physician Dr. William Cooke to Fort Wayne. Dr. Cooke spoke about his experience of the healthcare system in rural Indiana and his recent book *The Canary in the Coal Mine*. Allen County Health Department leadership and a local book club were also involved with the visit, and the NNLM recorded the event for a future documentary. Many thanks to Anna Kallemeyn, Meg Bell, Melissa Martinez, and the Events team for their work on this program, and to Aisha Hallman for connecting us with NNLM.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Throughout this quarter, our team has been laying the groundwork for the launch of new Maker Labs at Pontiac, Shawnee, and Hessen Cassel branches. Kerstin Glaess has been ordering equipment, planning training, and working on the necessary processes and procedures for a successful launch in the spring. Many thanks to the city of Fort Wayne for their support of these maker spaces through a recent ARPA grant.

Several team members also took an exploratory journey to visit library and school maker spaces in Fishers and Bloomington. We brought back lots of ideas and are laying plans to support the creative work and entrepreneurship of more Allen County residents.

Community Partnerships

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

This fall, ACPL began a new collaboration with Everyone Home, the Fort Wayne entity devoted to ending homelessness in our city.

A series of event for landlords was spearheaded by the Everyone Home team, with support from Melissa Martinez, Access Fort Wayne, and our events team. This series provided training and support to local landlords, equipping them to treat tenants equitably, navigate local and national laws, and improve the quality of the rental market in Fort Wayne.

In addition, our “Be a Great Neighbor” series connected patrons and local service providers with insights and support. These events focused on the ways our identities shape our interactions with other members of the community, and equipped participants to better understand and serve Allen County residents. We are excited for future collaborations with Everyone Home!

Events

Leanne Bure, Events Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

The Chicago Mexican Consulate was onsite in October to offer resources to our Hispanic Latinx community. They offer passport document services and served over 670 guests.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

We were in full festive mode as we welcomed two local elementary school choirs over the holiday season; Haverhill and Aboite, to perform in the Great Hall in front of family and friends in December. Events helped serve over 480+ cups of hot chocolate during the Night of Lights Celebration in November. We also supported the live streaming of the annual ACPL Season's Readings to over 40 viewing patrons that could not attend in person.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Drum roll, please! We purchased a NEW Panasonic LCD 11,000-Lumen projector to replace the existing 3,000-Lumen theater projector that was mounted inside the sound booth. This substantial equipment upgrade delivers full brightness with optimal sharpness through a long throw lens and is now mounted outside the booth. It's eco-friendly, does not require replacement bulbs, and boasts a 4K/60 input via dual HDMI inputs or digital link at 16:10 and 1080p. These lasers are also liquid-cooled to keep temperatures down, even during continuous high-brightness projections. We are beyond excited to show off this new feature in our theater, surrounded by ambient cove LED lighting in 2024.

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Events (non-ACPL)	117	114	98
Attendance	2,986	2,117	3,707

Human Resources

LaRae Bane, Director of Human Resources

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Our HR team, alongside the Staff Day Committee and Events team, helped plan, organize, and execute a successful Staff Day! This year's Staff Day looked very different as we helped support our entire team during the Go Live day in our new Integrated Library System, Polaris.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

The last quarter of the year is the busiest time for Human Resources as we focus on open enrollment, salary requests for the upcoming year, and performance reviews. But we managed to sprinkle in fun moments too, with our pumpkin decorating contest and holiday sweater week. If you missed the photos on Facebook or Instagram, go check them out!

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

We partnered with our broker, Gibson, to offer Medicare informational sessions as well as open enrollment Q&As for our staff. Through our partnership with Parkview, we offered the fall Wellness Screening in October for all staff as well as free flu shots for staff (offered through Parkview and SuperShots).

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

With the generous support and funding of the ACPL Foundation, we partnered with Questa to offer a forgivable loan program. The ACPL Scholars Program will allow two ACPL employees the chance to start, or complete, their Masters of Library Science degrees, removing barriers to their growth within our library system.



Information Services

Traci Ward, Information Services Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

We are continuing to work closely with our Social Work intern Conor Ross, to help members of the community with housing assistance, employment resources, food insecurity, etc. Conor has been working on a staff needs assessment, which we hope to distribute sometime Q1 2024. Along with Conor's presence, we also have weekly visits from Lisa Graham from the Parkview Homeless Team. Lisa visits on most Mondays and generally sees at least 1–2 patrons each visit. Lisa is a licensed social worker which allows her to go a little deeper with patrons' needs, follow-up with them, etc.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We have begun work on new endcap signs for the Readers' Services Department and the Arts, Music, and Media Department. These will help freshen up the departments and hopefully make things more staff/patron friendly. These were created by Sara Perisic through Canva and are fully editable should we need to change or update them in the future.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

The new staffing model implemented over the course of 2022 and 2023 in Information Services has allowed staff to gain experience and offer coverage support in multiple departments. Staff are also exposed to special projects and training opportunities while supporting each other. I'm so proud to see so many staff willing to step up and help other departments and their co-workers. On a fun note, for Halloween we had a building-wide trick-or-treat day. So many people dressed up and participated—special thanks to Sara Perisic for creating the trick-or-treat signs for each office/cubicle.

IT Services

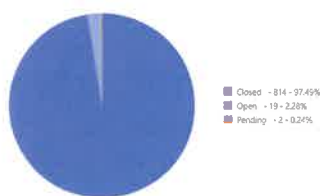
Kevin Wells, IT Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

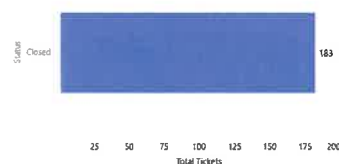
Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

We celebrate reading and learning by keeping our network secure and supporting the technology resources utilized by library patrons and staff. The IT Squad continues to put “serve” into IT Services by closing out 2023 with an average ticket completion rate of 96.6%. Freshservice reports 1757 tickets were created during the third quarter of 2023. 835 were assigned to IT Services. By the end of the quarter the IT Squad closed 814 of our assigned tickets, of which 183 were closed on the same day. Our completion rate for the fourth quarter of 2023 was 97.4%.

IT Services Tickets by Status



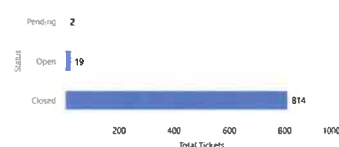
Tickets closed on same day



Total ITS Tickets



Total ITS Tickets



Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Chris Erick, Network Specialist, joined the team in November. Chris picked up his iOS support and customer service skills as an AppleCare specialist and honed his Windows and networking skills providing IT support for a local university and for the nation’s largest online musical instrument retailer, the latter of which he served as a Microsoft 365 engineer. Chris has already demonstrated his talent by solving a DNS issue that was creating havoc for our Datawarehouse and has added several enhancements that increase the security of our Microsoft 365 ecosystem.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Building on the success of the Polaris migration and to keep the positive momentum going it was time to finally add a mascot to the department. Thanks to Megan Stoffer, IT Support Specialist, we now have one. D-SAL honors our IT roots and celebrates the fun we have partnering with other library departments to support library services.

A personal thank you to two honorary IT Technicians. Alex Sarkissian, Non-print Collection Development Specialist, for taking the lead and sorting out our Polaris integrations for Overdrive and Hoopla; and Logan Knight, Genealogy Librarian, for sharing a tip that can potentially save valuable time troubleshooting the microfilm scanners.

Library At Home

Beth Boatright, Director of Community Partnerships and Programs

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

This quarter our Library at Home specialists reached more than 400 individuals with home-delivery of library materials and pop-up libraries at senior living facilities. We continue to collaborate with branch libraries across Allen County and with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, enriching our community through collaborative programs offered in conjunction with pop-up library visits.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Our Library at Home Specialists participated in the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference in Hershey, PA and online. They learned about innovative service models, new products, and even the pros and cons of different kinds of outreach vehicles. We are already working to implement several ideas from the conference, including adding to our memory care collection.

In addition, our Library at Home team worked exceptionally hard on our transition to Polaris. The new integrated library system has many new features designed especially for outreach services. Of course, this means we had a lot to learn and customize! We have new workflows, new ways to organize patron information, and new options to ensure we deliver exactly what our patrons want and need each time we visit. Many thanks to Jon Frincke for serving as our point person for this transition, and to the whole Polaris team for their support!

Special Collections

Curt Witcher, Director of Special Collections

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

The Genealogy Center had a number of successful engagements with high school students throughout the fourth quarter of 2023.

On November 10, we assisted forty Wayne New Tech students who were researching the history of specific properties in Fort Wayne. Impressed with their experience, the group returned on December 19 to further delve into their research as they prepared their final projects for presentation. Genealogy Center staff evaluated some of the final projects on-site at the school.

A different Wayne New Tech class engaged the services of the Genealogy Center on November 15 and 16, with a total of sixty-one students utilizing the vast military collections of the Center and the expertise of staff for Civil War research. These students also engaged with our Lincoln librarians in the Rolland Center.

Oak Farms Montessori School made their annual research trip to the Genealogy Center on November 28, bringing their entire high school of fifty-three students to begin research for their National History Day projects. They spent their school day with us, even enjoying their lunch in our first-floor meeting rooms.

Twenty-six Wayne New Tech students initiated research for their National History Day projects on November 30. They advantaged Center expertise and materials from across the library system including some federal government documents.

October's Family History Month continued the Genealogy Center's tradition of high program engagement. An attractive print and PDF program booklet published by ACPL Communications attracted more than 3,300 program attendees. Genealogy librarian Kate McKenzie lead a new outreach initiative this year with social media infographics focused around catchy topics (e.g. #MicrofilmMonday, #FlashbackFriday, #StorytellingSundays, #MatrilinealMonday). These proved to be quite popular. As of the end of October, the Genealogy Center had 19,406 likes of its Facebook page and 7,970 followers on Instagram.

2023 ended with 21,980 visitors to the Rolland Center, an increase of more than one thousand over our inaugural year of 2022. There were forty-seven groups of students totaling 1,067 individuals who engaged with our Lincoln librarians in the Rolland Center this year. We continue to see these metrics as foundational upon which we will grow a consequentially larger engagement in 2024 and beyond.



Special Collections

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

We continued our great relationship with Visit Fort Wayne in their laudable efforts to work with travel journalists in making the highlights of our library and the community better known. Visit Fort Wayne partnered with Visit Indiana in October to host a media tour of Northeast Indiana for regional and national journalists. Those journalists visited the Genealogy Center and the Rolland Center. Genealogy Center librarians compiled personalized family histories for the majority of the journalists as examples of what can be accomplished in the Center. These family histories also vividly demonstrated the power of story in individuals' lives. Coverage from that visit most recently included two specific articles shared with us by Visit Fort Wayne.

1. "Travel: Find vibrant arts, vintage cars, river trips in Fort Wayne, Indiana," by Steve Ahillen and Linda Lange for Knoxville News Sentinel. The Knoxville News Sentinel has a daily circulation of 76,264 and receives an average of 2.1 million unique visitors to their website per month. (www.knoxnews.com/story/life/2023/12/20/travel-fort-wayne-indiana-museums-wine-duesenberg-art-rivers/71728134007/)
2. "Fort Wayne Makes for a Surprisingly Good Stop," by Elaine Warner for Edmond Life & Leisure, which has a 30,000 circulation. (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vo6MiR-jseZLRiRJAD6zvODKMySjDp4i/view>)

On December 14, 2023, we hosted a digital ribbon-cutting in the Discovery Center during a press conference for a new "Community Album" collection, "United Hispanic Americans, Inc." Working through the fall with founder and community activist Rosa Gerra we were able to scan historical documents and photographs, and make them freely available online in their own collection.

Rosa's family members, former colleagues and friends were present to honor Rosa and her work. The collection will continue to grow through contributions from community members and former employees.

Allison Singleton and Jessie Cortesi were presenters at this year's Indiana Library Federation conference in Indianapolis in November. Allison interacted with attendees around "Engaging Patrons: Beyond Pandemic Reference" while Jessie's presentation, "Building Community Engagement with Special Collections," was well received. Both colleagues represented the library well.



Rosa Gerra, center, left of woman in red dress.

Special Collections

Curt Witcher attended the Indiana Council for Social Studies (ICSS) Conference on November 10th, 2023 at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. He attended as an exhibitor, staffing a table advertising The Rolland Center for Lincoln Research. It was a good opportunity to learn firsthand what was important to some Indiana social studies classroom teachers as well as a few curriculum coordinators. Listening to conversations between presentations and participating in the lunchtime table talk reinforced how important it is to have classroom-ready curricula and worksheets complete with answer keys.

Susan Baier and Curt Witcher attended the National Conference for the Social Studies in Nashville, TN December 1 & 2, 2023. More than three thousand individuals attended this conference. It was a great mix of classroom teachers, social studies and history department heads/chairs, school corporation curriculum coordinators, and for-profit curriculum developers. We spoke to many hundreds of attendees over the two days, with a significant number being curriculum developers with schools or companies. That everything on the Friends of the Lincoln Collection website is available without cost was a big attention grabber. Another crowd favorite were the lesson plans developed by our Lincoln librarians, with the "Civil War Escape Room" for grades 7-9 being the run-away favorite. The library's Communications Division printed eye-catching Rolland Center brochures, educator bookmarks, table signs, and a variety of stickers as well as a few Lincoln top hats for selfies. The stickers were particularly popular, and a good way to extend exposure to our brand.



Technical Services

Christine Diedrich, Technical Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

One way Technical Services connects our patrons to stories is with original cataloging. Last year we created 940 original records for everything from books and board games to memory care kits. The two largest areas for originals were board games (262) and adult fiction (287). Not only can these be used by our library, but they are available in WorldCat for any other library in the world to use them.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

As part of the migration to Polaris, we worked with the company Backstage to add authority records that helped standardize our subject headings. As part of this process, we were also able to update outdated subject headings to include newer, inclusive language. Examples of this include changing “slaves” to “enslaved persons” and “illegal aliens” to “noncitizens.” The Library of Congress is working to make subject headings less restrictive and we as a department will update our records as these changes are made.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

While our department works to add new material to the catalog, we also make corrections and updates to existing material. Last year, updates were made to almost 5,500 items. This includes fixing faded spine labels, updated board game content sheets, call number corrections, new jacket covers and adding items that had fallen out of the catalog. This helps make our collection more accessible to our patrons.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

A huge accomplishment for our Acquisitions department was transferring our budget and vendors to Polaris and starting to order in the new system. A budget had to be created to cover the rest of ordering for 2023, vendor accounts were updated and our ordering grids redesigned. Within days of our training on ordering, our first orders were placed using Polaris.

Teens

Mari Hardacre, Teens Department Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Jennifer Gerardot and Alan Bengs continued to offer the successful Dungeons & Dragons program, averaging 20 attendees each week for collaborative learning through play.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We hosted our first school groups since the launch of Polaris and new website. We instructed middle and high school students on how to use the new catalog and introduced the subscription databases available on the “Digital Resources” page.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Librarians provided outreach programming: Cathy Lambert to Charis House, Mari Hardacre to the alternative school & classrooms for students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Charlotte Hinniger to local Gay-Straight Alliances.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Mari Hardacre invited The Brave Alliance to speak to our Alphabet Club about coping with stress around the holidays. Charlotte Hinniger continued the Neurodivergent Teen Hangout. When a class of English language learning students visited the library, our bilingual branch assistants Evangelina Macias and Jocelyn Perez welcomed them in both English and Spanish.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Charlotte Hinniger was one of 50 library staff nationwide to be selected for the American Library Association Emerging Leaders program. Charlotte also completed coursework for her Master of Library Information Sciences (MLIS) degree, which included an original research project evaluating ACPL’s summer employment program Team Read. Charlotte presented key findings from her research at the IUPUI Capstone event. Her poster session was titled *Developing Spaces of Inclusivity: Evaluating a Public Library’s Teen Employment Program*. Charlotte also presented at the annual conference of the Indiana Library Federation with Marra Honeywell: *Teen Readers as Leaders: Library Teens Connecting with Their Community*.

Youth Services

Jacki Fulwood, Youth Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Winter SPARK 2024: "Where We Come From" opened for registration on December 26. This year's program theme "Where We Come From" celebrates family and community in addition to literacy, learning, and library resources. All participants received an ACPL tote bag and free book at registration. Youth participants also received a cookie cutter and an activity list encouraging them to use their cookie cutters for learning and crafting. The adult activity list encouraged patrons to interact with the vast resources of ACPL's Genealogy Center. All age groups had the option of completing activities that explored their family history or centered reading and joyful learning. Patrons who complete the program during its runtime in January will earn a second free book.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

The Foellinger Foundation approved a grant of over \$1 million for ACPL's Summer Learning Program, which includes the Team Read initiative.

Systemwide Youth Services worked together with Partnerships and Programs to secure a partnership with Blessings in a Backpack. The partnership will provide a bag packed with a weekend's supply of food to children under 18 at ACPL's summer lunch locations on Fridays this summer.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Aisha Hallman and Mari Hardacre finalized a partnership with School Care Team to provide training on community-building practices (also commonly called "restorative practices" or "restorative justice") for a cohort of ACPL staff. Through this partnership, we hope to acquire more tools and knowledge to assist with supporting youth in our buildings. Community-building practices are often used in schools and other communal settings, but public libraries have been slower to adopt these methods, putting ACPL on the cutting edge of best practices for connecting library access for youth.