

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Quarterly Managers Report
January - March 2023

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ABOITE | Kris Lill, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

With technology questions being brought to the service desk at Aboite on a daily basis, librarians started offering a monthly Tech Time. Adults may register for a spot, and then bring their laptop, smart phone or tablet with them, and meet with a librarian to get their questions answered. We have had a full registration every month; if popularity continues, we will add additional days and times.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

As 2022 ended, Aboite staff bid farewell to senior youth librarian Sara Perišić, who was promoted to the position of assistant manager of Information Services at the Main Library. Michal Miller, formerly of Georgetown and Children's Services at Main, became our new senior youth librarian in January. She has settled in very nicely, getting to know families and offering her unique skillset to the Aboite community.

Aboite welcomed two new branch assistants this quarter, as former branch assistant Sabrina Jurek was promoted to the position of outreach librarian at Georgetown. Carissa Kershaw started in January and Rebecca Thorpe in February 2023.



Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

As an addition to our regular weekday morning Storytime lineup, youth librarians at Aboite started offering a special Music & Movement Storytime on the first Saturday morning of each month. This has had a very positive response from the community, with an average attendance of 41 people.

Library as Place

So many really great things happen in library spaces, often right under our noses. We learned in February that a soon-to-be-published picture book author, Lois Nelson-Smith, has been working on her book in our study room. Courtney Pifer and I had the great pleasure of meeting Lois and her illustrator, Hannah Scheele. Lois not only provided us with a preview of her book, *Once Upon a Robin*, but also expressed her gratitude for the kindness and support of the library staff, she said she felt like the library provided her with a safe “cocoon”, a positive environment to write and work. 😊



DUPONT | Erin Warzala, Branch Manager

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Attendance at our in-house programs has been steadily increasing. We had several programs that have reached capacity and are now offering a wait list, including the Fairy Houses program for children and the Winter Wreaths program for adults.

Community Awareness & Engagement

We increased our outreach this quarter by offering a partnership with several local day cares where, Children's librarian, Christi Miller scheduled monthly Storytimes. Christi also offered a puppetry workshop for 1st graders at Hickory Center Elementary School. Continuing the spirit of outreach, Branch manager, Erin Warzala also started a book club with a local retirement community.

GEORGETOWN | Stephan Platt, Branch Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

QPR Training – In March the staff of Georgetown participated in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training. The training was to recognize the signs that someone is at risk of suicide. The purpose behind the program is to offer hope and refer the person to the helpful agency.

Community Awareness & Engagement

Georgetown Mini Art Gallery: during the month of February and March the works of Don Sarazin's 8th grade art class at Blackhawk Middle School were on exhibit. The artwork featured coursework which taught the students about the use of pointillism and pen and ink cross hatching techniques.

Outreach: Despite staffing shortages, the Georgetown Library was directly involved in 17 Outreach events during the 1st Quarter of this year, coming into contact with more than 1,200 persons. We visited Georgetown Senior Apartments, North East Neighborhood Partnership, Beacon Heights Apartments, Faith Baptist Preschool, Deb's Daycare, St. Peters Preschool, and Blackhawk Middle School. Our maker guide, Kerstin Glaess along with teen librarian Karris Sims, were present for the Blackhawk Middle School Career Day where they demonstrated a 3D printer and other maker equipment to around 750 middle school students. Additionally, Georgetown and Tecumseh staff are sharing outreach responsibilities to the Beacon Heights community twice a month.

Program Partnerships: The following partnerships participated in presenting at Georgetown this quarter.

- ARC Easterseals
- Benchmark
- Blackhawk Middle School
- DJ Adrien Allen of Allen's Entertainment
- Fort Wayne Children's Choir
- Garrett Art Museum
- IU School of Social Work
- Local Author Dori Graham
- NJ Productions
- School Care Team
- Soaring Hawk Raptor Rehab
- Yoga Instructor Becky Neff

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

The afterschool at Georgetown had an average attendance for March 2023 of 30. With Mondays being the biggest crowd at 33 children attending.

Georgetown preformed a survey of afterschool attendees. The responses were overwhelmingly requesting “More planned activities”. While we had requested information from our afterschool attendees we also asked their parents in a virtual open house how they felt about the afterschool programing. They shared that they felt the programing was “vital” and “made a difference” to their children’s lives. They also shared the sentiment of how they felt they could trust the library over other organizations to provide a safe space for their children. One of the most repeated comments was how much they liked the “drop-in” structure of the afterschool programing. This structure gives parents the freedom to choose the days they wish to have their student participate without signing up.

IU social work intern, Sarah Corley, in conjunction with the Branch Manager, has been planning and offering activities in the afterschool room on Thursday afternoons. We have also received help from Teen Librarians at the Main Library. Georgetown’s Makerlab also offered programs and learning activities for the children in the afterschool room.

Library as Place

A large group of ARC Easterseals visit the Georgetown Library every other Tuesday. As part of their visit the library provides activities to engage the participants who would otherwise have no structured activities.

The Maker Lab at Georgetown has seen increased interest from groups such as the Center for Life Transitions and Crossroads. They have expressed interest in group instruction and exploring projects in the Maker Lab. On Saturday, March 25th, Kerstin Glaess, hosted eight teenagers from Crossroads who enjoyed a STEAM string weaving activity. Leftover kits and supplies from this program were incorporated into an activity for the Easterseals group the following Tuesday.

Tuesday, February 14th, Stephen Platt library manager, cooked a first ever pancake breakfast for about 15 attendees of the Black History Month Breakfast. The breakfast was a chance for all ages to get together and share future hopes and past experiences.



GRABILL | Rebecca Wolfe, Branch Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Librarian, Susan Pratt, participated in the Great Day Café Spring Fling at the Main library. This wonderful collaboration with Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana provided activities and social interaction for adults with memory impairments. Susan and other library staff were crucial in interacting with the participants and making them feel welcome.

While Manager Rebecca Wolfe was on leave, Librarian Susan stepped in for regular programming at LIFE Adult Day Academy, a school for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her warmth, energy, and enthusiasm meant that we could continue this great collaboration during Rebecca's absence.

Community Awareness & Engagement

Grabill Branch continues to have strong partnerships with local coffee shops. Senior Librarian, Emily Marshall, does a popular Storytime in the basement of Perks Peak in Leo twice a month. Librarian, Susan Pratt, has successful monthly book clubs at Perks Peak and Common Grounds. Our patrons seem to enjoy meeting us out in the community.

Library as Place

Assistant Manager Adrienne Bogard has been working diligently to move collections; redesign public and behind-the-scenes areas of the branch. Woodburn manager, Paige Shook, who specializes in analyzing space needs stopped by the branch and offered some advice for some of the reorganization projects. Adrienne also managed the weeding and organizing of the crafts collection with Youth Specialist Michaela Cottrell. Adrienne continued with weeding and organizing several book collections, including adult and juvenile nonfiction. She also rearranged the service desk and shelves in our work room area, improving work flow and efficiency. All of this work has made a positive difference for patrons and staff.

HESSEN CASSEL | Edith Helbert, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

In February, managers of Hessen Cassel and Shawnee branches met with Beth Boatright and Tonya Frandle to plan and strategize our outreach plans going forward. We assessed our current situations and made plans to add at least two additional outreach visits per quarter.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Scheduled programming continues to have low but loyal turnout. Self-directed activities like the Sneakerhead Contest are wildly successful – people like to do activities on their own schedule, and we received dozens of eligible entries along with many more with no name or phone number recorded. Looking ahead to fall quarter, we will drop some of our planned programs that have had very low engagement so we can focus on increasing activities with higher impact.

We tested one pop-up program this quarter – it was planned and staff led, but the time wasn't scheduled; instead we held it when there was a critical mass of people in the building. Ten children and tweens attended a "Postal Service Worker Training" on a Saturday afternoon, where they learned to wrap packages, practiced writing addresses, and explored storybook characters who could send or receive mail.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership, & Learning

One of our 40-hour staff members took a six-week planned leave this quarter. Reallocating her duties among the rest of the staff led to several of our newer hires taking on tasks that used new skills.

Molly Waddell, our Youth Specialist who does the majority of our programming for teens and tweens, attended the Middle Grade Magic Conference which was hosted virtually by School Library Journal. Molly reports “I enjoyed browsing through all of the new titles and hearing directly from the authors about what they are excited about currently, especially Angie Thomas. I enjoyed hearing her talk about *Nic Blake and the Remarkables* and how it was developed and written.”

We closed out the quarter with water issues that led to the closure of Hessen Cassel Branch on March 29-30, which allowed staff members a chance to work at other locations. Working with other staff and customers always offers valuable experience and new perspectives when we return to our routines.

Hessen Cassel has begun to shift our staff scheduling onto the LibStaffer platform, which is taking time to learn the best way to set up, but we anticipate that it will save time in the long run once we utilize all its capabilities. We will be fully shifted to LibStaffer by the end of April.

Library as Place

Staff have been introduced to the Visual Merchandising guidelines that were released last fall, and we have been utilizing the principles with intentionality when creating displays and facing out our materials.

LITTLE TURTLE | Rachael King, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Haley, Little Turtle's Youth Services Librarian, attended Franke Park Elementary School's English Language Learners Night. There were many attendees, Haley was able to connect with a lot of members in the community, sign numerous families up for library cards, and gave away oodles of pencils.

Library as Place

Play with Purpose is a Montessori based program that focuses on building early life skills and fostering independence with child-driven play. This was spearheaded by Kate, Little Turtle Assistant Manager, it has been extremely successful and is now happening at other locations across the county. The program is now led by Haley and she had this to share about one of the recent programs:

In March we had a family attend who were visiting from Las Vegas. The grandmother of this family used to bring her daughter (now in Vegas) to the branch when they were little. It was heartwarming to hear their story and see their growing family enjoy our services!



ADULT SERVICES | Stacey Stamas, Manager

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

The first quarter of 2023 brought an Adult Services workroom re-design. The room has been redesigned to offer an open and collaborative feel. Productivity and collaborative efforts have increased.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Staff have been involved with many programs these last few months:

- Stacey Stamas lead the “Music at the Library” series in the theater of the Main Library which brought “Hubie Ashcraft” in January, “Old Crown Brass Band” in February and “Marc Reversion” (a.k.a. Lil’ Rev) in March.
- Craig Bailey organized and guided several programs; “Cyber Safety 101”, “Autism: What you need to know”, “ACPL Writers Forum” programs, “DIY Home & Garden, Plant Propagation & Winter Sowing”, “How-To Studio, Hot Mess Painting & Abstract Watercolor Pen and Ink Art, and “Lighten the Load: A Conversation on Mental Health – Stress”
- Anna Kallemeyn was involved with the “Authors and Ales Book Club”, “Bookends” book club, “Creative Canvas”, Virtual Craft Café, and the USF Lecture series.
- Megan Bell hosted the “Authors & Ales Book Club”, “Bookends Book Club”, “Cultural Intelligence: The Essential Ingredient – Engaging & Supporting African American Employees” with speaker Dr. Kristal Walker, and brought in author, Paula Ashe.
- Linda Michael lead a collection management project with Information Services, Adult Services staff.
- Sasha Perisic and Sarah Holmes worked the reference desk, collection management in storage, and processing new materials.

AFW, WELT & Maker Lab | Norm Compton, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

In celebration of January’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day, WELT DJ, Michael Banks was set up at Sweetwater. He was able to connect with 200 people, lining some of them up as guests on his radio show and networking other names to AFW staff.

In celebration of February’s Black History month AFW recorded "Cultural Intelligence", we live streamed and recorded the YWCA Diversity Dialogue. In addition, we played 63 show specials during the month; 30 shows on Access 1, and 33 shows on Access 2.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

At the end of 2022, two of the part-time Production Assistants positions were moved from AFW to Events to support their needs. John and Norm went through Libstaffer training to schedule desk time in the Maker Lab to allow outside staff to help cover the Maker Lab at Main.

The “Rock the Plaza” schedule will feature seven concerts this year. The band schedule will come out at the end of April, then Marketing will kick into high gear.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Upgrades in our playback software allow new reports of VOD views for Access 1 & 2 VOD shows. A frequent question we are asked is, "Is anybody watching?" Now we can answer with confidence.

We have been promoting the ACPL Teen Film Fest, as part of the marketing plan we made promo spots. Since February, we have played the promo spot 435 times on our TV channels, 512 times on WELT 95.7FM. The entry deadline is April 29th and we have had entries sent in from around the globe. Judging will be in May and the Festival Awards will be presented June 3rd.

Library as Place

On March 16th, Meet the Music went live from Studio A, on WBOI and Access 2 as part of WBOI's Spring fundraiser. As a part of our agreement with WBOI to record "Meet the Music", was to get a new multitrack audio board. WBOI received a grant to purchase the board at Sweetwater Sound and was recently installed at AFW. This is a fantastic upgrade of the capabilities in the studio. Meet the Music has been in production since November. We are already seeing bands returning to AFW, this time to record their own projects.

The staff of AFW work with over 150 Producers and DJ's to make and play hundreds of shows each month. We get to know our patrons. We started this year with three camcorders checked out months past the due date. Our staff reached out to the individuals and we are happy to report all the equipment has been returned and is now back in circulation for others to use.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES | Tiffany Bronzan, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

At the end of January, librarians went to over 50 daycares to deliver books and present Storytime as part of the Juvenile Delivery Collection. The department continued providing outreach Storytimes to the Little River Wetlands, Charis House, Journey Besides Mother and Great Heights. Librarians continued to visit Fort Wayne's Park and Recreation Site, Weisser Park, to present Design-It for elementary children.

In March, Dawn and Tiffany went to the Outreach event called "Fort Wayne Community School Preschool Round-Up". They spoke to 260 attendees and signed up 26 community members for a library card. Katie tabled an outreach event at Promenade Park for the "First Day of Spring" celebration. She handed out library information and provided a fun spring activity for children.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Tiffany Bronzan and Claudia Paulson attended the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training in January. The entire department participated in the Anti-Harassment training presented by the Metropolitan Office in January and February. Tiffany also participated in the Code of Conduct Revision Team.



Library as Place

During the first quarter of 2023, the Children Service's department has welcomed over 20 groups, including a Girls Scout Troop, into their department by leading Storytime, informational presentations about the library, StoryScape play, and tours of the department. The department also introduced four new programs to the community: Science Investigators, Canvas and Cookies, Pass the Story Down (a partnered program with Genealogy) and Fairy Houses. The Fairy House program was held on a Saturday afternoon in March, where children could create their own fairy house out of recycled products. The entire theme in the department during the month was fairies. Children enjoyed fairies in the windows, a Storywalk, a passive interactive fairy garden display and a scavenger hunt. Every librarian had their own part in making the department filled with fairies. Librarian Rebecca, also made "busy bins" filled with activities for children who are with their care providers in study rooms for Reader Services, Genealogy and Children's Services departments.

At the beginning of March, librarians changed the theme of the two StoryScape cubbies to the Little River Wetland Lab and a Flower Shop. At the Little River Wetland lab, children learn about the different animals that can be found in Fort Wayne. In addition, they can practice their math skill by measuring the animals to see how big they are. In the Flower Shop, children can practice their sorting by color skills with colorful "seeds".

EVENTS | Leanne Bure, Manager

	January	February	March
Events	99	131	149
Attendance	3643	2183	3944

Community Awareness & Engagement

In March, the Events team (in conjunction with AFW) assisted the YWCA in their Diversity Dialogues series. We supply equipment to livestream AFW records programming. This crucial aid permits our community partner to reach a larger audience and cache programming.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

The BOT approved a new position which will support the Event Manager and lead technology initiatives and services for events.

Library as Place

Local Wayne Lodge No. 25 celebrated their Bicentennial and reached out to the library to display two priceless pieces, George Washington Inaugural Bible and Ceremonial Gavel. This collaboration gave the public a FREE opportunity view history and talk with Masons.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

ACPL continues to support local agencies and their programming needs. Here are a few returning groups that utilize space and Event Staff services:

- Literacy Alliance now offers two computer courses in the Computer Classroom.
- DeafLink now offers two ASL courses in the Alan McMahan Room.
- PFW Upward Bound continues to hold tutoring sessions in Meeting Room A.
- FW Artist Guild continues to hold courses in Meeting Room AB.
- HART Handing out Hope resource fair in the Great Hall.



INFORMATION SERVICES | Traci Ward, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Several of our staff members have participated in some great programs over the past several months, many of which have been very well attended. These included Great Day Café, Craft Café, How-to Studio, Movie Night at the Library, and Not Coming to a Theater Near You. Also, as part of our CNPP grant, we have hosted the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center for two workshops assisting entrepreneurs.

Library as Place

With a lot of help from Material Support Services, we successfully shifted our Spanish language collection and placed it in a more prominent location in the department. This also freed up space to reorganize the graphic novels and the other world languages and make those areas much cleaner and more browsable.

MATERIAL SUPPORT SERVICES | Keri Favory, Manager

Library as Place

Inventory of Readers Video Games will do this inventory moving forward every 3 months

Accomplished various shifting projects at Main:

- REA Reference
- STO Teen area as well as STO Fiction M-Z
- PER moved these items out of the Compact stack on LL2 to make room for GEN

At the end of March MSS staff started assisting Michele in processing of incoming and outgoing ILL materials. AMM Magazines are now interfiled with the other Adult Magazines in BST.

Started processing incoming SLP items. Manager/Assistant Manager of MSS office has moved to LL2. The Supervisors of MSS will be taking the old Manager/Assistant Manager office on LL1.

Jane Chronister and Tonya Frandle went to GEO to assist with ideas on re-configuring the GEO's backroom with the assistance of Stephen Platt.

We are currently moving the JDC (Juvenile Deposit Collection) area from LL2 to LL1 and moving SLP (Summer Learning Program)/BRE (Book –Rich Environments) /TAP (Teen Agency Program) to new area on LL1 – see picture below this also includes JDC.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & GENEALOGY | Curt Witcher, Director of Special Collections

Community Awareness & Engagement

As with previous quarters, this quarter saw the Genealogy Center collaborating with the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne, the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana, the Indiana Genealogical Society, and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society in planning and executing hybrid programs that support the lifelong learning mission of the Center and the library. First quarter engagements with these community groups assuredly will bring significant activities supporting innovative and adaptable content and services in the second and third quarters of this year.

The Genealogy Center also collaborated with the Indiana Historical Society in National History Day in Indiana events, coaching, and judging; with Wayne New Tech on their Fort Wayne Histories classroom project and their Holocaust research assignment; and with Indiana Tech on their Family History Classes. We also engaged in programming with three area elder care facilities.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

At the end of March, two veteran, high-performing Genealogy Center team members retired. Senior Genealogy Librarian, Cynthia Theusch, retired from her very active role in providing frontline patron service. She was well known by Center patrons for her interest in their family stories and her tenacious attitude for working through research road-blocks. Genealogy Serials Assistant, Kathy Burd, retired from her position of managing one of the largest collections of genealogy, local history, and ethnic serial publications in the country. Her attention to detail and her collegial manner of working with colleagues as well as external customers benefitted the Genealogy Center greatly.

During this same quarter, we advertised and hired for those two positions. Joining the Genealogy Center early in Q2 to fill the roles of Senior Genealogy Librarian and Genealogy Serials Assistant are Logan Knight and Charles "Chuck" Burd respectively. Logan comes to the ACPL from the Vigo County Public Library Special Collections where he was active in genealogy and local history programs and reference services. Chuck Burd is returning to the ACPL for another tour of duty. Formerly, Chuck was a librarian in the Business, Science and Technology Department, and brings strong library skills and attention to detail to this critically important position.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Virtual, hybrid and in-person programs continue to be a very high priority for Special Collections. For the first quarter of 2023, the Genealogy Center reported 4,639 individuals attending 38 virtual programs, 667 individuals attending 6 hybrid programs, and 281 individuals attending 10 in-person programs. The reviews, particularly with the virtual programs, continue to be extremely positive as evidenced by the comments in the Zoom chats and the email received by Genealogy Center staff after the programs. A significant number of the virtual programs are recorded and then made available on the library's YouTube channel. As of this writing, 239 Genealogy Center program YouTubes have been viewed 17,563 times. The Rolland Center's Election of 1860 YouTube video published in December 2022 now has more than 1,400 views. It is the result of a great collaboration between Special Collections and Access Fort Wayne. Programming continues to fill important educational and lifelong learning goals as well as marketing for the library.

In addition to the Lincoln librarians celebrating Lincoln's birthday with a two-day building-wide scavenger hunt accompanied by a presentation on Lincoln's Legacy, three large new exhibits opened in the Rolland Center on Presidents' Day, 2023. The cases are themed the Lincoln Boys, Union Soldiers, and Immigrants and the Civil War.

These newly displayed artifacts, a few on loan from the part of the collection curated at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis and many on display for the very first time in years, continue to draw many eyes and numerous positive comments. The following is only a very small sample of patron comments and activities in the Rolland Center.

- “Do you have any idea how amazing this space is? Every time I come to the library, I have to come in here.”
- “I had no idea that there was so much still around about Lincoln and the Civil War era.”
- An adult female patron mentioned that her friends from Poland that would be visiting Fort Wayne soon, and she was interested in bringing them to see the Rolland Center. She plans to inquire about a private tour for herself and her Polish guests.
- A group of twelve elementary-age children along with their adults came in and made a beeline for, and very excitedly crowded around, the digital display, Lincoln's Time and Place. Clearly, they had been in the Center before and wanted to continue their experience on that digital feature.
- Former colleague Mike Ashby brought his local Boy Scout troop to the Rolland Center to take a tour and complete the most recent scavenger hunt. In total, they spent about forty-five minutes in the Rolland Center and were all interacting with the virtual exhibits and discussing the things they had discovered within the gallery.

The Lincoln librarians continue to make fine use of the small temporary exhibit case, featuring a Lincoln Collection Christmas in January (continued from December 2022) and Women's History Month in March. The Women's History Month case highlighted Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Pauline Cushman, Lucy Stone, Mary Livermore, Anna Elizabeth Dickinson, Sara Jane Lippincott, Louisa May Alcott, Rebecca Pomroy, Lavinia Ream, and Elizabeth Keckly. It received a massive amount of attention.

Complementing their significant work in crafting new physical and virtual exhibits as well as giving tours and providing reference services, the Rolland Center's Lincoln librarians continue to bring order to the dozens of cubic feet of unorganized manuscripts that came to the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection from the old Lincoln Museum. This quarter, they made two amazing discoveries—discoveries that will be highlighted in forthcoming Rolland Center exhibits.

1. The Fredrick Douglass find:

When exploring for items to include in an upcoming Juneteenth exhibit case, the Lincoln librarians explored a part of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection called, “Not Lincoln.” The “Not Lincoln” section is a collection of items that are intellectually fascinating and historically significant but not specifically or directly related to Abraham Lincoln. Hence, these items have not been scanned into Lincolncollection.org and are not available on ACPL's Lincoln Collection databases. In their manual search of that collection, the Lincoln Librarians located a letter and its envelope written and signed by Frederick Douglass. The Lincoln librarians also located a signature sheet of Douglass in the MSS Autograph collection which houses many signatures and notes of prominent figures from the nineteenth century. This find was not just important to the Juneteenth display but extremely important to the patrons of The Rolland Center. Many patrons enjoy the story of Fredrick Douglass and identify with the social issues that he spoke out against.

2. The John Brown Find:

Exploring for artifacts to use in an upcoming Lincoln Collection video lead the Lincoln librarians to locate a collection item that had never been cataloged or scanned containing Rev. J. T. Hobson's work about John Brown. This piece is such a consequential find, as it contains newspaper clippings from the late 1800s about Brown and his men. It also contains correspondence between Hobson and Brown's son and grandson as well as some of the last men from the attack on Harper's Ferry. This resource paints Brown in a much different light, suggesting that the typical “mad man image” or the “saint image” likely should more realistically be an image of a man on a mission.

The exhibit work, the tours and programs, and the cataloging activities of the Lincoln librarians continue to bring this incomparable collection of Abraham Lincoln materials to light on so many levels.



MONROEVILLE | Chris Wiljer, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

After a three-year hiatus, the Monroeville Branch has resumed our efforts to provide outreach programs to St. Rose Catholic School in Monroeville. However, this time the program includes both the pre-school and kindergarten classes. A staff member now visits once a month and reads a variety of storybooks as well as involving the children with some singing and movements.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

The Woodburn and Monroeville Branches have been collaborating on expanding programming at both locations. In April, WDB staff presented Science Investigators and Canvas & Cookies at the Monroeville Branch. This collaboration has helped us to reach our goal of providing new programs for every age group. These new programs were both well attended.

Library as Place

Branch staff have observed some inspiring uses of the library as place. One example is a group of online college students who regularly meet at the Monroeville Branch in order to help one another with assignments and prepare for exams; many of the students travel quite a distance to participate in this homework help session. Another example is a special friendship between a preschooler and a 94-year-old senior citizen who lives alone. The two met at the library and the parent of the preschooler arranges for regular visits between the two since they both enjoy one another's company.

NEW HAVEN | Marie Kaufmann, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

The ACPL Friends of the Library Book Sale is quite popular at the New Haven Branch. Branch Assistant, Erin McAvoy, promotes it each month by making a themed display using books from the sale. Most recently it was a leprechaun during the week of Saint Paddy's Day. Adults and kids alike are always excited to try and guess what the next creation will be.

ACPL partnered with the Fort Wayne Mad Ants NBA G League Team during the month of February to host a sneakerhead competition. Youth patrons were asked to design their own shoe where the best design would win a prize package from the Mad Ants. New Haven Branch Manager, Marie Kaufmann, created a display using sneakers from her own collection to help draw patrons in and promote the competition. New Haven patrons submitted tons of designs and were thrilled to join in on the sneakerhead fun.



Library as Place

At the start of the year the New Haven Branch started putting a community puzzle out at the high-top table. Patrons of all ages enjoy putting the puzzle together. Each time a puzzle is completed it is replaced with a new one. Patrons have even started donating their personal puzzles to the library to keep the supply refreshed.



PONTIAC | Deborah Meserve, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Meisha represented the library in an interview by WANE TV.

In February, we hosted free breakfast every Saturday to honor the work of the Black Panthers in launching the free lunch for school children program and had great community participation.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

In January, Charlie trained Georgetown's new security guard, Scott, for a week. Meisha participated in a meeting about social work in the library at Main.

In February, we hosted Habitat for Humanities homeowner education classes on Monday nights. Deborah was staff host for the CNPP Disaster Preparedness Workshop for small business owners.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

In January, Deborah taught part of a financial management seminar with Diane Sparks from Urban League through CNPP.

In March, Hannah and Meisha coordinated our second Literacy Night at a FWCS elementary with Gabe from GEO. Glenwood had 57 participants, along with 14 teacher volunteers.



Library as Place

In March, Hannah's Teen Scene program continues to draw our young people in to hang out and have fun (see pic below). Deborah met with Marra, Tonya, Kim and Paige to begin the process of designing a StoryScape for Pontiac (and Woodburn).



SHAWNEE | Rachael King, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Gabi, one of our Youth Services Specialists, two Family Literacy Nights at local schools. Harrison Hill invited us to an event in February and Lutheran South Unity invited us to an event in March.

Library as Place

Shawnee has started two new programs and the community has shown a positive reaction! Play with Purpose, a Montessori based children's play program, is scheduled one Saturday a month. Sit-n-Stitch introduces patrons to crocheting, knitting, and all sorts of yarn-based projects, this program is every Wednesday evening. One of our more popular programs at Shawnee is our afternoon Lego Club. It has received some publicity on the Journal Gazette's Instagram page.

JaMarcus Reed works on a Lego vehicle during the Lego Challenge event Wednesday afternoon at the Shawnee branch of the Allen County Public Library. JaMarcus loves LEGOS and stumbled upon the event while stopping by the library with his grandmother to pick up some video games.

: Stan Sussina of The Journal Gazette



System-Wide Service

AUDIO READING SERVICES | George Johnson-Coffey, Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Presentations about the Audio Reading Service were given to

- Wellspring Interfaith Social Services
- ACPL New Hire Orientation
- Turnstone Parkinson's Support Group Coordinator
- Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center Senior Group

In the first quarter, the Audio Reading Service received \$2,287.85 in donations.

ACPL received \$16,238.60 in added value through the services of 92 volunteers (FTE=2.98) who gave 1,530.5 hours of service. Seven new readers came on board.

ACPL's partnership with Aging and In-home Services, continues to be fruitful. 750 Audio Reading Service flyers were delivered to the agency's Home-Delivered Meals clients, resulting in several new listeners.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Chad Butterbaugh, Senior Production Assistant, continues contributing to ACPL's DEI Committee. He also participated in Making a Successful Entry into the Profession.

George participated in the Cultural Intelligence with Dr. Kristal Walker session and was on the National Library Week team. She also participated in an AFW/Maker Station facilitated Brainstorming Session with Communications, Public Service and Programs and Partnerships staff. She also joined in the Dementia Friends Training and partnered with Nancy Saff, Library at Home staff, in implementing the Great Day Memory Care for Aging and In-home Services clients. The program had an intense positive affect on all who attended. She also collaborated with Jeff Garver and Aja Michael-Keller to plan for marketing Audio Reader Services. Along with Beth Boatright, George met with Bruce Haines, President/General Manager of PBS Fort Wayne (and Audio Reading Service live reader!) to discuss partnerships and collaborations.

Georgean Johnson-Coffey, left, manager of audio reading services at Allen County Public Library, speaks with Jesse James Washington and his twin brother, Frank, as they build kites, one of the activities offered at the event.



Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Our service continues to reach out beyond Allen County. We received this email from a listener in San Diego who listens to Time magazine on demand, "...my middle and distance vision is getting worse and worse. Your audio productions lessen the strain I am putting on my eyes and are greatly appreciated."

The last issue of the Sunday Journal Gazette was published 1/22/23. It was replaced with a Weekend Edition that publishes each Saturday. This was a huge change to our service delivery of reading the Journal every day. Our live read is now Monday – Saturday. All 10 Sunday readers were rescheduled except for one.

Chad Butterbaugh is editor of our quarterly Listener Newsletter. With the assistance from Marketing Manager, Kara Stevenson, Chad creates the publication in Cerkl. The most recent edition can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/37bucwha>

Library as Place

During the month of February, Audio Reading Service volunteers we recognized with lots of love! Remote readers also received Valentine treats.



System-Wide Service

LIBRARY AT HOME | Peg Heinze and Jon Frincke, Outreach Specialists

Community Awareness & Engagement

The greatest honor a Library at Home team member can receive is being welcomed as part of a community. In ACPL's buildings, library employees strive to make people feel at home; in our patrons' homes, we are often made to feel like honored guests. To pay some small amount of that forward, and to pay tribute to those who treat us so well, Library at Home has made a recent addition to our monthly newsletter: the patron spotlight. Here, we're sharing the lives of Library at Home patrons through interviews and photos. By sitting down and asking questions, we are connecting more deeply with individuals and their communities; by sharing, we hope we are inspiring our readers to continue on their own journeys of lifelong learning and discovery.

In March, Peg made a presentation at Aging and In-Home Service's staff education meeting, about Library at Home's services to Allen County's senior population.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership and Learning

We enlisted the expertise of Dupont Branch manager Erin Warzala to organize and run a resident book club at the StoryPoint North senior living facility.

We continue to join members of the Georgetown branch at Beacon Heights apartments, so that we can offer our book cart alongside craft programs or device advice (of course, snacks and coffee don't hurt our circulation either).

We dedicated ourselves to devoting one day per month to having ACPL staff ride along with us, so that anyone who wants to learn more about LAH has an opportunity. In the past couple of months, Melissa Martinez (Partnerships and Programs) and Sarai Spears Wells (lately of GEO- we miss you, Sarai!) have both taken us up on the offer.

At the end of a long process for dealing with LAH long overdue items- which should clean up records and clear up confusion for all library staff and patrons- Alaina Massey (Admin) lent us her proficiency with mail merge, helping create and distribute letters to our patrons in a friendly and efficient way.

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Since introducing five Memory Kits last fall, we've been tracking their circulation, and decided to create five more. LAH introduced these at the second meeting of the Great Day Café, in March. The new themes are "Movie Night," "Baking," "Games," "Backyard Birds," and "Cats."

Library at Home is now a fully-independent resource for book club selections. With Katie's (Collection Development) help, we have slowly but surely been building up our collections, in regular and large print, of popular titles that can be quickly chosen from our shelves and delivered to our facilities. We've also expanded our "in-house" offerings for large print Amish fiction titles, arguably (almost certainly) the most popular genre among Library at Home patrons.

Library as Place

As always, Library at Home's place is in the community. When possible, we find ways to bring our community to the library, and we've been told there's no better place for a group of LAH patrons than our amazing Genealogy department. This past quarter, two groups from LAH senior living facilities have paid visits, and we hope to encourage more.

Finally, we're always looking for ways to attract more residents to our lobby stops (pop-up library events). After taking our new memory kit Cat on the road, and seeing the positive response from folks coming in to pet our furry friend while they browse the cart, we've decided to make the cat a permanent feature at these programs. Now, we just need a name!



System-Wide Service

YOUTH SERVICES | Marra Honeywell, Manager

The Youth Services Team includes Assistant Manager – Youth Services – Children, Teresa Walls and Assistant Manager – Youth Services – Teens, Aisha Hallman. These new positions were created in 2022, creating exciting new opportunities for growing the opportunities that we provide for youth, caregivers, and staff. Here is what their past quarter has looked like:

Community Awareness & Engagement

Aisha Hallman continues to support programming at the Georgetown Branch by seeking innovative solutions to meet the needs of their teen patrons. The Center for Nonviolence will visit the After-School program in April and May to work with the students on topics like bullying and power dynamics and has been working with local artist Lyndy Bazile to create a collaborative mural for the teens to build together.

Aisha Hallman continues to grow relationships with schools including working with two groups of Amp Lab students in February and March for their Think Tank Pool, and a Memorial Park ELL class of seventh and eighth graders and their teachers to bring their vision to life in the library. Their "Tunnel of Despair", an exhibition in the Great Hall highlights unhoused people, especially children, in Fort Wayne.

Teresa Walls coordinated a popular program at multiple locations featuring local author Dori Graham. This program series was joyfully received by young writers in the community who were inspired by Ms. Graham to keep telling their stories. Teresa is working closely with talented presenters from across the community and region to bring forth a remarkable line-up for high-quality programs for Summer SPARK. Highlights will include the Whalemobile, SolGlass, Honey Plant, Brain Smart Art, and the Northeast Indiana STEM Resource Center.

Teresa is working with branches to launch programming with the exciting Charlie Cart, which will increase the quality of health and wellness programs that we are able to offer around delicious and nutritious food.

Culture of Collaboration, Leadership & Learning

Professional Development sessions attended this quarter cover a wide range of topics including Library Policies for Today's Communities; State of Youth in Allen County from the Indiana Youth Institute; Leading from a Place of Gratitude; Summer Learning Bootcamp from the Urban Libraries Council; and Walking in Community: A Place of Our Own, an Ideas to Action-funded virtual wellness program for librarians of color.

Leading the Youth Cohorts has been an exceptional experience for all involved. Teresa and Aisha have fostered relationships with new youth librarians to increase confidence and connectedness across the system. This first session of youth cohorts will be complete in May, with plans to continue with any newly hired staff after summer. New youth librarians had this to say about their cohort experience:

One of the most beneficial aspects of being included in the children's cohort group has been the opportunity to meet other youth librarians from across the system. It has been incredibly helpful being able to learn and grow with peers in similar positions through shared experiences.

I don't think I would have had the opportunity to work so closely with some of the other librarians without the cohort. I think that we all learned valuable lessons from each other. I also felt like the cohort offered a safer space to ask questions than placing them in the general chat, in the sense that I wasn't worried about asking "dumb" questions.

I have had many colleagues express that they wish they had something similar when they were being introduced to the ACPL system.



TECUMSEH | Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

Tecumseh Branch Manager Deb Noggle attends monthly North East Allen County Partnership meetings.

This quarter, Tecumseh and Georgetown staff are performing outreach programs for seniors at Fort Wayne Housing Authority's Beacon Heights Senior Apartments complex. We offer device help with tablets and smartphones, arts and crafts programs, and a variety of speakers and activities.

In-Person Programming:

- Weekly Family & Toddler Storytime
- Weekly Family (mixed ages) & Teen Programs
- Monthly Adult How-To Studio

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Family Fun at the Library: Tecumseh Branch began to offer a new program designed for working families that is offered weekly on Saturday mornings! Our new program is called, "Family Fun at the Library", and incorporates activities that are suitable for a range of ages, preschool through middle school. We have seen the need to offer an alternative time for busy families through both statistical data (Mosaic Profiles), and word of mouth. Activities at this program support literacy and STEM, and vary from week to week. Family Fun programs are themed with a variety of topics, including: Backyard Birds, Fun with Plants, Gnome Homes and Fairy Houses, Family Bingo, Donuts & a Movie, Harry Potter Fandom Day, Star Wars Fandom Day, Family Trivia Battle, Royal Tea Party, and Best Friend Building.

How-To Studio: This Tecumseh born adults-only program has grown to be offered at nine library locations within the Allen County Public Library. Programmers from all nine locations collaborate to prepare a choice of four projects that can be performed over the three-month season. At our branch, we offered programs on Glass Etching, Wax Egg Art, and hosted a speaker from Allen County Parks on Winter Bird Feeding. We also hosted an instructor who taught floral arranging to create a wreath and a vase full of flowers. This was a popular program that we hope to host again!



Library as Place

Tecumseh continues to find opportunities to engage our patrons with passive programming. We sometimes have interactive bulletin boards, where patrons can participate in a collective art project. We have had so much success with branch scavenger hunts that we have decided to offer a new scavenger hunt monthly. In March we actually had two: searching for Leprechaun gold coins, and a "birdwatching" adventure to find photos of birds, then match them with a photo of the same type of bird with species of bird.



WAYNEDEALE | Amanda Vance, Branch Manager

Innovative & Adaptable Content & Services

Waynedale recently completed a project to condense and better display our magazine collection. As magazines are being physically published less, we have been given an opportunity to showcase them better for our patrons. We switched from serial shelving, where current issues are faced out and older issues are kept under a pull up drawer, to clear magboxes. This allows patrons to be able to not only see all of the issues at once, but to take the entire box to a table to browse through or search easier for a specific issue.



WOODBURN | Paige Shook, Branch Manager

Community Awareness & Engagement

For our February's monthly Spotlight Storytime, we had a visit from Woodburn Family Dentistry., Dr. Gotsch and associates, came prepared to discuss dental health. They read *The Tooth Book* by Dr. Seuss and discussed healthy and non-healthy foods as it pertains to dental health (and fielded many questions by our inquisitive preschoolers!). The children were able to participate in some activities including brushing a dinosaur's teeth and an oversized set of teeth! Dr. Gotsch also distributed treat bags.

