

Executive Director's Report

April 2012

ADMINISTRATION

By Holly Carroll & Ken Draves

Main Library Construction and Remodel

The Main project is approaching completion. Heath Construction is working to complete areas under construction on the first and second floors, including study and collaboration rooms, doors, fixtures and entry systems, wire management, ceilings, wall and floor treatments, HVAC, and audiovisual equipment. Work on the boilers is nearly complete, following some last minute equipment deliveries. Final installation of the final boiler components (VFDs or variable frequency drives) is taking place this week. Following that the system will be flushed and balanced. The air conditioning is currently working again following a period of down time, much to the relief of patrons and staff.

Recently it came to the attention of the project team that the fire protection plan for the building needs to include remedial work on the building elevator. Specifically, a fire recall system is required as a necessary part of the project to bring the elevator into compliance with the current code. The existing condition had been grandfathered for many years prior to this project. This requirement was not originally specified in the contract documents or picked up in the fast-track project review with the Fire Authority. It was however, depicted as a condition on the design/build fire sprinkler drawings submitted directly by the fire alarm system subcontractor on the project and then was approved by PFA. Estimated cost for the work is approximately \$40,000 plus, and the work is estimated to involve two weeks of elevator operation down time.

As we had not known of the code requirement for a fire recall system for the elevator previously, our project budget did not anticipate this additional expense. In addition the required down time for the remedial work, which will present logistical and operational challenges whenever it happens, would be especially difficult currently as we work to complete the project while operating the library. Given this, Steve Seefeld and I approached PFA staff to request a time extension, not to exceed two years, to complete the required remedial work on the elevator. The request has been approved verbally by PFA and we anticipate written approval shortly. Thus the required elevator work will have to take place within two years but completion will not be required prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy (CO).

City building inspections are planned for this week and next. PFA and fire alarm inspections are scheduled for this Friday. Heath is working towards obtaining a CO for the entire building May 15-18. Heath is conducting a contractor punch walk this week, with the architect/owner punch walk scheduled for next week.

Delivery and installation of remaining furniture is scheduled for this week and next, with some long lead items, such as custom shelf end panels, scheduled for delivery in June. Final shipments of wall mounted and free standing shelving is taking place this week, with installation within the next couple of weeks.

Elks Trust/Library Trust Landscape Project

On Thursday, May 10, Holly Carroll and Linda Ripley, Ripley Design, Inc., made a presentation on the master landscape plan for Library Park to the Downtown Development Authority. The Poudre River Library Trust and the Elks Trust have committed funds for the design and construction of the entry plaza with improved street accessibility. The Elks membership has also expressed interest in contributing a combination of volunteer labor and materials to accomplish three smaller components of the project. (See AIS Landscape Planning and Design Services.) The DDA administers the Elks Trust and its board approved the transfer of the funds to the Library District at the May 10 meeting.

Ripley Design, Inc. has submitted a proposal for the design development and construction documents for the entry plaza and the three other components of the master plan under consideration. A copy of the proposal is included in the packet and the administration recommends approval of the proposal by the Library Board so that the project can move forward. The Library Trust will reimburse the Library District for these services.

National Library Legislative Day April 23-24

Holly Carroll and seven other delegates representing Colorado public, school, academic libraries attended this year's event sponsored by the American Library Association. Holly visited the offices of Representatives Polis, Gardner and Lamborn and attended a meet and greet with Senator Bennett. Priority issues that were discussed with the legislators/aides were approval of level federal funding to libraries (LSTA); sponsorship and approval of the Federal Research Public Access Act, approval of Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act that provides funding to school libraries and additional privacy safeguards to cybersecurity bills being considered by Congress.

Annual Report Presentation to City Council

Mike Liggett and Holly Carroll gave a presentation on the 2011 annual report to City Council on May 1. The Council is generally pleased with the Library District's services and recent remodel projects. Several members asked questions about the recent Coloradoan soapbox concerning the Main Library Expansion and its collection and the recycling of weeded items. Council was satisfied with the Library's response.

Teams Update

Ken Draves and Holly Carroll met with the co-facilitators of the five self-directed teams in April and May to discuss new goals for the coming year, coordination of activities among the teams and the results from a survey of team members concerning the overall success of the team approach that was implemented in October 2010. There are vacancies on all but one team and several of the teams will have new co-facilitators. Staff members will be asked to volunteer for the vacancies, giving new employees an opportunity to participate on a team.

CSU/PRPLD Author Series

The last author appearance for the spring was May 2. Vanessa Diffenbaugh discussed her first novel The Language of Flowers. An audience of nearly 300 attended this third program. Next up is Nicolas Carr, author of The Shallows who will present at the Morgan Library in August as part of the remodel/expansion celebration of that Library.

Other Activities:

Holly Carroll and Ken Draves attended the Community Foundation's Celebration of Philanthropy on May 9. Holly attended the WomanGive Spring Social at the Fort Collins Museum of Art on April 10.

Harmony Remodel

The Harmony remodel project proper is complete with the final installation of new signage taking place this Friday. A new keypad/fob entry system has been installed and is now operational. Work on the Harmony computer lab funded by extra-project FRCC funds is scheduled to be completed by June.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

By Tova Aragon

The new statewide database package was announced by the AIRS committee on Friday. The AIRS Committee is charged with selecting, negotiating, implementing and ensuring the success of contracts and licenses for information resources on behalf of all types of Colorado libraries and to the benefit of all Colorado residents. Consisting of members from academic, public, school, and special libraries, the AIRS committee is dedicated to pursuing equitable pricing on and widespread access to research databases for the citizens of Colorado. By participating in this consortium purchasing, we can able to spread our funds further to provide more databases. We will continue to have the Ebsco package we have now with the addition of *Auto Repair Reference Center, Small Engine Repair, Reference Center, Legal Information Reference Center, Psychology & Behavioral Sciences, Points of View Reference Center, Science Reference Center, History Reference Center*. We will also not have to pay additional fees to keep *Consumer Health Complete and NoveList*. They will be included in the package. The package is available for the next 5 years. To learn more about AIRS: <http://airs.cvlisites.org/>

With the remodel at Main, it was decided to move the Juvenile World Language, Juvenile Espanol and Adult Espanol collections into one area and add an Adult World Language collection. The combined World Languages collections will be on the second floor. The Collections Advisory Team will be working to define the collection and move current materials from other collections. In the meantime, we were able to start our Adult World Language collection by purchasing some OCLC World Collections on sale. We now have some fiction materials in Chinese, French and German separated out for browsing at Main. The records came from OCLC and are fairly simple. Some include summaries in the language. For example:

Title	Yong shi suo ai = Lost my love forever
Subject	Chinese fiction -- 21st century. Chinese language -- Readers.
Summary	Ai qing zhong, you xu duo shi qing zhun bei bu liao, li kai, shi zi si ma? Ai lian de na yi shun jian yi wei yong yuan, ca jian er guo de shi nian que shi yi sheng.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan.
- Planning and promotions for internal information effort for Main Library remodel.
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District.
- Continuing to gain partners for the “Flash Your Card” library member benefit program
- Continued organizational meetings with OrangeBoy and LLT for new strategic planning process, finalizing measurements
- Working with Library Trust on fundraising
- Finished work on 2012 Summer Reading, printed materials, advertising, giveaways and web pages
- Coordinating with Main Remodel team on continuing information for staff and public
- Working on naming procedure for Main Library
- Digi Bookmobile Promotion – May 19th, Council Tree Library
- Asian Fest – May 19th, Harmony Library
- Working on Main grand re-opening – June 17th

PR Awards!

Poudre River Public Library District won “Best in Show” Awards for the 2010 Web-based Annual Report and the video made for the Rafael Lopez Community Mural. These awards were given by the American Library Association/PR and Marketing Division.

”Our panel of judges was very impressed with your work. With several hundred entries, the competition was fierce, so you should be proud of your accomplishment!” wrote Holly Flynn, Best of Show coordinator. The awards will be given to us at the annual conference in June.

OUTREACH SERVICES

By Irene Romsa

This month, Outreach to share part of our activities and progress using the words and faces of the clients we serve. We hope you enjoy!

What can I say..... Ludy, you are truly amazing. What a FANTASTIC job today. We absolutely loved having you. I had both parent and patients alike saying they had not only fun but learned a lot from you on how to read and play with their kids. I hope you were happy with the turnout of children. Irene, is there any way to continue this wonderful collaboration? I would love to do something as often as possible but at minimum monthly would be fun. Please let me know and thank you again for a wonderful day!

Dr. Deborah M. Archer
Salud Clinic
April 26, 2012

As part of the One Book 4 Colorado campaign, the Library provided bilingual storytime to families in the waiting room of the Salud Clinic which is a "Reach Out and Read" site. The children were so engaged that our bilingual storyteller, Ludy Rueda, told stories for 1.5 hours non-stop (per request of the children)! In addition, free books were distributed to 4-year olds in all of the Early Childhood classrooms of PSD, several daycares, and at community events. "Thank you for doing this!" and "Thank you for thinking of us" were heard from teachers as Cydney visited each classroom.



"...I'm a child care provider in Fort Collins. Oh my gosh, this TALES Kit is amazing. We're doing the flannel board, and we're doing the cards, and the constellations. Oh and it's got the astronauts and the moon sand too. It really is just like having a storytime librarian here. I can tell the stories, but it just takes me a while to get everything together. I hope this program continues. I know that many providers are not using this, but they should be. Everyone is all smiles. Even the boys—who don't want to come to storytime a lot—came over and participated. Thank you! We'll probably use it this week and next week too. Thanks a lot."

April 10



Clifford visits Irish Elementary – and other schools as part of Library Week celebrations

Thank you for coming to our ESL class & sharing your fun, creative, funny, and entertaining stories with us! The hen story and "I will not read this Book!" were my favorites. Thank you also for spreading the love of reading throughout the Ft. Collins community. Please come again sometimes. Sincerely,

Cindi
April 3, 2012

Dr. Maura Velasquez, Professor of Foreign Languages at CSU, receives the award in the Annual CSU Award banquet for her role in establishing Rincon de Cuentos in partnership with the Library and for engaging Spanish learning students in meaningful service learning projects April 24, 2012



Young Yazmin and teenager Luis, share books in Spanish with children. Part of our Rincon de Cuentos model includes encouraging and engaging all in the love of reading and storytelling. April 2012 Harmony Mobile Homes



Thank you so much for coming to the Linton class. The students really enjoyed your story time and the CRAFT. You have a great variety of stories which are fun and instructive. The repetition works well with all levels of learners.

Orly S. Penny
ESL Instructor - Linton Elementary
April 2012



Ken, Jean, Carol, Peggy, Sylvia, and Irene meet with CSU graduate students for a needs assessment to help determine the Assistive Technology stations that will be implemented at Main and Harmony. April 13, 2012

Children enjoy making crafts at the Library's booth and hugging our beloved Annie at the Kite Festival in Spring Canyon Park.



SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION (SA)

By Carol Gyger

Out and About

Peggy Shaughnessy, Web Developer, and Carol Gyger, Library IT Manager were out and about in April learning, teaching, sharing and networking.

Peggy and Carol attended the 20th Annual Innovative Users Group Conference in Chicago. This conference attracts over 1,000 Innovative software users from all over the world who have one thing in common – they want to make their library systems sing! Peggy gave an excellent presentation on online book lists. She offered techniques for creating the lists and getting them on their website – from simple, to moderately complex. Everyone loved her presentation and left with practical knowledge to implement as soon as they got home. Carol participated on a Patron Empowerment panel and talked about ebooks and ereaders. She described what PRPLD is offering – ebooks from various vendors, training by the ever popular Kristen Draper (Digital Literacy Librarian), and pre-loaded Nooks to check out. Carol also participated in the Opening Session as a “Past Chair” of the organization in celebration of group’s 20th anniversary.

Carol attended the Prospector Pre-Conference conveniently held at CSU this year. Updates announced included Denver Public Library rejoining Prospector. DPL left Prospector a couple of years ago in order to prepare their library system for migration to a Polaris system. Now that they are fully migrated, DPL and Prospector have been working together to work out the bugs of rejoining. More news on this in the next few months.

Peggy and Carol along with several other PRPLD staff members attended the Assistive Technology assessment and recommendation presentations by an Occupational Therapy class at CSU. The class of students, all graduate level, evaluated our Harmony and Main Libraries, interviewed staff and made recommendations to us. They gave us many ideas, both low-tech and hi-tech, about how to make our environment and computer resources more user-friendly for customers of all abilities.

Carol attended a 1-1/2 day workshop “Manage Yourself and Your Organization - Project Management”. It was an extremely useful class given by the City of Fort Collins and covered things like fundamentals of teams, picking the right people, and accountability. Carol has already put some of the practices in place when planning projects. An excellent resource written by the instructor, Claudia M. Baca, is *Project Management for Mere Mortals*. Carol will attend Part II of this class in October.

Upgraded Computers

Ling Zhao finished upgrading the software on all the public internet stations at all three libraries. This is routine work yet complex and requires attention to many details. Ling is also working with Annie Fox on the Harmony Lab remodel. All internet stations will be either replaced or upgraded.

Chris Bauman upgraded RAM memory in many of the staff PCs. (We could all use more memory. Wish I had a couple of extra slots in my brain for more RAM.)

The Millennium system server software was also upgraded in April. This upgrade allowed PRPLD to implement a new feature that will be featured next month. Wait for the surprise.

Automated Materials Handling System

The AMH system has been up and running smoothly, without nary a glitch, for a full month. Over 62,000 items were fed into the machine. 92% of the items were checked in and sorted automatically into bins. Only 8% of items needed special handling by Circulation staff. Incredible!

MAIN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Circulation Services Staffing

Main staff was saddened by the loss of co-worker and friend Judith Grajewski who passed away recently. Judith made a habit of encouraging her co-workers and supervisors and she often told co-workers that she felt it was a privilege to work here. We miss her terribly.

We have recently hired and are currently training six new hourly Circulation staff. With the loss of Judith, as well as several other staff members to illness, graduation, full-time job offers, etc., we found the need to hire practically a whole new team. We are excited to welcome Michael Groves, Lander Hultin, Cory Eichlin, Tori Colegate, Jennifer Blake, and Alex Wyatt. With these additions we are once again fully staffed and ready to take on our grand re-opening and the Summer Reading Program!

Remodel Progress



Pictures do speak a thousand words; above are photos that demonstrate how much progress was made in the lobby/circulation/meeting room areas in less than one month! The last temporary walls of the remodel have been taken down in the building. More furniture, window treatments, and divider panels in the teen area have been installed.



The greatest excitement was “pick day” where a large crane was on the lawn outside the storytime room for the removal of the old boiler and the placement of the new boiler on the roof. Library staff and patrons were especially patient during this long month without much air flow and fluctuating temperatures as we didn’t have much in the way of climate control.

Automated Materials Handler (AMH) Update

Rosie, our AMH, is up and running smoothly! After a very successful "soft" opening we are now fully functional and have had very few glitches. The outside drop boxes have been removed and we are training the public on the ease and convenience of being able to return items twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Staff has done a great job encouraging and teaching patrons how to use Rosie and patrons are very enthusiastic about her.

Volunteer Services Coordinator Barbara Crandall joined twenty volunteers to receive training on how to educate the public on our new AMH. We plan to schedule volunteers both outside and inside through the busy month of June to train and answer questions regarding the AMH.

Summer Reading Program Update

Library Assistant Giny McConathy has been busy recruiting and processing applications for this summer’s group of Library Pals. Harmony’s nine positions have been filled; Council Tree’s nine have also been filled; and Main’s thirty-nine slots still have a few openings. Many “tween-age” youth really look forward to the opportunity to volunteer in the spotlight with programs as well as learn more about the behind-the-scenes work at the libraries.

Librarian Amy Holzworth prepared and distributed an invitation letter to all area elementary school media specialists encouraging them to have our library staff visit their schools to share the excitement about the “Dream Big-Read!” Summer Reading Program. Amy will coordinate the scheduling of the visits by Children’s and Outreach staff. Staff enjoy learning the creative spiel to get students excited about participating, reading, and visiting the libraries this summer. Giny McConathy and Librarian Nicole Burchfield prepared a humorous and very interactive SRP spiel called “The Twelve Nights of Summer” which is a take-off of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

RMHS Career Xpo Day

On April 24, Amy Holzworth was a participant in the Rocky Mountain High School Career Xpo Day where nearly 900 students visited various booths for an introduction to different occupations. Amy shared her 25 years of work in libraries as well as information about the process of obtaining a Masters

in Library and Information Science degree. She spoke about the wide variety of jobs found in the information world.

AskColorado Training

Reference/Teen Services Librarian and AskColorado Representative Sue-Ellen Jones coordinated an on-site training with statewide AskColorado coordinator Kris Johnson. Our eleven staff members who are AskColorado representatives learned about new software being used by AskColorado staff statewide. It was a wonderful opportunity for staff to work with Kris and discover more about AskColorado.

Month of the Young Child Celebration



During the Month of the Young Child, Early Literacy Librarian Vicky Hays attended the proclamation reading at the Fort Collins City Council meeting and helped put together an appreciation brunch for child care providers. As part of the One Book 4 Colorado – the early literacy initiative through the Lt. Governor’s office, Main Library held a birthday party for four-year-olds. Mayor Karen Weitkunat read the initiative’s chosen book, *Maybe the Bear Ate It* by Robie Harris and fifty four-year-olds received a copy of it as part of the initiative to get high quality and entertaining literature into the hands and homes of children. In addition, Library Board of Trustees President Mike Liggett read aloud *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague to our very enthusiastic group. We had 120 kids and adults enjoy an afternoon of books, birthday fun, and bears all brought to them by the letter “B”. Annie the Railroad Dog also joined in with the festivities.

CATSIG Kicks Off

Nicole Burchfield and Outreach Library Assistant Cydney Clink are the co-chairs of CATSIG – the Children’s and Teen Services Interest Group within the Colorado Association of Libraries. This group is new to CAL and we are proud to have Nicole and Cydney serving in this leadership role. They held their first meeting at the end of April at the newly renovated Loveland Public Library with virtual support through Adobe Connect.

National Poetry Month

Several events were offered to recognize and celebrate National Poetry Month throughout the District including a Teen Poetry Slam, Community Celebration of Poetry featuring local poets reading their works, and a Poetry Appreciation Workshop.



Some youngsters, pictured above, wrote their own poetry and learned to make origami figures at the Fold Me a Poem program coordinated by Library Assistant Jewels Hall-Payne and Manager Jean Bosch. The children were very creative and several participants stayed for the full two hours!

Reading Flash Mob

Part of the celebration of National Library Week included a Flash Reading Mob in Old Town Square. It was a unique concept for the Programming Team using social media in addition to our usual media sources to encourage everyone to join us for fifteen minutes of free reading time together on April 12



which is Drop Everything and Read Day. We had over 150 readers join us including Board members, library staff, business owners, firemen, children, seniors, and more. Some brought their own books or ereaders; we provided free books for those who happened by and wanted to participate.

We received a lot of positive feedback and generated a lot of interest. The event was mentioned in American Libraries Direct, social media sites, and some

blogs.

Library Services as a Science Fair Project

Poudre River Libraries are used in many ways by many people. Our libraries and their usage have been studied by the professionals; however, this spring Laurel Elementary 5th grader and library supporter Amanda Acott used our District as basis for her science fair project. She compared the resources and collections at our libraries and her own school media center and she



received an honorable mention for her work. Her project board is on temporary display in the Children's area at Main Library. We are proud of Amanda efforts and glad we were a part of her schoolwork!

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Ken Draves, project manager

The FRCC Spring semester has ended. During finals week, the 50+ new seats we added to Harmony were put to good use. In particular, the new counter seats were used by students studying and completing final projects.

When fall and spring semesters are in session, Harmony opens at 8:30 AM, Monday-Friday. During the period from 8:30-1- AM, anyone may enter and use the library, but the early hours are provided per our intergovernmental agreement with the College to afford the FRCC community additional library access. In the summer, Harmony opens at 10 AM on weekdays. We have now begun our summer schedule.

Teen Services

In late April, Diane Tuccillo, Harmony's Teen Services Librarian, received some exciting news. She was notified by the National Book Foundation, presenter of the National Book Awards, that our District has won a 2012 Innovations in Reading award. Earlier Diane had submitted our Bookends program, a book-themed television show hosted by teens in our Interesting Readers Society (IRS) and shown on PSDs cable channel.

The award, which is open to individuals and to organizations of all types, includes a \$2,500 cash award, which will be used to further fund the Bookends program, and a framed certificate. Notably the award also includes an all-expenses paid trip for a teen and a staff chaperone to New York City next October to accept the award, present on our program, and attend the National Book Awards dinner and ceremony.

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

"Bug" Display Units Reshaped For Safety, April 5

Public Works (library display furniture manufacturer, Denver, CO) principal Frank Phillips reshaped the music display units, or 'bugs', to prevent customers and staff from banging their knees into the end panels of the unit. Frank built the custom units in 2008 at the request of Studiotrope architects. The bugs and 'boulder' display units were a part of CTL's original FFE package.



National Library Week, Featuring Clifford, April 9 and 10

During National Library week, April 9 – 14, CTL featured a special guest at storytimes: Clifford the Big Red Dog. Teen volunteers donned the human-sized Clifford mascot costume, and CTL staff guided the costumed teen to the storytime door. Clifford greeted storytime visitors with waves, high-fives, and hugs. Children of all ages enjoyed greeting this famous storybook character, and our teens gained valuable volunteer experience.

Chris Cortez, CTL Circulation Supervisor and Holly Bucks, CTL Library Services Representative Returned From Family / Medical Leave, April 9 And 30

So glad to welcome them back! Props to Angela James, CTL LSR, who served as interim circulation supervisor during Chris's absence.

AED Presentation for CTL Classified Staff, April 11

CTL Library Assistant Drew Gaede shared information and a 1-page handout on our automated external **defibrillator** device. Drew, a former lifeguard, participated in a half-day course on the AED device sponsored by the City of Fort Collins' HR department. Drew's energetic synopsis and demonstrations generated lots of questions from staff, as well as interest in taking the City course.

Dart 2 Presentation To LLT, April 12

Currie presented an introduction to the updated version of the Dart reference Tracker web application to LLT on April 12. The new version (still free) features expanded formatting flexibility, as well as enhanced data collection and mining features. The District's next Dart week – where public desk, circulation and Answer Center staff use the Dart application to record and classify every information transaction they handle – is scheduled for June 18 – 24.

Ask CO Training, April 23

CTL Library Assistant Sara Nesbitt and Currie participated in a half-day of training for Ask Colorado staff on April 23. Ask Colorado <http://askcolorado.org/> is a free, web-based reference live chat service, coordinated by the Colorado State Library, funded by member libraries (including PRPLD and Poudre School District), and staffed by degreed (students in library degree programs also accepted) public and academic librarians from around the state. From website: "AskColorado fields an average of 2,000 - 3,000 questions a month. Over 200 library staff from Colorado libraries share the staffing responsibilities. At any given time, 2-5 librarians are online." Sara and Currie each staff AskCO one hour per week. The training, facilitated by AskCO founder and director Kris Johnson, provided tips, generated discussion, and enhanced best practices for PRPLD AskCO librarians.



Learning Organization Team Secures Pat Losinski As Keynote Speaker For Staff Day '12, March / April



Thanks to Holly Carroll's Ohio connections, the Learning Organization Team has secured Columbus Metropolitan Library Director Pat(rick) Losinski as keynote speaker for PRPLD staff day scheduled for December. Under Pat's leadership, the Columbus Metropolitan Library won the *Library Journal* / Gale Library of the Year Award in 2010. Pat was also the recipient of the Public Library Association's Charlie Robinson Award in 2010 for innovative leadership.

<http://www.columbuslibrary.org/category/user-entered-tags/patrick-losinski>

Traut Core Knowledge School Pre-Kindergarten Tour With Millie, April 26

Millie Kridler, CTL Children's Librarian provided a tour of CTL to the pre-kindergarten class, their teachers and parents, on April 26. Millie also provided a special storytime for the class.