**DEPARTMENT/BRANCH REPORTS**

**JULY 2021**

**REFERENCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

By Desirée Funston

**LRP Objective - Collect & disseminate quality literature in various formats for all users**

- Display Pods- Nearly New Fiction, Summer Fun, H2O, Japan Fiction & Culture, Missoula Reads Short Stories

- Collection development & maintenance (ordering, weeding, mending, donations, memorials, requests)

- Every two weeks, sorted repair items with patron holds for staff and volunteers to mend more quickly

- Evaluated rush mending items for volunteer menders

- Provided readers’ advisory assistance and personalized reading lists

- Provided information on book chat bags, added 5 new kits to the collection, ordered new bags for the new library design

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- Facilitated the MPL Book Discussion – *Sabrina and Corina: Stories* by Kali Fajardo-Anstine

- As staff liaison for 2nd Wednesday Book Group, set-up Zoom meeting, checked-in with group, and welcomed new attendees

- Met with my contact from the Missoula Red Cross and her Manager during their site evaluation of the Cooper Room and parking areas for MPL’s first blood drive to be held inhouse December 20

-Participated in the Grand Opening celebration

-Organized SLP Karelian Bear Dog Demo, held in July

-Met with All Nations Health Center nutritionists via Zoom to organize a program for Native American Heritage Month to be recorded in the demo kitchen

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- Provided reference research; ILL assistance; proctor, passport & notary services

- Provided home delivery services for seniors and trained volunteers for homebound assistance

- Interviewed, trained and supervised volunteers

- Created display highlighting MTR materials on public health in Missoula and Montana

- Assisted the City of Missoula’s Planning department with their audit of resources about the community’s floodplain management program. They receive credit for each locally pertinent document and certain FEMA publications that are cataloged and made available in the library. We had most of what they needed and they will provide us with what we do not have.

-Started indexing our single roll of Garnet Mining News microfilm (20 newspaper pages total) at the request of the Garnet Preservation Association.

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- Meetings- Reference, Steering, Adult Programming, Public Relations, All Staff, Circulation

*-* Responded to inquires through the refdesk email account

- Website administration – various updates and change requests

*-* Wrote news brief promoting the 2nd Wednesday Book Group *(Nickled and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich) for the library’s newsletter*

*-* Wrote news brief promoting American Red Cross Blood Drive in August

*-*Updated SOP *for BookPage* Magazine. Barbara Theroux will be taking over prepping & distributing this monthly publication which the FOL funds.

-Started updating department SOPs

-Trained new library technician for Big Sky Branch library

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**LRP Objective – Participate in statewide and national collaborative projects**

-Spent time with second practicum student regarding Reference department responsibilities

-Attended MSL Professional Development Committee meeting

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**LRP Objective - Administer information literacy tools and instruction to all staff and users**

- Database administration

- instructed patrons on use of databases, on access to MtLib2Go and other electronic content

**MAKERSPACE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

By Ira Sather-Olson

-During the month of July, I had a total of 1,145 patron interactions. This number includes our Grand Opening, in which I counted 103 interactions, but the total of folks coming through the Makerspace that day could have been higher than that number, as I was the only person in this space able to interact with patrons.

-To date, this is by far the busiest the Makerspace has been with people entering the space.

-Besides the Grand Opening, other interactions and visits included tours of the space where I would highlight some of the equipment and tools patrons could use for personal, creative, or educational projects.   
  
-Other visits included patrons who used our equipment for educational and creative projects including:

-Printing 3D models for kids. This seems to be an extremely popular service, and most days that I’m open to the public I’ve been running our 3D printers throughout the day printing various 3D modeling projects for kids, as well as some printing projects for adults.   
  
-Working on creative cutting projects using our Cricut Maker die-cut cutting machine, including cutting out shapes from various types of cloth, to making custom stickers from adhesive vinyl.   
  
-3D scanning items for patrons for 3D printing. Specifically, I 3D scanned items for patrons who were looking to replace broken items from around their home and in their car that couldn’t otherwise be purchased. These items that I 3D scanned and 3D printed included a handle for an awning, as well as a clip for a car visor.   
  
-Laser cutting and engraving various items for patrons. This piece of equipment has proven to be very popular with patrons, as I believe it is the only laser cutter/engraver in Missoula open for the public to use.  
-Some examples of what patrons have used the laser cutter and engraver for include: Laser cutting and engraving pieces of leather, laser engraving rocks found at the Clark Fork River, laser engraving various images and text onto plywood for kids, laser cutting a replica of the Star Trek USS Enterprise Ship from plywood, as well as laser marking and engraving various personal items such as house keys.

Other Makerspace happenings:  
-During the month of July and the first week of August, the Makerspace hosted our second Artist-in-Residence for the summer as part of our partnership with the local non-profit organization Open AIR (<https://www.openairmt.org/>).

-The artist-in-residence was Aaron Cobbett, who is a fiber arts and textile artist from Brooklyn, New York.   
-During his residency, Cobbett used equipment including our sewing/embroidery machine along with various hand tools to sew together pieces of linen that he dyed and tie-dyed, and then created into a larger textile piece. Cobbett utilized the Makerspace, along with our Demo Kitchen and the Art Room on Level Two, to create his final piece, which was donated to Open AIR and will be on display during a future exhibit hosted by the non-profit.   
-Our next round of Open AIR artists-in-residents will begin their residencies in September and will feature local artists Stephen Glueckert and Quinton Decker.

**BIG SKY BRANCH REPORT**

By Brian Doyle

May

Curbside service only

June

Branch opened back up to the public on June 14th, majority of patrons preferred in-person service after that point.

July

Brian Doyle, the new Big Sky branch Library Tech started on 7/27/21. Curbside service has mostly died down during this month, with only a few people choosing to call rather than come in.

**FRENCHTOWN BRANCH REPORT**

By Jane Guest

No one has shown up for story time thru the month of July. Lunch is serving up to 25 kids on the three days it is served.

**LOLO BRANCH REPORT**

By Erin Casey

The month of July was a busy month at the Lolo Branch library. There were seven events for the kids including, preschool story time, Kindergartener readiness, and Thursday story times. There was one young adult get together and eight attended to browse and check out books, use computers and work on some coding challenges. There was a firefighting command center set up at the school for about two weeks in July. Interesting to see all the tents set up on the playground area. Team members frequented the library to ask questions about the community and services provided in the Lolo area.

As of today, I have had 10 children return their reading logs and will purchase prizes, with the Town Pump Charitable Foundation Grant, this weekend. All children returning their reading logs will receive a prize and prizes will be awarded next week. I am so pleased with the number of children who have visited the library this summer and their enthusiasm for reading away those hot and smoky summer days of July.

I completed a cataloging project for the Lolo School and prepared checkout cards for new and returning students along with keeping up with shelving, cleaning and repairing items and processing new items to the Lolo School collection.

I will begin the fall schedule on the first day of school, August 25th and will be returning to a four day week (Monday through Thursday) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

**POTOMAC BRANCH REPORT**

By Kirk Vriesman

Members of MPL’s cataloging department are in the process of planning to travel to Potomac for a day of cataloging. They will do a single session of cataloging the library’s new books obtained through a literacy grant. Community members and their children continue to use the library over the summer break.

The library was open for 9 hours this month.

**SEELEY LAKE BRANCH REPORT**

By Susan Stone

Continued to hand out activity bags and reading logs.

Patron numbers are up. Public pleased to be able to come into the library and browse.

Tourists are also pleased to have WiFi access.

**SWAN VALLEY BRANCH REPORT**

By Jenny Kauffman

Summer has come to the valley with lots of returning summer people and visitors using the wifi. Many visitors that use the wifi do not enter the library, but it is a very welcome addition to our valley because there are not many places people can connect to the outside if they do not have working cell service.