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Community Outreach Newsletter October 1994

Stats. Week is October 17th through 22nd

Community libraries will be busy the third week in October, counting the number of library visitors, and the number of materials they use while in the library. This is in addition to the usual circulation and reference counts kept each month. Because this process is so time-consuming, we only do it one week out of the year. The results are reported to the Washington State Library, which uses them to estimate use in the libraries for the entire year.

Due to a schedule conflict, Headquarters will conduct Stats. Week after the community libraries have completed theirs. They aren't getting away without doing it--they are just saving the pleasure of counting EVERYTHING until Cynthia Garrick gets back from vacation!

Good luck, and estimate when necessary.

Patron Questions on Funding Buildings

In the community libraries we periodically hear questions like this:

"We already pay taxes for the library. Why can't the library system pay for our building?"

The short answer is that in our system, library service and library buildings are funded separately.

The Yakima Valley Regional Library serves the unincorporated area of Yakima County, and all cities and towns which contract with it. YVRL provides the service: staff, books and other library materials, the circulation system, reserves, telephone reference, Books-By-Mail and Outreach Services for those who can't visit a nearby library.

YVRL is funded by:

- 1) a levy from the unincorporated parts of Yakima County, and
- 2) contract fees at an equivalent rate from the cities and towns which choose to belong to the system.

The local community (incorporated or not) provides the library facility: a room or building to house the library, and the equipment and maintenance. When a town or unincorporated area provides the facility, YVRL provides the staff and books. If the community is unwilling or unable to provide a facility, residents continue to have access to library service through phone and mail, and by visiting any other library in our system.

YVRL does pay a maintenance rebate to the town or community group which provides the library facility.

This rebate is based on the number of hours the library is open per week, and the size of the library. It helps defray the costs of having a library, but all community libraries need additional support from their community to survive. Cities may use some of their tax revenues to provide the library building. Community libraries in the unincorporated area depend upon clubs, granges, fire departments, and other community organizations to house and maintain them.

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Funding Buildings (cont.)

"Why does our library check out books to people from out of town? They're not paying for this library."

YVRL spends more for staff hours and books in the town libraries than the town pays to us in contract fees. That extra money comes from the levy paid by residents of the unincorporated area who come in to use the library.

Everyone in our service area pays for--and has access to--excellent library service. Whether that library service comes through a local community library two blocks away, or in the next town, or through the mail, depends upon the community in which they live, and what sort of service the patron prefers.

Statistics

The September statistics were printed in the previous (August/September) newsletter, so they do not appear here.

Some copies of that newsletter were mailed to community libraries before Mr. Ostrander brought an error to my attention: the circulation total for August was 49,106. This was corrected before copies were mailed to your local library board. The figures for individual libraries were all correct.

THE Y.A. ZONE

By Deb Stilson

Pen-Pal statistics:

A total of 351 young adult pen-pals have been matched. Girls make up 78%, and boys 22%. Seventh graders are tops with a total of 96 matched; eighth graders are second with 78.

Others are:

- 6th grade - 65
- 9th grade - 55
- 10th grade - 24
- 11th grade - 21
- 12th grade - 11

Results by library:

- HQ = 135
- SS = 45
- TO = 35
- WA = 26
- SL = 24
- GR = 14
- UG = 13
- MX = 13
- NA = 12
- TI = 9
- MA = 7
- BU = 6
- ZI = 5
- HH = 5
- WH = 2

Remember, this is an on-going program. If you need more forms, let me know. I'll send you as many as you need to pass out to interested teachers, parents, and YAs.