

Zillah Library Gets New Look

The City of Zillah has been busy this winter remodeling and expanding the Zillah Library. They began by removing an interior wall which had separated the library from a vacant barbershop. They are in the process of enlarging the rest room to make it handicap-accessible, and painting and recarpeting.

Previously, the barbershop had a big picture window facing the street, while the library had a narrower passageway from the street leading to a wider room to the rear of the barbershop. Incorporating the barbershop's space into the library gave the library about 1/3 more floor space, but visually it looks like they have double the room they did. (Some of us who work in a basement really envy that bright, sunny picture window!)

The remodeling created its share of mess and extra work, but librarian Fern Greene says the change is tremendous and the customers think it's looking great. Stop by and see the library the next time you are in Zillah!

White Swan Hopes For Grant

The grant proposal which the White Swan Friends of the Library turned in to Jeld-Wen has been recommended for approval by Jeld-Wen administrator Kelly Krahn, according to Librarian Jennifer Lewis. He advised her that he doesn't foresee any problem with the library getting a grant, but they must wait until the shareholders vote in March before they know for sure.

Among other improvements, the library needs to be rewired before any computers can be installed. White Swan's Internet terminals are scheduled to be installed as soon as the wiring is upgraded.

New wiring will also make it safe for the malfunctioning baseboard heaters to be replaced. This winter, Jennifer has had to heat the library mainly with portable space heaters.

Additional Open Hours for Community Libraries

The Regional Library Board has decided that all community libraries should be open a minimum of twelve hours a week in 1998. Partly because of the addition of public use computers, they wanted to give the public more hours of access to resources in the libraries. The minimum number of hours a library is open might be increased again in 1999 if the budget allows.

All five libraries that had been open less than twelve hours a week were affected by this decision:

Gleed is open longer on the same days:

Monday	1 - 7
Thursday	12 - 6

Harrah is opening longer on Thursday:

Tuesday	10 - 4
Thursday	1 - 7

White Swan started opening up on Wednesday afternoon; their hours now are:

Monday	12:30 - 5:30
Wednesday	2 - 4
Thursday	2 - 7

New schedules are still being determined for **Buena** and **Tieton**. When their hours are set, we will print a new list of libraries and open hours.

Of Mice and Solitaire...

Contrary to a question I received, we have not deliberately deleted your solitaire games out of fear that you would use them too much!

The computer solitaire game, which encourages you to click and drag with the mouse or track ball, is a Microsoft product. As such, it is incompatible with the UNIX boxes (computer CPUs or "brains") in the community libraries. However, once the network servers (bigger brains) are set up at Headquarters, David can install a version of solitaire which you will be able to run from your staff computers. Until then, we have to practice our mouse moves on the Internet....

A TENTATIVE TIMETABLE...

December 1997 Polaris™, a Windows based product from Gaylord Information Systems, was selected.

January 1998 Gaylord was selected to upgrade the bibliographic database to meet machine readable cataloging standards. Servers for staff access to the Internet were installed in most community libraries.

February 1998 With Gaylord's Project Manager, we set an implementation schedule. Staff work began on a new circulation policy. Bibliographic records were sent to Gaylord for upgrading.

March 1998 Installation of Internet terminals for public access.

April 1998 Regional Library Board will consider a new circulation policy.

May 1998 Rebarcoding of the entire collection at all community libraries will begin. The main server will be installed at the Yakima Library with Polaris™ software and the new, clean, pristine bibliographic database. Training in electronic bibliographic records will be conducted by the UW Graduate School of Library & Information Science.

June 1998 Rebarcoding will continue. Gaylord will conduct training on using Polaris™ for cataloging and circulation. Preregistration of library customers with new cards will begin.

July 1998 Public access catalogs and circulation will be installed.

August 1998 Polaris™ circulation, online holds, public access catalog will be fully operational.

Sounds like a lot? You bet! It's an exciting time!!



Materials Budget Discussion

Nell Barrett, Joan Laughery, Terry Walker, Mickey Wittner and Delores Bowden met with Amy Ravenholt on Jan. 26, at the Terrace Heights Community Center, to discuss how the materials budget for smaller community libraries should be spent. The Books By Mail Program (where rural residents got paperback books mailed to them for free both ways) was phased out at the end of 1997. The budget for those paperbacks (\$25,000) was reassigned to be spent on materials for community libraries.

The largest portion of the money will be spent on books on cassette, since that was the greatest need brought up at the meeting. Juvenile nonfiction will also get some additional money.

The focus group thought videos were a lower priority than books on cassette. However, when all libraries go on the new automated system videos will circulate in all libraries and customers will be able to place reserves for them. Therefore, we will need to spend some money for videos in order to create a small video collection in each community library in 1998.

After the books on cassette collection is built up, we will probably identify other needs. Librarians will have the same opportunity next year to change priorities for the materials budget.

BOOK SALES

The Union Gap Library Board held a book sale on February 28, and raised \$116.00 for special projects. To add to their local gifts, they bought one lot of ten boxes of gifts and discards from YVRLS, and said "We should have bought more!"

The Moxee Library League bought two lots of gifts and discards, and made \$159.00 on their sale. The sale was also a good occasion for neighbors to meet and visit (encouraged by a healthy supply of homemade cookies).

And at Terrace Heights, their book sale benefited from the donation of an entire library from an estate. They made approximately \$600 on their sale, which helps pay for shelving improvements the library needs.

"As the Staff Changes..."

Since our last episode, there has been turmoil in library soap opera land:

In January, Kathy Pilgrim was hired to full-time work in Community Services.* She took over Charlene's old position, putting together the community library shipments. For many weeks she was doubling in her long-time role as Gleed Librarian, until we were able to hire Laura Baker from a temp. agency. Laura will operate the library while we work with the Friends of the Gleed Library on the library's future.

Kevin Newland left our show to star at Heritage College in a similar role. We all miss his assistance in the Information Technology Department, and David and Mary Lou will replace him as soon as they have time to conduct interviews. Meanwhile, the "to do" list for computer upgrades and installations continues to grow, and as Anne says, "We feel like the snake that swallowed an elephant." Consequently, your public Internet terminals are being installed later than originally promised. (And don't ask yet about the Gates Foundation grant, since it won't be implemented until this fall!)

Summitview has a new page, Katy Smith, and an new opening for a full-time assistant. Cathy Rathbone would like the job filled before the library moves to its new building, which is supposed to be ready for occupancy by the end of April. We are hiring a moving company, but staff will still need to box (and unbox) approximately 1,500 boxes of books.

At Toppenish, Elva Martinez recently replaced Amber Vargas as library aide when Amber left for college. In June Elva will have an empty nest at home, and she chose the library as a great place to keep busy. Good choice.

At Headquarters, Sharon "Shay" Golden has resigned from Tech. Services; they are having her going away party as we go to press. Instead of hiring another library assistant, we will hire a certified librarian with cataloging experience who will manage the increasingly complex Technical Services Department. Tech. Services will take over all processing of materials, including paperbacks, audio tapes, CDs and videos.

In Yakima, the Circulation and Media

Departments have now been combined physically. The separate Media desk was dismantled and videos are now displayed on shelves and checked out at the main desk, just like books. The next big upheaval comes when the main floor is recarpeted and their check-out desk area is remodeled. In the meantime, Sharon Upton has hired new pages Priscilla Pierce and Mary Milliron. Also, Reference has a new page, Jennifer Swearngin, to replace Jacob Warren.

Special note: Mickey Wittner, Wapato Librarian, was nominated in the "Woman of the Year" category of the Greater Wapato Area Chamber of Commerce Community Awards. It is good to see some community acknowledgement of her hard work as librarian and City Council member.

****Name Change:*** Finally, the Community Outreach Department now is officially titled the Community Services Department, even though our function hasn't changed. We will continue to provide support services for the community libraries, and do library visits to nursing homes, retirement apartments and the homebound.

"Outreach" didn't convey the community library side of the department, and most HQ departments are named by the type of service they provide: Young Adult Services, Children's Services, Technical Services, and so on. Therefore, we are adjusting our title.

Please continue to abbreviate our name as "CO" in addressing mail, tagging boxes, etc. This will avoid confusion between Children's Services (CS) and Community Services (CO). Thank you!

The next newsletter should be out on schedule later this month.

If you have news you want to add, please call or write Amy Ravenholt, Community Services, 102 N. 3rd St., Yakima WA 98901 (509) 452-8541. We would much appreciate your submissions.

Circulation and reference statistics for 1997 and January 1998 are attached. I am discontinuing program attendance statistics for now. February statistics will not be available until the next newsletter.