

Library Director's Report

by Anne Billeter

Nov 9, 2020

LIBRARY and LIBRARIANS

- Due to the coronavirus the Library remained closed the month of October.
- As Covid-19 numbers continue to rise in Jackson County, there has been no discussion of re-opening the Genealogy Library.
- Librarian Sharon Ducharme has moved away, resigning as a volunteer but continuing her membership.

SHELVING and the LIBRARY COLLECTION

- The Book Committee (Marilyn Ayres, Chloe Sternola, and Anne Billeter) continues to meet using Zoom.
 - They reviewed the backlog of donated CDs and decided to add a fair number of the FamilyTreeMaker Family Archives series, each of which has multiple scanned books which are searchable using the FTM Version 8 software on one patron computer. Directions will be placed by that computer.
 - They also reviewed new-to-JCGL periodicals from the Freshwater estate, which had been in Storage due to lack of shelf space. Additional issues of periodical titles already in the JCGL collection from the Freshwater estate have already been processed by Diane Brenner and are on the shelves, available for checkout (they all circulate.)
 - The Book Committee reviewed the Great Britain Ordnance Survey maps and agreed that they should be added to the collection. They will be shelved in the bookcase adjacent to the atlas case.
- Both catalogers (Sharon Freeburne and Diane Brenner) continue coming during the closure. Sharon continues to catalog the backlog of books and Diane is cataloging the backlog of periodicals.
- Jeanne Hoadley has begun cataloging maps.

BOOK SALES

- Allan and Leah Cotton continue selling our surplus books on Amazon. Allan reported the net revenue for October was \$155.68.
- We still need a volunteer willing to sell books on eBay. We have 1 box of books in that category (between 20 and 30 books.)

USE of NEW MEMBERS-ONLY LIBRARY SERVICES

- Use of the options to check out circulating library items and to request Look Up Service is minimal.

MY HERITAGE USAGE STATISTICS not yet received.

REPORT of SOLF meeting on following pages.

Southern Oregon Library Federation (SOLF)

Report of October 30, 2020 zoom meeting

- ❖ 1 library in Oregon was burned in September: Blue River Volunteer Library in Lane County.
- ❖ Curry Public Library in Gold Beach: opened mid-June; not as many patrons coming in as pre-pandemic; through intergovernmental agreement with school district, 2 public meeting rooms have been converted temporarily to learning cubicles for 45 students, using plastic pipe and shower curtains to create the cubicles.
- ❖ Klamath Library District: open since May 1, low Covid #s, have 3 Zoom accounts, providing storytimes and programs. Some branches open only by appointment due to small space. No bathroom access, no seating except at computers, so visits are short. Used CARES Act funds to buy more air filters, spread throughout the library.
- ❖ Jackson County Library District: open with reduced hours; 3 staff lost homes in fires. Difficulty on Sept 8: knowing when to close the libraries due to fires; didn't make decisions soon enough. When patrons come in to report they lost everything (including library materials) in fire, need to be matter of fact rather than emotional; otherwise this causes the fire victims to become emotional. District funding is from property taxes, so district will lose possibly \$150,000 due to fires. The Butte Falls area retired loggers prevented the South Obenchain fire from reaching Butte Falls, by mobilizing whatever equipment they could locate. Many patrons have been in to use computers since the fires. "Take and Make Kits" for children as part of Summer Reading Program so popular they have been continued and some are for adults, also popular. Limits on number who can be library sometimes difficult. Ballot drop-boxes at libraries have increased activity at libraries. Ballots are being picked up 3-4 times a day. The drop-boxes have fire-suppression system inside each one. Games and Books and Toys Drive was premature: great amount of donations, but too soon for the fire victims: no place for these items (don't yet have real housing.)
- ❖ Klamath Community College Library: open with social distancing and limits on # on people in; cleaning after each one leaves; very busy.
- ❖ North Bend Public Library: open on limited basis. Difficulty: staff want to help patrons more than is feasible during pandemic; hard to unlearn long-time habits and natural helpfulness. Conducted a survey of patrons by email and paper handouts. Surprise: 80% said they wanted to receive information about the library by email. This is a 180 degree change; consultant confirms this is not specific to North Bend. With Covid many people have more flexibility and can use zoom to participate.
- ❖ Roseburg Public Library: open 26 hours per week with 4.5 FTE; 6 volunteers come in and shelve books when library is closed (formerly had 50 volunteers.) Glad not open more as staff is stressed by the challenge of mask-wearing enforcement.
- ❖ Josephine Community Library: offered curbside pick up in mid-June; end of September opened 2 days per week; 30 minute visits; no seating or restrooms; children's area fills with too many people, as limit on #s is for the building, not the room.

- ❖ Cottage Grove Public Library: all staff were laid off; few hired back end of June; curbside pickup began in August; working on having homebound delivery program. Lane County is on the Governor's Watch List; 50 positive cases in Cottage Grove.
- ❖ Chetco Community Library in Brookings: planning for renovation, reorganizing of space, to happen next year.
- ❖ Oregon Institute of Technology: campus opening in September; lower level students are on campus; upper level students are online. Difficulties enforcing mask-wearing and single person study rooms; don't share textbooks any more, but offer copying of chapters.
- ❖ Southern Oregon University: Maureen Battistella reported she has been documenting "second wave feminism in southern Oregon with many interviews, which she will begin editing in winter; Still working on Southern Oregon Newspaper Project: identifying where physical collections are, who has preservation copy; working to advance digital content; having some success with State Historic Preservation Office.
- ❖ RVGS/JCGL: I reported that we remain closed due to Covid, we are all volunteers, almost all in "vulnerable" category and Covid #s are high in Jackson County; we pivoted to zoom for meetings, classes, programs, interest groups, including FREE Genealogy Week, which drew international attendees; all 6 subscription websites available to our members at home for now (Jackson County staff asked for details concerning the subscriptions, so they can share and refer people to us. We are also offering free look-ups of specific information in our library materials, our local records, and Family Affiliate Library restricted digital materials. Mentioned a few volunteers making great inroads on our cataloging backlog (something with which all librarians are familiar.)

MY TAKEAWAY: enforcing mask-wearing, social distancing, and number limitations creating stress for staff. Not sure we would face the same levels of difficulty, but we could have occasional incidents.