



County Librarian's Report

January 2013

A New Year and New Initiatives

Now that we can all breathe a sigh of relief with the successful passage of Measure B, we have turned our sights to the future. Looking at our Strategic Plan, we have identified many initiatives to address. Of particular interest:

- **Field Librarians**

Yes, we are going to move our services out of the library. Commencing in July 2013 we will re-organize to put our librarians out in the field where they can offer services directly to our community. We are really excited about this new initiative and a team of managers and senior librarians have been laying the groundwork for the last six months. The team has just expanded to include staff from branches. The next steps are to finalize the new duties of this group of Enterprising Librarians, do some community needs assessments, and work out the logistical support. We have also reviewed the staffing levels in branches and to complement this new service, staff schedules will change and more library assistant positions will be added through the budget process, assuming the Board of Supervisors approves.

- **Library Facilities Master Plan**

The current master plan was completed in 2003 and addressed the years 2002-2020. However with the changes in our economy, technological advancements, and local issues, the plan needs revision. This is a very in-depth analysis that will take all of 2013 to complete. When finished, we will have a good roadmap for facilities development for the next 10-15 years.

- **Library Hours Review**

We now have statistics that show us exactly when the libraries are being used and when they are not. We plan to implement a study to determine if adjustments in library hours are necessary so that we can continue to offer optimum services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. With salaries and benefits always a concern, we want to make sure we are deploying our staff appropriately.

New Manager for Branch Services Appointed

I am delighted to announce that **Terry Sterling** is our new Principal Librarian, filling the Manager of Branch Services position. This is the position most recently vacated by Jeanne Johnson with her retirement. Terry started in her new position Monday, February 4, 2013.

Terry brings 30+ years of experience in a variety of capacities, including working in branches, collections, and Library Administration. Most recently she has been the Collection Development Supervisor for the library system.

Better World Books Program Expanding to FoL Materials

Better World Books (BWB) is the vendor the Library now uses to dispose of all its weeded materials. This vendor uses over 34 online sets to re-sell the materials and the Library receives a portion of the proceeds. For those Friends of the Library (FoL) groups that have materials they are unable to sell, the Library has agreed to use its contract with BWB to dispose of those materials. The program will start sometime in February.

Grant Season Is Upon Us

The Library has seized the opportunity to work on several grants recently. We just received \$6,000 from The National Endowment for the Humanities to development a preservation plan for our special collections, most notably our history materials. This will set the stage for a second grant that will allow us to build a temperature and humidity controlled vault for our precious materials. Other grants in the works are:

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Funding Agency</i>	<i>Award</i>
Summer nutrition	California State Library / Packard Foundation	Up to \$4,000
COG Information Dissemination	Central Council of Governments (COG)	Up to \$3,000
Pitch-An-Idea: PAL Around	LSTA / California State Library	Up to \$60,000
National Leadership Grants for Libraries: Enterprising Librarianship	Institute for Museums and Library Services	Up to \$250,000
Mini-grant for SRP healthy snacks	Kaiser Permanente	Up to \$5,000
The Big Read 2014	National Endowment for the Arts	Up to \$20,000
Community Stories	Cal Humanities	Up to \$10,000
Book to Action	California Center for the Book / LSTA	Up to \$3,000
Parent Leadership and Advocacy Programs. Focus: Early Learning	Fresno First Five	To be determined.

These grants are really important to the Library and very much help us further our mission to enrich lives and build community.