

JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS

Library

County Librarian's Report June 2014



Second Saturday, a monthly day of “edutainment” programming across the Johnson County Library, debuted in June and attracted more than 400 people across its individual programs such as Steampunk demonstrations and film screenings. The event series aims to make the Library a weekend destination for Johnson Countians of all ages and interests with culturally-relevant and interactive programs.

INFORMATION ITEM

Aug. 14, 2014

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors

From: County Librarian Sean Casserley

Re: County Librarian's Report for June 2014

COMMUNITY

Alice in Wonderland, as performed by the Hampstead Stage Company, drew a combined 300 children and adults to performances at the Overland Park, Blue Valley and Antioch Neighborhood Libraries.



More than 13,000 people of all ages had signed up for **Summer Reading** via a print log (pictured left) or online through the end of June.

The Library received **three awards** in June for its graphic design work and MakerSpace programming. Designers Jennifer Taylor and Cindy Frazer each received a 2014 NAGC (National Association of Government Communicators) Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award for their work on the 2012 annual report and redesigned events calendar, respectively. The National Association of Counties, meanwhile, recognized the Library's MakerSpace with an NACo Achievement Award.



Nearly 100 adults and children visited the Lackman Neighborhood Library over the course of two days for an interactive activity based on the **picture book mashup “Battle Bunny.”** The program encouraged parents and children to creatively make a story their own by adding words, scribbles and doodles to clean copies of the original “Birthday Bunny” story from the book’s website.



The Johnson County Library Foundation announced **two sizable donations** in June to support Library services and programming:

The CPS Foundation, a private family foundation, donated \$22,500 in support of Tutor.com, an online tutoring service making up part of the Library’s Homework Help offerings. The generous contribution will ensure Library patrons have access to the service through 2016.

The H & R Block Foundation awarded \$10,000 to support Johnson County Library’s programs for incarcerated teens and children who find themselves in the court system for difficult reasons.



Lackman Neighborhood Library Page Jeanne Kasten began soliciting **library mail art from across the world**, like the Japanese piece pictured to the left, for an art display promoting Library Card Signup Month in September. Jeanne shares new submissions each week at librarymailart.wordpress.com.



The video component of the Library's **"What's Your What if?" summer communication campaign** debuted in June. Staff from the Library's Communication Department worked with filmmaker Jon Lim, whose services were purchased and donated by the Johnson County Library Foundation's Denise Upah Mills, to produce a video telling the Library's story along with related anecdotes from staff. Click on the screengrab to view the video.

CONVENIENCE

Even better than the computer card catalog is the awesome staff - they are always extremely helpful!

- Bradley, Library patron

In preparation for the launch of the new Library website scheduled for July 29, the Web Content Team **conducted an online usability study** with patrons. Overall feedback was positive, with patrons excited to see the eLibrary more prominently featured and the new site displaying better on tablets and smartphones thanks to its responsive design.



Lackman Neighborhood Library Manager Leslie Nord approached an older woman searching for easy fiction books in the children's area to see if she needed help. She told Leslie how much she missed the old card catalog. Leslie pulled out her smartphone and demonstrated how easy it was to look up a book using the **Library's mobile app**. The woman was blown away by the coolness and convenience of the app.

EDUCATION

Storytimes at Mill Creek Activity Center

continue to successfully draw parents and young ones from the surrounding communities. The weekly Storytimes have averaged 106 attendees this summer.



Library staff met with the **Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce** to discuss the idea of designating early education as one of the chamber's "Big 5" goals for KC. The designation would serve to encourage businesses to support early education initiatives.

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