

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT JULY 2009

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:

Library Materials at Cole & Ustick

Acquisitions and Technical Services and Collection Development staff members are still involved in follow-up tasks related to the Opening Day Collection (ODC) at the Cole & Ustick branch. The last few items from the ODC are still being delivered, unpacked, and checked against the library catalog records. Almost 45% of the items in the branch's collection are currently either checked out or on hold. The Main, Hillcrest, and Collister locations have been transferring materials to the new branch to help staff fill requests.

Reading Together

Staff members continue to work on Reading Together, a program made possible by a Wal-Mart mini-grant won in March 2009, which will offer storytimes to preschoolers for whom English is a second language as are their parents. The storytimes are designed specifically to meet the needs of this growing population and will provide participants with opportunities to begin to develop and to improve English language skills while improving and promoting literacy within the target community. The programs will begin in late fall and early winter.

Computer Classes at Collister

Adult technology classes are going quite well. The topics feature Internet and Computer Basics, Word Basics, Digital Camera Techniques, Keyboarding, Internet Searching, Youtube and Other Social Networking Sites, and Resume Building and Posting Online. There is great attendance and requests for more programs of this nature.

More Room to Read Downtown

Changes have been made to the configuration of the public space on the third floor at the Main Library. Partitions surrounding what had previously been a small staff area were removed and existing furniture was spread throughout the space to give customers more elbow room and to make access to electrical outlets more accessible for laptop users. These changes have resulted in a more comfortable space for everyone.

Fourth of July Parade

More than 20 library staff members participated in the Fourth of July parade, a wholly volunteer effort that was great fun and generated lots of positive visibility for the Library. The group had a banner, balloons, red, white and blue book bags, and a retired book cart, spray painted red that actually completed the entire parade route. Everyone involved wants to do it again next year. This effort was organized by Adult Services librarian Becca Stroebel.

School-Age Programs at the Main Library

The Main Library had a very popular slate of school-age programs this summer. Registration lists were full for each program and we had to take waiting lists for each one. Programs included a visit from some of the Boise Hawks baseball players, Basque dancers, drama, and puppetry.