

2021 September director's report

1. Staff survived another Summer Learning. Visit and circulation numbers for 2021 were disappointing compared to the average from 2017-19. There were some positives with the numbers; Overdrive was up 58%, new accounts were up 70%, Facebook reach increased 48%, and external catalog searches improved 52%. Programming attendance numbers were down overall in large part due to the fact staff did fewer programs. Average attendance per program did increase. Kids program attendance was up in June and down in July compared to prior years. The average number of teen attendees per program jumped 153% for the summer. Total average program attendance for all age groups was up 27%.
2. We finished rearranging things at the museum for the research branch. All VCBCPL's local interest materials are on the shelf. Through a bit of serendipity, a couple of retired librarians stopped at the museum a couple weeks ago, found out about the project, and volunteered to catalog the museum's print collection. They live in Bismarck, so we set up a remote log in to facilitate them working from home. We are in the process of setting up and activating the new Museum Branch in Apollo.
3. The library was recognized for meeting the Excelling level on the state standards for the second year in a row. We had a visit from State Librarian Mary Soucie on September 8th, who presented the director with a certificate. While she was here, Soucie presented the morning story time, toured the library noting the changes we have made since her last visit several years ago, and had a long conversation with the director regarding library governance, personnel, and other related topics.
4. People stuff. John decided working at the library wasn't his cup of tea and resigned in August. We posted the position and had two apply. We hired Kylie Ward to fill the open spot. Kylie is a junior at VCSU and interested in working in public libraries as a career. Hopefully she will stay around for a while. Linda Olason, who worked at the library a number of years ago, has been hired as a fill in person and is available Saturdays. Both are currently undergoing training. Director is happy to have new people hired so he won't have to continue to regularly cover Saturdays.
5. Director will be taking some vacation time next week.
6. Director has registered to attend the North Dakota Library Association conference in Grand Forks in October.