

July 18 Barnes & Noble Bookfair

We received our Barnes & Noble gift card in the amount of \$493! I plan to schedule another bookfair, complete with Bookmobile, in November or December.

Policy Review

This month we review the Selection Policy. I have streamlined the policy a bit, as well as the Request for Reconsideration form. In my past director roles, I have handled challenges according to the following steps:

1. I consult the selector (if not myself);
2. I read/view/listen to the item;
3. I look at the reviews associated with the item;
4. I send a letter to the person challenging the item explaining the decision to keep the item; and
5. I report any challenge to the Library Board.

In my experience, challenges go to the Library Board only to appeal the Director's decision to retain an item. Please consider this option as an amendment to the policy.

Racial Equity Social Justice Initiative

I met with Sarah Lawton, of Madison Public Library, to discuss Madison's work on racial equity and social justice. Madison has been working on this initiative for about two years, and the library has had a strong presence on committees, and in establishing connections with the community. Sarah is presenting MPL's work at WLA in November and asked that I be available to provide the County's progress, given that the CSI report to the County will be ready by then. Sarah and I plan to present RESJ information at our November Dane County Librarians' meeting to assess interest in forming a library workgroup around this topic.

Operational and Facility Reimbursement Formula Discussion

Several library directors have expressed their concern about the reimbursement formulas' dependence on circulation as the sole measure of service, especially as circulation stabilizes or, in some cases, declines. There has been interest in examining the formulas to see how other use might be measured, such as program attendance. I aim to convene a discussion group of 8-10 people who would explore this topic, by looking at the history of the formula, how library locations and services have changed, how the formula affects libraries, and what might be other possible measures besides circulation.

Madison Community Impact Grant

I have been working with Forward Theater Company on a proposal for the Madison Community Foundation's Community Impact Grant that will affect Dane County Libraries in two ways. First, this grant will make FTC monologue performances available to all Dane County libraries at an affordable price. Second, libraries will have the opportunity to participate in FTC's successful Play Club program. In Play Club, participants read a play and, in addition to discussing the work, they attend a scene study with actors and directors. FTC does three Play Clubs each season and have consistently filled their 25 available spots. When I approached the Dane County Librarians about this grant opportunity last year, they were enthusiastic about being able to bring these programs to their patrons. We are working with Beyond the Page, Dane Arts, and the Wisconsin Humanities Council as other potential funding partners for this grant.