



DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MARCH 2017

Patron Service:

Playful **mobile shelving** was purchased for the Children's room. It is designed to resemble a skateboard and contains the videogame collection.

A **new book display** was purchased for the Adult Services department to highlight a bi-weekly rotation of theme-based collections. A clear acrylic **newspaper stand** was installed due to the poor condition of the racks on the old slat-board, dual-sided display. The slat-board display has been re-purposed and placed in the lobby to house selected materials supporting adult programs. Posters promoting upcoming programs are placed on the entrance-facing side.

Donations to the **book sale** continue to pour in. Many adult volunteers are helping us during the donation periods by sorting, categorizing, and boxing the books. Library discards will be included in the offerings.

The **Travel Collection** (14- and 28-day books as well as DVDs) is now interfiled in the lobby to improve discoverability of guidebooks and documentaries on faraway places.

Hoopla will be added to our collection of digital offerings. E-books, audiobooks, and films will be made available to patrons on a rationed basis. Hoopla is operated on a different model than Overdrive; patrons may borrow titles instantly without waiting. However, each "checkout" is charged against the library's account. Therefore, a monthly limit must be placed on each patron to control costs.

The **website re-design** is well underway. Query Creative, a Hudson Valley graphic design company, was selected to create a site in Wordpress that will focus more on our programming and digital content.

Staff and Volunteers:

New part-time Children's Librarian I Jennifer Embry started on March 30.

Amy Chesman and Amina Chaudhri represented the Library at **Advocacy Day** in Albany on March 1.

Programs:

Five full interviews of African American county residents were added to the digital collection on the Hudson River Valley Heritage website (hrvh.org). The interviewees were Lottie Swann Crawford, Gertha Eubanks, Florine Lee Hamilton, Mary Harris, and Judge Joseph Thaxton. They will be featured in a ***Share Listen Learn*** program in the future.

Children’s Services purchased ***LittleBits electronic components and Arduino coding sets*** for use in future children’s programming.

A new teen program of the ***Dungeons & Dragons*** fantasy role-playing game is off to a solid start.

Building and Facilities:

Chuck Conklin, Supervisor of Delivery at RCLS, came by to appraise and discuss the feasibility of ***book delivery*** through the exterior Technical Services door instead of the front entrance. He recommended automating the door operation; an electrician will be consulted to obtain a quote.

The Library had a ***delayed opening*** on Friday, March 10, due to inclement weather. A snowstorm ***closed the Library*** on Tuesday, March 14. Parking lot conditions (insufficient plowing and icing) determined the closing of the Library on the following day as well.

Stephen Hofer, Fiscal Officer for RCLS, met with the board for an informational session on ***building renovation*** and financing capital projects.

A font was selected and production started on the initial twenty pavers purchased for the ***patio project***. The first choice of font created problems with breakage due to the porous nature of the pavers. Installation will be ready for the Memorial Day weekend ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 21.

Technology:

The ***eight laptops*** used for computer instruction were replaced after a five-year run. They could no longer hold a charge even after battery replacement.

Miscellaneous:

A **teak bench** was purchased with the funds from donations in memory of a favorite patron, Audrey Kirschenbaum. It will be installed in front by the flagpole.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Silver, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
April 11, 2017

MS/kc