

COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

March-April 2012

April 18, 2012

Library Budget Update: The County as a whole is anticipating a deficit exceeding \$8 million. This has meant a preliminary County adjustment of the once anticipated annual \$314,000 in VLF in-lieu funding. The Library has a couple of options that we will explore with the County Administrator and later with the Board of Supervisors, none involving a reduction of hours at this time. This adjustment may mean a delay in our plans to establish a restricted account for unfunded liabilities, and strategic plan implementation efforts but will most certainly reduce our fund balance to dangerously low levels. The greatest continued stressor at this time is the considerable depletion of General Fund support impacting both the County Librarian position and support of County Archives.

The Library coordinated FY 12-13 Budget priorities with the County's Strategic Planning process. These efforts also reflect the timely release of preliminary recommendations regarding the Library's Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan:

The March 19 all staff conversation and the subsequent Community Conversation brought together many voices, with close to 110 community members participating. More than 300 online and printed surveys, more than 30 mission and vision documents from Yolo County organizations, and key informant interviews resulted in recommended priorities in the following areas:

Chamber of Services – the Library is a natural convener of potential partners and service providers. In our enhanced role, the Library would facilitate strategic and solution building communications to work collaboratively to fill service gaps, share services and build community strengths. Board member Don Saylor is eager to champion this effort.

Workforce Development – this was a key community priority and a natural fit for the Library, with a deep set of print, virtual and technical resources. The Library can provide key steps to ensuring success for individuals seeking to apply for jobs online, using a wide range of tools, including financial literacy and career and job preparation.

Learning and Personalized Development – the Library has rich partnerships with the schools and First 5 Yolo and a number of county organizations dedicated to the literacy and school readiness of our children in and out of school. This priority would include reading appreciation, school readiness, adult literacy, and individualized learning from a philosophy of inclusion. A secondary

focus within this effort is Community Memory, collection of that which is uniquely Yolo, focusing on access, promotion and preservation.

The Library will coordinate the Strategic Planning process with the County's efforts. Findings will also be coordinated with the release of a major publicity document focusing on the past three years of library activities. The Library is also responsible for coordinating the tactical planning for the County goal: Collaboration to maximize success.

LSTA Funding – Officially, the Maintenance of Effort cannot be met by the State of California, but we believe that alternatives are in place to alleviate some of the federal funding pressures.

211 Services: Call increases are steady. Phantom calls are now being reported. The migration to iCarol proceeds and is anticipated in May. An outreach in the community of Guinda resulted in a 20% call volume from African American members. About 20% of all callers identify themselves as Spanish speakers. 211 Outreach Coordinator Adelita Serena continues to engage in a targeted promotion to all County departments, regular kiosk service at DESS waiting areas, senior service agencies, YoloBus and UniTrans bus ads and much more.

HR Update - We are saddened to report that Rocio Haro (Librarian/AFT) will be leaving us in mid May for personal reasons. This position will be filled immediately.

Library Associate – two positions (AFT – circulation and Technical Services-acquisition) currently in selection process.

Archives and Records Center Coordinator: Analu Josephides has been hired effective March 12. He brings many talents, most notably his work with indigenous populations, genealogy research and historical documents, and research.

Technical Services/Cataloging: Hualing Wan has been hired effective March 19. Most recently from Zanes Public Library in Ohio, Hualing brings 12 years of technical service experience, a strong background in Chinese language and culture and experience as an instructor.

Stephens DeWall development fund – County Librarian emerita Mary Stephens DeWall has established a staff development fund to be used for an annual event or series of events focusing on ways to engage all staff in fun and teambuilding activities. A staff team will be called to create a spending plan and develop the activities annually.

LAB Board Development – the County Librarian encourages the Library Advisory Board to establish a small task force to engage in a board development process that will dovetail with the Strategic Planning process.

Yolo County Library in the News

- County Librarian Patty Wong was named 2012 ALA Equality Award winner for her work towards inclusion of all people. She was also named 2012 Outstanding Lecturer for SJSU SLIS. Staff contact: Patty Wong
- Channel 13 interviewed Laura Smith (Library Assistant/AFT) for Read Off Your Fines and highlighted the reading of two West Sacramento children.
- You are invited to join the Yolo County Library's Facebook page. Learn more about your favorite authors and find out about free, family-friendly events. Go to Facebook and search for "yolocountylibrary.org". Staff contact: Elizabeth Gray