<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Children’s books and magazines</td>
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<td></td>
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Newsletter links for September:

Adults – [https://conta.cc/31HfyNj](https://conta.cc/31HfyNj)
Teens – [https://conta.cc/31OPH6i](https://conta.cc/31OPH6i)
Children’s – [https://conta.cc/31vFNX8](https://conta.cc/31vFNX8)
Friends of the Library - [https://conta.cc/31M7b36](https://conta.cc/31M7b36)
Johnson Public Library Summer Reading 2019

Children’s Summer Reading – Mari Zigas
Total number of sign ups: 203
Total number of active participants/completers: 106
Total number of programs: 74
Total number of attendees: 1,582

Highlight: 85 out of the 106 completers of the Summer Reading Club attended our party, which is the highest attendance we have had in the eight years I’ve been here.

Teen Summer Reading – Keri Adams
Total number of sign ups: 111
Total number of active participants: 85
Total number of completers: 41
Total number of programs: 23
Total number of attendees: 450

Highlight: The teens who attended were super loyal this year. 64 students attended more than one program, 32 attended 5 or more, and 19 attended ten or more programs! Also, nearly half of the teens who participated turned in reading logs which is unprecedented.

Adult Summer Reading – Cathy Folk-Pushee
200 books read
19 active participants
Michelle Mulkeen-raffle winner
ADULT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Reports by Cathy Folk-Pushee unless otherwise mentioned

Acting for Beginners Workshop, June 3, 10, 17, 24
This is the second time Teddy Coluca and Tony Lombardi have run this workshop, though it was a shortened version this time. It was a fun program. Participants enjoyed its uniqueness and that they could participate in an acting workshop without having to go into New York City. Everyone received at least one monologue to memorize (mostly) and perform for family and friends on the last day. It was amazing to see how much everyone had improved from the first day to the last. Most participants said they were excited to come to the longer workshop beginning in September.

Summer Concert Series, Barbie Tatum Soul Fusion, June 8
Kate Cannarozzi covered this concert for me and she said it was a great experience—the band was excellent, people were dancing and all around having a good time. People were even coming out of nearby stores to enjoy the music.

Hackensack Creates...Paint with Bob Ross, June 12
I was a little intimidated at the thought of putting this program on but it went very well. Everyone’s paintings were unique as Bob Ross always makes clear that you can put your happy little tree wherever you want! Cleanup was somewhat difficult as the paint was oil based. People enjoyed it so much that I would definitely run the program again next year.
Cookbook Club, June 17th- Report by Gladys Cepeda
This month’s selection was Shaya: An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel by Shaya, Alon. We were all a little intrigued by this month’s cookbook; unlike our other cookbooks this one was served as a biography/cookbook. Overall we were dissatisfied with the cookbook; we felt the recipes were unnecessarily long, and some of the measurements were off as well. The meeting was attended by 8 patrons (myself included). We relished such dishes as Hummus (shortcut), Avocado Toast w/ smoked Whitefish, Israeli Salad, Roasted Beets w/ Tahini, Israeli Couscous w/ Summer Vegetables and Caramelized tomato, Mom’s Leek Patties, Roasted Chicken w/ Harissa, Curried Sweet Potato and Leek Pie, Chocolate Espresso cookies, Stewed Strawberries w/ Vanilla Ice Cream, and last but not least Cherry and Pistachio Cookies.

Next months selection is Simple Thai food: classic recipes from the Thai home kitchen by Leela Punyaratabandhu. We’ll be meeting Monday July 15th at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

Back School, June 18
There was low turnout for this program which included someone who came all the way from Brooklyn. Unfortunately, he was looking for someone to diagnose a problem he was having. The speaker was very good about making it clear he could not do that without a full workup. The speaker also gave plenty of great advice on how to prevent back problems and help clear up any minor current issues.

Open Mic Night Featuring The Sketchprovisers, June 27
Many of our usual performers came back this month since the weather was much better than last month. We had a couple new people as well. The Sketchprovisers reading of Shakespearean Back to the Future was fairly funny and certainly not something you see every day.

Salsa Line Dance, July 8th
This was such a fun class! Donay made everyone feel very comfortable and confident enough that no one held back as we learned six different salsa steps and combined them into a whole routine.

Navesink Brass Outdoor Concert, July 13
It was a hot steamy day for this concert. We ended up moving the band from the patio to under the tree on the Camden Street side of the lawn where at least it was shady. I kept the band well supplied with cold water and they handled everything with humor and professionalism. They proceeded to play a great lineup of songs, including some such as Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody and a medley from West Side Story which were reworked for a brass ensemble. Paul Eschelbach, the band leader provided interesting and humorous commentary throughout.
Hackensack Creates...Bath Bombs, July 15
Bath bombs have been a huge hit whenever we have done them and this program was not an exception. Even though I had a video playing and books to look through the participants were so excited about getting their hands on the bath bomb ingredients that the two stations I had set up quickly became too crowded. In hindsight I will set up more stations and, possibly, have people count off and come up in small groups.

Cookbook Club, July 15th- Report by Gladys Cepeda
This month’s selection was Simple Thai food: classic recipes from the Thai home kitchen by Leela Punyaratabandhu. We were all intrigued to try the book out, as it turned out, most of us had never had let alone made Thai food. The cookbook was well laid out and the recipes were not overly complicated to make. The main concern was whether or not we would be able to find the specific ingredients and were pleasantly surprised by the ease in which we found them. The meeting was attended by 6 patrons (myself included). We noshed on Glass Noodle Salad, Broiled Eggplant Salad with Shrimp, Chicken-Cashew Stir-fry, Fried Rice (not in book), Stuffed Egg Crepes, Fish cakes with Cucumber-peanut relish, Fish in red curry sauce, Bananas in sweet coconut cream, Mango & sweet coconut sticky rice, and Toasted-coconut meringue cookies.

Next month's selection is The steamy kitchen cookbook: 101 Asian recipes simple enough for tonight's dinner by Jaden Hai. We'll be meeting Monday August 12th at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

Open Mic Night Featuring Flavian, July 25
We had a slightly smaller crowd than I had hoped for this Open Mic Night. Signups for the open mic part of the night have been down as well so the featured performer went on a little early. Flavian, however, put on a great performance. He isn’t flashy and doesn’t try to be a Vegas-style performer, but his inviting demeanor and brain-stumping feats of mind reading had the audience laughing along with oohing and aahing.

Cookbook Club, August 12th- Report by Gladys Cepeda
This month’s selection was The steamy kitchen cookbook: 101 Asian recipes simple enough for tonight's dinner by Jaden Hai. We were all looking forward to trying the cookbook as we all enjoy asian food. The cookbook was filled with pictures and so easy to read; ingredients were easy to find as well. We dined on Coconut Rice, Sweet and Sour Pineapple (Lychee) Meatballs, Chicken Skewers with Honey and Turmeric, Garlic Butter Noodles, Baked Crispy Chicken with Citrus Teriyaki Sauce (two people brought the same dish), Tropical fruit salsa, Chinese Sausage with Rice and Sweet Soy Sauce, Crisp Fuji Apple and Crab Salad, Sweet and Sour Chicken.
Next month's selection is *Cook like a pro* by Ina Garten. We’ll be meeting Monday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

**Individual Assistance**

**Computer Skills, Job Search, and Inspect Your Gadget:**

*Genesis Jais, Catherine Folk-Pushee, Laurie Meeske*

**Total Attendance for June: 30**

Cathy-8-Resume/Cover Letter, 5-Excel, 4-Word, 2-Job Search, 4-Basic, 7-Business plans, airline tickets online, google slides, updating personal website

Highlight: I gave two classes in Excel to a woman this month who wanted to brush up on her skills so she could be a more desirable job candidate. She called me toward the end of the month to say she got a job! She will be working full-time at a job in her field starting the second week in July.

**Total Attendance for July: 26**

Excel=6, PowerPoint=2, Word=6, job search=3, basics=1, email=3, other=5 (Google Drive, finding legal forms online, computer maintenance, Meetup, Facebook)

Highlight: This month a particularly interesting session involved a gentleman whose goal was to find real estate investors for a vacation rental property he is planning on building in the Dominican Republic. I introduced him to Meetup as a potential source for finding and communicating with the people he needed to get his business off the ground. It turns out there were quite a few appropriate groups to be found on Meetup and he called later in the month to let me know that he had already attended a couple of events that yielded some potential interest in his project.

**Total Attendance for August: 20**

**English Conversation, Computer Assistance in Spanish and English, and Bilingual Outreach**

*Michelle Ferreira, Bilingual Library Associate*

**June:**

**Spanish Computer class - 8 people**

2 people needed help filling out their application for college. Both of them did not know that they could apply undecided.

3 people needed help with their resume. One needed help with their resume starting from scratch.

3 people are coming in for computer classes. One person brings in his computer. The other two practice with the library computer. All three people want to learn how to navigate the internet

**Citizenship mock interview - 6 people total**

2 of those people passed their citizenship interview

Other people 4 people are practicing for their upcoming interview.
Highlight: Two people from the ESL class came to me this month asking if I knew anyone who was hiring. I told them that there are many places around here that are looking for people. I recommended that they go local businesses. They both got hired and are now training for their new job.

July:

Spanish Computer class - 9 people
English Computer class - 1 person
Citizenship mock interview – 4

August:

Resume Building - 2 people
Navigate the internet, create an email and get familiar with personal computer - 3 people
Assist filling out a disability form online. – 1 person
Citizenship Mock Interviews - 7 people

Highlight: Two people passed the citizenship test. Both had been coming to citizenship class and one on ones. Five people have the interviews coming next month.

Young Adult Highlights
Keri Adams, YA Librarian, Head of Periodicals

June:
Young Adult Attendance: 8
Outreach to Schools: 900

YA Books for Adult Readers Book Club: 6/1/19 - Stay Sweet by Siobhan Vivian - 9

The focus of June was getting ready for summer reading. Over three days I visited Hackensack Middle School and gave 27(!) presentations on our summer reading program to the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The newly designed brochure that Liz and I created was a big hit. The teens seemed most
excited about Smash Bros., Anime Fanclub and the Bowling Trip. As of the end of June, we have more than 60 teens registered, a number of whom I know from previous summers, Teen Tuesday events and Booktalks. We always get a large number of sign ups in the first week or two of the program as well, so we are expecting a large turnout this year.

We also had our volunteer training which only attracted 4 students this year. We fortunately structured our program this year in a way that does not expressly require the typical number we usually have (12-15), but we will make changes to the application process next year in the hope of attracting more students.

July:
Young Adult Attendance: 274
This year’s Teen Summer Reading Program has been a huge hit! We have 103 students registered and 74 different students have attended at least one program. They have definitely enjoyed themselves as 56 students have returned for more - on average, they have attended between 3-4 programs and some have even attended 10 or 12. We knew we were in for a big summer when 39 teenagers showed up just to play UNO!

Other highlights:
- Three Marvel Themed Escape Room sessions where each team managed to break out!
- A new event, YA Game Show, where teams had to dig for answers to trivia questions, play Name That Tune, and come up with the best Family Feud answers.
- A Robot Coding workshop facilitated by Fairleigh Dickinson student, Gabriel Bernal
- A Booktalk event and Skype visit with author Lamar Giles, where students checked out 71 books (of 92 available!)

August:
Young Adult Attendance: 176
The teen summer reading program ended as strong as it began. We had 111 students registered and 85 who participated. The teens who attended really enjoyed the program and kept coming back: 64 students attend more than one event, 32 attended five or more, and 19 students attended ten or more events. Our total attendance over 23 events was 450.

Some highlights were Yoga/Spa Day where we made bath bombs and learned some yoga moves from instructor (and librarian) Danielle Fisher, Anime Fanclub where we watched a few anime shows while eating Japanese snack food, and of course, our end of summer Laser Tag party where 38 teens attended and had a great time playing laser tag in addition to eating pizza, winning prizes and getting books to take home. We had such a large group for Laser Tag because nearly half of the participants returned reading logs this year, reading 295 books. The end of summer surveys were uniformly positive, with Free for All Fridays, the Escape Room and UNO Tournament listed as the favorite events. 37 of the teens surveyed said that they would participate in the program again next year if they were available.

Children’s Program Highlights
Mari Zigas, Children’s Librarian
June:

While we didn’t run any programs until the end of the month in preparation for the summer, we were able to visit all four elementary schools in Hackensack as well as the middle school and do Summer Reading presentations. Altogether Gladys Cepeda, Gavin Godbolt and I spoke to over 1,600 kids!

The response was overwhelmingly positive and we had more than 300 people come to our Star Wars-themed Summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party on June 25th! More than 100 kids registered for the club that day, while we offered snacks, crafts and lightsaber practice. Laptops were also available for parents to register for other summer programs. It was our first ever kick-off party but definitely not the last.
July:
July flew by! This month was probably one of the busiest we’ve had in years. With over 60 programs held, attendance hit a new record! Kids were registering for the Summer Reading Club every day and our circulation skyrocketed from last month.

Along with weekly programs, we brought back two annual favorites: **JPL After Dark** (hide and seek, snacks and a movie - simple but loved) and **Field Day** (friendly competition between red and blue teams - never gets old).

We offered three story times every week: **Tiny Tots Story Time**, **Bilingual Story Time** and **Starry Night Story Time** (our first ever evening one). We started to get new “regulars” at all three and I can’t wait to see how much attendance goes up in the fall.
All of our music programs were heavily attended: **Mommy & Me Music** (with the talented Dina Bolan), **Rhythm & Rhyme** (our regular baby music class) and **Music & Movement** (wildly popular toddler dance class). The main and wait lists for every session was always full, reaching capacity every week.

We also had weekly craft programs for all age groups, yoga, movies, legos, video games, and of course our two therapy dogs, Rodney and Baby Ruth. Needless to say, it was a great month.

**August:**

This summer we began our programs at the end of June so we ended earlier than usual in August, but attendance was still high with record-breaking numbers at the Summer Reading Club Party.

Over 200 kids signed up for the Summer Reading Club, and over half of them completed it (read at least 10 books). Out of those 106 completers, 85 showed up to the party which is the highest attendance we’ve had since I’ve been here. The kids brought their parents, grandparents and siblings - it was definitely a party in the auditorium. Turtle Dance Music performed their “Space! The Cosmos for Kids” show, which is a techno-space dance party. It was a great sensory experience and we didn’t stop getting compliments from the parents afterwards.

We ran a total of 74 programs this summer, with 1,582 attendees.
June:

Twitter:
6,507 impressions
340 profile visits
8 tweets
5 mentions
12 new follower

Facebook:
7,130 people reached (+2,482)
1,163 post engagement (+662)
365 page views
13 page likes
13 page followers
29 page previews
4,270 video views (fine-free video was a hit! Really added to our numbers)

Instagram:
@johnsonpubliclibrary
331 followers (+7 followers)
636 accounts reached (+2)
1,398 impressions (+248)

@jplteens (fairly new account)
122 followers (+1)
158 accounts reached (+20)
229 impressions

July:

Twitter:
7,129 impressions
355 profile visits
7 tweets
1 mentions
5 new follower

Facebook:
2,288 people reached
246 post engagement
496 page views
16 page likes
16 page followers
13 page previews

**Instagram:**
@johnsonpubliclibrary  
341 followers  
293 accounts reached  
740 impressions

@jplteens  
124 followers  
236 accounts reached  
481 impressions

**August:**

**Twitter:**
3,232 impressions  
27 profile visits  
1 tweets  
5 mentions  
4 new follower

**Facebook:**
1,749 people reached  
206 post engagement  
271 page views  
11 page likes  
12 page followers  
8 page previews  
43 video views

**Instagram:**
@johnsonpubliclibrary  
350 followers  
18 accounts reached  
87 impressions

@jplteens (fairly new account)  
123 followers  
1 accounts reached  
2 impressions
Outreach and Public Relations
Outreach and Public Relations Librarian, Laurie Meeske

PR & Marketing

PR

- **JPL Goes Fine-Free**
  - We sent out a special fine-free press release - many thanks to Gen for helping with the final edits!
  - Gen, Liz, and I also worked on additional PR materials to help promote the change - including a FAQ page on the website, TV graphic, banner, etc. Gen and Liz put together a special video featuring Tara that was featured on our social media.
  - An article was posted on Northjersey.com and the Record about JPL going fine-free: https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/local/2019/06/28/more-nj-libraries-eliminating-fines-overdue-books/1563118001/
- An article was posted on Tapinto about Open Mic Night (Shakespearean Back to the Future): https://www.tapinto.net/towns/fair-lawn-slash-glen-rock/articles/a-shakespearean-back-to-the-future-at-johnson-public-library-3
- An article was posted on Tapinto about the City’s and Library’s Summer Concert Series: https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hackensack/articles/city-library-presenting-free-concerts-this-summer
- Several articles were posted on Tapinto about changes to BCCLS’ fee structure:
  - https://www.tapinto.net/towns/soma/articles/a-funding-dispute-turns-eyes-towards-bclls-7
- An article was posted on Tapinto about JPL going fine-free: https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hackensack/articles/late-book-no-problem-hackensack-library-nixes-overdue-fines
- JPL was featured on News12 for going fine-free: http://newjersey.news12.com/clip/14854994/hackensack-library-waives-fines-for-overdue-items-like-books-movies

Marketing Updates

- **New Hours Signs**: New hours signs were posted to both library entrances. Many thanks to Liz for designing the new signs!
Outreach & Sponsorship

Donations to Ciarco Center

- We donated 8 boxes of test books to the Ciarco Center, which will use the books in their special programs to support inmates at the jail.

Library Tour with Class from BCC’s Ciarco Center - 6/4

- A class from the Ciarco Center came to the library for a tour. I showed them around the library and explained our services. There were 22 participants.

Community Garden Ribbon Cutting - 6/27

- I arranged with Rose Frontignano to have a library table at the Community Garden Ribbon Cutting event to celebrate the opening of the new gardening space at Johnson Park - you can learn more about the garden here: https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hasbrouck-heights-slash-wood-ridge-slash-teterboro/articles/ribbon-cutting-ceremony-planned-at-hackensack-s-new-community-garden-2
- At the event, the Mayor and other dignitaries spoke about and celebrated the community gardening initiative, and several of them visited the library table.
- I distributed information about library services and events, and attendees checked out library books about gardening.

Movie Under the Stars - Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse - 6/27

- I set up a library table with a simple spiderman paper plate mask craft for the HACPAC’s showing of Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. This ended up working out very well. The start of the movie was delayed because it took longer than expected to get dark enough to use the outdoor movie screen. The folks from the HACPAC announced the delay, and directed patrons to the library table for crafts. Kids, teens, and adults seemed to enjoy making spider-person masks, and the HACPAC staff were very appreciative to have us there and help fill the delay before the movie started.
- Approximately 123 people participated.
4th of July Celebration - 7/4

- For the 2nd year, the library had a table at the city’s 4th of July celebration at Foschini Park. We handed out information on our services, summer reading, and upcoming events, and we had a simple streamer cup craft that kids, teens, and adults could make. We spoke with a lot of people - and even more saw us and were excited that the library was there.
- Many thanks to Tony, Gavin, and Lourdes for all of their help! Tony helped with setup and clean-up, and also made the library available for breaks. Gavin and I worked the table all day, and Lourdes joined us in the evening. Everyone was very energetic and enthusiastic - it was a fabulous team effort!
- Total Visitors: 523
  - Adults: 292
  - Kids: 202
  - Teens: 29
  - Newsletter sign-ups: 29
Sunset Yoga - 7/8

- I set up a library table at the Atlantic Street Park for the HACPAC’s yoga event. There, I distributed information about upcoming events, made library cards, and circulated materials relating to yoga, stress relief, and mindfulness.
- Participants: 19
- Checkouts: 6
- New cards: 2
- Newsletter sign-ups: 5

Meeting with FDU’s Anita Rivers & Jason Young - 7/23

- I met with Anita Rivers and Jason Young of FDU to discuss how we may be able to collaborate on future initiatives.
- They expressed an interest in community service opportunities for FDU student athletes, the possibility of future partnered programs supported by FDU teachers and staff, and potential sponsorship opportunities.
- We plan to continue exploring the possibilities and building a partnership. I will be speaking with Keri and Mari about possible community service events.

Library Awareness Day @ BCC’s Ciarco Center - 7/24

- I staffed a table at the Ciarco Center; classes visited and I promoted library services, registered eligible students for library cards, and helped students install the Rosetta Stone app (a language-learning tool) on their devices.
- Spoke to: 56
- Newsletter: 8

Movie Under the Stars - The Incredibles 2 - 7/25

- I set up a library table with a simple “Incredibles” craft stick activity for the HACPAC’s showing of The Incredibles 2.
- Spoke to: 39

Sunset Yoga - 8/5
- I set up a library table at the Atlantic Street Park for the HACPAC’s yoga event. There, I distributed information about upcoming events, made library cards, and circulated materials relating to yoga, stress relief, and mindfulness.
- Spoke to: 10
- Newsletter: 1
- Checkouts: 2

National Night Out - 8/6

- Mari and I staffed a library table at this year’s Night Out, where we handed out free kids’ books, made library cards, and distributed information on library events. Due to poor weather, the event was moved inside the HACPAC instead of being held outside. Attendance was a little lower than usual, likely due to the weather and venue change, but we still spoke with a lot of people!
- Total Visitors: 135
  - Adults: 96
  - Teens: 9
  - Children: 30
- New cards: 3
- Newsletter sign-ups: 10

Movie Under the Stars - Infinity War - 8/29

- I set up a library table with an infinity gauntlet craft for the HACPAC’s showing of Infinity War.
- Total participants: 42
- Newsletter signups: 2

Friends Update

- The Friends website had a soft launch, and the Friends are looking into holding a Book Sale in the fall or spring.
- Their website is up and running and they are planning a kickoff event for families at the library on Sunday, October 6th from 2-4pm.
- An initial email on the Friends was sent out to the library’s mailing list on August 20th, and the Friends have started receiving memberships.
- The Friends also heard from the IRS that their 501(c)(3) application has been accepted!
- The kickoff event scheduled for Sunday, October 6th has been postponed.
• The next Friends meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, at 9:15am.

**Programs & Events**

**Adult Summer Reading**

• The Adult Summer Reading program started on June 25th. In the first week, 18 books have already been logged using the online form. Paper forms have also been distributed, and will be returned by August 16th.
• Over the course of the program, adults read 200 books.

**Miscellaneous**

**Intern from BCC**

• Kim Brunswick has continued to volunteer at the library by assisting with our government documents project.

**Government Documents**

• The large project to weed the government documents section continues. In June, 144 items were submitted for removal, for a total of 580 items submitted. To date, 9 items have been processed by the regional depository in Newark and approved for removal. The remaining materials have not been disallowed, but are still awaiting approval.
• In July, 100 items were submitted for removal, for a total of 678 items submitted. To date, 149 items have been processed by the regional depository in Newark and approved for removal. The remaining materials have not been disallowed, but are still awaiting approval.
• In August, 45 items were submitted for removal, for a total of 723 items submitted. To date, approximately 463 items have been processed by the regional depository in Newark and approved for removal, either by discarding or by relocating them at the regional depository in Newark. The remaining materials have not been disallowed, but are still awaiting approval.

**Closet Cleanout - 6/11**

• On June 11th, we worked to clean out the two auditorium closets. This was a large project, and we were able to get rid of a lot of garbage. Thanks to everyone for helping out, and to Pete and Tony for disposing of the garbage.

**Room Reservations**
There were 16 room reservations involving outside organizations in June.
There were 7 room reservations involving outside organizations in July.
There were 13 room reservations involving outside organizations in August.

Professional Development

Employee Name: Elisabet Kennedy
Continuing Education
Activity: The American Library Association Conference
Sponsor: The American Library Association
Date of Participation: June 22 - 24
Length of Activity: 3 days

Attended:
  • Gained valuable information regarding the importance of maintaining and updating a selection policy. Learned about how to de-escalate possible problem patron situations
  • Learned about ways to find Fake News from the Newseum in Washington DC. This program shared insight on how to analyse social media articles, how to address questions from the public having to do with news related questions and how to create programming to encourage digital citizenship.
  • We created short DIY videos using Giphy and other useful apps.
  • BookMatch Teen was focused on YA reader’s advisory.

Sunday -> “Shaping School Library Instruction and Collections to Inspire Engagement”, Censorship Beyond Books”. “PHR Book Buzz Presentation”, “Beyond Our Walls”
  • Learned about how to use collections to create useful instruction. Tips and tricks to inspire engagement.
  • Censorship Beyond Books was a fascinating look into the importance of policy and being cognizant of the changing landscape of social justice. We learned about patron complaints of displays, programs, and social media resources and how to de-escalate the “problems”. Also, how to market and prepare for large crowds and possible mixed emotions.
  • PHR Book Buzz was a book talk with a preview of future publications.
  • In the final session, I learned about how to form relationships with coworkers and administration.

Employee Name: Genesis Jais
Continuing Education
Activity: American Library Association Conference
Sponsor: The American Library Association
Date of Participation: June 22 - 24
Length of Activity: 3 days

One of the most interesting sessions I attended at ALA was “Building Digital Communities Inside and Outside the Library.” It focused on learning and integrating technology effectively for both the public and the staff.
They focused on 3 main points:
- Understanding staff skills and building a baseline of competency so everyone can help patrons to a certain degree.
- Establishing connections outside the library.
- Be forward thinking with technology - create a technology strategic plan to actively address changing community needs.

**Understanding staff skills and building a baseline of competency so everyone can help patrons to a certain degree**

One of the presenters, Brian Hart of the Greensboro Public Library, stressed that staff need to feel comfortable doing their jobs as technology changes and advances. At their library, they also believed that staff should have a baseline knowledge to be able to provide some guidance to patrons. They created their own “GPL University” where the staff could learn about different technology. It also served as their onboarding tool for new staff. Before going to ALA, I have actually started to work on a JPL intranet - one resource staff could search for any information they may need along with the tutorials I’ve made throughout the years. It was heartening to know that I am on the right track already when it comes to putting in place some recommendations discussed at ALA.

As library staff, we know that there are certain people hired for certain jobs, and some that have more experience in certain things, but when patrons walk through the door, they assume that everyone working in the library is a librarian and thus should be able to help them. Mr. Hart explained that they knew not all staff would or should be considered experts. With that in mind, they reframed how the staff saw tech help and tech skills. Staff were encouraged to see and call themselves “Tech Navigators,” not only to boost their sense of security in their technology skills, but also to inherently explain to patrons that staff may be able to help, but are not experts. Having a staff what is comfortable handling different technologies is one of the first things that needs to happen in order to tackle, in earnest, building a digital community.

**Establishing connections outside the library**

Part of building this community means going out into the community and creating partnerships for digital inclusion. One of the partnerships discussed was between the library and the Parks & Recreation Dept of Greensboro. The library was able get a spaced carved out in one of the city parts to have ongoing technology programming - a makerspace/technology discovery program. This was encouraging to me because I have been wanting to host my Inspect Your Gadget Class at the senior centers. Most of the patrons that come in for help are older, and when they make the journey, they often lament about how much of a struggle it was for them to come in and find parking. If we are able to provide the service to the community where they are, we will continue to grow and strengthen our connections with the community. I may be able to work towards something like this when I have a bit more free time.

**Be forward thinking with technology - create a technology strategic plan to actively address changing community needs**

Before any of these or other plans can happen, I would also need to develop an IT Plan or Technology Strategic Plan to establish where we are, and actively and effectively plan where we want to go. Perhaps the best thing I got out of this session was an introduction to the Urban Libraries Council Edge Toolkit and Benchmarks. These are measurable, strategic goals for digital inclusion. They help libraries “engage government and local leaders in meaningful conversations about 21st-century community needs. Edge helps public libraries establish a baseline for continuous improvement and greater community impact.” One of the other speakers was from the Toronto Public Library (which I personally consider to be one of the most impressive library systems in North America). She explained how the library has been part of many Toronto initiatives because they have a track record of incredible work toward education and technology. By creating and managing their technology plan effectively, they were able to establish that track record. While Hackensack is trying to revitalize the downtown with a huge push for the arts, the library is still the only place members of the community can seek for technology help and exploration for free. We must take advantage of that position and create a robust technology plan and offerings so we can fully serve the community as it, and it’s technology needs, continues to grow.
Some of the other notable sessions I attended included: An Introduction to Implicit Bias and Microaggressions, Creating Short DIY Instructional Videos, Escaping Junk News, The Emerging Technology Showcase.

**Employee Name:** Tara Franzetti  
**Continuing Education Activity:** American Library Association Annual Conference  
**Sponsor:** The American Library Association  
**Date of Participation:** 6/21/19-6/24/19  
**Length of Activity:** 4 days

I was fortunate to be in attendance at the pre-conference and full conference this year.

I attended the following sessions:

Friday –

Saturday – Pitfalls of Neutrality: What Does Inclusivity Mean in Libraries; Sticky Selection Situations: Using Policy to Answer Your Collection and Reconsideration Questions; A Hard Look in the Mirror: Reflecting on the Role of Librarian; Diversity, Equity and Justice Talks: In and Beyond the Library; How Everyday Relationships Build Support and Help Libraries Transform; Library Confidentiality: Your Privacy is Our Business; Changing The Service Culture of Your Library

Sunday – Censorship Beyond Books; Not a Kid Anymore: How and Why to Serve Adults with Disabilities in the Adult Department; Privacy by Design; Going Deskless; Everyone Has a Story: How to Listen Deeply and Tell Stories in Your Community

Monday – I attended the final keynote and a few roundtable sessions.

**Staffing Updates**

We have hired four new staff members: A FT reference librarian to fill the vacancy left by Elisabet Kennedy, and PT assistants/associates in Children’s, Reference and Teen/periodicals.

I received a notification from Civil Service that my application served as my test, and that I have therefore passed and am #1 on the list. According to our Civil Service representative, I simply need to wait for the position to be certified - there isn’t anything left for me to do on the library’s end.

**ALA Conference**

Genesis Jais, Elisabet Kennedy and I attended the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in Washington, DC. Please see our Professional Development reports for details.

**BCCLS, Freeholders and State Library Update**

BCCLS’ delivery has survived summer and worked through the backlog, which was significant for a while as it is the busiest time of year and there were kinks to work out of the new system (as there would be with any new system!). Delivery is smoother than ever before and patrons can receive their requested items in as little as one business day!

At the last System Council meeting, the membership voted on how the grant money that BCCLS receives for Bergen County libraries from the Bergen County Freeholders would be divvied up.
Previously, the money was distributed based on how many items a library sends out to other locations via inter-library library, and whether the library is a “net lender” or “net borrower”. JPL has never been a net lender and therefore never received any funds. The membership voted to divide the funds using a different formula and we will now be receiving just over two thousand dollars during the next fiscal year.

The most recent update from the State Library on the Bond Act: “The State Library anticipates grant applications being due early in calendar year 2020. Applications will be reviewed by a committee who will make recommendations to the State Librarian. Once the State Librarian has finalized the slate, it will be submitted first to the University President for approval, and then to the State Legislature for their action.” Laura and I have been working with the architect on the final plans and arranging for rendered drawings of a few key spaces. These will be key for a fundraising campaign.

**Building and Grounds**

The past three months have been busy with lots of projects. We had our summer concert series and the maintenance team did a great job supporting Cathy with set up and break down of each event. The carpets were shampooed on the main floor, and the lower level floors were cleaned and buffed. Our rock garden around the Main Street entrance looks fantastic and was put together with just the cost of mulch and staff time. We installed a black iron bench near the sidewalk and purchased a new garbage can and two smoker’s outposts. Various masonry repair projects took place this summer as well as some restorative work on the chimes. The bushes in front of the building were removed at no cost thanks to the DPW, the dirt area will be filled in with decorative low-maintenance river rock. All of our bed bug inspections this summer came back just fine.

I’ve been looking for a new snow plow vendor and found one that will save us hundreds of dollars with each snow removal.

We did have a power outage issue that took place on a Friday night, overnight into Saturday. Unfortunately, PSEG’s response time was very poor and we were without power until Monday morning.

I’d like the Board to consider opening the gates and making the lawn available to the public during operating hours, weather permitting and if the space isn’t being used for a library event. Laura and I have been working on this and it would require the following: some landscaping work, a couple of benches and garbage cans, a new security camera (possibly two) and a policy/set of rules for the space.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tara Franzetti*