

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT **AUGUST 2020**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

The Black Hills Library Consortium has adopted operational guidelines, intended to standardize practices among the eleven-member libraries. The Consortium includes public libraries in Custer, Deadwood, Edgemont, Hermosa, Keystone, Lead, Piedmont, Rapid City, Spearfish, Sturgis, and Wall.

NEW SERVICES:



The pop-up library, our pilot project for future bookmobile services, kicked off in the General Beadle parking lot on July 13; the service is provided on Monday mornings, but likely will change when school begins. We have also been in conversation with Timmons Market about providing the pop-up service there, also one day a week. The pop-up library is planned to continue through September, and possibly into October depending upon weather. From October through March, the pop-up library will be located in the Rushmore Mall, continuing to provide service to the North Rapid community as well as to other mall visitors.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

We are in the process of reviewing over 130 applications for Library Associate I positions. Many of the applicants have library or other relevant experience, so we are hopeful of filling these positions.

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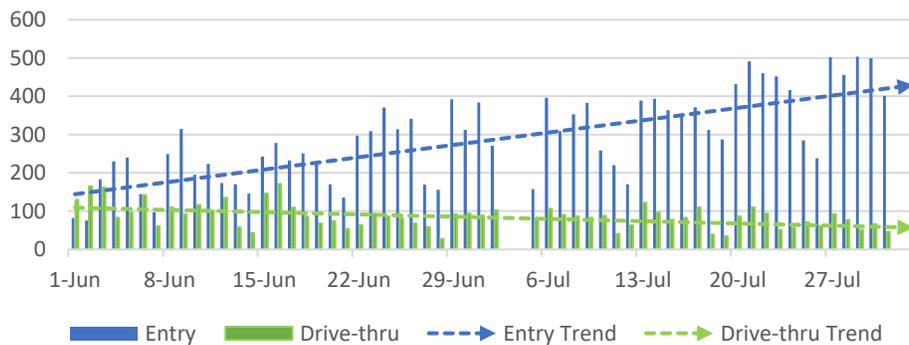
Library Associate II Dan Thomas resigned effective July 23. Dan had been commuting from Lead for the two years he'd worked here, and accepted a position at the Lead-Deadwood school district where he'd previously worked. We will miss Dan's assistance with tech troubleshooting, and have begun the process to fill his position.

The library's events have proved to be successful in a mostly virtual environment. Almost 1,000 people participated in virtual events during July; one event, an online conversation with Megan Phelps-Roper, author of the One Book South Dakota selection [Unfollow](#), had over 400 views. Over 600 children and adults have participated in summer reading so far; while this is far short of participation in a normal year, we are pleased with the response in these exceptional circumstances. And the library has distributed 650 educational STEAM and activity Take-and-Make kits to children, teens, and adults. Events Coordinator Aly Albert also secured grant funding to provide additional take and make kits to be distributed at the pop-up library in the coming months.

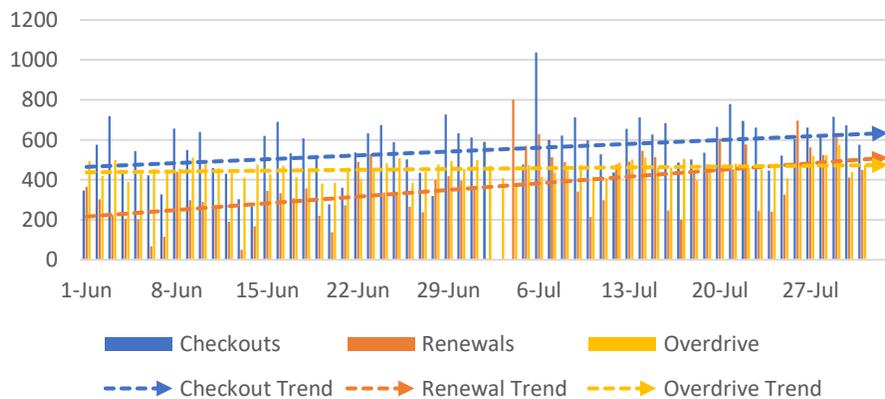
From a post on the library’s Facebook page: ‘Now that I’m (finally) back in the Black Hills I (finally) made my way back to the Rapid City Public Library to update my expired card and pay an old fine (sorry guys!) and want to say how happy I am with how much effort the RCPL has put into ensuring its patrons feel safe. Everyone is wearing masks over their mouths and noses- staff and patrons- plastic shields are placed at each service desk and social distancing indicators are clearly marked. I absolutely love spending time in libraries but have been a bit nervous to venture out. It is such a relief to know that the RCPL is taking the pandemic seriously and doing its best to ensure the public can access all of its resources as safely as possible during this time.’

COVID-related purchases made between March 1 and December 31 2020 are being tracked for possible reimbursement. The state has defined criteria regarding what items are eligible, which may include sneeze guards, hand sanitizer, gloves, thermometers, etc. It is unclear if the reimbursement would be supplemented into the library budget or into the general fund.

Entry Trends



Use Trends



MEDIA COVERAGE:

July 1, 2020: [Rapid City Journal Mention: Holiday Hours](#)

July 10, 2020: [KOTA News Coverage: Pop-up Library](#)

July 10, 2020: [KEVN News Coverage: Pop-up Library](#)

July 22, 2020: [Live KOTA Noon Show Rapid City Public Library gets into pop-up biz](#)