



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2020

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Central High School librarian Jayne Leusick contacted us regarding a possible collaboration to allow students' IDs to be used as library cards to access eBooks. This is a public and school collaboration we had looked at some time ago, but until very recently the process to do so was cumbersome. Our primary eBook vendor has now simplified the process, and we plan to initiate a pilot project with Central High School. The pilot project will help identify any issues, then we will contact Rapid City and Stevens high schools to see if they are interested in participating.

I met with Josephine Richey, librarian at Lakota Tech High School. This is a brand-new school, and therefore a brand-new library, and Josephine asked for advice in starting a library from scratch. She is very excited about the opportunity open to her, and I'm sure the students will benefit from her guidance.

NEW SERVICES:

Board games, video games, and graphic novels have been moved to the front of the library to give patrons easier access to some of our most popular collections and create an exciting visual while entering the main floor.



The children's area has been given a fresh coat of paint and new color scheme; painting in this part of the library was several years past due.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Scott Hall was promoted from Library Associate I to Library Associate II effective November 22. He will focus on cataloging, special collections and archives, and our very busy interlibrary loan service. Scott has worked with us since 2011, and we are very happy to have him in this enhanced role.

I have been holding more frequent check-in meetings with new employees. Some of the things universally mentioned by the new staff include the camaraderie and collaboration among staff, and the ease of communicating with supervisors.

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28 virtual events were held in November, with 1,709 online attendees. Two of the events celebrated Native American History Month and showcased local Lakota business owners. In-house storytimes have been cancelled indefinitely for safety reasons; however, weekly Storytime Shorts are posted on YouTube, and we continue to offer the Dial a Story service.

[Universal Class](#), a database of individualized, self-learning modules, was promoted during November through Facebook, YouTube, and Google ads as well as on the KOTA noon show. This resulted in more Universal Class use during the promotion period than in all of the prior year; there were nearly 100 class accesses a day around the Thanksgiving holiday.

Emily Morse submitted her resignation, effective December 18. Emily has been a half-time Library Associate, working both in publications and reference. We wish Emily well in her future ventures.

The Mayor has asked the library to take over a coordination role with the Early Learner initiative; this aligns well with our strategic plan. Aly and I have already been involved with this group, but will take on more defined roles. The previous coordinator will remain on board for several months to ensure a smooth transition.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

With positive reviews accruing, the library recently made it to Tripadvisor's Top 25 Things to Do in Rapid City.

KOTA-TV has renewed the library's live monthly segment through 2021; the noon show is a widely-viewed platform for promoting library services and events.

- November 25, 2020: KOTA Live Noon Show – Universal Class promotion