



**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**  
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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:**

Sam Slocum is one of the community leads for planning the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the flood. She is working closely with the Journey Museum and the Mayor's Office to plan this community-wide commemoration.

The library participated in South Dakota Parent Connection's Back to School Fair this month and shared back-to-school library resources with attendees.

After several conversations with the Hill City Library Board and Library Director, I am happy to report that they will join the Black Hills Library Consortium; they anticipate an early December go-live date.

### **NEW SERVICES:**

The [Next 5 Books web form](#) has been added to our website and will be featured on a rotating banner and available from the How Do I...? page. This form provides a way for patrons to request readers advisory assistance online and has been successful at other libraries, and staff member Laura Kroeker recommended that we implement it for our patrons.

### **STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Assistant Police Chief Scott Sitts brought a number of officers to the library to expand on last month's safety training, by developing a number of scenarios for staff to respond to. Staff feedback about this training was positive, and we plan to repeat it next year. The Police Department will provide additional staff training later this month, addressing de-escalation techniques.

Congratulations to Krista Licht on completion of her Master of Library Science degree with an emphasis in Leadership & Administration from Emporia State University.

Michelle Porter, a library science practicum student from the University of Nebraska Omaha, will work with us on projects and public service from August 30 – November 29. The purpose of this practicum is to give Michelle tangible public library experience to reinforce her coursework.

A Black Hills Works client shadowed with library staff for a two-hour shift, in order to see what it's like to work in a library. Both she and library staff enjoyed the experience.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

We are sad to lose Dakota Baker, who has accepted a position with the Forest Service. Dakota has been the team lead for the pop-up library, and her enthusiasm and creativity will be missed with our event planning. Dakota's last day will be September 15, and we have already begun seeking her replacement.

The request for up to \$300,000 from the city's unexpended cash for the bookmobile has been dropped from that funding list. We are looking at other options in conjunction with the Library Foundation's fundraising. While the pop-up library continues to be popular, it has been challenged by weather conditions throughout the summer, and a bookmobile would help to ensure more consistent mobile service.

Summer Reading ended on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Total participation numbers were:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Children	623	405	+ 54%
Teens	59	88	-33%
Adults	86	112	-23%

We held the first in-person Lunch and Learn event since the pandemic began, however we limited attendance to 30. Mary Deibert presented on climate change and gardening, and her presentation was well received. We continue to evaluate the overall pandemic situation as we look at events.

The South Dakota Festival of Books has cancelled all in-person events, and will present a virtual festival again this year. The author talk we were going to host with J. A. Jance will now be scheduled as a virtual event as well.

**MEDIA COVERAGE:**

- August 4, 2021 Early Learner South Dakota Newsletter –, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- August 10, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [City Council to consider approving 15 million for fire station expansion](#)
- August 16, 2021 SDPB Mention: [In the moment: looking forward to kindergarten and back on Sturgis](#)
- August 19, 2021 KOTA Coverage: [Sensory Development Class at Rapid City Public Library](#)
- August 25, 2021 KOTA Live Noon Show: [Back to School Resources](#)