

Hello and Happy New Year!

FSJPL started the new year with shiny, newly waxed and buffed floors! Badly needed, the waxing was completed over the holiday break by NPCC maintenance and lends a polished look to our library (pun very much intended, I apologize).

Staff have had the opportunity to review the new policy document approved at the close of the last year, and has been helpful in contributing some further fine tuning. New policies will be formally announced, published to FSJPL.ca and posted in library for patrons to view February 1st.

A workshop will be held January 27th for non-profit, social service providers and local government to gather regional input on the development of a BC Hydro Peace Region Non-Profit Community Fund. Organizations which support children and families will be eligible to apply for funding. Representing FSJPL, I will be in attendance.

Our network upgrade has begun behind the scenes and is on schedule to be concluded by the end of January. Installation was moved to 2016 as hardware needed for the project was unable to arrive prior to year end. Fortunately, I have been assured by Chris at IT North that we will not be facing downtime which would affect library operations. The upgrade will be completed on a Monday, when the library is closed to the public. Among upcoming changes: staff will now have access to Office365, email address domains will become @fsjpl.ca, and will be renamed for departments (programs@, accounting@, etc).

We received word through the media that our application to the municipality for a 5% increase in funding was denied. We will receive \$380,000, the amount FSJPL has received since 2008. The council's decision on funding for FSJPL as well as other non-profit organizations was explored by media, resulting in an article published about our stagnant support in comparison to other libraries in the province. The article was shared via social media by many library patrons and supporters, resulting in the City's mayor commenting that they were faced with the choice of maintaining or reducing their contribution to FSJPL, stating that the "city's contribution per capita is considerably higher than other funders."

FSJPL faces steep increases in costs for 2016 for many basic resources, including a 25.5% raise in the total cost of digital resources we currently offer, 10% increase in hourly IT fees, as well as the cost of a long overdue network upgrade to support the needs of the library's integrated software system, staff and public workstations.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

The One Where the Technology Cobwebs are Cleared

As of the 15th, our email has been migrated to the new Office 365 exchange server. The bulk of the network upgrade is yet to be completed but is ongoing. Many changes are occurring and along with those changes come technological wrinkles which must be smoothed out over the course of the upgrade. The staff is using the opportunity to demonstrate their dazzling resilience and adaptive skills. Despite the current hiccups, we are grateful for the chance this gives us to review various network policies, and address and improve technologic performance issues. We are excited for the end results, which include better online access to email and documents from any device with an internet connection, collaboration forums, and other improvements waiting to be discovered which we will enhance the efficiency of our work.

Our new policies manual has been posted online and staff have been busy familiarizing themselves with it. Policy Blitzes begin this month at staff meetings, wherein teams can test and increase their knowledge of our policies and procedures. Prizes and incentive tokens will be available.

A Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) is proposed for April 23rd in Chetwynd. BCLTA requires a minimum of ten trustees to move forward with the training session. TOP provides invaluable library-specific training for both new and ongoing trustees regarding their role and responsibilities as a member of the FSJPLA. NELF will provide an 80% reimbursement of the \$125 fee to member libraries for each trustee attending.

The annual BCLA Library Conference will be held May 11th – 13th in Vancouver. This year's theme is *Disrupt & Transform*. As a self-identified rebel librarian, I am thrilled with the idea of associating these two words with libraries! Sessions have yet to be posted, but keynote speakers will be [Cory Doctorow and Harsha Walia](#). Trustees may find other details at this link and can contact me if interested in attending. Typically, one or two trustees attend each year, with travel and training subsidies available to FSJPL through NELF.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

Exciting news in terms of funding this month, as United Way is looking to continue and possibly expand their sponsorship of the Afterschool Lego and Everyone is Awesome Programs. The funding for these programs allows us the rental space which can be used for other programs as well, such as the Ugly Crafts for Adults, and the LGBTQ youth group. An additional application has also been filed with United Way for support of our computer skills training program, renamed CLICK (Creating Literacy in Computer Knowledge). We are seeking just over \$8,000 to provide wages for the instructor for one year. I am hopefully optimistic that we will soon be able to offer this valuable and well attended program to the public again.

On the fundraising front, I'm happy to report that the Friends of the Library Society have assumed coordination of this year's Mega Lottery sales, relieving this task from our office staff. Thank you, Friends!

Our network upgrade has been completed and only a very few fine tunings remain. Ultimately, the transition was smoother than some of us expected, and we are very happy with the results. The senior network specialist assigned to our project, Chris, has agreed to work with Telus for us to get the hardware and additional Internet line issue resolved for the private network. Once that is in place, we shall be receiving 25mbps download speed, instead of our current 6mbps.

Some great news for our public network this month; public internet speed has been upgraded to 25mbps and will be kept separate from the private network. We have also upgraded our public wifi to provide easier access – connecting your device to FSJPL's wifi no longer requires a password!

Our Spring Break program – “Spring Make” is set to launch, and will be underway by the time the Board meets. It features a maker theme and will provide the opportunity for children and adults to explore and create with daily hands-on exhibits. A sneak peek: we will have a 3-D printer on hand for one day! Morgan has many things planned for a fun and memorable Spring Break.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

We have reached our fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the purchase of a self-check unit! Our generous donors include Northeast Regional Community Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Area C of the Peace River Regional District, Alpha Controls, Ltd, and the North Peace Savings and Credit Union who matched donations in order to help us achieve our goal. We look forward to a fantastic launch ceremony once the unit is in place. Installation is anticipated in early summer.

Also provided by the Northeast Regional Community Foundation earlier this month, was a \$1,000 donation to support our QSA@FSJPL program. The Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) provides a fun and safe environment for LGBTQ youths of the area, as well as their supporters to participate in activities like Bad Art Nights, Ugly Crafts, movie n' munchies night, game nights and more.

We have begun working with Bibliocommons to transform our library catalogue into a discovery service. This service provides an interactive experience for patrons, who are able to create book reviews, recommendations, ratings, and public reading lists much like goodreads.com. Bibliocommons also provides a prime reader's advisory service through allowing each library staff member to create recommendations and reviews of their own. The service is slated to be available to the public in June.

We will be welcoming a Library & Information Technician student from Langara College in May, who has requested her course practicum be completed at FSJPL. We look forward to meeting and hosting Megan Berg during her time here in Fort St John.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

Our work continues with Bibliocommons, the discovery service which transforms our library catalogue into an interactive experience for patrons. Public launch remains on target for June.

I have been in contact with more library self-check unit vendors, as the original quotes required updating prior to purchase. With the most recent quotes, three vendors have revealed that they no longer provide a Fines and Fees Management module with their units. The addition of this module is a priority for FSJPL, as its absence creates a barrier for patrons who owe fines and fees, rendering them unable to use the self-check unit. The search for a unit which includes this option while still remaining within our purchase budget continues. I have reached out to several BC libraries with units such as these in hopes of finding a vendor who meets FSJPL's needs.

FSJPL was declined for a Young Canada Works summer student employment grant this year, but approved by Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ). Our request was for two positions at 12 weeks each, CSJ granted us funding for one position at 10 weeks, resulting in just under \$4,000. We have moved forward with hiring two students; previous *Summer Reading Club* all-star Shayla Faminow, and prior *Library and Beyond* volunteer Ted Sloan. A third SRC employee, Edel Paracuilles, will be provided by School District 60/Settlement Workers in Schools.

I continue participation in Royal Roads University's Library Leadership program, which is subsidized by the Northeast Library Federation upon completion in December. I am finding it extraordinarily valuable and have been able to put my studies to practical use in the areas of more effective project and time management.

For the month of April

FSJPL saw 8,535 people come through the library doors – that's an average of 328 patrons per day.

Our public computers accommodated 1,184 sessions, resulting in over 880 hours of computer use.

Public computer use on Fridays alone contribute 25% of our total monthly sessions, with the highest usage of any other day of the week; Fridays in April saw 291 sessions. Sundays, while being open for 4 hours generated 74 sessions.

The front desk staff was kept busy with the circulation of over 9,700 items through April.

Top 3 most widely circulated:

2,096 Children's books

980 Adult Fiction

850 DVDs

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

Our All-Star Summer Reading Club team is currently visiting local schools promoting our summer programs. Some of the new activities offered through July and August include the *Swordy-Sword Workshop*, the *Build It Makerspace* and a teen/tween writing workshop entitled the *Chronicles of the Myth Makers*.

Our second Staff In-Service is schedule for June 26th. Employees will be participating in team-building activities, hands-on Bibliocommons training, as well as some stress management coaching from a local holistic wellness practitioner.

A second employee has announced their enrollment in the Library Technician Certificate program at Langara college. We are excited for Tanya's further adventures into the library world!

Director's Goals Update

- FSJPL's Bibliocommons site is now in the testing stages. Staff will receive training during the Staff In-Service June 26th and throughout the final week of the month. Public launch remains on target for June.
- A QuickCheck self-checkout unit has been ordered from Sentry Custom Security. Delivery and installation is currently on target to be completed by the end of August.



For the month of May

FSJPL saw **6,971** people come through the library doors – that's an average of **268** patrons per day. This number is ~1,500 fewer than last month, likely due to Spring programming sessions coming to a close. Summer programs launch June 23rd.

Our public computers accommodated **1,101** sessions, resulting in **over 800** hours of computer use.

The front desk staff was kept busy with the circulation of **over 9,970** items through May, which is consistent with April's circulation stats.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

Welcome back!

FSJPL has been a busy place over the summer months and I'm happy to share with you some of the activity that has taken place during that time.

Our Summer Reading Club had another successful year in terms of participation, as some statistics will reflect below. Sponsors of the program this year included **Progress Energy, TransCanada, CN, and Spectra** which drew a total of \$9,000 in financial support. **Urban Systems** provided hands-on support when their staff presented a full day of STEM related fun and learning to the participants of our Library and Beyond program.

If you've searched online for a book recently, you will have noticed the change to our online public catalogue; Bibliocommons launched August 24th and has been met with much positive feedback thus far. Some staff also appreciate the ability to use the discovery service to highlight titles in a more widespread readers' advisory capacity. If you haven't registered yet, I encourage you all to do so.

A noticeable transformation has taken place near the entry of the library; QuickCheck, our new self-check unit has finally found its home! Personnel all the way from Toronto, Ontario worked through some challenges to prepare the unit for its public debut on September 8th. Representatives from North Peace Savings and Credit Union joined us for the unveiling and had a chance to try it out for themselves. A resounding thanks to the sponsors that made this possible: **Community Futures Peace Liard, ConocoPhillips Canada, Area C of the Peace River Regional District** and of course, **NPSCU** for matching those donations.

With the addition of the QuickCheck, we've had to make some slight alterations to our floor plan; the Friends of the Library used book sale shelves are now located along the far wall of the library.

The Friends of the Library have begun their annual Rotary Mega Lottery sales – they can be found in the Totem Mall during scheduled times and the tickets may also be purchased from within the library. Board Trustees are encouraged to try their luck selling tickets within their circle of friends, family and coworkers! If interested, contact me for more information.

Over the Summer (July & August)

FSJPL saw **15,551** people come through the library doors – that's an average of **255** patrons per day. Many Summer Reading Club events were often held in rented rooms within the NPCC; those numbers are not reflected above.

Summer Reading Club's registration for this year reached **475**, while its story times and events saw the participation of **1,749** children. Library and Beyond Program had an attendance of **210** youths. Our SRC Superstar Team visited **8** schools to promote the club and addressed **2,645** children.

Our public computers accommodated 2043 sessions during those two months, resulting in over 1533 hours of computer use.

The front desk staff was kept busy with the circulation of over 21,000 items through July & August. There was a slight increase in the circulation of children's picture books as expected over the summer, but the Junior French, Junior Fiction, and Junior/YA Christian Fiction saw noticeable increases over the summer months.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

What's New @ the Library

Thanks to the generous contributions of the **Friends of the Library Society**, patrons now have four new library-grade upholstered chairs on which to read comfortably. The chairs have small swing-out tables – 'tablets' – attached to them which provide patrons support for their reading materials, electronic devices, and beverages. The chairs are part of a modular series which will allow for an array of configurations like sofas and serpentine banks of seating in the future as growth determines.

Also made possible by the **Friends of the Library Society** is the transitioning of our OPAC (online public access catalogue) computers to secured iPads mounted in three locations throughout the library. While the purchase of the equipment and hardware required for this project has concluded in this year, the implementation will begin in mid-January of 2017, to be completed not later than March of 2017.

For the month of September

FSJPL saw **7,166** people come through the library doors over the course of September – that's an average of **287** patrons per day.

Our public computers accommodated **1,327** sessions during September, resulting in **over 970** hours of computer use. The hours between 10am and 1pm remain the busiest for computer use, with those hours accounting for **53%** of the average days' use.

The front desk staff was kept busy with the circulation of **over 10,200** items in September.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL

What's New @ the Library

Food for Fines program has begun! For the entire month of November, all patrons are eligible to clear fines with a donation of a non-perishable food item, toiletries or baby supplies. Collected items will be presented to the Women's Resource Society at the end of the month.

Next month, our friend Ren Cunard from Sentry Custom Security will be returning to us from Toronto with a shiny new scanning laser in tow. Once installed in our self-checkout station, the new laser will provide a wider and multi-directional read of barcodes placed beneath it, making it even easier to use without assistance. This laser also has the capability to read library card barcodes stored on patrons' wireless devices.

The Friends of the Library Used Book Sale will take place November 26th from 10am – 1pm. The sale will be held in the concourse of the Cultural Centre.

Invitations for the FSJPL Staff, Board and Volunteers Appreciation Brunch will be sent out via email this week. The brunch will be held December 4th, 11am – 1pm at Whole Wheat & Honey. We hope you can join us for a delicious meal and good conversation that Sunday morning!

For the month of October

FSJPL saw **7,588** people come through the library doors over the course of October, **422 more** people than September!

Our public computers accommodated **1,222** sessions during September, resulting in **over 923** hours of computer use.

The front desk staff was kept busy with the circulation of **over 9,900** items in October.

Kerry France
Director of Library Services, FSJPL