



2022 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: Portage County Public Library branches at Almond, Rosholt and Plover

Certification Grade: 1

Date of visit: 8/30/2022

Library staff present at the visit: Laura Fuller and Larry Oathout, Library Director

SCLS staff present: Mark Jochem

Amount of time spent at visit: 1 hr

[Please limit this section to the answers to the specific questions, and include as much detail as possible. Report other information or observations in the “other information” section below.]

1. How are you and your staff doing?

Laura reports staff at the PCPL branches are doing well. Great to get programming going again. The branches went with a lighter slate of summer programming this year. Summer Library Program went well. Staff are becoming more selective about the way they offer programs (in-person, virtual, or hybrid) due to the amount of work it takes to organize. During the pandemic the communities responded differently to response measures. As a rule of thumb, the more rural, the fewer masks are worn.

2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library’s to-do list?

Laura is constantly weeding collections at the branches as space is limited. Currently the library is deciding on programs for the fall. PCPL as a whole is developing a “library of things” for patrons to borrow.

The branches are unique in their services to their communities. Several on-going programs are community generated and led. In Almond, a local quilting club frequently meets in the library and are looking to stir up/support interest in quilting craft. The club provides the library with quilt-starting kits. At Rosholt, what began as a library Tai Chi program as since evolved into a social hour for seniors in the community.

3. Are there service changes or new services from the last two years that you plan on continuing?

Some of the virtual programming will remain, such as virtual book club in Plover. Laura mentioned that patrons seem to prefer meeting virtually for book club, despite living so close to the library *and* visiting the library shortly after book club to get the next book.

Take-n-makes will continue. They remain popular among multiple age groups. Curbside demand has decreased, but the branches will continue to offer the service. Interestingly, demographics of users of curbside have changed from elderly patrons to busy families.

4. How can SCLS help?

Staff from PCPL really like the maker kits from SCLS. Laura also likes the availability of the Madison Public Library kits to support the book club.

5. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?

As part of community relationships (and professional goals) Laura is now attending council meetings at the branch communities. This helps keep her eyes open to goings-on and community interests and concerns.

Other information gathered at the visit (interesting tidbits, general impressions of the library, or alternative topics):