



2023 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library - Baraboo

Certification Grade: 1

Date of visit: 10/24/2023

Library staff present at the visit: Jessica Bergin

SCLS staff present: M. Van Pelt

Amount of time spent at visit: 2.5 hours

[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. What's new and/or innovative at your library?
Finishing up a new building project and remodeling their old Carnegie building. Installed a materials sorter. So many things that are new!
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
Solar panels
Not working on the building project!
3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?
Budget is a high challenge. They were \$85,000 in the 2023 budget. They made up the shortfall by using their fund balance and cutting expenses in all budget line items. The city cut all budgets in 2023. This is at a time that their building expenses doubled with the new building and remodel costs. The library laid off 5 part time staff members with a FTE of .75. This caused staff morale to plummet. They changed their staffing structure.

In 2024, the city may be increasing their budget which should result in them regaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of their 2023 cuts. There is a city-wide COLA increase. They will have to use fund balance again. They will ask the Friends for help also.
4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?
5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?

Other information gathered at the visit (interesting tidbits, general impressions of the library, or alternative topics: We spent a lot of time touring the building and discussing budget challenges so that we ran out of time since she had to leave to pick up her children.