



2023 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: Dane County Library Service

Certification Grade: 1

Date of visit: September 20, 2023 – at SCLS Headquarters

Library staff present at the visit: Tracy Herold

SCLS staff present: Jean Anderson

Amount of time spent at visit: 1.5 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?
 - a. Three staff members (including Tracy) are getting or have gotten a CDL to drive the bookmobile. The federal law has changed and new training is required to get a CDL. Tracy is working on establishing a process for staff to get their CDL, obtaining the needed funding to take the training and exam, as well as documenting the time needed to get everything done.
 - b. Summer was really busy for the Bookmobile and Dream Bus. They are being more purposeful in deciding which events it makes sense for the Dream Bus or Bookmobile to attend so they don't overextend their staff.
 - c. The Ripple Project came to a close. Beyond the Page's next big project is Banned Book Con with a variety of panels and programs to celebrate the Freedom to Read.
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
 - a. Dane County has a new vehicle in the works. It will be similar to the Readmobile – a mini bookmobile – and will visit senior living, day cares, and other institutions. It'll be a while before the vehicle is ready (about 16 months). They will have room in their facility as Emergency Management is moving out and they'll have additional vehicle bays so all four of their vehicles can fit.
3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?
 - a. Tracy has been working with Rethinking Libraries Consulting to look at the reimbursement formula for Dane County. The current formula doesn't tell the whole story and they are looking at the factors that make up cost per circulation. How does shifting populations affect reimbursement? Where and how are libraries affected by minimum appropriation, TIF, equalized values, levy limits, etc? She's keeping an eye on all of these factors. After Tim Drexler's presentation at the Dane County Librarians meeting, she'll be contacting him to see if some of her reimbursement questions can be answered by report data.
 - b. They have a good level of staffing right now. Tracy is looking at the various interns they have and looking at how they can keep them on board longer. Developing a more diverse staffing model, looking for more Spanish speakers, and always keeping equity at the center of the conversation.
 - c. Cottage Grove Library – what are the next steps for them? What does intermediate library

service look like in Cottage Grove?

4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?
 - a. Are we seeing/noticing growth in other areas of the system? Are other libraries experiencing issues surrounding levy limits, minimum appropriations?
 - b. Looking to answer questions about their reimbursement formula that Tim Drexler might be able to help with.
 - c. Remote access to BiblioVation is a necessity for them. They wish BiblioVation was better.
 - d. Questions about LSTA grants. Are there competitive grant categories anymore? They've been successful in getting them in the past to fund new projects. Other grant opportunities they should know about – IMLS, etc.?

5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
 - a. Media trends – are we seeing any changes in the streaming vs physical media usage? They are shrinking their media space in the building for both DVDs and audiobooks. Wonders if other libraries are seeing the same thing.
 - b. Looking at streaming options, players in the market and manufacturing (of media). They are looking at how they collect – or don't collect – media.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?
 - a. Since Tracy visited our building, I gave her a sneak peek tour of the building.

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