



## 2023 Library Visit Interview Form

**Library Name:** DeForest Area Public Library

**Certification Grade:** 1

**Date of visit:** 10/3/23

**Library staff present at the visit:** Jan Berg, Director

**SCLS staff present:** Tim Drexler

**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?

The most recent project of note is the children's story hour room renovation, which was almost complete at the time of my visit. The project involved replacing cabinets (previously too deep), adding an ADA-compliant sink, and repainting walls to create a calmer, less stimulating environment.

The library staff is also perpetually busy with their programming series. In recent months they have held events for Harry Potter's birthday, an end-of-summer celebration, and a harvest fest. When I visited, they were planning for the upcoming Halloween-themed event. After that, staff will start planning for Dino Day in November, which is one of the most popular programs that they offer all year.

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

Jan mentioned that the library building is now about 20 years old, so there are more repair and renovation projects that need attention. The carpet, for example, seems to be holding up well, but will need replacement in the coming years. Jan is also planning to request funds to replace some of the fluorescent lighting fixtures with energy-efficient LEDs that would save money while providing more direct lighting.

3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?

At this time, Jan didn't feel the library had any particular challenges or concerns. She said that they have not had any problems with staffing nor, when positions do open up, have they had trouble hiring new staff.

4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?

Jan didn't have suggestions for any specific ways in which SCLS staff could help the library.

5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?

One issue that Jan drew attention to was her overall concern with the Bibliovation ILS. She mentioned problems with searching the system in general, and searching for ISBNs as a specific example. She also said that there were ongoing problems with the ILS discovery layer. Jan brought up these items in the context of the upcoming ILS review cycle. I suggested that there may be opportunities for her and other library staff to participate in some of the workgroups associated with the review project.

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

Jan said that she would like to better understand the purpose of library visits and she wondered whether there might be more efficient ways for SCLS to communicate with member libraries, such as social media, newsletters, or other channels.

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

Jan showed me around the library building. Some tour highlights:

- Delilah, the huge dinosaur puppet that is a big part of Dino Day. The library purchased Delilah after her previous owner indicated he no longer had space to store her. Now, she hangs out (literally, actually: the puppet is suspended from a metal frame) in a small basement storage room between event appearances.
- The library makerspace, also in the basement. The library recently hired a new librarian to staff the space and develop themed programming.
- The first-floor space dedicated to the DeForest Area Historical Society. This includes an area for exhibits and a workroom with storage space for archival materials.
- The second floor – I'd never been up there, so it was kind of neat to see.