



2023 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: Fitchburg Public Library

Certification Grade: 1

Date of visit: 9/8/2023

Library staff present at the visit: Wendy Rawson

SCLS staff present: Heidi Oliverson

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?

- a. They are donating their Playaways to Dane County Library Service. They are not circulating and their patrons don't seem very interested in the format.
- b. They are reducing the number of Books on CD that they purchase. They are not circulating very often, probably because fewer people have CD players in their cars nowadays. Will take those funds and purchase digital materials for individual Advantage account with Overdrive.
- c. They have created Pollinator gardens around the library. They did not have the funds for constant landscaping so library staff came up with the idea of creating Pollinator gardens and have included this in some of their children's programming. They have obtained the services of one Master Gardener and two who are doing this work to obtain their certificate. City provided new dirt, compost and mulch. There are two planters on the patio outside the children's area and one large area on Lacy Road. Staff planted some zinnias to start out, children planted sunflower seeds.



They have identified a leaf-cutter bee and a Queen Bumblebee as well as a Chinese praying mantis.



2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
 - a. Purchasing a New Lyngsoe sorter, installation will be late November/early December 2024. See attached timeline and floor plan. Will be renovating the room to be more user-friendly: installing blinds on the windows to reduce the heat from morning sunlight, painting the walls, installing carpeting. Will also have to do some structural work on the exterior wall to accommodate the slightly larger materials input.
 - b. The room that was dedicated to their Art gallery on the second floor was not/is not utilized very extensively. Decision was made to convert that room into another meeting room that will either be another smaller public meeting room or a dedicated staff meeting room. That has not been determined yet.
 - c. When the remaining areas of the Town of Madison were dissolved, the City of Fitchburg were given some areas to incorporate. Among them was the South Hill neighborhood, which has a number of low-income housing units and a very ethnically diverse population. Neighborhood is not within walking distance of the library, no mass transit and many do not have cars so outreach staff have been visiting the area and bringing "free" English and Spanish language materials to the community. They have decided to build a not-so-Little Free library in the neighborhood, using some old steel lockers and modifying them for this use. The Friends group donated the start-up monies for this project and will likely to continue to support it. Library will continue to stock with free language materials but the neighborhood children already understand the concept of "borrowing" and "returning" the materials so there are plenty to share. Library will continue to stock the LFL through the winter and will probably return to weekly in-person visits next spring or summer.

3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?
 - a. HVAC chiller is dying. As this is a City building, the maintenance of the existing elements of the HVAC system and purchase of a new HVAC is the city's responsibility, not the library's. The City will be using ARPA money to pay for a replacement chiller due to be received and installed in April 2024. Other issues with air handler and heating for the winter.
 - b. New neighbor – a new, expanded police department building is going to be built across the street from the library. Construction will start in 2024.

4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?
 - a. New sorter installation in the fall of 2024. Knows that Cindy will be on hand to provide

any assistance required.

- b. Minda is their Outreach librarian. She thinks it would be helpful to have regular meetings or user groups for outreach staff in SCLS. Different types of outreach throughout our system so all involved would get ideas and best practices for a variety of services.
5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
 - a. Wendy doesn't have any recommendations, she trusts SCLS staff to be able to prioritize their own work in the coming year
 6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?
 - a. No.

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

- Who has the online form for problem items? Find it and pass it on to Phil Hansen. (Heidi O.)
- Passed Minda's request for a user's group for outreach to Mark Jochem.
- Talked with Wendy about contacting Mason at Lyngsoe about the best way to calculate the number of staff hours that are saved by purchasing and utilizing self-check units and sorters.