



## 2022 Library Visit Interview Form

**Library Name:** Madison Public Library - Central

**Certification Grade:** 3

**Date of visit:** December 16, 2022

**Library staff present at the visit:** Greg Mickells

**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. How are you and your staff doing?
  - a. Greg feels they are still in recovery mode from the pandemic. In person programming is starting to come back. They've been doing a lot of blended programs and will keep doing that going forward. The Wisconsin Book Festival was back in person this year with some programs being virtual. The authors are loving the option of being virtual. This year, they (the Foundation, I believe), were able to get books for some of the programs to give away freely to the attendees.
  - b. This year's Staff Day focused on wellness. It gave staff a chance to focus on themselves. It was very intentionally organized with staff needs in mind.
  
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list?
  - a. Programs are growing organically. For example, their recent Native American Storytelling program has grown and increased this year. This is also leading to bringing in other cultures for this type of program.
  - b. The library takeover is back and they have a great lineup.
  - c. Bubbler programming continues.
  - d. Expanded Kanopy with support from the Madison Library Foundation
  - e. The Foundation is continuing support for the DreamBus for another 3 year cycle
  - f. Racial Equity – Madison is working with an organization out of Chicago to help them look at their hiring practices and to foster an inclusive environment. They have a BIPOC and LGBTQ Affinity Groups for staff.
  - g. New Neighborhood Library in Reindahl Park. Construction is tentatively slated to start in late 2023 with opening in early 2025. Planning is underway. The new tech staff, Pat Garvey, has already reached out to SCLS to talk about the tech needs for the building.
  
3. Are there service changes or new services from the last two years that you plan on continuing?
  - a. Working with strategic partners like the Madison Reading Project to continue delivery

- to in-home daycares
- b. Online library card registration – was glad that was started so easily at the beginning of the pandemic and that it continues.
  - c. Sunday hours are in the regular budget now (they started with Foundation funds).
  - d. Hybrid meetings and programs will continue. Through grants, a couple of their libraries have received upgraded equipment in their meeting rooms to facilitate easier online meetings and programs.
  - e. The new technology staff are working on an assessment of their public workstations and looking at new approaches to technology in the libraries.
4. How can SCLS help?
- a. Professional Development – I mentioned the Continuing Education Grants and Scholarships that can help Madison’s CE budget go a little farther.
  - b. The Madison tech staff have already reached out to our Tech Team to consult on the new Reindahl library location
5. Is there anything else you’d like to share or discuss?
- a. Costs were a big topic – including technology fees, OverDrive costs, and the Dane County Library (DCL) Formula. DCL service is working with a consultant to look at the formula and Margie Navarre Saaf will be on the SCLS Cost Formula Work Group.
  - b. Madison Public Library is hosting Library Legislative Day in February

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

As I was leaving, I ran into Mary Fahndrich who told me she is now the Training Librarian. We are making plans to meet in 2023 to discuss ways that SCLS can help Madison with their Professional Development needs.