



## 2023 Library Visit Interview Form

**Library Name:** North Freedom Public Library

**Certification Grade:** 3

**Date of visit:** 9/28/2023

**Library staff present at the visit:** Raina Roloff

**SCLS staff present:** Rose Ziech

**Amount of time spent at visit:** 1 hour

**[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?
  - Nothing. They are not in survival, but existence, mode.
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
  - Steady on.
3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?
  - Space. There is no room to do anything. They are using as much of their shelf space as they possibly can, and have maxed out on rearranging. SLP is the main program because there isn't room for anything. The closets are stuffed! Everything is full.
  - Funding to do the kind of space expansion they need. Raina did a mockup of what it would cost: more than a book sale.
4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?
  - Keep costs down. For a few years it seemed like costs were increasing by thousands of dollars. The past few years has been better in that they are only going up a little bit rather than skyrocketing.
5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
  - Get DVD cataloging straightened out, because it can't be half and half. Right now the rules are difficult to apply as a cataloger and hard for patrons to understand (why some DVD series circulate as individual disks and others circulate as sets). Pick a date to get

everything fixed or updated, and make everyone comply. It is frustrating to be unsure about how to catalog something (because the rules are lengthy and don't cover all situations), and then have it be sent back because it was done wrong.

- DVDs and series are the most used items in their collection, so Raina is having conversations with patrons about the series circulation (individual vs sets) on a daily basis.
- More CEs that are of help to little/tiny libraries. Suggestions:
  - How to start a capital campaign from zero.
  - How to create a Friends group in a short timeline or revive a group that has lapsed. Jean provided a document that covered the initial step that helped their newly-created group pass the requirements, but more guidance at "steps 2-12" would have been nice. Examples: *How* do you incorporate (do you do that with the state or federal form?)? When you file for 501(c)(3) do you use the state/federal form?
- The webinar series on serving homeless patrons has been helpful because it corresponds to more than just homeless patrons – it covers just dealing with people in a variety of situations. Keep that coming!

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

- The library is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of having a balanced budget, and there is hope that the village will continue funding the library in the future. After many, many years of beginning every year with a deficit of \$5-15K and having to pinch every penny and beg for money and fundraise just to operate, it is a big change in mindset. Raina is reluctant to expand any service that relies on funding that might be discontinued in the future. More inclined to consider things that don't incur a future/ongoing cost, but also have to be mindful that the library has no room for added equipment/programming.

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

- Raina expressed some resignation about small libraries' voting power within SCLS. There are things she would like to change that she has had to give up on, or come to terms with.