



2023 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: Spring Green Community Library

Certification Grade: 3

Date of visit: 9/6/2023

Library staff present at the visit: Emily Whitmore

SCLS staff present: Heidi Oliveresen

Amount of time spent at visit: 2 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. Purchased Wonderbooks with funds from their Friends Group. They started circulating immediately and are very popular.
 - b. Purchased a Smart TV for their community; it replaced a projector and screen. Used for programs and movies.
 - c. They have been doing lots of different programming; new for them is an adult book group and book discussion. There are existing community adult book groups that have been in place for quite some time. Nice to be able to “break into” that to establish one connected to the library.
 - d. Purchased a new play kitchen set for the children's area and purchased new accessories for their existing store set.





- e. Library of Things, recently added two sets of pickle ball equipment (there is a nearby pickle ball court). Have two work-from-home kits (grant purchased) from SCLS – use one for staff to attend regular meetings from home as necessary and circulate the other. They also purchased some new, additional yard games to add to their Library of Things.
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
- a. Getting a new roof. Putting out to bid pretty soon.
 - b. Remodeling and getting new carpeting for the main room. Moving shelving and furniture around to make each age group area more cohesive. Moving the shelving will also include a massive weeding project.
 - c. Policy review project.
 - d. Strategic planning with the WiLS cohort starting this fall.
 - e. Would really like to build a collaborative/cohesive service plan with Plain and Lone Rock libraries to provide programming and materials for school-age patrons. River Valley School District is a consolidated district and students come from the above named villages, as well as Arena and 12 other towns. First steps will be to get a better communication system up and running between the libraries to support each other and provide additional shared information.
 - f. Would also like to figure out the best way to issue cards to kids when they start school in collaboration with the school district and Plain and Lone Rock. Complicated by the need to have parents sign-off on the cards. Working out a possible plan to present to Dodgeville library and SWLS. They already collaborate with them for the 1000 books before kindergarten project.
 - g. Plan to purchase Rokus and get them in the catalog and available for the community to check out.
 - h. Started a clean-out project in their basement to clear out the storage space and rearrange it in their basement. That space also stores some paper files for the Village and voting paraphernalia. First stage of clean-out provided items and furniture for the Friends rummage sale which was successful. Hope to do so again.
 - i. Weeding out Archives room, Wisconsin selection and local history. Was able to reduce duplicates.

3. What challenges or concerns is your library facing now and in the near future?
 - a. Our budget. Not that they don't have money, funded by village and county. What they receive does not fully cover their budget so they get monies from their Library Board. Previously received an additional 5 figure amount from the Board but they need their budget to be funded outside of gifts. Using gifts to pay for regular budget services is not a sustainable practice. For a long time the library has continued to provide excellent services without budgetary increases and that seems to now be viewed as the status quo. Getting increases that do not rely on the Board budget may be challenging. Growth is critical to the library and without additional committed funding, can't sustain current services and expand/move forward.
4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns, or projects?
 - a. Can't really think of anything. Staff at SCLS are quick to respond to questions and problems. Knows who to go to for particular issues. SCLS staff very helpful and knowledgeable.
5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
 - a. Networking. Comes from a library in the Chicagoland area. Lots of small libraries and part-time staff. Social aspects helpful. Would like to see a Reader Advisory group for SCLS staff, monthly or bimonthly. Or genre discussions, would help to provide more networking opportunities within the system. [RAILS in Illinois has a very large variety of networking groups](#): Outreach groups, volunteers groups these networking groups really helped library staff throughout their system after the re-working of the systems in the Chicagoland area. Is it possible to set up a monthly or bimonthly circulation chat zoom session to talk about recent issues, problems, best practices, etc. Described to her the bi-annual user groups and the bi-monthly Circulation Services Subcommittee but this does seem quite a different level of regular interaction to set up to provide in system library staff more opportunities to "meet".
6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?
 - a. Patrons like to hang out in the foyer seating area, it's sometimes a quieter location to read magazines or do work during children programming hours.
 - b. 9/11/2023: I had on my list to email you as well because I thought of something else that I would love more help from South Central on. And that is more opportunities for joint ventures with the libraries - especially when it comes to purchasing items and getting a deal on them.
 - i. For example, we order Booklist, but we don't need a whole bunch of them. We have worked something out with Plain, but what if you all bought the number we all needed, then distributed them to us. We could then pay you for the number we take. Or not - depending.
 - ii. There are other opportunities for this [joint library ventures], but this was just one that occurred me.

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

- Benefits advisor – they have had a Benefits Advisor come in to the library and provide sessions for community members for some time now. It has become integrated into the community and it is a popular service.

- Will take a few of the grant purchased headsets if still available.
- Local artists display art in community room and in foyer display case. Always have two artists. Rare to allow repeats as there are so many local artists.
- This is Emily's first SCLS annual visit. The library is "getting back on track" after having no director for a year and then the pandemic.
- When was the last statewide salary survey sent out and where is the info posted. Was it DPI? Has SCLS recently done a salary survey of just the SCLS libraries? Find this out and forward to Emily.
 - 9/8 HJO forwarded her the "**Public Library Staff Compensation Survey**" that Steve Hesel sent out on the wispublib list-serv on 8/23/2023.)