



LONGMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Division of Community Services

2014 ANNUAL REPORT to City Council

In 2014, the Longmont Public Library focused on expanding services for those on the Autism spectrum and moving further beyond “just books” to encourage learning and engagement at all ages.

2014 Highlights

- **Our Autistic Spectrum Services Program Was Recognized by the State Library Association:** Over the past year, the Library expanded services for children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from an initial morning sensory storytime with two participants to a highly successful Special Access family programming service hosting 10 events with over 340 participants! With the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Library Science Technology Act, library staff were able to incorporate sensory story times into broader program offerings and create new “Special Access” events held solely for the autism community, typically on Friday evenings after the library has closed to the general public. Parents, along with both their neurologically typical and atypical children, are able to visit the library, explore all the resources, and enjoy programming created especially for them, including music therapy, sensory storytimes, parenting resources and access to bilingual librarians. The program further expanded with an exciting partnership with Boulder-based ROBAUTO, through which the library has been able to introduce families to healthcare therapy robots designed specially for children on the spectrum. We expect to be the first public library to have its own autism therapy robot designed *by* kids on the spectrum. But it doesn't stop there! In October, we also began partnering with Caminando Juntos, a Longmont-based support group for Spanish-speaking families with children with disabilities, and we have hosted Special Access programs specifically designed for these families. In recognition of our work with families living with the challenges of ASD, the Special Access program was recognized by the Colorado Association of Libraries as the 2014 Project of the Year. Our program was featured nationally in *Library Journal's Library Hotline*; *School Library Journal* online, an Institute for Library and Museum Services blog post and an American Society for Mechanical Engineers online article. We are proud of our staff. Their creativity and hard work brought programming to an underserved community.
- **The BookCycle Hit the Road:** We launched our much-anticipated BookCycle this spring with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and inaugural ride by Mayor Coombs. The BookCycle spent the summer months cruising around town, spreading the word about our summer learning programs, and encouraging folks to visit the library and see what's new.
- **Adults Got Curious with our Adult Summer Learning Program:** In June, the Library launched its first non-traditional adult summer program which we called “Stay



Library Staff and our ROBAUTO partner accept the CAL Project of the Year Award.



Prototype of the ASD Robot



Heading out to the Halloween Parade on the BookCycle



The BookCycle Visits the Museum



"Stay Curious" Adult Science Fair Participant



Summer Learning Project Participant with her Tardis cake

Curious." The program focused on engaging adults in STEM-related topics and culminated in an adult science fair. Stay Curious encouraged learning beyond books — participants could also watch videos or DVDs, visit the Museum or Sandstone Ranch, and participate in library events to earn points toward valuable prizes. The new program was a big success: 28 to 80 people attended each program event, and 44 individuals completed a total of 178 activities during the program. Feedback from patrons was very positive, and the program will be repeated this summer with a "DIY: Dewey It Yourself" theme that encourages learning new, hands-on skills.

- **Children and Teens Explored and Investigated in our Summer Learning Programs:** Our children's and teens' summer reading programs also evolved this year into more dynamic summer learning programs. The "Fizz! Boom! Read!" program for children focused on exploring, investigating, and creating, and the "Spark a Reaction!" program for teens and tweens had them sparking ideas, reacting by creating journal entries based on those ideas, and reporting/sharing what they'd done with library staff and other library patrons. "Fizz! Boom! Read!" entertained 800 children and adults at its kickoff in May, and engaged more than 5,000 participants over the summer. "Spark a Reaction!" served nearly 2,000 local youths.
- **Prospector Keeps Striking Gold:** This year, the Colorado inter-library loan service, Prospector, joined up with its Missouri counterpart, Mobius, to expand the availability of materials from over 30 million items to over 50 million items. This partnership added more than 70 Missouri libraries to Colorado's 40+ participating libraries. Items ordered through Prospector usually arrive in a few days, and those from Mobius arrive in one to two weeks.
- **Light A Candle Fundraiser:** Our annual December fundraiser celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, raised \$4000, and added 320 items to the collection.

Did you know?

83% of Longmont households have a library card!

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409 4th Avenue
Longmont, Colorado

www.longmontcolorado.gov/library



2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Items Circulated: 1,210,000 (or 13.2 per capita)

Patron Visits: 620,000

Web Page Visits: 287,000

Reference Questions Answered: 91,000

Computer Lab Use: 102,000 sessions

Residents with Library Cards: 63,000

Program Attendance: 47,500 (at 2,110 programs)

Meeting Room Users: 31,250 (at 1250 programs)

Items from Other Libraries: 32,000 lent/borrowed

Volunteer Hours: 4,604

Items Delivered to Homebound: 4,410

The Cost of a Longmont Library Card? Priceless (and free!)