

Palmer Public Library Statistics

September 2016

Total Registered Patrons	12,582	
Total Mat-Su Borough Resident Patrons	9,700	77% of Palmer patrons are Mat-Su Borough Residents
Total City of Palmer Resident Patrons	2,882	
New Library Users	128	

Statistics:

Patron Visits/Count	9233
Reference Questions	323
Library Computer Sessions	314
Website hits	137,167
WIFI Sessions	1,125
Circulation(PPL items)	11,894
Circulation	13,008 (JLC items checked out to Palmer Patrons)
Magazine circulation	255
Take Home Paperbacks	139
ILL Stats	15 Incoming 9 Outgoing
Volunteers	9 Volunteer hours 85.5

Programs:

Children's Programs	18	Events	389	Participants	(Started story times Sept. mid-month)
Class Visits	10	Events	145	Participants	
Young Adult Programs	1	Events	5	Participants	
Adult Programs	2	Events	13	Participants	
Total Library Programs	31	Events	552	Participants	

Community Events	15	Events	265	Participants
Total Programs and Community Events	46	Events	817	Participants

Total Totes sorted 216

MSLN 147 Mat Su Library Network Libraries (7 libraries)

MSB 69 (MSB 5 Libraries) Wasilla 46

Total JLC Totes 69 sorted. These are totes with PPL items going to Anchorage JLC libraries.

Postage: Total \$383.18 with 215 items mailed

Bills: \$57.82 Bills sent 118

ILLs: \$71.84 ILLs sent 26

JLC items: \$245.38 JLC items sent 65

Misc: \$ 8.14 items sent 6 (returns, thank you notes, funding requests, etc..)

Banned book month: September 25th marks the kick off to Banned Books Week across the nation. Palmer Public Library started celebrating with the right to read in August by displaying a selection of materials that

have been challenged or banned in various schools, libraries, or bookstores throughout America. Banned Books Week started in 1982 in response to a large surge of challenged materials. Books are usually challenged with the best intentions—to protect others (frequently children) from difficult ideas and information. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict access to materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is a result of those challenges being accepted. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view, but rather they are an attempt to have materials removed (from schools, bookstores, or libraries), thereby restricting access others may have to that material. The displays throughout the library have started many conversations with patrons who are appalled about banning books.

MSLB meeting September 17: Hugh Lesley MSB Community Director was not in attendance, but had a message read for him stating that he is expecting comments from Wasilla and Palmer Public Libraries as to why MSLN is needed. It was determined by the board that until we all know what the pros and cons of MSLN dissolving, no comments can be given. There were a few board members that stated strongly that until we know the cost savings by the MSB they cannot give recommendations. The board started with a Pro/Con list - there were many pros and one weak con - that the patrons would suffer. It was determined that they would put this on hold until the MSLN library directors met to try to ferret out what the savings and duplication of efforts are.

New officials were elected at the meeting, I am proud to say that the Palmer board member is the new chair, and that the Wasilla board member is the new secretary.

MSLN dissolving: Many emails have been going back and forth between City Library Directors and MSB librarians trying to ferret out the meaning of the MSLN pullout by the MS Borough. There was impromptu/ in-the-hall meeting with Councilmen Richard Best and Councilwoman Linda Combs about the MSB statement of pulling out of MSLN. They thought an education of the MSB residents that are paying Area wide taxes for libraries and using City libraries was the next step.

Meeting with Councilman Steve Carrington and Palmer MSLB member Janel Gagnon, to discuss a path forward. It was agreed that education of the residents is needed, that a mailer might not be the best option. People do not tend to read items sent in the mail. We will roll out a program at the library that will consist of a large Mat Su Borough map with the City of Palmer outlined. We will have information stating the difference in having a Palmer address and actually being a City of Palmer resident. The types of property taxes and where the money actually is collected. They will be asked to place a pin on the map as to where they live. This will hopefully start the public thinking about their taxes and how and where they are being used.

MSLN meeting: MSLN will stay as it is. Minutes from the meeting: The MSLN mission as it appears in the MSLN Policy and Procedure Handbook needs to be updated to reflect the changing nature of our collaboration (“unified technology” no longer applies, etc.) The mission stated in the handbook can be viewed as a loose agreement for cooperation and collaboration which does not require a formal memorandum of agreement.

“Mission of the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network:

The Libraries within the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network (MSLN) support the educational, civic and cultural activities of their communities, as well as the intellectual, creative and inspirational endeavors of the individual. The MSLN combines unified technology and quality services to enrich the lives of those within the community, and to strengthen the MSLN as a whole.”

The JLC now serves as the statewide consortium (The JLC was devised to: (1) Make more material available to users through the HOLD button (2) Join a community that can help solve mutual problems (3) Gain early benefit from advances in technology and user experience (4) Gain access to deep technical expertise and (5) Save money) **replacing the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network Automation Agreement for the seven libraries in the MSLN.** As stated in the membership agreement of the JLC:

This does not eliminate the need for conversation and collaboration between the Mat-Su Area Libraries in Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and Willow. These libraries will continue our collaboration as the **Mat-Su Area Libraries.**

The Palmer Library serves as the “hub” for our current courier system. We discussed the current system and decided it was okay for now. We may be able to make the current system more efficient. For example: Totes from Talkeetna have typically been able to fit into one tote since we have joined JLC. We may be able to move to smaller totes between the Mat-Su Area Libraries. In addition we discussed ways the Northern Libraries could collaborate to keep items from moving all the way to Palmer and back again.

We discussed the MSLN Logo that appears on cards, brochures, etc. and decided that it would be okay to keep it.

Training: Katie has started a self-paced cataloging course.

Rasmusson Grant: Continuing to purchase children’s audio books and dvds with the Rasmusson Grant monies. There was no way the library could have replaced or bought the new material without the \$15,000 grant. We have started placing comment cards in the new items as a means of recording the patron comments for grant reporting purposes. Some of those comments are: “We LOVE the new audio books and hope they get more. My children love listening to them!”, “Excellent mix of fun/serious/classic/new. Love, Love, Love them! thank you”. We Love the new kids audio books! The selection is fantastic. We couldn’t listen much before, because we didn’t have a tape player. Thank you!! For updating this section. Keep it up”.

MSLB: Beth Skow along with Palmer board representative Janel Gagnon will be attending the Mat-Su Library Board meeting in Sutton on Saturday. It will be interesting to listen to what the other board members have been told by their respective librarians. There seems to be a lot of confusion.

Wasilla Library closed on August 22 traffic has increased at the Palmer Library: An increase in phone calls from Wasilla Library patrons has started. Some patrons have begun coming to Palmer Public Library to check out books and to ask about our programs. **Wasilla Library** grand opening September 22 from 2:00 PM till 6:00 PM. Katie and I attended. There was a huge turnout. Due to the rain the opening events were held in the lobby, forcing short speeches

Friends of the Library met Monday with both Katie Schweisthal and Beth Skow in attendance. The President is out due to surgery. The “Sunday at 3” friends program was set for October 23 at the Palmer Train Depot. The Mat Su Orchestra will play a free concert to benefit the Palmer Public Library.

Brown out: There was a brown out at the library Wednesday 24 September morning, that took down the patron server and disconnected the staff computers from the staff server. Aaron Kruse was able to restore connectivity quickly.

New Patron black and white copier was delivered and set up by Valley Business Machines. This is being paid by the Public Library Assistance Grant (PLA).

Donated painting by John Coyne is framed and hanging in the library



Upcoming Activities:

DIRLEAD 2016: Beth Skow will be attending the Alaska Large Library Directors conference in Girdwood next week. All lodging, transportation and meals except dinner is covered by the State of AK DIRLEAD grant.