Expanded Services in Southern Boone

After months of planning, the Southern Boone County Public Library moved to a great new space in 2012. From a former doctor’s office of 3,335 square feet, the library in Ashland moved to a new, leased building with 6,500 square feet on Main Street next to the middle school. We officially opened November 19, 2012.

The new building allows us to offer much more to the people of our service area, with room for more items to borrow, more public-access computers and a meeting room for library programs as well as use by other community groups.

The board of trustees and library staff wanted to personalize the new library by finding Mid-Missouri vendors and products on this project, and we found several that fit our budget.

- Developer Gerald McKinney, of McKinney Properties, hired architects from Columbia to design the building.
- Columbia-based Timberline Custom Cabinets built interior furnishings, including the bookcases and check-out desk.
- Native red and white oak were used for the bookshelves, tabletops and computer tables.
- The table legs and check-out desk top are made of recycled materials fabricated by Yemm and Hart, based in Marquand, MO.
- Special edition library cards for donors are from a company in St. Peters, MO.
- The whale lounge chairs came from a company in Farmington, MO.

The Friends of the Southern Boone County Public Library also played an active role in making the new library a reality, spearheading a “Raise the Top Shelf” fundraising campaign to help pay for the new furnishings and bookcases.

Despite an out-of-town state soccer championship game happening the same day, a huge number of people came out for our moving-day book brigade. More than 350 Southern Boone Countians formed a line from the old building to the new to pass book-filled bags from person to person up the street. One patron told us, “We love, love, LOVE our new library here in Southern Boone! Such a beautiful, warm and welcoming space with AMAZING staff to boot!!!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Old Location (Broadway)</th>
<th>New Location (Main Street)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>4 +1 for kids</td>
<td>8 +2 for kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables</td>
<td>4 +18 chairs</td>
<td>10 +30 chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge Seating</td>
<td>3 chairs</td>
<td>14 chairs, 2 sofas, 6 whale chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-check machine</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior book drop</td>
<td>Walk-up</td>
<td>Drive-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Rack</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional

Books by Snail Numbers Jumped

In 2012, we saw a 40% increase in the number of kids participating in the summer Books by Snail service where books are mailed to students in rural parts of our library district. The program began in 2007 and is funded in part by a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State. Students attending school in Auxvasse, Hallsville, Harrisburg, Holts Summit, Mokane, New Bloomfield, Sturgeon and Williamsburg are eligible for this service. Other students can participate in the Summer Reading program at the public libraries in their respective communities.

Other Books by Snail statistics:

• Over 600 blue bags filled with books were delivered in 2012, nearly 200 more than in 2011.
• This service was most popular among those attending school at Hallsville, Harrisburg and Callaway Hills.
• The most active grades participating in Books by Snail were first, second, fifth and sixth.

Summer Reading Participation Climbed

For many kids, Summer Reading is as much a part of the fun of summer break as outdoor activities and vacations. Parents know that it has a side benefit of maintaining reading skills over the summer. We’re pleased to note that the number of participating children 12 and under rose to 4,034 in 2012 (3,831 in 2011) with 43% completing the program compared to 38% in 2011. Teen sign-ups held steady, with the completion rate rising from 26% to 28.5%. Our group Summer Reading for child care centers and clubs was up slightly, from 55 to 61, with a high 72% completing the program.

The adult component of Summer Reading, called “Between the Covers” in 2012, attracted 528 patrons, 88 more than in 2011. Adults could sign up online if they wished and submitted book reviews, the best of which were published at our blog next.dbrl.org.

Library Card Drive

During National Library Week in April, we set up information tables at some area banks and encouraged people to sign up for a library card. Staff talked with many community members about our digital branch and other convenient library services.

Mental Health Kits

Each of our libraries has added a set of kits you can check out to learn about coping with mental health issues. These were funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health and a Library Services and Technology Act grant. The kits cover bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, autism, substance abuse and disability awareness for kids.

New Little Red Reading Bags

We revamped our Little Red Reading Boxes for preschoolers this year, replacing the battered boxes with bright red bags and filling them with new DVDs, books and instructional toys. There are 12 different themes, including Classic Tales, Colors & Shapes, Farms & Gardens, Music & Movement, Numbers & Sizes, and Transportation. Parents and caregivers can borrow the bags for four weeks at a time.

Music CDs Reorganized

We converted our adult music CD collection to simple genre labels instead of call numbers. A quick glance around the music section now lets you see Country, Blues, Pop/Rock, Soundtracks, American Folk and more, so it’s easier to find artists you love or browse for new music. By the end of 2012, staff reclassified, relabeled and moved about 30,000 CDs. The smaller children’s CD collection was the next collection to be reorganized. One staff member passed this message along: “Today at the media desk, I had no less than seven people compliment us on our CD reorganization—how items were easier to find, how the library is a gift to the whole community and always thinking about the patrons, how things are easier to look through/handle, etc. Patrons ranged from around 18 to over 65. I just thought it was really neat that so many people commented in such a short time.”
Columbia Public Library
Fifth Off-Site Book Drop in Columbia Metro Area
With our four book drops at local banks showing heavy use in 2011, we took an opportunity to add a fifth location on the west side of town at the Callaway Bank off West Broadway, in February 2012. Use of all the off-site book drops continues to grow, with the First State Community Bank and The Callaway Bank locations seeing the most use. By the end of the year, a total of 165,493 items were returned to these five locations.

Referral Services
More and more often, we have patrons who need help finding and contacting social services. In response to that need, Columbia library staff created an easy-to-use contact list of area shelters, food pantries and emergency services. Those in need will find the list in print at the library and also on our website at teens.dbrl.org/need-help. Some churches and agencies have also requested copies to distribute.

Maintenance at Columbia Building
For many years, the Daniel Boone Regional Library Board of Trustees has set aside funds for preventative building maintenance and replacement furnishings and equipment. Last year, we used some of that money to resurface the parking lot at the Columbia Public Library and have tuck-pointing done to the building’s exterior. The Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation funded the restoration of the Cypher sculptures outside the main entrances.

Callaway County Public Library
Encouraging Library Use
We continually reach out to those in our service area to spread the word about what’s available at the library. With the expansion of faster Internet service in Callaway County, it’s a great time to familiarize more people with our digital branch. After reviewing data from our 2011 Community Survey and other data, we drafted a marketing plan targeting Callaway County. You’ll see some of those efforts starting in 2013, and many of the ideas generated will be applied system wide.

Callaway County staff expanded their outreach efforts in 2012 through the following programs.

- Staff conducted story times at a summer 2012 YMCA program.
- We established a collection at Fulton Treatment Center, updated monthly.
- We’re collaborating with “Youth On UP,” a student mentoring and tutoring program.
- Staff provided holiday activities and reading incentives to Fulton Public Housing residents.

Giving
Several grants and private donations allowed us to extend our services and add to our collection last year. Library Services and Technology Act grants provided $11,102 for the Summer Reading program and $9,411 for a self-service check-out machine at the Southern Boone County Public Library. The DBRL Foundation campaign raised $11,515. The Friends of Southern Boone County Public Library “Raise the Top Shelf” campaign raised $24,686. The Friends of the Callaway County, Columbia and Southern Boone County libraries collectively donated more than $77,000 from their book sales. We also received $1,000 from the Korean Student Scholars Association.

2012 Operating Revenue $9,365,014

- 94.4% Property Taxes
- 1.1% State Aid
- 1.1% Investment Income
- 1.5% Contributions
- 1.9% Other

These revenue and expenditure charts represent operating funds only and do not include the Debt Service Fund that is used to pay off bonds used to construct the new Columbia Public Library.

2012 Operating Expenditures $9,220,854

- 56.7% Salaries & Benefits
- 6.8% General Operating
- 15% Library Materials
- 15% Building Operations & Maintenance
- 6.5% Capital Outlay
- 15% Other

Final versions of the library’s financial statements will be available in May.
Use of our digital branch grew 6% in 2012, as more and more patrons discover the eBooks and other services available online. Check-outs of eBooks and downloadable audiobooks jumped 94% in 2012.

Our digital branch team oversees the content and look of our online services and continually works to improve them. At the beginning of 2012 we launched kids.dbrl.org, a blog for parents of young children, where you can find fun educational activities, staff picks for great picture and chapter books, upcoming community events, library program previews and more. For researchers and investors we added the useful Morningstar database. We also revamped the Books & More page with a staff picks carousel, links to book discussions and other great tools for finding a good book. Our online subject guides are always being updated and new topics in 2012 included the Civil War and Shelters and Emergency Services.

Independent library blogger Emily Singley rated DBRL’s website second in a field of 50 that she reviewed. She based her ratings on usability, whether the site was understandable, searchable and attractive.

**Other 2012 Highlights**

- We held the 25th annual “Design a Book Cover” contest for our bookmobile kids.
- Wi-Fi use was up 32.2% from 2011.
- Sarah Howard, DBRL’s Children’s Services Manager, served on the 2013 American Library Association’s Caldecott selection committee during 2012.
- Library Associate Carolyn Branch retired after 27 years with DBRL.