

**Librarian's Report**  
**Freedom Public Library**  
**February 24, 2011**

In computer news this month, I selected the "go back" software that will restore the public computers to their original configuration at each reboot. The software we had been using does not work with Windows 7 (which the netbooks use) and was very, very slow when we needed to make any changes such as routine Windows updates. Smart Shield is working well and is fast.

In trying to install a new keyboard for the laptop that we use at the front desk, I dislodged a connector on the motherboard. The solution, unfortunately, was to have Joel Clement of Freedom Computer install a new motherboard and the keyboard. The laptop is now back in use.

I have asked our website company to add an additional tab on the menu for Book Clubs. The Book Club page will include news, pictures, and reading lists. There will be information about both the adult book club and the children's book club.

At the last Carroll County Library Co-op meeting (at the beautiful new Jackson Public Library) our State Librarian, Michael York, came to update us on the State Library's progress on the development of a new open-source ILS (Integrated Library System) that would be affordable and be kept current. Our current ILS is Infocentre, but this system is no longer being developed by Follett. It has severe limitations that will never be improved such as email integration and reports. The state's product is likely to be widely available within two years. Whether we go with that system or another, I feel that we will want to budget for a new ILS in two to three years. This could possibly be something we ask the Friends to help us with or use memorial donations to purchase. The estimate for the initial startup (there will be a yearly maintenance fee) is around \$5000.

Our library is looking spiffy thanks to Chuck Brooks and Dick Fortin who did a careful and efficient job painting the interior. They did almost all of the moving of "stuff", much to my relief. We were never inconvenienced. Plus, they did other extra work not included in the original bid including painting inside the storage areas under the circulation counters and the big wall on the right as you enter the workroom. Much of the contents of my office is still in boxes. I am going through everything and making tough choices about what to keep and what to pitch so that my office will stay decluttered at least for a while!

We are re-organizing the children's room. We've weeded the puzzles and discarded some toys. Board books are now on a shelf rather than piled in falling-apart baskets on the fireplace hearth. We have moved the children's videos to a space near the bathroom and are expanding the children's picture books into the shelves where the videos had been. This gives us valuable extra room for the children's books as well as additional space for display. We have also rearranged the furniture so that it is not blocking access to the collection.

Gail Bizer is going to lead another knitting class for kids in grades 4 and up. We will offer it on Thursdays after the ski season. It is difficult to find a time that will not conflict with things going on at the school.

I will be attending the Spring CHILIS conference on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> which will feature a showcase of performers that are on the Kids, Books and the Arts roster. I will be traveling to Manchester with the children's librarians from Conway and Tamworth. I am beginning to plan for summer now. The Summer Reading Program theme is "One World, Many Stories". I am contemplating a reading program that will also benefit a charity, like we did a few years ago when we raised money for the Conway Area Humane Society. I am looking into the Heifer International "Read to Feed" program. I'm thinking that reading a certain amount will earn, say, 25 cents for the fundraiser. The children will be able to decide what we want to buy with the funds at the end of the summer – Chickens? Pigs? Goats? Bees? If we decide to do this, I will be seeking individual donors, as we will not be able to use library funds or money from the Friends of the Library for a fundraiser for another organization.

Dick Many and Sylvia Bouvé are both away for several weeks. MaryAnn Hogan will be filling in a few of Sylvia's Wednesday morning shifts and our newest front desk volunteer, Jane Luke, is filling in on Thursday nights. I will be working on creating volunteer job descriptions as I know this is important to have in place.

The library has come alive in the last month and we are much busier. All is well!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer  
Library Director