

Facilities:

The heavy snowfall in the last month has had a major impact on the library. The library roof had to be shoveled on February 4 when the snow load exceeded the limits for the building. And, unfortunately, the library's annual budget for snow shoveling has already been spent for the year. Storms also caused the library to open late or close early on five occasions during the month. A major vacation week program for children was cancelled due to bad weather. During February the library was only open 195 hours, the least number of hours the library has recorded for a February.

New Library Services:

A new online database called Career Cruising has been added to the library's collection. The program, which was purchased by a consortium of Carroll County libraries, will help students and adult users write resumes, explore career options and find job openings. The program can be accessed at the library or from home through the library's website.

A pre-loaded Kindle has been added to the library collection. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, Kindle #1 will be available to circulate for two weeks to those interested in trying out a Kindle. A second Kindle, which will not be preloaded, and a BookNook will also be made available sometime in March.

Staff Development:

Susan Fuller took an online class about the library's new Career Cruising online database. She will be developing a workshop that can be presented to the public to help promote this valuable resource.

Programming:

The library presented 16 programs in February including story time sessions, book discussion programs, a Friday afternoon film series and visits to nursery schools. Two hundred twenty-five people attended the various programs. Due to problems with the recent storms two additional scheduled programs were cancelled.

Statistics:

There were 5,560 visitors to the library in February. The number of questions asked by library patrons increased by 9.3% compared to February 2010 figures with 470 questions asked. Non-book figures increased by 12.9% with 3,572 items circulating. Book circulation figures decreased by 11.6% with 4,332 books checked out. Overall February circulation figures decreased by 2% over February 2010 figures with 7,904 items circulating. Usage of the library's Internet workstations decreased by 14.8% with 707 users (figure does not include wireless usage). In-house usage increased by 13% over the 2010 figure with 474 items used by patrons in-house.