Library System Spotlight:
Washington County Library

St. George had one of the first libraries in Utah. Almost before the people were settled and before they had any certain assurance of livelihood, they began to look for material for self-improvement. In 1864 the Utah Territorial Assembly passed an Act to incorporate the St. George Library Association, with all authority necessary to build and maintain or purchase for the library.

That the pioneers believed in laying the right kind of foundation for whatever they undertook is very evident. Here in the desert, far removed from the world of education, while enduring every hardship and without comforts or conveniences, almost without the necessities of life and with little assurance that they could make a success of their venture in this desolate and unattractive land, they began planning for a library through legal methods to insure their efforts a permanency that might not otherwise be achieved.

Legend tells us that these pioneers raised funds for the purchase of books through produce which was collected as tickets for parties of various kinds. One quart of molasses was required as a ticket of admittance. This quart was placed in a 60-gallon barrel until the 60-gallon barrels were thus filled, this, with other valuable produce similarly acquired, was taken to Salt Lake City and sold or exchanged for books and other reading material. In those days a trip to Salt Lake City required a month or longer.

The Washington County Library System has grown to 7 branches located in St. George, Hurricane, Santa Clara, Washington, Springdale, New Harmony, and Enterprise. All of the libraries in Washington County have either been completely remodeled or newly built within the past 10 years. Each branch represents a specific culture, but the system embodies the county’s focus on providing resources to promote ideas, inspire lifelong learning, and strengthen our communities.

We strive to provide open, non-judgmental access to collections and services to all the residents of Washington County. We invest over $500,000 a year in new reading materials, database access, videos, and more. We hold programming for children, young adult, and adults who turn to the library as a resource within the community.

We love our library and we are excited to welcome all Utah library lovers to come visit us while at ULA this year.

Libraries Visited

These are the libraries that Heidi visited since our last newsletter:

* Brigham City Carnegie Library
* Manti Public Library
* Richfield Public Library
* Monroe Public Library
* Salina Public Library
* Gunnison Civic Library
* Ephraim City Library
* Mount Pleasant Library
* Nephi City Library

If you’d like to have your library spotlighted or have a program idea to share, please send the information to the YSRT Chair. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE:
ULA is in St. George this year!
Date: May 13th-15th

Coming to See You!
Let Heidi know when it’s a good time for her to come visit your library!
YSRT Blog: Utah YSRT Collaboration

I love blogs. A lot. I have at least 7. True, work keeps me from being as active on them as I’d like. But I have found blog formats and services a great tool for idea sharing. People say they’re old and outdated. Maybe they are. But in my journal-loving heart, I don’t think so. Thus, this technologically old school girl (who still doesn’t own a smartphone, yet) started the YSRT’s social foray with a blog. The intention of the blog is for youth service librarians in the state of Utah to submit posts (and pics) of activities they have done. Instructions can be included, as well as notes on what did or didn’t work. It’s an idea-sharing site where librarians can see what has been done. And if they need some help related to the activity, they can see who did it and contact them to get more direct answers. But we need your help! The posts have to come from you. Please submit your write-ups (with at least 1 picture!) about activities/crafts/games/etc you have done. I’ll post them to the blog and then link them to our Pinterest page. -Heidi Tice

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMXHiR1DZ2WX9kv3i4KNSYg

YSRT on YouTube?

What do you think about us having a presence on YouTube? Y/S librarians could submit videos of songs they have done in storytimes. Or humorous antics at programs. Try this video for example: http://youtu.be/1nNpFpl2RB8

Let Heidi know if you’d like to be considered for next year’s vice-chair or a member-at-large!

Contact Information

Heidi (chair): htice@sclibrary.org, 801-943-4636
Liesl (acting vice-chair): ljohnson@slcpl.org
Bekah (acting secretary): bgoodman@sclibrary.org
Sarah: Sarah.Hall@washco.lib.ut.us
Ellen: egrove@murray.utah.gov

Email me a yes if you want YSRT on YouTube as well. -Heidi Tice
Social Media!

For the more visual lovers, I have created a Pinterest page with posts that link directly to our blog. Hopefully the pictures will give you not only ideas of what to do, but spin-off ideas of other things similarly related to what is posted. You can try to figure out what to do/how to create for yourself. But if you want more in-depth directions and a contact for who has done the idea, then the link to the blog will give you that. –Heidi Tice

Utah YSRT Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/people/Utah-Ysrt/100005139349257

YSRT Pinterest

https://www.pinterest.com/utahysrt/

Yep. We’re on Facebook, too! On this page, I will be posting pictures of my Utah library visits. We’ll also make announcements related to ULA and YSRT activities. It can also be a networking source, since all the Friends of Utah YSRT are fellow youth services librarians. If you want to promote things your library is doing or get ideas from others, you’re welcome to post them on this page.

We’d love it if you could like us on Facebook. And if your library has a Facebook page, let us know and we’ll be sure to like your page as well. –Heidi Tice
Admit it—somewhere inside you are an avid fan of Harry Potter, Lord of The Rings, Sherlock, Doctor Who, Star Trek, Anime, Star Wars, Mo Willems, Marvel, Game of Thrones, Once Upon a Time, Jane Austen, or something. (Most likely multiple somethings.) Everyone has things they love. As librarians, we especially know what it’s like to be passionate about those things we love and how excited we are to share those passions or to find others who already share them. That’s probably one of the reasons we are librarians! But some (*gasp*) might be a little embarrassed about their fandoms. I’m here to tell you why you shouldn’t be!

Being a fan can last all year long. It helps you meet and make friends you would’ve never made otherwise. It gives you something to enjoy whether you want to on your own or with fellow fans. Best of all, it gives us GREAT ideas for library programs and ways to reach out to current and potential library patrons.

Take conventions for example. I’m a huge fan. Utah is a great place for conventions. The two recently created, annual Comic Cons have quickly risen to huge success. There are also other wonderful cons like Fantasy Con, Anime Bonzai, and CONduit. I have gone for myself (one of the best 3-day staycations ever) and have helped staff booths in the expo hall. There I have been able to meet thousands of fellow fans who immediately accept me and my passionate nature for many things (dare I say it?) nerd/geek. (Indeed, I made fast friends standing in line to see Ioan Gruffudd—Reed Richards/Horatio Hornblower/William Wilberforce—whom I am still in contact with today.)

At Cons I have also been able to promote library services that cater to the Trekkies, the Whovians, the LEGO lovers, the Minecraft tweens, and more. Nothing beats seeing their eyes light up when you tell them the library offers books, shows, movies, booklists, and most especially programs that reach their little nerd/geek hearts. They feel understood. There is an instant friendship and immediate desire to come see just what the library has to offer them.

Why am I excitedly writing about all this fandom-ness? Because there are library opportunities you don’t want to miss out on! All of our YSRT Board has a few fandoms they are quite loyal to, and most have been involved in some kind of fan-related program. Heidi has helped with all 3 years of Salt Lake County’s annual Teen Yule Ball. Three of us have done Doctor Who Parties. Two of us have put on Star Wars parties. We and the other Y/S librarians of Utah are great resources for ideas to reach the millions of people who are a fan of something. So use the resources, start playing, and let everyone have fun with their fandom(s)!

To see what you can do and who you’ll be reaching, check out great sites that Sarah (member-at-large) suggested to me:

http://ccgclibraries.com/