MY LIBRARY IS SO SMALL ............ (HOW SMALL IS IT???)

• OUR ELEVATION IS GREATER THAN OUR POPULATION
• WHEN SCHOOL GETS OUT, OUR PATRONAGE (AND BATHROOM USE) TRIPLES
• FOLKS COME TO THE LIBRARY ON 4-WHEELERS, TRACTORS, LAWN MOWERS OR HORSES
• PATRONS ARE PERSONALLY AFFRONTED IF WE ASK TO SEE THEIR LIBRARY CARD AT CHECKOUT
• I HAVE DONE STORY HOUR WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CHECKING OUT BOOKS AND ANSWERING THE PHONE
• STORYTIME KIDS WERE ARRIVING, AND I HAD TO FEND OFF A WOOD-CHUCK WITH A SHOVEL UNTIL ANIMAL CONTROL ARRIVED
• WE KNOW EVERY KID ON THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM BY THE KIND OF BOOKS THEY READ WHEN THEY WERE IN SUMMER READING
• THE HIGHWAY SNOWPLOW STOPS BY OUR LIBRARY FOR AUDIO BOOKS TO LISTEN TO WHILE PLOWING THE STREETS

--EXCERPTED FROM AN ARSL PRESENTATION
MY LIBRARY IS SO SMALL … (HOW SMALL IS IT???)

• WE WEED THE FLOWER BEDS WHEN THE LIBRARY ISN’T OPEN YET AND PASSING LIBRARY PATRONS STOP TO HELP

• WE HAVE A WAITING LIST OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ASKED TO HARVEST THE PECANS FROM THE TREES IN THE LIBRARY YARD

• I GET CHILDREN TO SUMMER READING BY DRIVING A SCHOOL BUS TO A NEIGHBORING TOWN (BECAUSE I AM ALSO THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER)

• FEMA REQUESTS THAT THE BOOKMOBILE NOTIFY PEOPLE AT SCHEDULED STOPS THAT THEY NEED TO EVACUATE WITHIN 24 HOURS

• PEOPLE COME IN TO SHOW OFF THEIR NEW BABIES AND PETS; A DOG WANDERS INTO THE LIBRARY, I KNOW THE DOG & CALL THE OWNER

• WE CAN WALK TO ANY STORE, BANK OR RESTAURANT ON A BREAK AND CAN SEE THE CITY HALL & POST OFFICE FROM THE LIBRARY’S FRONT PORCH

• THE CHILDREN FROM SUMMER READING BRING THEIR REPORT CARDS IN TO SHOW US AND INVITE US TO THEIR GRADUATIONS

• OUR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GROUP & LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS & FRIENDS HELP WITH REMODELING, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

• OUR LIBRARY CLOSES FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN FESTIVAL BECAUSE ALL OUR STAFF ARE MARCHING IN THE PARADE
MY LIBRARY IS SO SMALL … (HOW SMALL IS IT???)

- We stay open when the electricity is out because people will be in for books to read until the power is back on.
- We come home to find book donations and returns on our front porch & in our car.
- A patron comes in & says "you know that book with the red cover by that author I like" & I know what book she is asking for.
- I get a call at home on a Sunday to my cell phone, telling me the book drop’s overflowing and it’s raining.
- People tell the town manager I work too much because they saw my car at the library after 9 p.m.
- Our highest circulating non-fiction items are about canning, composting & animal husbandry.
- People come in with snakes, bugs, etc. and want us to research what they are.
- I stop at yard sales and other libraries’ book sales to buy movies for the library.
- We can knock on a patron’s door and get the overdue books back ourselves.
- Our patrons subscribe to certain periodicals to ensure the library has it.
- A child at Wal-Mart says "look mama, it’s the library lady!"
CHALLENGES FACING RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES
BUILDING SIZE ???

How Small Is It? | ULA Conference | May 18, 2017 | Sandy, Utah
ULA RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
SURVEY RESULTS: 101 RESPONSES

THE 4 BIGGEST CHALLENGES RURAL AND SMALL LIBRARIES FACE ARE:

• BUDGET: STAFF AND OPERATIONS (C=65, 64%)
• SPACE: MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS (C=54, 53%)
• TRAINING: EXPENSE, DISTANCE, EFFECTIVENESS (C=50, 50%)
• BUDGET: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT (C=47, 47%)

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THE TOP 4 OBSTACLES THAT INFLUENCE PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING ARE:

• TIME: BALANCING WORK DUTIES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (C=88, 87%)

• BUDGET FOR TRAINING AND TRAVEL: FUNDS TO REGISTER FOR AND ATTEND THE TRAINING (C=81, 80%)

• BUDGET FOR STAFF: PAYROLL COSTS FOR STAFF TO ATTEND TRAINING OR TO REPLACE TRAINEE’S ABSENCE (C=65, 64%)

• DISTANCE: TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS OR DON’T LIKE TO TRAVEL (C=65, 64%)
IS SIZE A GAME-CHANGER?

FEELS LIKE IT?
DID HE GIVE IN OR USE HIS SIZE AS A STRENGTH?
WHAT DO WE DO WHEN HEAR ABOUT AN AMAZING PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY??

YEAH, RIGHT !!!!!

Nobody understands what we go through. We would never have enough people show up for that, have enough staff, money, room.... Time for a pity party.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

- TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK
- USE OUR STRENGTHS
- RESEARCH
- FIND CONFIDENCE
- BE OURSELVES
- GET HELP FROM OTHERS
OVERWHELMING?  JEALOUS?

FIND THE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR SITUATION & USE IT!!
WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN A SMALL LIBRARY THAT WOULDN’T HAPPEN IN A LARGE ONE?
I love you

Jens I do thank you for the

gumbbers

Soojen and you

Oxoxoxoxoxoxo

I love you
REWORK IT!
HOW TO SCALE?
1. SET ATTITUDE
2. SET GOALS
3. IMPLEMENT
REALITY CHECK
OUTREACH & PARTNERS
FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

[Image of Ada Community Libraries logo]
WHAT’S NEXT?
AVOID BURN-OUT
WHEN IT DOESN’T GO AS PLANNED
How Small Is It? | ULA Conference | May 18, 2017 | Sandy, Utah

Hidden Springs Library
April 26 at 4:17pm

STAR WARS PARTY
Thursday, May 4, 2017 - 4:00pm
For Kids
Test your skills at the Jedi training camp or have some fun with the light saber skills lab and much more. There will be lots of fun activities like Jedi training camp, Dark side snacks, Light saber skills lab, Intergalactic crafts, Wear your costume and Storm trooper face off.