Dropping Anchor: Technology

With our new 3D printer and vinyl cutter, we’ve made technology even more our wheelhouse! We raised our mast and went sailing into makerspace concepts that enhance the functionality of our libraries. The purchase of a 3D printer, computer aided design software, and a vinyl cutter let library users of all ages ride the waves of creativity. Many libraries used the vinyl cutter in programs, and Victoria and Waconia have been able to provide regular technology programs for children and teens. Additionally, our Technology Assistants, the Twin Cities Media Alliance, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and other partners have been able to provide a wide range of other technology programs in all of our libraries.

Captain’s Log: Charting Our Course for the Future

“We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.” ~Bertha Callaway, Community Activist & Historian

Carver County Library has come far in 2016, with a number of collaborations, new programming, and new technology. This has happened because of the hard work and persistence of a dedicated staff. However, it has also happened because we have planned for this. In 2017, we will begin charting our course anew, planning for the future with a new strategic plan. While we understand we cannot control some things (such as the wind), there are many we can. By careful planning (sail adjustment), we can sail into a bright future. We invite you to read this compilation of 2016 accomplishments. Then please consider joining us this fall as we chart our course for the future.

Sincerely,
Heidi Hoks, Library Director – Carver County Library

Compass Point: 2016 Communications Survey

In 2016 the library conducted a survey online and in person, both in the library and out about how people hear about library services. To do this, we made presentations to service organizations, activity groups, schools, city leaders, and other Carver County community members.

Results revealed that people predominantly hear about library services, programs, and new materials from other people, including library staff, and others in their social net. Word of mouth advertising is still the best PR we can offer. However those that took the survey also liked the idea of having information sent to them via email. The result is a push to gather more email addresses for our eNewsletter.

Terra Firma: Library Foundation

The Library Foundation of Carver County exists so our libraries can provide resources, goods and services beyond what is possible from our regular funding sources and Friends of the Library groups. Foundation funding supports our annual Summer (for kids) and Winter (for adults) Reading Programs, Book Club in a Bag Kits, Book Page, and new eAudiobook collections in 2016. They raise funds through a variety of fundraisers, donations, grants, and bequests from the public.
Cut of our Jib: Community Collaborations

In 2016 the library worked with a number of community partners to provide programs and services throughout the year for all age levels.

These groups include Parks and Recreation departments in several Carver County cities, Carver County Parks, Eastern Carver County Community Education District 112, Waconia Schools, Carver County Historical Society, Carver County Veterans Services, SouthWest Transit, ECFE, Carver/Scott Master Gardeners, University of Minnesota Extension, local artists, the AARP Foundation, many robotics teams from the area, and several local businesses. Thanks for working with us!

Making Waves: 2016 By The Numbers

1,018,066 items checked out
Including 71,278 electronic items. E-books, E-audiobooks, & E-magazines

48,684 People attended
Including 1,067 Children’s programs, 367 Adult programs, 89 teen programs, & 151 Outreach programs

4,969 items checked out at Express Libraries

11,316 Volunteer hours

525,656 Visitors

939 Facebook followers (up from 586 in 2015)

55,698 Sessions on public computers

173,801 Website visits

36,100 Twitter impressions in one month