



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 18 – February 14, 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On January 20, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Trustee for District 2 Gloria Malone and Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado met with Councilman Alan Warrick II to provide an overview of Library services in City Council District 2 as well as an update on the new District 2 Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Board Chair Jean Brady (District 1 appointee), and Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado met with Councilman Roberto Trevino on January 23, 2015 to provide an overview of Library services in City Council District 1.

On January 21, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board Meeting and delivered an update on the Library. Digital Services Manager Ignacio Albarracin delivered a presentation regarding the digital services offered at the Library. After the meeting, Dianna Morganti, Interim Central Library Coordinator, provided a tour of Central Library for interested San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board Members.

As part of the ongoing recognition program for Library Staff, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended a breakfast on January 22 celebrating the recipients of the 2014 Staff Recognition Award. Nominators were also invited to join in celebrating the recipients. That evening, Ramiro Salazar delivered welcoming remarks for the Library's premier Black History Month event featuring Donna Brazile at the Carver Cultural Center. The 'sold-out' free ticket event was live streamed through a partnership with NOWCastSA.

On January 25, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Annual Board Meeting held at the Central Library and delivered a presentation.

On February 3, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant to City Council Chris Callanen met with Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, District 5, regarding the planned improvements for the Collins Garden Branch Library.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash attended the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting in Chicago from January 30 through February 2. Viki is serving as the administrative consultant for eight committees that present annual book and media awards. Included in this group of awards are the Newbery Medal, the Caldecott Medal and the Wilder Medal - all nationally recognized as children's literature's most prestigious honors. Viki was appointed to this consultancy by the current president of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) based upon her many years of professional service and experience including her stint as the 2012 Newbery Medal chair.

Judging for the 2015 Young Pegasus Poetry Competition was completed on Thursday, February 12. The panel of seven judges considered over 1800 poems and finally selected 52 of them for publication. Staff is currently checking for any plagiarism issues in anticipation of sending notification letters to selected poets by the end of the month. The 2015 competition marks the 89th year of this SAPL tradition. This year's awards ceremony is slated for Sunday, May 2.

SAPL's partnership with the San Antonio Symphony continues to be positive for both organizations. To date, ten symphony musicians have presented programs at ten branches with a total attendance of 282. Funding to compensate the musicians was arranged by Jeremy Brimhall, Symphony Education Director, through the generous support of Mary Anne Crosby. These presentations continue on Saturday afternoons through May 16. A final report on this partnership, with recommendations for future collaborative projects, will be developed as the series closes out in the spring.

LITTLE READ WAGON

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents

Little Read Wagon returned to Pre-K 4SA South, West, North and East as well as the Carvajal and Knox Head Start centers to offer the next early literacy make-and-take workshop: Sounds Like Fun. Julia Lazarin revamped advertising for the workshop, emphasizing the make-and-take aspect of the workshop and promotion of a participation contest between classrooms caused attendance at these workshops to skyrocket. Parents who had not attended previously shared that they thought the workshops would be lectures and did not understand that they would be offered in Spanish as well as English. Frequently, workshops for parents are lecture-based and advertised in Spanish but presented in English, making them less enjoyable for everyone and inaccessible to Spanish-speaking participants.

Elizabeth Huber and Cresencia Huff made short presentations at several smaller Head Start centers and elementary schools, including: Hirsch, Indian Creek, Avance Early Beginnings, Hernandez Head Start, Harmony Hills, Rhapsody Head Start, Kriewald Road Elementary and Gillette Elementary. Most of these presentations were bilingual and about an hour in length.

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents

Corinne Sanchez, Ronnie Webb and Xelena Gonzalez presented to at least 115 teen parents at the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Teen Parent Summit on February 13. The summit was an excellent opportunity to reach teen parents at all SAISD campuses. Participants made puppets and lacing cards to use with their children. Ready Rosie subscriptions were offered to those who had not already signed up for the school readiness program. The overall success of the presentation could be judged by how quietly and intensely the teen parents worked on their puppets and lacing cards.

In addition to regular visits to area high schools, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Huber continued their work on the new project with Seton Home, a residence for teen parents. Soon they will begin delivering services and purchasing materials for the residents and staff to use with the children.

Mr. Webb visited MacArthur High School and San Antonio Can High School and Child Development Center. Mr. Webb will continue to schedule more visits to high schools that have not yet been served this school year.

Library Promotion

Ms. Huff attended the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association meeting on January 27 to promote the Play & Learn series at the Woodlawn Wi-Fi Room. Meeting attendees were very interested in helping to spread the word and joked that they also would like to having programming with play dough and art activities for adults. Viki Ash staffed an information table and distributed Every Child Ready to Read posters at the January 17 Early Childhood Resource and Training Fair.

Play & Learn

Little Read Wagon concluded the Play & Learn programs at the South San Community Center and Claude Black Center. The series at the South San Community Center was very poorly attended. Possible reasons for such a low response include scheduling the series too close to the winter holidays and difficulty reaching parents who do not have regular internet access.

The series at the Claude Black Center was well-attended and filled the conference room that was made available for the program. Two representatives from the Eastside Promise Neighborhood attended a program and shared video and photos of the event on Facebook. Although the series had good attendance, there was very little participation from residents in the immediate area.

Play & Learn at the Woodlawn Wi-Fi Room began with a sizeable group of families, including several new participants, on February 10. The weather was excellent and allowed for several outdoor activities as well as quiet stations inside the space. Julia Selwyn, Central Reference, will join Little Read Wagon on February 17 to share information about databases and other library resources for parents.

Workshops for Early Childhood Professionals

Ms. Sanchez presented a break-out session at the January 17 Early Childhood Resource and Training Fair. Ms. Huber, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Huff, Mr. Webb and Liliana Ornelas presented another Music and More Early Literacy Moves workshop on January 31 at Central Library. Participants included a music teacher who was very happy to have a workshop topic so relevant to her work. Other participants also enjoyed learning new songs, building their knowledge of the connections between music, movement and early literacy, and the make-and-take. Jorge Ochoa again led a drumming session demonstrating how to use drumming to teach syllabication, shapes, colors and more. The optional HealthRhythms session after the workshop had more participants than ever as Mr. Ochoa facilitated a stress reduction exercise.

TEEN SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Off-Site Service

Kathleen Fordyce (Teen Services Librarian II) and Caroline Mossing (Teen Services Librarian I) visited the Academy of Creative Education—each on a separate occasion—to present information to students about the Library’s programs and resources for teens and to provide ACE students with library cards.

Partnerships

San Antonio Food Bank

To fulfill one of the Food Bank’s Kids Café requirements, Kathleen Fordyce and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant) attended the monthly nutrition lesson at the Food Bank on February 10. Teen Services staff incorporates what they learn from these nutrition lessons in teen programming at the Central Library.

Inspire U

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program through Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (part of SA2020), met with their “littles” in the Central Library Auditorium on January 26 for their monthly lunch. Kathleen Fordyce continues to serve as the liaison for this program.

Professional Development & Programming

The Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons met at the Central Library on February 11. Caroline Mossing provided a training in which everyone was able to try out different tech activities at five different work stations. These activities are part of the Teen Tech Week program menu that Teen Services will offer

during March 8-14. The librarians and liaisons will be able to pick one of the programs from the menu or facilitate a program of their own during Teen Tech Week.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Graphic Design

Ana and Giselle continued to work on special promotions for Black History Month, Women's History Month and Teen Tech Week (happening in March), Love Your Central Library Day, LEARN at SAPL and Summer Reading Program materials and materials in preparation for the new District 2 library.

Public Relations

Marcie and Joseph participated in the planning and production of the Black History Month Premiere event featuring Donna Brazile at the Carver Community Cultural Center that took place on January 22. Marcie prepared and participated in the filming of Cover to Cover on TVSA. Marcie also participated in the planning and production of Heart Central Library Day and she secured advertising with The Rivard Report for Black History Month.

She continues to train other departments on how to use the Digital Library Community Project wallpaper and she secured and facilitated a live radio interview on KROV FM about Black History Month. She worked on securing and facilitating an interview with Local Community News about the opening of the Encino Branch Library in May 2015. Marcie also secured and facilitated a meeting with Steve Bennett with the Express News regarding the 20th Anniversary of Central Library.

Total Value of Broadcast Coverage for the reporting period = \$7,441

Total Media Mentions: 66

Social Media & Special Programs

Joseph continues to promote SAPL events and special programs on social media and continuously increases outreach opportunities. He continues to plan the SAPL Holocaust: Learn & Remember program as part of a special committee and is preparing special programs on behalf of the SAPL Foundation's L3 committee. Joseph also spent the reporting period working on all details related to the website's re-design, creating the weekly "Weekends at SAPL" and the monthly "SAPL News & Events" electronic newsletters. He also wrote three blogs and prepared articles for the Friends of SAPL, Dot Gov and eConnections city newsletters.

Facebook currently has 8,180 followers. Twitter currently has 2,413 and Instagram has 257 followers.



CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The addition of Bilingual Story Time to the Central Children's Department programming list has been a wonderful one. Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl (Collection Development Librarian) has been leading the sessions

which began in January. Cross-training has begun with other Central Children's staff members. The Department is already learning a great deal more about how to lead a successful bilingual program for early language learners. Themes of focus have been colors, counting, friendship and food. The group has grown as has the Department's use of the Spanish language. The work has led the group to create a variety of Bilingual Book Bundles.

Kate Simpson (Assistant Manager) led the St. Luke's School students in their annual second grade tour of the Central Library. The children learned about all of the art work on display in the Library and received an introduction to the public library system when they received their very own library cards. Their school's librarian, Mary Milligan, reported that the children raved about their visit to the Library for days after the tour and the staff saw many of them return with their parents the following weekend to enjoy the Family Fun program and to browse the children's collection at their leisure. Other tours led this month by Ms. Simpson and Ruth Chiego (Manager) were provided to The Suburban School, The School for Inquiry and Creativity, The Winston School, and the Downtown YMCA Youth Corps.

During her Family Fun program, Ms. Simpson introduced the concept of fine art and still life drawings with a reading of several new children's books about Frida Kahlo and books celebrating personal expression through art. The families viewed a slideshow of famous still lifes throughout many periods of art history before retiring to the work stations to try their hand at still life drawing using oil pastels. Each table featured an arrangement of fresh flowers and a bowl of fruit for artistic study. Many of the children made more than one drawing, so that they could take one home and leave one for display in the Story Room's *Art Gallery*. Finally, the families came together to create a three dimensional masterpiece collage of a vibrantly colorful vase of flowers made with tissue paper. In celebration of *National Take Your Child to the Library Day*, Simpson created an experience highlighting the special role of libraries in the community and celebrating the love of reading. She shared stories about inspiring librarians which also featured a variety of creatures enjoying the library. Then everyone gathered for an interactive library-themed guessing game in which information about how the library works was shared in a fun (Jeopardy-style) way. The families then worked together to create a variety of elaborate bookmarks to take home. Before departing, the children had a blast "playing librarian" with a pretend play zone, where they could look up books in the cardboard computer, call for shelf checks on the play phone and stamp pretend library cards for eager patrons on the other side of the play desk.

As part of the Central Library-wide program, *Heart Central Library*, the Central Children's Department celebrated Valentine's Day with a special bash featuring a variety of heart-shaped and love-themed craft. Jasmin Salinas (Librarian) met party-goers on a child-sized dance floor as they danced away to several Motown favorites. A collaborative art piece greeted visitors and encouraged participants to express all the things they loved in the world. The celebration was capped off with a raucous "I Love the Library" parade where children and their adults wore their heart hats and made their presence known while ringing bells and shaking shaker eggs. A few brave adults even joined the merry band with tambourines! A Valentine's Day-related celebration was also enjoyed by Play & Learn participants. Amy Lewis (Librarian) created a red-themed extravaganza which featured a large red fire engine for children to hop into. Serendipitously, two large boxes were donated to the Department, and Ms. Lewis was able to create two large vehicles using paint and ingenuity. A fire truck and a school bus were the end result. Due to the very popular "community helpers" themes at the early childhood centers who visit us each year, the Department knows these will get a lot of use throughout the year!

Besides all the Book Bundles on display and ready for checkout, the Children's Department has an interactive display on view through the spring. It features "Doors To Imagination" through which visitors can guess the title of a book by looking at the picture clues inside the door frames. School age tour groups have especially enjoyed the game and many children have returned with their parents to the Children's floor to experience it again.

DIGITAL SERVICES

Sierra Mendez and Veronica Rodriguez refreshed the Storytime Stampede on February 7 at the Kampmann Portal, moving to a setup using theme-based book and activity stations. Ms. Mendez and Ms.

Rodriguez also complete a proposal for the StoryCorps@yourlibrary project and submitted the application in early February.

REFERENCE

Reference staff continues to promote the Library through programs and outreach. The Library also functions as an intermediary or resource for patrons to other governmental agencies or services.

Due to cuts in Internal Revenue Service funding, the paper tax forms available to the public from the Library (and other entities) have been significantly reduced. To assist colleagues James Laferla prepared a script outlining the changes and providing other options for the public to access IRS forms. The relevant LibGuide was also updated by Mr. Laferla and Blanca Hernandez and includes information on available tax help in the community.

On January 21, Pannaga Prasad and Diana Starrett gave a presentation at the San Antonio Botanical Center to approximately 100 retired teachers. Ms. Prasad and Ms. Starrett focused on library services available to seniors. In appreciation for the presentation, the San Antonio Area Retired Teachers Association (SAARTA) donated money for scholarships in honor of the Library.

Tricia Masterson presented the movie, "Lucy" for Central Cinema on February 1; an overwhelming 76 patrons attended.

Matt De Waelsche, Texana Archivist, received a donation (approximately 12 cubic feet of material) from the Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Association Archives.

On February 3, Deborah Countess conducted a genealogy class entitled, 'Getting Started with Familysearch.org'. Some attendees found "missing" ancestors before the class ended!

The Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) held their meeting in Texana on February 9. State Librarian, Mark Smith and State Archivist, Jelain Chubb attended in addition to other state-wide members. Members and guests received a tour of San Antonio Public Library's "Vault Treasures".

The 'Love Central Library Day' event on February 14 – Valentine's Day - came from an idea germinated in the Central Library is for Everyone (CLIFE) Committee. Reference staff coordinated with already scheduled programming in the Children's and Teens Departments to promote and feature activities throughout Central.

To help promote the celebration, Texana's Sylvia Reyna designed and curated a display of Harry Hertzberg's historic Victorian Valentine Collection. Texana staff made up 100 bags with "goodies" to hand out, with the tag line: "Love Your Family! How did your parents meet? Learn more on the 6th Floor! Come do Genealogy!"

Fiction Team members Cristine Mitchamore, Tricia Masterson and Blanca Hernandez coordinated activities and events on Central's 2nd and 5th Floors. At the Central Library Atrium, patrons enjoyed 'Historic Scottish Country Dancing'. Near the Fiction Collection, staff hosted a 'Romance Readers Social' to celebrate and talk about an often maligned genre.

In the Lobby area on 1st Floor, Rolando Casias performed romantically-inspired songs on his own hand-built classical guitars.

Paula Davis facilitated the presentation of Romantic Comedies shown (without sound) in the Connect Training Center.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): JD continued his weekly Eclectic Electric program, in which teens learn to play guitar and/or keyboards. Teens can also teach their peers to play. After the music ends, teens engage in different weekly craft projects.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays. Teens examined the effects of chemical compounds on the color of flame and used a supersaturated solution to create crystallized ornaments. They also learned about the functions of quadcopters and had the opportunity to pilot one, compensating for wind and considering their surroundings. Teens built desktop catapults and compared trajectories and accuracy of different materials and structures.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): On Wednesday nights, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. In addition, teens have the opportunity to express their creative side by participating in craft or art projects of their choosing. During the previous reporting period teens asked for particular board games to be purchased. The teens got their wish and were able to play an epic game of Bananagrams one Wednesday evening, as well as some of the other newly acquired games.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): During the reporting period at Teen Services, teens continued participating in programs that they suggested or that encouraged peer-to-peer assistance, artistic expression, and coordination. On the day before National Pie Day, teens made pies, either hot or cold, that required selecting ingredients based on taste and compatibility. The results were amazing and the interaction between the teens involved labeling other's pie as most inventive, prettiest, and looks tastiest. Craft time for the following Thursday was nail polish marble art which involved nail polish, water, and bamboo skewers. Teens dropped nail polish in water then sunk paper, a canvas or paper box in the water for the nail polish to adhere to the item. When asked if anyone had done the activity before, one teen girl yelled out, "I have," as she raced to the table quickly to demonstrate to the others. To celebrate Heart Health Month, teens had a trail mix 'n match night where they tasted various items such as dried fruits, nuts, and cereals and spices to include in their own person bag of trail mix. As per request, teens also made beadsprites. To celebrate Valentine's Day, one teen asked if it would be possible to make Valentine cookies. Teens made the dough, rolled and cut out shapes and baked them in toaster ovens. They then decorated their cookies with a selection of colored icings. One teen used his dough to make cookies as gift to give school friends. After most craft programs have concluded, in a non-competitive environment, teens played video games. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as system-wide programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

Special Saturday program: In celebration of Valentine's Day, teens made bath fizzies by harnessing a chemical reaction and used conductive tape and LEDs to hack their valentines. This teen event was part of the larger ♥Central Library Day celebration on February 14.

Tours and Groups

Students from a poetry class at Lanier High School visited Teen Services on January 23 to look at poetry resources that had been pulled for them and to peruse poetry and literature databases. Two classes from the Henry Ford Academy reserved computers in Teen Services on February 2 for research purposes. Seventh and eighth grade students from St. Peter Prince of Apostles School were given a tour of the library and catalog and database instruction on February 4.



BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Children's Librarian, Hope Sonnen began a Book Club with five Kindergarten children at J.T. Brackenridge Elementary. With two sessions completed so far, Ms. Sonnen reports that these new readers were very excited to participate and enjoyed taking turns reading and answering questions about the book they read. She continues to lead Book Clubs at three more schools.

As a host site for the free tax preparation service, VITA, the Bazan branch saw increased traffic and an opportunity to welcome new customers.

Metro Health continues to use the branch as outreach location for its public health initiatives.

Academia America-Citizenship classed continued with very good attendance. The classes are conducted by Academia América, a non-profit organization based in San Antonio that provides tuition-free citizenship education programs and referral services to immigrants, and legal residents who are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship

ACA enrollment assistance was made available at the Bazan branch during this year's enrollment period. Enrollment specialists from SRA International were on hand to provide one-on-one assistance to individuals seeking to renew or enroll in health insurance.

BROOK HOLLOW

On January 28, Brook Hollow welcomed back a popular monthly program: Steampunk 101. This event offers novices and steampunk aficionados alike a glimpse into this growing trend. The clockwork studded world of steampunk combines a literary genre with an aesthetic sensibility. Attendees are treated to presentations on the history of steampunk, DIY costuming, and an entrée into a welcoming community. Brook Hollow Children's Department completed a thorough weeding of grubby Juvenile Awards books. Consultation with Nohemi Rosdahl led to a system-wide plan to weed and re-order popular Award books. Librarian Rachael Barrera is spearheading the system-wide effort.

On February 3, Brook Hollow hosted another highly successful Play and Learn. The 84 attendees experienced many Valentine's Day themed activities, as well as activities about penguins and ice, to support the day's read aloud book *Penguin in Love* by Salina Yoon. Kids and parents enjoyed sensory bins with Kool Aid dyed rice and Valentine's trinkets, a penguin/fish beanbag toss, heart shaped ice painting, Valentine's Day cards, a fizzy ice heart science experiment, a heart numeral matching game with dice, and a pretend flower shop, as well as other activities.

Brook Hollow's recently added Wednesday afternoon Baby Time appears to be picking up steam with a few extra attendees every week.

Teen Time attendance at Brook Hollow has picked up in the last few weeks. On January 26th the teens were happy to see the variety of board games available and enjoyed a lively game of 'Apples to Apples'.

The next week the teens chose to watch some anime and watched episodes of "Soul Eater", "Bleach" and started the first half of "Cowboy BeBop: The Movie", finishing on February 9. Refreshments of popcorn, cookies and beverages generously provided by the Friends were enjoyed.

CARVER

Learn @ SAPL opened unofficially on January 27. Patrons who were eager to learn job skills, work on their resumes or improve their computer skills made sure to visit the new facility. Though the center is barely a month old, Training Officer Jeanne Johnson already has a slate of regular visitors. Kenneth Franklin, Department of Human Services, has joined the center as a case worker.

Black History Month at Carver Branch included screenings of films highlighting African American culture and themes. San Antonio artist Bernice Williams decked the walls of the Prudence Curry Meeting Room with colorful quilts with intricate patterns, illustrating the tradition of quilting passed down by our grandmothers. The quilts are the handiwork of her students who meet for art instruction at the District 2 Senior Center.

The meeting room was packed solid on February 12 for Back to My Roots: Natural Styles Workshop. The event attracted more than fifty audience members. On February 14th historian and travel enthusiast Nias Harris offered a special symposium on the wonders of Africa. Mr. Harris spent weeks visiting different parts of the continent before returning with images and artifacts to share with his audience. His interactive program attracted just over fifty people. SAPL Board member Gloria Malone and members of the Ivy Readers Book Club that day presented the branch with a three-volume collection of African American history in memory of deceased member Dorothy Friday, a longtime San Antonio educator.

In honor of Valentine's Day, the branch hosted an hour of poetry read by area writers. Afterward, guests sat down to a dinner of gumbo, fresh-baked cornbread and ice tea prepared by Ma Harper's Creole Kitchen.

For the second year in a row, the branch featured A Date with a Book which, once again, proved to be a hit with customers.

Assistant Manager Monty Holcomb, acting as Carver's Teen Services Liaison, hosted four Teen Time events with the Wii game system. Mr. Holcomb initiated Chess Night and has held four events thus far. In addition, he started a Mayor's Book Club group at the District 2 Senior Center session and has so far facilitated two book club meetings.

Branch Manager DL Grant Jr. represented the branch at Family Literacy Night at S.J. Davis Middle School on Feb. 10.

CODY

Spidey, Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman were in attendance at Cody's *Superheroes' Extravaganza* on January 22. Sheila Acosta, Children's Librarian, read superhero stories. The children then formed teams for some fun challenges and feats, which earned them various prizes. Sheila also provided a variety of superhero crafts to make and to take with them. Refreshments were served to end the "super-fun" evening.

Lego Club enthusiasts teamed up on January 27 to earn top recognition for the Lego competition presented by Sheila Acosta. The theme was a favorite fairy tale or fable, and the children did not disappoint, with creations from *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*. It was tough deciding the extraordinary Lego creations. The Lego creations were displayed in the New Books section for the month.

Tween Book Club members met on January 29 to discuss the book of the month- *Elvis and the Underdogs* by Jenny Lee. Sheila Acosta presented a unique discussion technique by providing a

challenge to the attendees that involved tossing a pair of cardboard dice which contained names and items from the book. The tweens then had to describe various scenes or events to match the dice. Sheila booked-talked newly arrived books which the Tweens were then able to check out.

On February 2 during *Tween Time*, Tweens were eager to participate in several challenges. After a timed *Getting to Know You Bingo*, they teamed up for straw-relays. The final challenge of the day was a word game where they were challenged to come up with as many words as they could from the phrase "Groundhog Day." The Tweens took this particular challenge seriously and Sheila offered new books as prizes to the top four winners.

Valentine hats, bookmarks, and uber-creative Valentine cards were popular with the children and families who attended Cody's *Valentine Arts and Crafts* program on February 5. Sheila provided all of the materials and let the children do their thing! The children especially liked the Valentine "pop" cards.

The *Beginner Readers Club* members presented a readers' theater of Mo Willems' *A Big Guy Took My Ball!* Beginning readers participated in a happy-or-sad activity involving Willems' two main characters, Elephant and Piggie. The activity focused on image cues and new words. Sheila then had each member to share a book or book recommendation of something they had read. Before they left, each of the beginning readers made a visual endorsement for their favorite Elephant and Piggie books.

Country Home Daycare scheduled in-house story times with Sheila on February 4 and 11. Country Home was promoting library usage, programming and services during the month of February.

A Love Your Library Scavenger Hunt encouraged children and families to become acquainted with the kids' sections of the Cody Library from February 12 -15. Sheila challenged them to find a few favorite characters that were lost. All entries were due by February 15. Winners were posted on February 16.

Sheila continued her early literacy outreach to The Pineapple School, Kids Campus, Discovery World, and the Chabad Gan-Gani Pre-School this month.

The Teen group at the Cody Library has continued to grow. Since January 18 Cody has had four regular programs and a writing contest, with 51 teens in attendance. On January 20 the teens were excited to watch *The Guardians of the Galaxy*. Many of the teens had seen the movie but several had not. Everyone had a good time.

On January 26 Teen Librarian Kristin Yourdon met with Texas Military Institute (TMI) Librarian Lynn Lada, to discuss potential ways to collaborate. Ms. Lada agreed to distribute flyers advertising programs and services to TMI students.

On January 27 teens socialized and played video games. Teens enjoyed the new selection of video games.

Due to the positive response to a previous perler bead program, Kristin presented another perler bead program on February 3. A high turnout of Teens created perler bead Valentines to give as gifts. With their creativity unleashed, many created some great works of art.

On February 10, teens made Hershey's Kiss roses. Many teens were eager to make these treats for themselves and for Valentines gifts. Some of the teens used their creativity to make other types of flowers with the materials.

Throughout the month, teens could participate in a *Cheesiest Love Poem* writing contest. The library received several. The winning poem described the romantic relationship between provolone cheese and cheese-its. It was truly cheesy and showed off the teens' creativity.

Kristin also began recruiting teens to serve as Teen Leaders for Cody. The first Teen Leaders meeting was held on February 12 with discussion focusing on program for March. After the meeting one Teen

Leader expressed that several of her friends are also interested in becoming Teen Leaders. Cody's *Teen Time* and Teen Leaders groups are both looking forward to continuing to grow in the future.

Cody continued with its "I have a dream" display which encouraged customers to share their dream. All ages have participated. A wide variety of dreams have been shared, including dreams of world peace, receiving American Citizenship, and a puppy.

VITA tax service is in full swing with the site reaching capacity before opening each day. VITA anticipates that the high demand will continue throughout February and will slow at the beginning of March.

AACOG ACA Navigators were also available on Saturdays and Sundays to assist people with helping registering for healthcare. They saw an increase in demand towards the registration deadline of February 15.

The Vance Jackson Home Owner's Association held their annual membership meeting at Cody on January 29. Special speakers included District 8 Councilman Ron Nirenberg. Citizens were able to ask the Councilman questions and to voice concerns that affected their neighborhoods.

Cody also served as an early voting site for the Special Runoff Election for to fill the State Senator position of District 26 and the State Representative of District 123.

After much evaluation and calculation, Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw is having parts of the collection rearranged to create a new teen area. Library Aides are currently shifting and rearranging so as to cause as little disruption to service as possible. Once everything has been moved, the Friends will purchase new café-style tables and seating for the new Teen area. The staff is excited for the change and ready for the new look.

COLLINS GARDEN

Winter offers many opportunities for libraries to highlight their collections and Collins Garden took full advantage of them. The library was decorated with paper penguins and pretty hearts, making the entire library festive. The book displays echoed the season with books on winter, snow and New Year's resolutions. Additionally, Collins Garden honored Martin Luther King, Jr. and is also celebrating Black History Month with extensive displays of books and media.

Now that the holiday season is over, outreach is once again in full swing. Area daycares are receiving storybook collections as well as enjoying Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford's engaging and enthusiastic storytelling visits.

Collins Garden hosted the Scholastic Van, which was a rare treat. The children definitely enjoyed all the van had to offer – all sorts of activities to encourage reading and literacy. Every visitor to the van received a free book to take home and enjoy. Even shoppers from the HEB across the street came over to visit the van.

Collins Garden once again hosted Early Voting for area runoff elections. Turnout was low the first part of the week but the last day saw a large number of citizens coming in to cast their ballots.

The staff at Collins are preparing for a major makeover. Craft supplies are being carefully inventoried and arrangements are being made for storage during the summer months. The book collection is being evaluated and reevaluated to make sure that it meets community needs, as well as ensuring the size and currency of the collection will complement the community's interests as well as the renovated building's physical requirements.

The staff members at Collins Garden Branch Library are very grateful to the Early Voting Staff, especially Judge Ponce Fuentes, for purchasing a microwave for the branch when ours broke down while they were using it.

A customer needed help with USAJOBS verification through his email and CA Enedina Prater was able to successfully assist him with the process. He told her that she was more helpful than the Workforce Solutions employees. The customer was so grateful for Dina's assistance that he also mentioned how helpful she had been to the LIC, requesting that she be thanked again.

CORTEZ

Cortez Library hosted a registration session for the citizenship class offered in partnership with Academia America. Many people visited to determine whether they were qualified for the program and to sign up. A news crew from Time Warner Cable covered the event. At the completion of the 10-week course, students will be able to enroll in an advanced course which may qualify them for low-cost assistance with their naturalization application. The citizenship class will be offered on Sundays at 10:30 am.

The Learn @ SAPL center has been extremely popular with those seeking English as a Second Language help, computer skills such as keyboarding and Microsoft office, and job searching and resume skills. Her most recent success story: after visiting Ms. Vega to work on his resume and interview skills, a patron received a job offer at the end of his interview! Ms. Vega continues to adjust the schedule to accommodate the community's needs. The Learn @ SAPL center is open regular branch hours Sunday through Thursday.

The branch offered Affordable Care Act assistance on Tuesdays from 2 to 6 pm. A certified Navigator from Med Team, Inc. was available to help patrons find a health plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. At some sessions a representative from Aetna Better Health provided information about CHIP and Medicaid.

Children's librarian Connie Hejl's Valentine Party was a sweet treat for a special Family Fun. Story time continues every Wednesday at 11 am, Game Time is at 3:30 on Wednesdays, and Family Fun is every Tuesday at 4 pm.

The Gettin' Crafty Cortez Crafters' Group continues to be a popular program to make interesting creations and socialize. The crafters have been learning how to crochet with needles and looms as well as how to decoupage.

The *Once Upon a Crime Book Club* is reading *Bad Girl: Confessions of a teenage delinquent* by Abigail Vona.

The English as a Second Language class continues weekly on Saturday mornings with loyal attendees.

Teen Time continues to offer a place for teens to hang out with friends, play video games, and grab some snacks. Thanks to the Friends of the Cortez Library for refreshments.

Zombie Meet with Madeline Vasquez continues to be a popular program on the second Saturday of the month. At February's meeting 15 members of the Meet enjoyed the movie *Life After Beth*. They always welcome new members to join their zombie survival team.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills Branch celebrated Black History Month with the opening of the exhibition by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on January 28. On February 7, the group's musical sorority sisters, the Deltones provided musical entertainment. Mayor Ivy Taylor is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the branch is excited for her to view the exhibit during her visit on February 17. The Deltones performance was followed by the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir singing traditional songs.

VITA tax services began on January 21. This valuable service brings a large number of individual through the library doors ever week. To capitalize on the influx of visitors, staff has devised displays and calendars of event to encourage check out and program participation.

Currently on display at the Forest Hills library is a unique cut paper exhibit by artist Laura Shultz. Ms. Shultz created beautiful works of cut paper art specifically for this exhibit in the library. The pieces are all related to themes or works such as A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. A reception was held for the artist on February 11.

Children's Services

Children's librarian Valerie Shelley provided a tour to Glen Oaks Elementary School 2nd grade students on January 31.

The Forest Hills Branch celebrated Take You Child to the Library Day on February 7. The San Antonio Needlework Guild provided instruction to children and their parents in creating a cross stitched heart.

Teen Services

A new monthly teen program was initiated on February 1. A monthly book-to-movie marathon will be held on the first Sunday of every month. The February movie was *The Fault in Our Stars*, based on the book by John Green.

Librarian Valerie Shelley, with the assistance of Volunteer Coordinator Veronica Anderson, has developed a volunteer program for teen called Flash Volunteering. Teens are allowed to sign on as a one day volunteer in order to earn community service hours for school.

Outreach

Branch Manager Mary Naylor provided training on downloadable materials at the Bob Ross Senior Center on January 21. This center currently has a digital library cling advertising the library's digital collection. Ms. Naylor makes frequent visits to the center to ensure that seniors are trained to use the QR code scanner used to access the digital titles on the cling.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adults

The Alicia Trevino Senior Center book club met on February 9 to discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

The End of Life Planning class was presented by Laura Brown, R.N., BSN, from Gentiva Hospice, on February 11. Sixteen customers attended and were pleased with the information.

Children's

Children's Librarian, Cari Raley, had Valentine's Day activities during the week.

Teens

Great Northwest had a weekly Teen Video Gaming program that meets every Wednesday evening and a special Valentine's Day themed program where teens made their own chocolate survival kit.

Cindy Moreno visited the Brennan High School Library to provide teen programs to the students where they could play video games and make their own buttons.

GUERRA

VITA began on January 23. Services are available Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers provide assistance to an average of 30 persons each day. Staff from the Finance Department conducted an unannounced cash count on January 28; the team found all in order. All staff attended a quarterly meeting on February 3. The branch served as an early voting site from February 9

through 13. Magdalena Alvarado, ACA Navigator, provided weekly assistance on January 22 and 29, and February 5 and 12. Ms. Alvarado offered two extra sessions on February 6 and 14.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman met with Robert Shingleton with Work Force Texas on January 30 to discuss collaboration between his office and the library. He attended the Safety Security Work Group meeting on February 4 and the monthly managers' meeting on February 5. He conducted one computer class during the reporting period.

Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard moderated the Clube do Livro (Portuguese language book club) on January 18. The group discussed *Paulo Coelho: o Mago (Paulo Coelho: a Warrior's Life)* by Fernando de Morais. The Thursday Evening Book Club met on February 12 to discuss *61 Hours* by Lee Child. Cristiane set up a display on football during the last two weeks before the Super Bowl to promote biographies of football professionals.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented 12 in-house programs- 4 Kids Times, 4 Toddler Times, and 4 Story Times. Young readers enjoyed the opportunity to read to a dog on January 12 and February 5. On January 20 she attended Career Awareness Morning at JB Passmore Elementary School where she spoke to fifth grade students about her career as a Children's Librarian. On February 6, she visited Lil' Dragon Den Daycare where she presented story time to 45 toddlers and their teachers. She designed and installed a Juvenile Black History Month display, highlighting black inventors.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson recorded *Odio la escuela (I hate school)* by Jeanne Willis for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on January 19. On January 30, he moderated the Spanish language book club, Club de Lectura, whose members discussed *Y las montañas hablaron (And the mountains echoed)* by Khaled Hosseini. He also attended the Introduction to Excel training on January 28 and the Diversity training on February 12. He set up a display promoting books on weather.

Library Assistant and Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on January 22 and 29, February 5 and 12 with an average of seven participants per session. On January 28, he participated in an outreach to Brennan High School with Teen Librarian Stephanie Vazquez from Great Northwest Branch. The program included a Teen services video informing about upcoming workshops for college preparation and the opportunity for the students to play video games; over 100 students participated. He visited John Jay High School Librarian Ms. Meecham on January 30 and discussed sharing information and promoting programs. He created a display for Librarypalooza in the Teen area of the branch.

Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl designed and installed two displays, one celebrating Martin Luther King Day and the other celebrating Black History Month.

Circulation Attendant Corinna Cabeza finished and published her Libguide on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

IGO

Children's Services

Afterschool programming has found a loyal following this winter at the Igo Library. As temperature dipped, young patrons took advantage of the opportunity to meet up with friends at the branch on Tuesdays for a rotation of Lego Club, Tween Time, and Beginner Reader Book Club, as well as, Wednesdays Read to a Dog sessions with therapy dog, Cinder, and her handler, Jan Potter. These unique interactive programs showcase the library as a place for active learning, literacy enrichment, and family fun.

Speaking of family fun, Come and Go Crafts are adding something special to the Friday schedule. Busy families can drop by the branch between 10am and 6pm every Friday for arts and crafts. The craft cart in the children's area is stocked with everything needed to show off someone's artistic side. This month artists of all ages created snowmen or snow women, bird's nests, and valentine cards. Staff noted an

increase in visitors on Friday mornings and afternoons since the crafting activity was added to the day's offerings.

Nancy Rodriguez, children's services librarian, was honored to represent San Antonio Public Library at Stinson Middle School's annual career day event for community partners on Friday, February 6. Students interested in public service careers got a peek into a day in the life of a children's librarian. Information presented was meant to give students an idea of the educational requirements and job experience necessary to be a librarian, as well as, the daily activities of youth services professionals in public libraries. More than one student attending the sessions expressed interest in volunteer opportunities at the library.

Lastly, it was raining hearts, sprinkles, and smiles at this year's annual Igo Children's Valentine's Celebration. Preschool story time attendees were treated to favorite books, a heart-winged butterfly craft, and cookie decorating extravaganza. Many little sweethearts brought Valentine wishes to share with story time friends. It was definitely a seasonal hit with children, parents, and caregivers alike.

Teen Services

During the reporting period, 138 participants attended the regular weekly teen programs at the Igo Library. Some of the Teens from the Teen Library Leadership Council developed and launched the very first Mini M.E.G.A Camp. The camp is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to analyze, plan, and solve entry level problems in engineering, computer science and movie creation software. In a supportive and fun environment, Teen Leaders provide a dynamic experience for those who embrace intellectual challenges! They help the participants enhance their sense of logic while inspiring the curiosity that is essential in continuing the discovery and learning process. The registration was full in the first 72 hours.

This month the Igo teen filmmakers (members of the Igo DIGI Lab) created (on short notice) a beautiful short video entitled "Every Little Thing." The video is an official entry in the White House Students Film Festival themed "The Impact of Giving Back."

Teen Services Librarian, Barbara Kwiatkowski, also developed and offered two DIY knitting sessions that were available for all ages. The participants learned how to knit a scarf with just their hands. Participants were able to leave having learned a new technique and a finished product.

The weekly Chess Club at Igo continues to bring new people in. Average attendance is 25-40 chess players per meeting. An Igo Teen Leadership Member, who is also an International Chess master, provides a tutoring and help to the entry level players.

Adult Services

On January 20, the Genealogy Club learned about the Alamo's library from library director Leslie Stapleton, while the Afternoon Book Club discussed *Loving Frank*. On January 26, Dr. Mark Appleford gave a presentation about technological innovations in medicine. On February 2, patrons enjoyed the Latin-flavored instrumental music of duo Jorge & Nicole. On February 4, the Mystery Club discussed *Restless in the Grave*. On February 9, in recognition of the Mayor's Book Club, Igo hosted a talk by history professor LaGuana Gray concerning slavery in Texas.

Preparations are underway for the debut of three clubs for adults: the AFI Top 100 Film Club and Dare to Read. For the former, participants will watch and discuss selections from the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Movies list; this club's first meeting will be held February 23. Dare to Read, which launches March 2, is meant for adults who are learning English. The club will read and discuss versions of classic novels such as *Frankenstein* and *The Call of the Wild* that have been revised specially for English-language learners. Lastly, the first book club dedicated to reading romance novels in the San Antonio Public Library will begin meeting in late February at the Igo Branch.

A three week beginner Yoga series was offered throughout Sundays in January. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to get fit and learn more about yoga.

The San Antonio Novelists at Igo met on February 4 and discussed what the next steps are after determining that you want to write a novel.

The Igo Elderberries hosted Sandy Sullivan of Frost Bank for a presentation on “Fraud: What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You” on February 5 with 28 individuals attending. The February Elderberries’ newsletter featured several opportunities offered by the Joint City/County Commission on Elderly Affairs; namely, Seniors Day at the Capitol on Feb.17 and information about the Volunteer Awards for seniors presented in May.

Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance continued on Wednesdays throughout the reporting period.

JOHNSTON

Love is in the air at Johnston Library – the love of books! Johnston celebrated with a “blind date with a book” display and encouraged patrons to post hearts on the windows with the titles of books they loved. Surprisingly, patrons were also passionate about wanting to post titles of books they did not like. It was a great conversation starter.

Beverly Wrigglesworth, the Children’s Librarian, featured four fun programs for story times. Topics included insects, cowboys, ants and Valentines. Besides the weekly baby times, story times and family times, Mrs. Wrigglesworth also recorded *Queen of Hearts* by Mary Engelbreit for the Dial-a-Story service. Mrs. Wrigglesworth also visited the pre-school children at Nurturing Hearts Learning Center to read Valentine’s Day stories.

Library Assistant/Teen Liaison, Christina Martinez, has kept the teenagers in the area busy. Weekly teen events included gaming, Japanese ink art craft, making Valentine cards and baking heart shaped cookies. Attendance is up (with a weekly average attendance of 16). One of the reasons for the success is the creation of a Manga Book Club that meets twice a month.

The teens have big plans for the future! They intend to help with Summer Reading by creating art posters for the children’s area. The teens also plan to make an iMovie of everything they are doing.

During the month of February, Adult Services Librarian, Monica Bustillo, will present the Friday Oscar Film Series. So far this month, *Maleficent* which is nominated for Best Costume Design and *Guardians of the Galaxy* nominated for Best Makeup and Hair Styling, have been shown. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. On February 14, Ms. Bustillo also presented a Chocolate Lovers Celebration with chocolate covered strawberries and books about chocolate and love.

Ms. Bustillo served as Vice Chair on the Texas Library Association’s Lariat List which was officially released February 10. She will now serve as Chair for the 2015 Lariat List.

Ms. Bustillo also helped decorate the library in preparation for Valentine’s Day during the reporting period with the help of several new volunteers. She is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for the Johnston Library.

LANDA

Children’s Services

This was a great month for story times at Landa! Staff saw a continuation of high levels of participation at all recurring weekly programs, Baby Times, Toddler Time and Story Time. Lego Club is a blast, with lots of opportunities for creative outlets after school. The Landa Friends group recently approved purchase of new Legos for Landa patrons. Children’s Librarian Clair Larkin is looking forward to introducing the new kits and free play Legos to the children. Come and Go Crafts was extended over two days this month to celebrate Valentine’s Day, both on Friday, the regular Come and Go Crafts day, and Saturday,

Valentine's Day. Children made a Give-a-Hug craft, decorated hearts and got a sweet treat thanks to Viki Ash's programming support. Clair was also happy to take story time on the road with her monthly outreach to UPCC.

Clair created several displays to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Valentine's Day and an illustrator specific display to honor Black History Month. They all proved popular and Clair plans to continue author and illustrator specific displays through the end of February. Clair contributed to the African American Author's LibGuide on the SAPL website as part of her work on the Children's Literacy Committee. Clair is also busy weeding and managing the juvenile collection in an effort to boost circulation numbers. Thankfully the work of all Landa staff members is paying off and Landa is seeing higher circulation!

Adult Programming

Landa's regular adult programs continue to draw a group of faithful attendees and have added new members. The seniors Mystery Book Club read and discussed the controversial *Desert Lost* by Betty Webb, a novel dealing with the topic of polygamy in the Fundamentalist Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) enclaves in Arizona. In observance of Black History Month, the Reader's Ink book club read *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton, a well-researched biography that brings out lesser-known details of the life of this abolitionist activist. The Silver Screens Classics group were treated to the amusing and very forward-thinking movie (for its time) *Adam's Rib* starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn who play attorneys on opposite sides of a courtroom case. Adult Services Librarian treated the attendees to Valentine's Day cookies.

Teen Services

Landa teens were creative, curious and motivated with the weekly programs: Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC), International Teen Club (ITC) and Cool Teens Club. Landa has a Teen Guest Columnist, "Dear Juliet" who is answering teens' questions by writing them on the SAPL Teen Wordpress site. Teen questions range from how to talk to someone you like to strategies to help teens get more adequate sleep. The TLLC collaborated to write statements for peace <http://goo.gl/RBAXRu>. Wilson, 18 years old and Madison, 16 years old, wrote, "Landa Library Teen Leadership Council strongly supports all anti-discrimination efforts in the spirit of Black History Month". The Cool Teens Club celebrated India's "Republic Day" on January 21 and 28. Teens watched a Bollywood movie, Republic Day craft, and guest speakers from "Anju". Landa's teen section now has large, bookshelf dividers to showcase teens' book recommendations, artwork, lists of award-winning book titles, and teen programming. Bea Canales, teen services liaison, worked with teen volunteers with the book shelf to be more attractive to teens.

LAS PALMAS

Branch Manager Tim Johnson hosted the Las Palmas book club on January 21. The group discussed Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto*. Mr. Johnson also orchestrates a regular chess program which meets every Monday evening. Members can work on chess puzzles, read on tactics and strategy, or just play.

Children's Librarian, Gina Brudi attended the first "Oh the Places You Will Go" Literacy Festival at Roy Cisneros Elementary, which featured local author Xavier Garza, and spoke to over 130 children and adults about Juvenile services and programs at the Las Palmas and the Memorial branch libraries. She served as a judge at the Las Palmas Elementary Spelling Bee Competition for grades 4-6. During Catholic School Week, she visited John Berchmann School and read stories to over 180 pre-kindergarten through 3rd graders and told them about what SAPL has to offer them all for free with just a library card. Ms. Brudi presented Family Fun and Lego Club at Las Palmas Library as well as outreach to area literacy centers, Avance, Madonna and Good Samaritan. Ms. Brudi also received a letter from customer Doug Lewis on referring him to the reading program at Landa Branch Library for children, you have the letter.

Teen Services Librarian Marco De Leon has been finding success every month with a core group of teens attending the teen flagship program Super Cool Awesome Teen Gaming Block 3000. In January teens attended the program to play video games, board games, and watch movies. The core group of teens has been tasked to come up with ideas with which to create further programming in the library. Mr. De Leon has

set a goal for the list to be finalized by the end of February. Mr. De Leon has continued the partnership with St. PJ's by working with the site coordinator and determining what programs can be created to supplement the education needs of their wards. A plan to create programming on Saturdays was created where the teens at St. PJ's would come to the Meeting Room and use a fleet of Ipads to access Tutor.com. Additionally, Mr. De Leon is in contact with OLLU to have them provide tutors for the St. PJ teens. There is also planning under way to create more programming, both entertaining and educational, for the teens at St. PJs. The special needs volunteers from JFK continued to work at the library three times a week. Their contribution for the month of January totaled to approximately 40 hours. The volunteers have become proficient in shelving DVDs and blu-rays and have begun to shelve Juvenile books this month. The skill set of the special needs volunteers has continued to improve and they are on their way to expanding their shelving duties.

Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez continued to host Bilingual story time. The program started 2015 with winter stories. Ms. Perez presented three bilingual story times in January. Bilingual story time participants enjoyed making bear puppets as a craft activity.

MAVERICK

The staff at Maverick worked very hard to increase its circulation for the month of January. It certainly paid off, as the branch had a 6.5 % increase in items circulated in January 2015, compared to January 2014!

Many programs occurred during the reporting period. On January 31, 15 attendees came to the Ladies Choice Book Club. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, had 61 children attend her Valentine story times on February 9. She had a Lego program on February 14. Thank you to the Maverick Friends who provided funds for Legos for the branch. Teen Liaison/Library Assistant, Lucy Villa, recruited several new teens who now attend Teen Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Training and committee work also took place during the reporting period. Librarian II, Ben Longoria, attended a Jobs and Small Business Committee on January 27. Ms. Roberts attended an Early Literacy Committee meeting on January 28. In addition, Ms. Roberts participated in a webinar about "Dia De Los Niños y Niñas" on February 10.

In other news, Library Aide, Elizabeth Santos, resigned on February 4. Her co-workers wish her well in her new job at Frost Bank. Also, Maverick participated in Early Voting February 9-13. Thank you to the staff that opened early and stayed late.

McCRELESS

The Movie Time showing of Maleficent on January 10 attracted a good audience of 14 individuals.

Teen Time is back in full swing on Wednesday nights. The branch is averaging 15-20 teens each week. The branch had two *Book a Librarian* sessions (one-on-one help for tech issues) in February. Both patrons received assistance in utilizing Overdrive on their mobile devices.

Four Story Times were held. Topics included cold- weather clothing, losing things, friendship and the moon. Children made mittens, an Eskimo picture, and painted a water-color moon. They also enjoyed singing, dancing, acting out rhymes, and playing together.

Of the four Family Fun programs, themes included automobile engineering, Australia, and Valentine's Day. A Read-to-a-Dog program was held for the first time. Children enjoyed reading and snuggling with Chesney, a book-loving border collie.

A second grade class and their families visited the library for a tour. Many students received their first library card and used it to check out materials for a class research project.

The Friends of McCreless have enjoyed success from their contribution of a passive on-going book sale cart. They are making regular collections of contributions to benefit the branch. One project they are working on is doing some landscaping in the front garden.

The branch is partnering with Metro Health to offer anonymous HIV and syphilis testing once a month in the meeting room.

MEMORIAL

Memorial Branch Children's Librarian, Trina Smith was invited to speak at Woodlawn Hills Elementary Literacy Night where she shared information about library services, programs and resources with parents and students. As a member of the Early Literacy Committee, she also helped to prepare activity learning kits for branch libraries that will host upcoming Play and Learn programs. Ms. Smith was nominated as Chairperson for the Children's Round Table Committee under the Texas Library Association.

Memorial was one of several branch libraries that were honored to host a performance by violinist, Mary Ellen Goree from the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra. This special Family Fun program was well attended. The families of Memorial Library also enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day during Family Fun by playing games, listening to stories and making crafts.

A reception for an art exhibit entitled *Lifescapes* was held on January 22. The artist, Carlton C. Gilder, who is also an Air Force veteran, has many works and commissions to his credit including paintings done for the Marriott Rivercenter. Generally a portrait specialist, his repertoire includes landscapes, animals and paintings of famous persons, such as Michael Jackson. Special thanks to the Friends of the Memorial library for sponsoring the reception.

The Memorial branch welcomed many customers as it hosted Affordable Care Act enrollment assistance and served as an Early Voting site for the Special Runoff Election.

MISSION

A musical performance by *The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensembles*, a program related to Black History month and The Mayor's Book Club, was held on Saturday February 2. The ensemble's performance was held in the library proper with an attendance of 32.

Fitness in the Park; yoga and cycle circuit classes has been well received. Weather permitting, the Saturday afternoon family-friendly yoga sessions are hosted outdoors in the Library's North courtyard. Participants have expressed their appreciation of the accommodating space.

Ongoing programs include table tennis for adults, Cult and Classic movies, Trivia Game night and a weekly Chess Club.

Continuing partnership includes: Affordable Care Act enrollment, Familias en Accion and San Antonio Film Community. Mission continues to serve as a VITA site and Academia America began another round of citizenship classes on January 26.

Teen Time participants enjoyed a variety of arts and crafts for the reporting period. Teens also enjoyed a pizza party, courtesy of the Mission Friends, to celebrate Valentine's Day. Teen Anime Club made candy creations that were enjoyed by all. Mission Video Game Club youth participated in video gaming as well as card and board games. St. Peter's St. Joseph's Children's Home visited the branch with a group of teens and teachers to tour and learn about teen services. Teen programming had 9 programs and 192 in attendance.

Mission has begun conducting tours and library instruction for groups of Harlandale parents and teachers. The district received a grant that included making connections with the public libraries. During one of the tours a teacher was impressed to see the library's Braille collection as she has a student who has limited

access to Braille materials. Children's Librarian Jane Miller contacted both Harlandale ISD and SAISD departments of assistance for visual impairments. Both school districts have expressed an interest in using the library's Braille offerings.

For a Valentine's Day celebration, the Mission Toddlers had their very own party. Over 60 excited children and parents listened to stories, ate snacks, and made Valentine's crafts to the tune of party music. The special celebration was enjoyed by all.

PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch Library continued to provide both educational and recreational services to the south side community. During the months of January and February the branch hosted fitness classes such as Gentle Stretch Yoga and Tai Chi, Easy, which have proven to be very popular with patrons. Additionally, the branch offered quilting classes on Thursday mornings for beginners and all skill levels.

Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins visited the Alamo Leadership Academy on January 26 to brief the school staff on the resources available on mysapl.org. On February 12, Ms. Collins delivered to the school 40 books on great Black American and the solar system. Additionally that day, Ms. Collins instructed the third and fourth graders on using SAPL's Primary Search database and searching google.com.

As part of a grant funded project to promote children's literacy, parents from the Rayburn and Columbia Heights Elementary Schools participated in Story Time and Toddler Time at Pan American on January 27. Afterwards, the parents and teachers were given a tour of the branch.

In January and February, Pan American Branch Library offered fun and creative activities for teens in the community. Programs included Wii Gaming, board games, and fun crafts. Teens at Pan American on February 2 got the chance to paint Any Warhol-esq collages with their own pictures. Just in time for Valentine's Day, teens created love rocks that featured either a painted picture or a message to friends and family.

PARMAN

Library Assistant Christina Hess represented Parman Library at the Be Well Health & Wellness Event held in the Stone Oak area in January. She spoke to numerous attendees about what Parman has to offer all ages.

Several staff members attended the Staff Recognition Breakfast held at the Central Library. Senior Circulation Attendant Megan Stanley and Library Assistant Christina Hess were invited because they both received Customer Service awards over the last year. Branch Manager Haley Holmes and Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow attended as nominators.

The Library Board of Trustees meeting was held at Parman for the first time. The Friends of the Parman Library provided refreshments and sent a representative to help with set up. Branch Manager Haley Holmes gave a video presentation highlighting branch events over the last year and interviews with community members.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance hosted Saturday with the Symphony on February 7. The event was held in the library and was both well attended and well received. Ms. Vance also held the first meeting of the Parman Knitting Club. Adults of all levels are invited to attend every Sunday at 2pm. She hopes to extend the program to children in the future.

The Friends of the Parman Library held their first meeting of the year and approved a spending budget as well as a wish list presented by Ms. Holmes. The first purchase of the year will be a larger fish tank for the circulation desk. Goldfish Biscuit and Gravey will be turning 2 soon and have outgrown their current tank.

PRUITT

Great ideas abound from the addition of a fourth and new book club at the Pruitt Library. Children's Librarian, Cynthia Saenz, held the inaugural meeting of the "Family Circle" Book Club. This book club is for both the parent and the tween child, ages 9-12, and promotes character building, literacy skills development, and demonstrates the value of reading. Parents are surprised by thoughts and interpretations their children get from reading the same text. The children are happy that their parent is taking an active role in a leisure activity that they can do together. The tweens celebrated dental awareness month by creating tooth pillows and having a healthy snack of apples smiles.

Pruitt teens remembered and honored Martin Luther King, Jr. by using an interactive website to view and listen to the "I Have a Dream" speech. Teens expressed that it was as relevant today as it was 50 years ago by mentioning today's current events, like the Ferguson riots. As teens are so dynamic, moving from a more serious topic to one of the heart, the last Teen Time activity brought out the love bug as almost 100 teens stopped by the library to create layered sand art heart necklaces for Valentine's Day.

The Pruitt community celebrated Black History Month by joining forces with the Mayor's Book Club and reading *Twelve Years a Slave*. "The Book Was Better" Book Club, where members discuss both the book and the movie, also read the book and discussed the differences between the book and film. The TGIF Book Club read poet, author, civil rights activist, Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Continuing the celebration of Black History Month, on Saturdays in February, Pruitt Library is showing family-friendly movies and serving popcorn and cold drinks.

SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Study Hall Learning Center (two classes), and Monte Vista Montessori (two classes). Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month. She also presented a monthly story time to two groups of children (each group was a combination of two classes) at Respite Care, a child care facility for developmentally disabled children. Books were left for each of five classes. In addition, she presents a special weekly story time at the library for some of the children who live at Respite Care's shelter facility.

On February 4 a group of children enjoyed creating with LEGOs and DUPLOs on LEGO Day at the Library. Ms. Betsy challenged them to build an igloo out of LEGOs. The children rose to the challenge!

Ms. Betsy presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. On February 11's Kids Time, the children and Ms. Betsy went outside in the park to observe and record their observations about some of the trees in San Pedro Park. They then did bark rubbings of the trees they observed. When they got back to the library they created their own individual books to take home that contained their observations, tree rubbings, and pictures they drew of the trees and other park denizens, such as squirrels!

During this period, Ms. Betsy facilitated monthly books discussions at Monte Vista Montessori (4th) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grades) book clubs. The book clubs have 12 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed. In addition, Ms. Betsy facilitates the Great Hearts 4th grade book club which meets monthly at the library.

Monte Vista Montessori brings approximately 50 students once a month to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the class comes to the library, the Children's Librarian spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials.

Library Assistant Carmen Roja created bulletin boards and displays for Black History Month and Valentine's Day.

SEMMES

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held their first book sale of 2015 on February 6-7. Friday morning, the group set up the sale in the meeting room and held a preview sale for Friends members from 10:00 am until 11:30 pm. On Saturday morning, the sale started at 10:00 am and went until they sold out of merchandise. Between the sale and donations, the Friends made about \$1,200. The staff is preparing a wish list of items for the Friends to purchase.

Semmes Library patrons were treated to a performance by a San Antonio Symphony musician on Saturday, January 24. Children and adults alike enjoyed the bassoon playing of Sharon Kuster. Ms. Kuster shared information about the history of the bassoon and gave specific information about her particular instrument (it costs more than most cars!) She also talked about the San Antonio Symphony and their upcoming programs.

There was a special Family Fun event on February 12. Everyone who attended was treated to a Valentine Party. Many staff members were involved in preparing for, setting up, and running the party, including Children's Librarians Randi Jones and Shannon Seglin, Library Assistant Melody Smith and Library Aide Margaret Timm. 41 people attended the party and enjoyed stories, party games, crafts, and refreshments.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Activities

Children who came to Story Time on February 12 celebrated Valentine's Day with stories and activities including heart crafts, and heart-shaped bean bag toss and cookie decorating. The party was lots of fun and the kids and their parents had a great time. Many children's programs this year have featured winter themes, and activities have included snow made from baking soda and hair conditioner; and making snowflakes out of salt, glitter and glue. At her monthly outreach to a local daycare on February 11, Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser read Valentine's Day stories to three groups of children.

Book Groups

On February 2 the MnM (Monday Night Multimedia) group met. We discussed the book *The All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg which everyone enjoyed. We also discussed other books and various movies, as well as the sport of pickleball. Five folks attended.

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club met on January 22 to discuss the book, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, by Maria Semple. Mixed reviews reigned supreme, with some members enjoying the whimsical novel, but a few members found it downright silly (and one just plain awful). Yummy treats were provided, which took some of the sting out of the disappointment for the members who were not particularly thrilled with the title.

Programming/Events/Outreach

The Gaming for Adults group met on February 9, with three people attending to play 'Gloom'.

VITA commenced at Thousand Oaks on January 20, with the service being provided five days a week. After a slow few first days, the lines for the service have been long and constant. A taxing time of the year for Thousand Oaks staff and VITA volunteers alike, the program is hugely popular with the community, and introduces the branch to many people who normally do not visit Thousand Oaks.

TOBIN AT OAKWELL

Librarian, Keri Moczygamba has accepted the manager position at the new Encino branch. Ms. Moczygamba is splitting time between Tobin duties and Encino while anxiously awaiting the opening of the building, which all staff is very appreciative of her continued assistance.

Children's Librarian, Shannon Seglin, from Semmes has seen Toddler Time double in attendance since she began filling in at the branch with her original and enthusiastic programming. Thanks to Children's Coordinator, Viki Ash, over 55 kids and adults of ages enjoyed a delightful performance by the San Antonio Symphony violinist Amy Venticinque on February 7.

Teen Librarian, Matthew Loaiza, has added a second weekly teen time due to demand. Then teens built an impressive three foot roller coaster with Konex pieces over two weeks that is on display for all visitors to see.

Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos, continues outreach at Northeast Service Center partnering with Thousand Oaks branch on this effort. In addition, Ms. Ramos is leading the outreach programming at Stonebrook Manor on Broadway and had an exuberant crowd with her monthly visit this period.

WESTFALL

In early February, Westfall Learn Center Training Officer Deborah Carter made a presentation at the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education conference in Houston. After hearing Deborah, several adult educators from other Texas cities expressed interest in setting up similar programs. Educators from San Antonio said they plan to stop by Westfall to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

In January Westfall's Learn @SAPL Center assisted 292 people and held 29 classes attended by 162 people. Of those utilizing the Learn @SAPL Center 97% said they made progress toward their daily learning goal.

Lindsay Minarovic, the DHS social worker assigned to the Learn @SAPL Center, has been working to become a financial empowerment counselor. Once certified, Lindsay will be able to provide free, one-on-one financial counseling to help patrons: take control of debt; deal with debt collectors; improve credit; build savings; create a budget, and; find safe and affordable financial products.

For this first time ever, Westfall is a location for VITA and volunteers have been busy. Usually VITA staff set up at the Goodwill Industries site on Fredericksburg Road, but the store is being renovated, so space as not available.

Additionally Westfall has been one of the busiest sites for Affordable Care Act navigators, who have met with many people who want to sign up insurance by the mid-February deadline.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino conducted outreach visits to the KinderCare Learning Center and Pilgrim HeadStart.

Steve Zeserman, a bassist with the San Antonio Symphony, presented a musical program in late January. Zeserman allowed children in the audience to "make music" with the bass.

Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin gave a state of the branch report to the Friends of the Westfall Branch Library.

STATISTICS

San Antonio Public Library
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons
Jan 2015 (33.3% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	% Chg	FY 15 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 15 Status
Total Circulation	2,317,511	2,303,292	0.6%	7,313,500	31.7%	✓
- Physical Circulation	2,036,435	2,118,964	-3.9%	6,471,500	31.5%	✓
- Digital Circulation	281,076	184,328	52.5%	842,000	33.4%	✓
Visits	1,733,738	1,664,429	4.2%	5,390,000	32.2%	✓
Program Attendance	97,719	88,954	9.9%	302,450	32.3%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	14,026	9,765	43.6%	39,000	36.0%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	17,284	14,605	18.3%	43,450	39.8%	✓
- Children's Program Attendance	66,409	64,584	2.8%	219,000	30.3%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	764,755	685,402	11.6%	2,202,000	34.7%	✓
Website Visits	1,078,801	1,198,156	-10.0%	3,400,000	31.7%	✓
Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*			
% of Circulation	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	2014	2012		
Total Circulation	19.0%	18.6%				
- Physical Circulation	18.2%	18.2%	96%	94%		
- Digital Circulation	25.1%	24.3%				

Goal Status ✓ = On Target ◆ = Monitor ⓧ = Not on Target

FYTD 15 Renovations/Closures:

FY 14 Renovation/Closures: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-31, Carver Sep 2-28

* From the Biennial City of San Antonio Community Survey

San Antonio Public Library January 2015 Usage

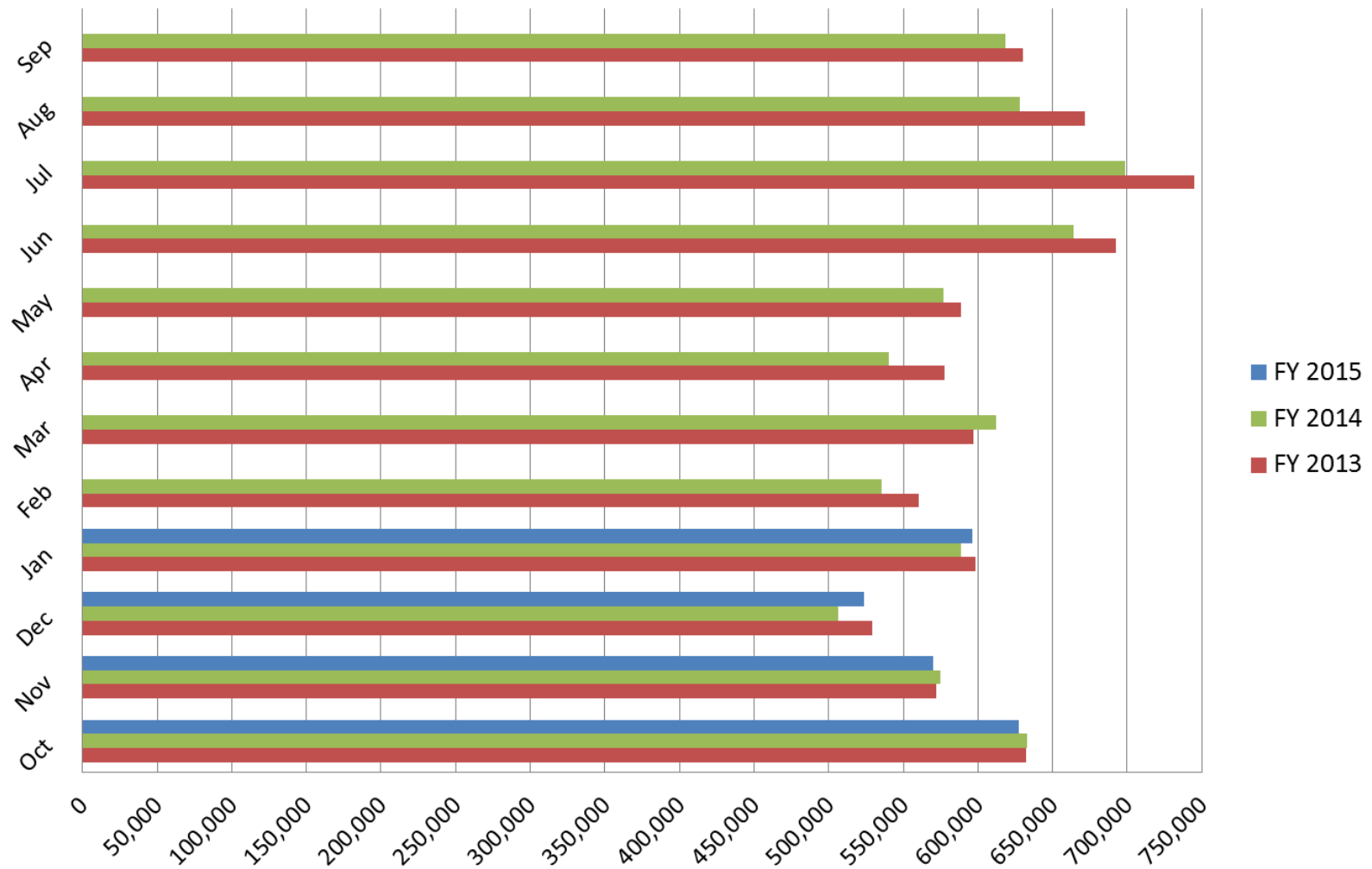
Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Attendance			Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
				Adult	Teen	Children's		Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs			
Bazan	5,891	10,918	31	12	2	17	443	289	4	150	6,892	2,050	4,842
Brook Hollow	30,226	18,210	42	9	4	29	871	59	11	801	6,026	1,476	4,550
Carver	5,790	9,279	42	25	4	13	434	174	27	233	5,162	1,919	3,243
Central	30,330	60,819	241	25	106	110	4,106	445	1,089	2,572	48,645	15,402	33,243
Cody	40,726	23,925	44	7	4	33	1,304	68	37	1,199	7,183	1,633	5,551
Collins Garden	6,626	9,002	21	6	0	15	170	29	0	141	4,593	1,544	3,049
Cortez	6,929	10,701	33	11	4	18	577	83	36	458	5,905	1,933	3,972
Encino*	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Forest Hills	9,294	8,204	34	11	1	22	337	74	4	259	4,326	1,353	2,973
Great Northwest	34,570	21,419	38	9	6	23	1,325	124	143	1,058	7,340	2,237	5,103
Guerra	14,989	12,535	32	4	5	23	553	16	125	412	7,300	2,282	5,018
Igo	29,013	21,514	52	12	11	29	1,652	119	236	1,297	5,038	1,461	3,577
Johnston	11,603	12,001	20	1	4	15	196	4	58	134	6,190	1,566	4,624
Landa	12,263	10,601	38	5	12	21	936	46	131	759	2,118	800	1,318
Las Palmas	6,456	11,559	33	0	0	33	531	0	0	531	6,821	2,113	4,708
Maverick	28,311	13,794	29	4	8	17	731	73	52	606	6,394	2,243	4,151
McCreless	14,850	17,031	15	2	3	10	170	17	39	114	6,228	2,041	4,187
Memorial	7,599	10,678	28	9	3	16	417	49	31	337	5,886	1,853	4,033
Mission	13,452	22,672	53	19	12	22	695	179	178	338	10,360	3,300	7,060
Pan American	7,928	10,550	52	13	3	36	533	140	14	379	5,912	2,413	3,500
Parman	35,008	23,443	63	14	5	44	1,448	163	101	1,184	4,305	792	3,513
Pruitt	7,135	12,365	63	20	19	24	1,091	235	385	471	6,024	1,519	4,505
San Pedro	4,177	5,834	20	4	0	16	158	6	0	152	2,131	645	1,486
Semmes	27,643	17,528	49	3	6	40	1,078	9	56	1,013	7,494	2,596	4,899
Thousand Oaks	12,873	12,731	26	7	4	15	281	46	17	218	6,142	1,276	4,866
Tobin	19,235	9,913	37	20	4	13	602	104	126	372	4,633	1,715	2,918
Westfall	19,654	15,890	46	29	0	17	296	131	0	165	7,871	2,265	5,605
Library Portal	N/A	1,605	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	513	N/A	513
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,279	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	78,390	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	74,054	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	596,294	414,721	1,182	281	230	671	20,935	2,682	2,900	15,353	197,431	60,423	137,008

Circulation includes Digital (Freegal, Overdrive, OneClick, Hoopla, Zinio) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

* Encino projected opening April 30,2015

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation



Location Closures

FY 15:

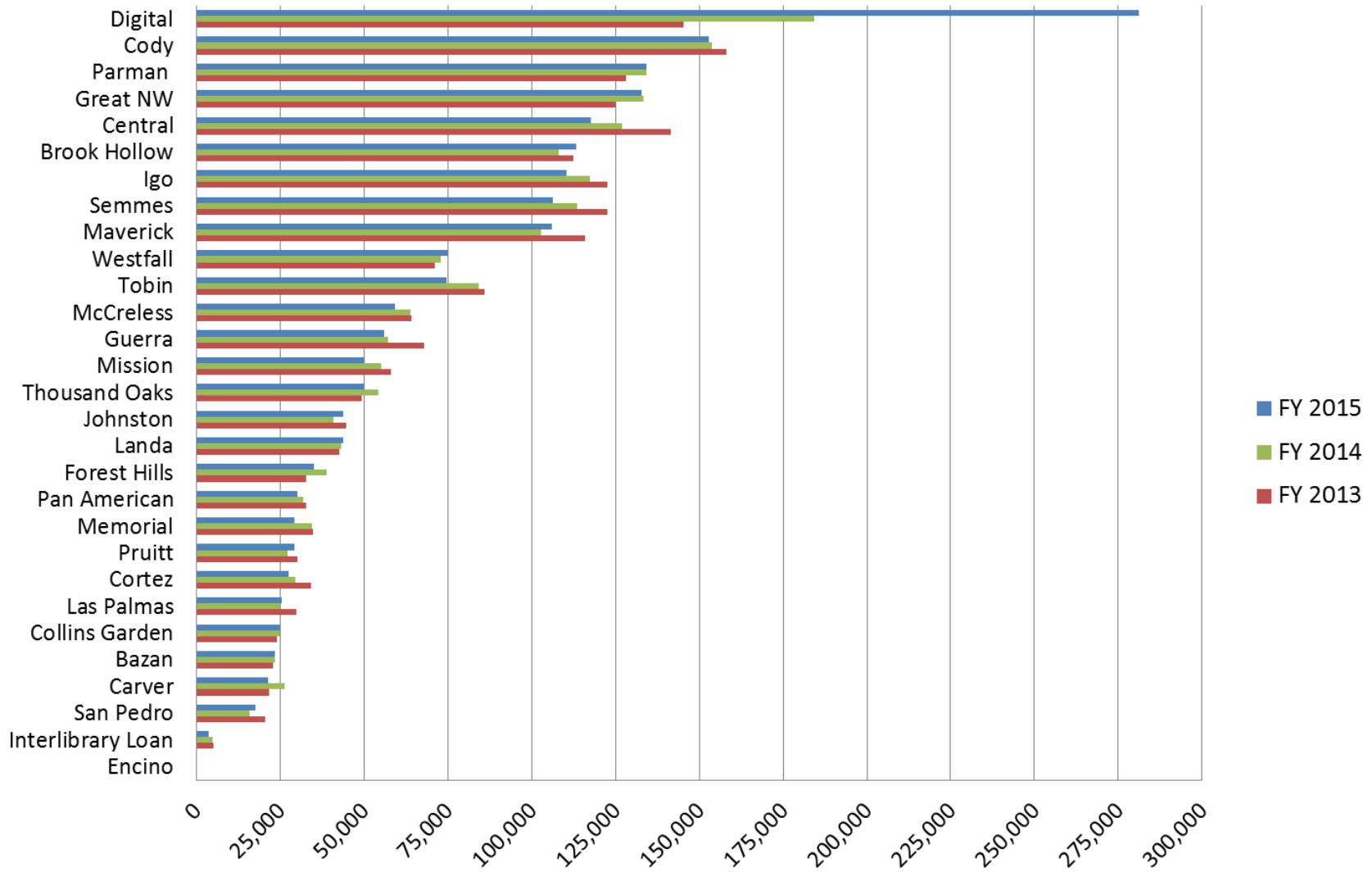
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02/18/2015

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan



Location Closures

FY 15:

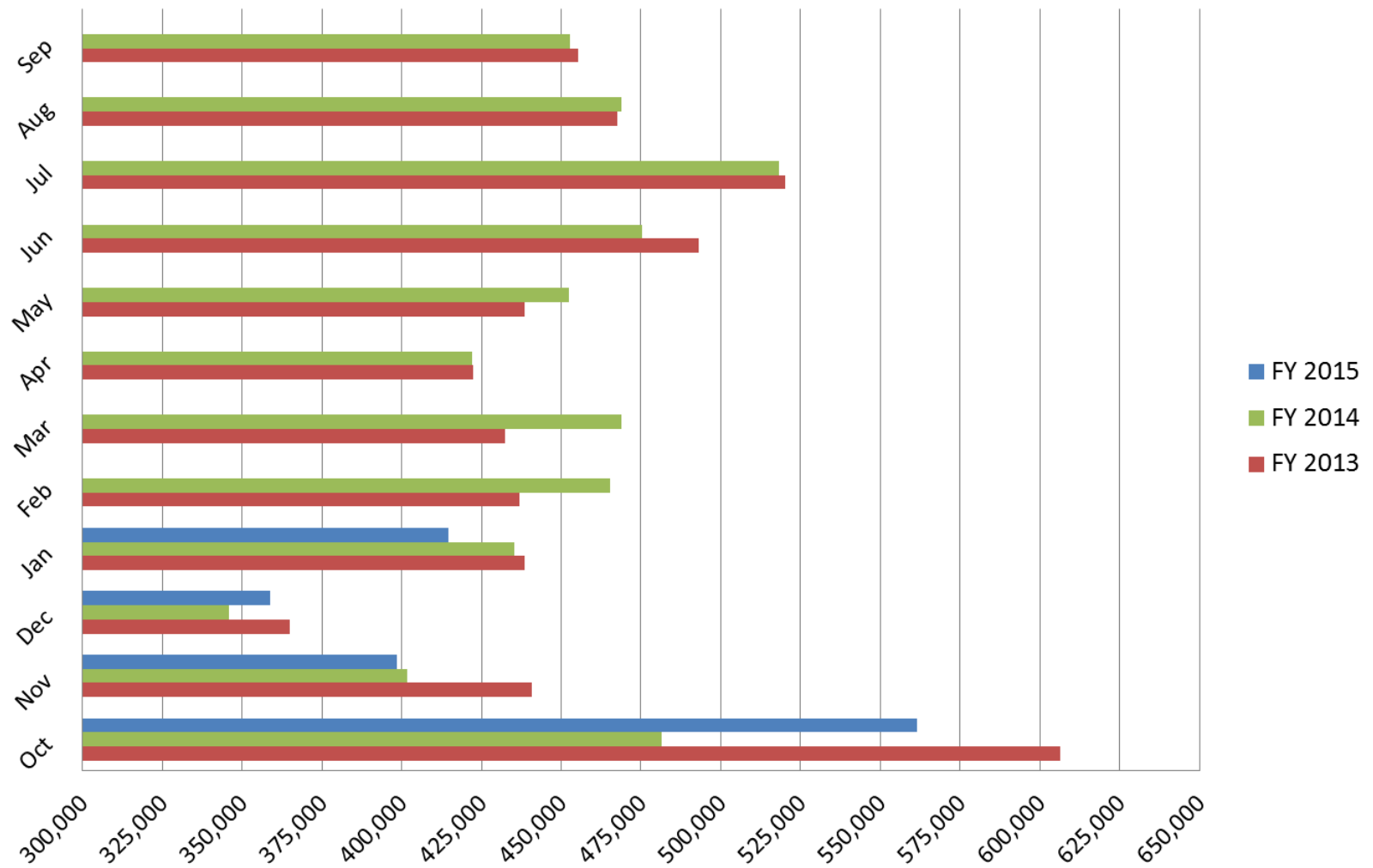
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02/18/2015

San Antonio Public Library

Visits



Location Closures

FY 15:

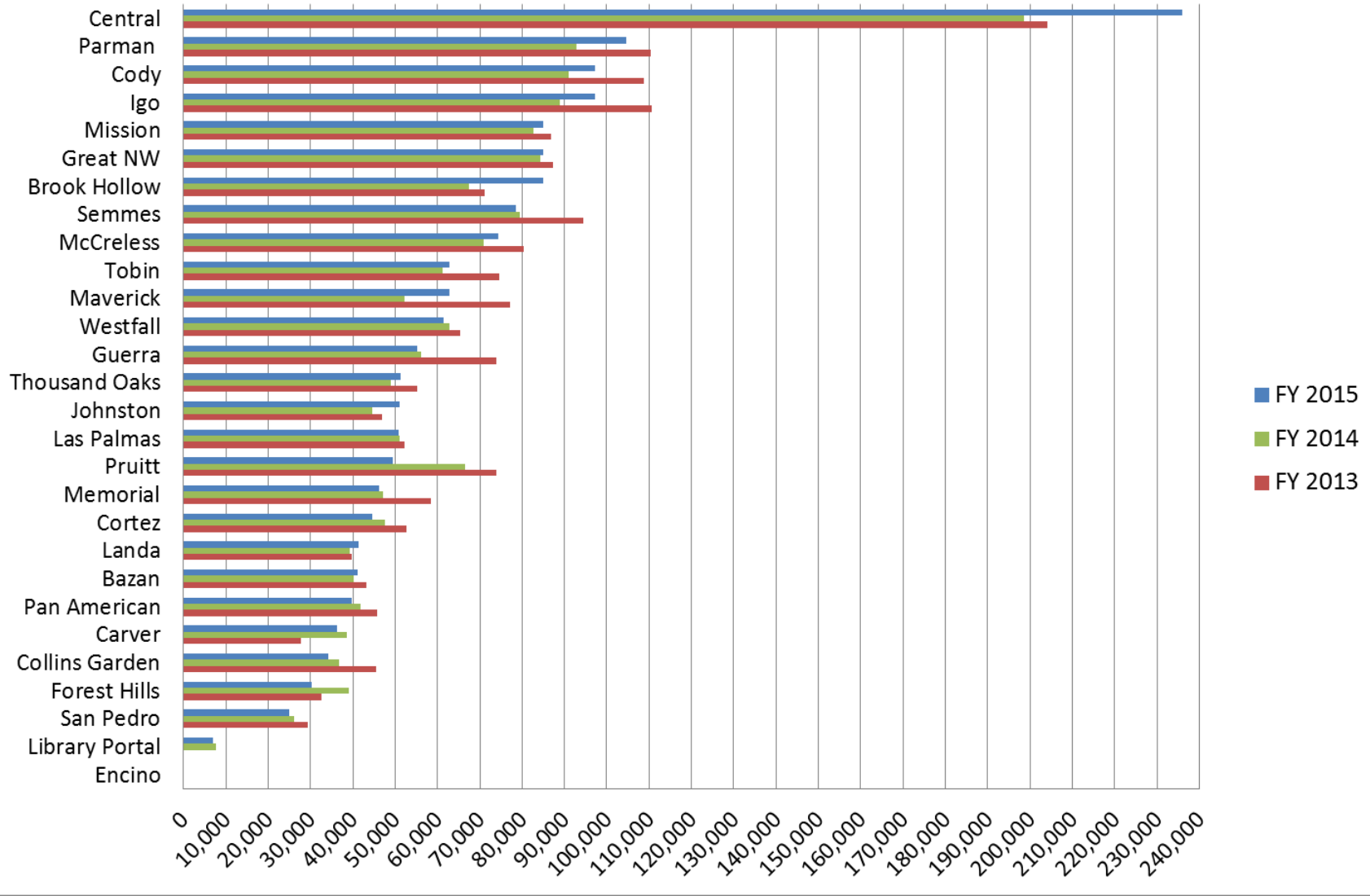
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02/18/2015

San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan



Location Closures

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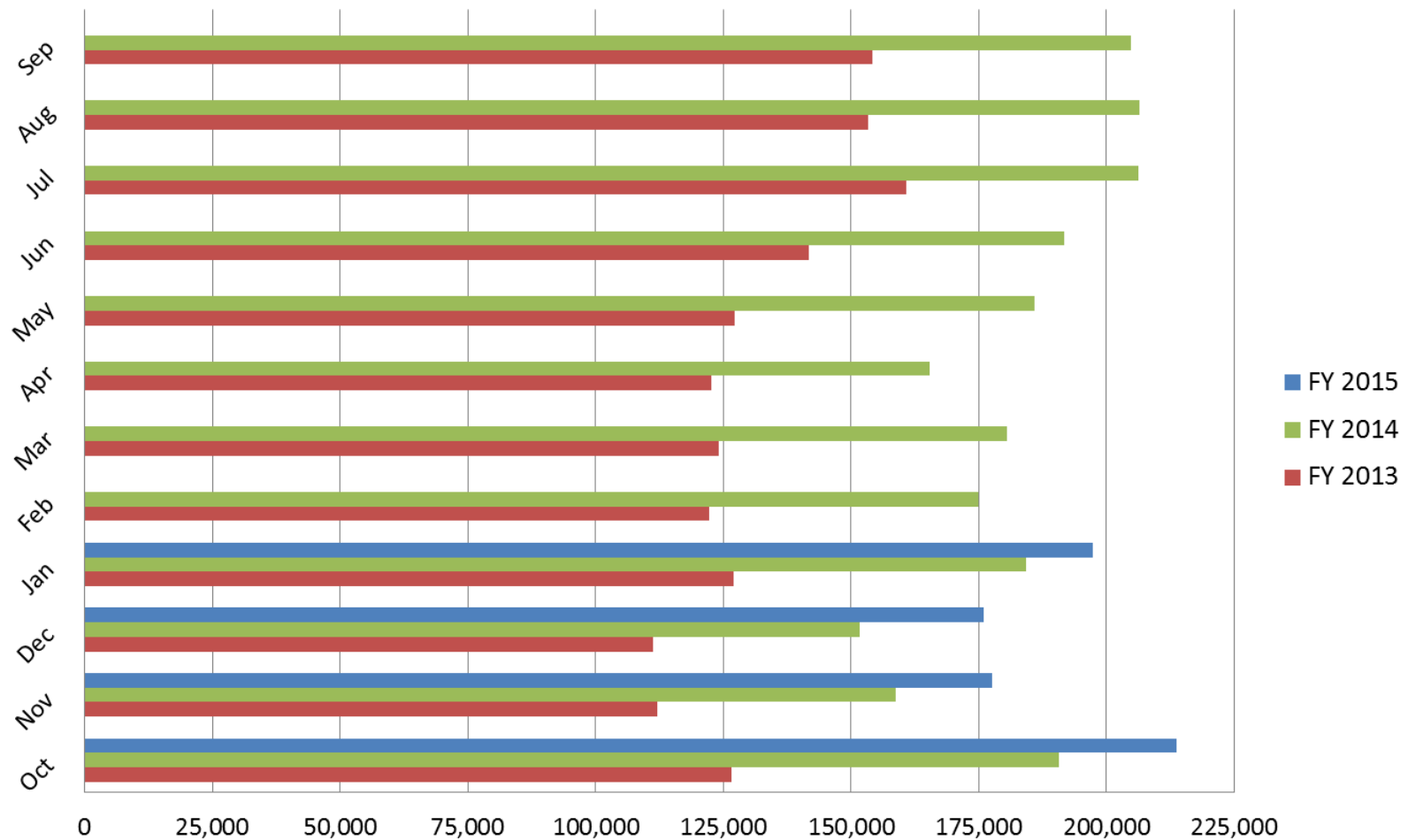
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02/18/2015

San Antonio Public Library

Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use



*Combined measure of Public Computers Hours of Use and Wi-Fi Hours of Use

Location Closures

FY 15:

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