

## State Library Report

July 2015

### Personnel

- Jennifer Pratt, Chief of Library Development, resigned effective Aug 31. Her position #60083896 was posted and closed July 31.
- Two Administrative Services Assistant positions were posted in July as was a NC Cardinal Technician (Help Desk) position.
- Rachel Trent, Digital Collections Manager, resigned her position in July. The position was posted and will close August 21.
- Howard (David) Vick joined the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as Supervisor of the Circulation Unit on July 15.

### Activities / Accomplishments

The Government & Heritage Library had 470 visitors in July. Many came from across North Carolina, but almost 100 came from other states. Two people came from Canada! The most popular other states were Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. But, we also had visitors from as far away as California, Nevada, and Idaho.

The Government & Heritage Library implemented a new reference tracking system and database in July to better track all types of inquiries from users and responses from staff at the library's new single-service point. Staff responded to 657 inquiries for information or reference/research assistance in July and, of this total, 398 were for reference/research assistance.

Government & Heritage Library staff hosted twelve staff from the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill on July 20 to discuss GHIL services, print and digital collections and our unique resources. The Wilson Library group met with State Archives staff as well on the same day.

Staff in the Government & Heritage Library uploaded and made available digital versions of Governor's Papers for seven North Carolina Governors, 22 volumes of the State of North Carolina Uniform Crime Report, several historical publications from the NC Information Technology Services, and several Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) publications including exhibition catalogs, 15 volumes of Southeast Seven, and 10 volumes of the Awards in visual arts : an exhibition of works by recipients of the annual awards in the Visual Arts Fellowships.

The new Government & Heritage Management Team participated in a half-day work session with external consultant, Theresa Stroisch, on leadership and management in the new GHIL organizational structure. Theresa also assisted the team in identifying best communication methods and meeting practices to implement for the management team.

The Friends of the LBPH received an incredibly generous donation in July 2015 from a former patron who bequeathed \$240,000 to the Friends in her will to further support the services and programs of the NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The generosity of this gift points out the

significance of the library's services to its patrons and the appreciation this patron in particular had for the library and the staff who assisted her for many years.

The updated digital recording studios at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped are now fully operational again and the library has three recording teams trained and working with the new software and equipment. Staff and volunteers have completed the recording of the library's first book and are currently in the midst of recording the second. The second recorded title will be an LBPH pilot work for the National Library Service Network Audiobook Pilot Project. If successful, this project will enable network libraries to share their locally recorded materials nationally through the NLS downloadable book service, BARD.

Staff and volunteers at the LBPH provided outreach to multiple groups in July, including presentations to 14 members of the VIP (visually impaired persons) at Magnolia Assisted Living in Raleigh; 20 student participants in the BELL program (braille literacy program); 35 individuals and professionals at the Triangle Disability Awareness Day at the Chapel Hill Public Library; and 30 members of the NC Association of Workers for the Blind.

The State Library has awarded 50 NC library staff with scholarships to the North Carolina Library Association Conference to be held in Greensboro in October. Staff from all types of libraries all across the state have received the scholarships:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?usp=sharing&mid=zdp7fdpityM8.k88wImQ2IS2M>

Multiple state library staff members will be presenting sessions at the conference. These range from pre-conferences to program sessions during the conference itself.

There were 15 *Let's Talk About It* programs presented in NC public libraries during the spring and summer of 2015, with 9 libraries applying for the fall season. *Let's Talk About It* is a scholar-led reading and discussion program targeting out-of-school adults and is provided in NC through a partnership between the NC Center for the Book and the NC Humanities Council. Participation in *Let's Talk About It* programs has continued to grow in NC with a 15% increase in attendance from 2011 to 2014, and a 17% increase in the number of programs offered.

Library Development staff are embarking on an assessment of 12 regional libraries in the state. The goals of this project include: developing a framework for regional library directors to be able to determine and articulate the impact of regional library systems in leveraging resources, staff and expertise; providing a forum where efficiencies can be discovered and communicated; and establishing methods for continuous improvement through shared best practices. The State Library will be working with the libraries to assess the current regional library environment, describe and compare different operating procedures, explore current funding and staffing models, and more.

The Library Development Continuing Education program has completed its annual evaluation of all training offered during 2014-15 as well as an assessment of training needs for 2015-16. Evaluation responses are favorable and response to the statewide needs assessment has been higher than ever.

## **Notable Statistics**

GHL Blog

16 blog posts

1,737 sessions

1,577 users

2,631 page views

Top 3 Blog Posts:

- Migration Routes: King's Highway, July 6, 2015. (334 views)
- Free Genealogy Workshop: Using Private Collections for Genealogical Research (245 views)
- Free Program: Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina, July 12, 2015 (201 views)

LD Blog

- Sessions: 2223
- Users: 1805
- Page Views: 6284