

## Hennepin County Library

### Officially Withdrawn (OW)

An organization for retired and former library employees/staff

May 14, 2015 - Minutes — Ridgedale Library

**Present:** Cindy Ahrens, Roger Burg, Carol Dosse, Vicki Dunn, Linda Engberg, Bill Erickson, Jan Feye-Stukas, Jane Frymire, Dave Ingham, Linda Jennings, Chuck Kritzler, Pat Kulseth, Fifi Mattill, Robert Rohlf, Doris Skalstad, Sharyll Smith, David Waldemar, Wendy Woodfill

**Welcome/Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves and two new members/1st time attendees were recognized: Carol Dosse and Wendy Woodfill. Robert Rohlf was celebrating his birthday and the group honored him with the 'Happy Birthday Song'.

#### **Business Meeting:**

- Minutes of the Feb. 26, 2015, meeting were approved
- Treasurer Pat Kulseth reported a current balance of \$2000.62;
  - announced that the annual dues for 2015-2016 are now due (\$5.00) — checks should be payable to **HCL Officially**

**Withdrawn** and mailed to:

HCL Officially Withdrawn

7158 West 113th St.

Bloomington, MN 55437

- L. Engberg asked if any member had a small, working light table for viewing slides that he/she would be willing to donate to the Archivers group - one will be purchased if not otherwise available.

**Program:** L. Engberg introduced the program presenter Gail Mueller Schultz, Manager, Collection and Special Services:

*Gail began her career with HCL in 1994 as the first Children's Librarian ever at Champlin. She worked there for 6 years and then began to work her way into management and into collection selection. Over time, with much hard work, various restructurings, mergers, etc.,*

*Gail was appointed Manager, Collection & Technical Services. This position is responsible for the selection, ordering, receiving, invoicing, cataloging, and processing of all library materials, as well as the staff in Special Collections, Preservation, Digitization, and Bindery.*

Gail noted with the number of questions she had received from members, it seemed logical to base her presentation on these questions. They fell into 3 general areas: collection - especially electronics; special collections; and purchases based on reserves ratio.

## **I. COLLECTION & ELECTRONIC MATERIALS**

- How have e-books affected the collection? how are statistics reported? discarding ebooks? all areas of collection considered for ebooks? what about reference materials? Friends funding?
  - Positively! in 2014, Overdrive circulation grew 33%; millennials showing they may prefer physical items over downloads; can now get some things no longer available in print, e.g., Rex Stout is mostly out of print but many of his titles are downloadable; publishers determine how long library can keep an electronic title (some purchases are permanent); 2 primary vendors are 3M & Overdrive; e-books are considered for all parts of the collection (adult, children, teen); picture books currently slow to circulate, but children's & teen fiction are very heavily used; many schools now use ipads/tablets so nonfiction ebooks more popular; biggest area of use is ROMANCE & consequently HCL buys fewer hard copies;
  - Statistics are listed as DOWNLOADABLE & includes e-books, e-audio, & some music and video;
  - e-reference materials are a significant part of collection, currently only buy one physical encyclopedia (World Book - 35 copies annually); publishers are cancelling many titles in hardcover; library would like remote & building availability of all materials (not always possible give policies of publishers); sports statistics have virtually disappeared in hard copy; still buying magazines but also have *Zinio* (Zinio is a multi-platform distribution service for digital magazines, with more than 5,500 magazines from a wide range of publishers)

- Friends funding for replacement copies continues; especially for heavily reserved titles; these funds do not replace operating budget money for collection; only the interest from endowment funds is used; approximately \$125,000 annual contribution from Friends; operating budget for collection is \$7.5 million

## II. Special Collections

- Budget? considering moving/loaning collections to other institutions? status of Japanese Friendship doll? new World Language selector?

- Special Collections are a line item in the budget at \$20,000. (up from \$15,000); all current special collections are being maintained & regularly buy from eBay, Amazon, etc.; big interest in yearbooks; recently Ted Hathaway, Special Collections supervisor, asked suburban schools for donations of yearbooks and so far many have been received; acquired specific areas of the *StarTribune's* clipping file and intent is to eventually put all online; from the County Records Office, Ted acquired an 1856 hand drawn map of Minneapoli; deteriorating but Minneapolis Institute of Arts & Minnesota Center for Book Arts are working to restore it; had fabric backing but will now be backed with aluminum and be on display in Special Collections

- no plans to move/loan special collections to other institutions (e.g., Kerlan)

- Japanese Friendship Doll - currently in the ARTS collection; needs to be restored but no decision has been made

- World Language Selector: Chelsea Couillard-Smith from Sacramento Public Library where she was a youth materials selector and recently served on the John Newberry Medal committee

## III. Ratio Issues

- Will 3/1 (buy 1 for every 3 reserves) continue? impact on other purchases? after peak?

- circulation is up where the 3/1 ratio is in place; statistics being analyzed to be sure dollars allocated correctly

- when peak demand subsides, some copies are warehoused

for replacements; some sold to online vendors

#### IV. Questions from the audience

- how many titles/items purchased each year?
  - 70,000 titles/750,000 items
- is the Central Library's bookstore closing?
  - yes; manager resigned and HCL Friends made decision to close; no decision yet re: use of space
- what is happening to the 'boobsie' app?(HCL's app for mobile devices)
  - it is going away on June 30, 2015; the new website is designed for mobile devices and can be added to the home screen of your phone/tablet
- are physical audio books going away?
  - vendors have been saying physical audio books are being discontinued for years but it hasn't happened; wherever possible, HCL buys both the physical and downloadable formats

#### Final Notes/Comments from the meeting

- Cindy Ahrens extended an invitation to all to attend the Southeast Florida Reading Festival in Ft. Myers, FL, on March 19, 2016. This is a gala event, which began in 1999, is filled with big name authors, activities, food, and fun
- Wendy Woodfill mentioned there is a new book coming out on the story of the Japanese Friendship dolls and expressed concern that the only one in Minnesota is at Central and in need of repair. This doll (Miss Miyazaki) must be restored in order to be displayed (more information on these dolls available on the web under Japanese Friendship Dolls. Wendy wondered if OW might be able to initiate something and Linda Engberg volunteered to send Sheila Matthews at Central an email inquiring about their status.

Next Meeting: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

**Ridgedale - 9:30 - 11:00**

**Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director will be the speaker**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Engberg, Secretary