

Ventura County Library Commission
July 22, 2010
Director's Report

Technology

- Seven branches have completed RFID tagging and are using the self-check systems. The six smallest branches are currently tagging their items. Overall, approximately 75% of the system's items are available for self-checkout. This should result in shorter lines, more patron privacy and the ability to use staff for more complex public service tasks. Only 66% of the budget allocated for this project has been used so far with all tags and most equipment already purchased.
- New firewall and filtering software has been installed system-wide.

Collections

- Mango Languages has been added to our databases. This allows patrons to learn a wide variety of languages either in their homes or at the library.
- The library recently held a vendor event for Childrens' Services. By inviting vendors to this, staff were able to solicit large discounts (up to 90% off) on children's materials.
- Spanish language materials have been purchased for all the small branches. Korean and Chinese materials have been purchased and placed in branches where they will see the greatest use.

Partnerships

- The Target Corporation provided volunteers who spent a day creating flannelgraphs and musical instruments for use in story-times system-wide.
- VCL has partnered with the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance to request a \$60,000 grant to provide informational programming and materials on HIV prevention.
- VCL had a booth at the Ventura Unified School District's Author Day
- The Summer Reading Program has been taken off-site to Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Ventura County to increase the number of children who have access.

Highlights

- The celebration of Summer Reading began with Swazzle Puppets presenting 17 programs throughout the county. For many children this is the first exposure to live theatre.

Highlights - continued

- VCL has purchased a Wii and it is being used throughout the county to provide both family and teen gaming programs. These have been greeted with great enthusiasm.
- Prueter Library had a blood drive and Foster will be holding one in September.
- “Stuff the Bus”, a United Way project to provide school supplies to needy children was held in June with VCL branches acting as collection points.
- Teens have been providing storytelling as part of our Summer Reading Program.
- Star Soto, Childrens’ Librarian at E.P. Foster was the Grandmaster of the Pooch Parade in downtown Ventura on July 10th.
- A Spanish language FAQ page will be on the website in the very near future.
- Foster Library will have a grand “opening” showing off the children’s floor, consolidated collections and new exterior paint on Oc. 17th.
- Foster Library will begin Sunday hours in early September.
- Constitution Day will be celebrated on Sept. 17th throughout VCL.
- Snapshot Day will be on Oct. 4th. On this day, libraries throughout the state will be taking pictures of events at their libraries to share across the state.
- VCL will be taking part in StoryFest in November.