

Tech Services Board Report
January 2014
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The fall is a busy time for the Tech Services department. The city's fiscal year runs from October to September, so we spend September closing out our book budget and the beginning of October entering our new budget into the acquisitions portion of Polaris, the library's integrated library system. Polaris allows us to track orders made by librarians and to also receive and invoice items. With the addition of the new Youth Services Librarian and the Youth Services Coordinator, the librarian's ordering areas were revised and I trained the two new librarians on how to order using BIBZII, the library's main vendor for book purchases.

In October, I attended the Polaris Users Group Conference in Portland, Oregon. Polaris is the Integrated Library System we use to run our circulation functions in the library. The conference allows me to learn about new products and services Polaris offers. One of the exciting things Polaris is currently developing is a web based module. This would allow libraries to check out materials for patrons throughout the library using a tablet and without the constraints of a desk. Of course, this is in preliminary testing but it is exciting to see what the Polaris developers have been working on through the year.

The library's downloaded eBooks and audiobooks through OverDrive Media continue to be popular with the public.

Currently, the library owns:

- 1,757 downloadable audiobooks
- 2,033 eBooks

Last budget year, OverDrive materials checked out 36,557 times.

- 11,796 were downloadable audiobooks
- 24,761 were eBooks.

Titles are added to the collection each month. We determine what to purchase by a combination of variables including author popularity, patron request, journal reviews, and if the publisher has made the title available to OverDrive for purchase. As discussed last year, some publishers have put restraints on how OverDrive sells titles and the library system chooses not to purchase titles that can only circulate for one year or a limited amount of check-outs.

To help promote these collections, the library system will be hosting two OverDrive classes for patrons on January 18 at the Hall Library and February, 1 at the John and Judy Gay Library. Both classes are on a Saturday and will be from 10:30am to noon. The classes will cover the basics of downloading

audiobooks and eBooks in the most popular formats which tend to be tablets and smartphones. Some patrons still use Kindles and Nooks but a majority of our questions revolve around tablets and smartphones.

Last year the library started working with a company called Texas Book Consignments. This company comes to the library and hand selects books and media from our withdrawn or donated items to sell. Our contact person is able to scan the items of interest and determine if it is something that would sell. After the items are selected, the company packs up the materials, stores them, and places them for sale online through Amazon Marketplace. Texas Book Consignments focuses on items such as television series on DVD, nonfiction books, and graphic novels were the main focus of interest. Items such as fiction and children's books do not have much value. You can go to www.texasbookconsignments.com for more information on the program.

Since we started with Texas Book Consignments, through July 1, 2013, the library has listed over 400 items online and sold 202 items. The library's profit from the 202 items was \$1,094.41. I hope to have an updated profit statement to share with you by the Library Board meeting.

As we move forward with the year, the Tech Services department continues to work diligently to help support and work with the other areas of the library. This teamwork provides a solid foundation, an even flow, and a great outlook on the future for our library system.