

Library Advisory Board Report
May 2015
John & Judy Gay Library Update
Prepared by Amy Albrecht, Library Manager

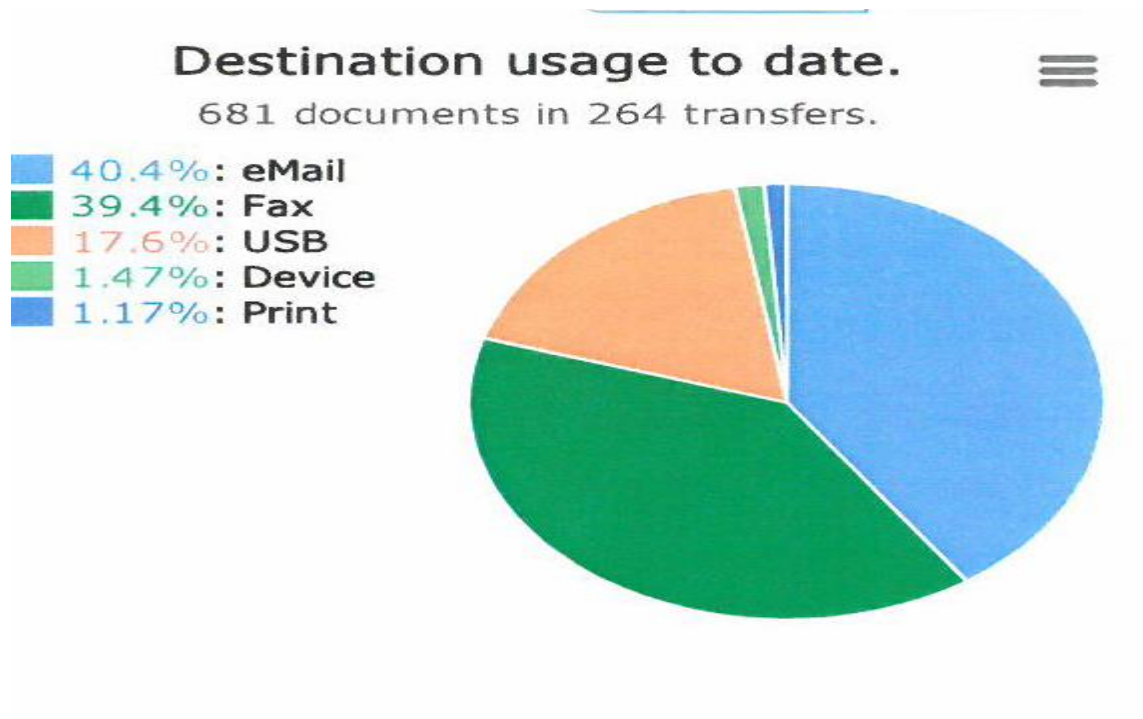
The John and Judy Gay Library (JJGL) has continued to experience growing numbers of happy patrons visiting the library and applying for new library cards. This growth can be seen with the number of people visiting the library on a daily basis, the full capacity of the building, the increase in usage of the computer lab, and the circulation of the Library's various collections. In addition, this location hit a programming attendance high of 2,096 program participants attending 54 different programs during the month of April.

To accommodate this growth, the JJGL library team has welcomed two additional part time library assistants to provide customer service, staff public desks, check in and check out items. This location also continues to receive staffing assistance from the Hall Library during peak busy times. This extra help has strengthened the service to patrons at JJGL and also encouraged a positive atmosphere and working relationships throughout the library system.

Space and seating concerns have been addressed by adding additional tables and chairs on the public floor as well as additional seating in the Quiet Study Area. The library has added 24 additional seats to accommodate visitors. In an effort to provide quiet space, the magazines and newspapers have been relocated from the Quiet Study Area to areas on the public floor. This change was prompted by not only the need for more quiet study space, but also based from patron feedback regarding the noise within the room. This change has been enjoyed both by patrons and staff.

This library participated in a pilot program offering use of technology (a screen, projector, speaker system, and sound system) to city departments and community groups renting the meeting room space. This program resulted in a large increase in use of the space. The room is full almost every evening and sometimes houses four different groups on one day. As a result of this program and positive feedback from the community, the Friend's group graciously purchased brand new equipment for both library locations. The equipment is available for the community to use when renting the space at either location.

Both library locations were able to receive a new document stations that act as a scanner and fax machine for patrons. The equipment was funded through an Edge Initiative Grant through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The station at JJGL is really busy and to date patrons have scanned 120 documents to USBs, 275 documents to email, 10 documents to smart devices, printed 8 scans, and faxed 268 pages.



As JJGL prepares for a busy summer, we will host City Elections on May 9th, 2015 and runoff elections on June 13th. We will begin another pilot program opening the meeting room space for tutors and their students on a regular basis from June 1st until August 29th. The space will be available for use five days a week. This pilot program was created as JJGL is a popular meeting place for tutors and students and the library currently only has one study room. The program is in place for the summer to hopefully alleviate some of the frustration and growing pains for both tutors and staff.

The Summer Reading program will also kick off on Friday, June 5th with a truck rodeo, games, and lots of fun. Youth will be able to pick up their reading logs on that day to begin reading for prizes, coupons, and books. The following programs will be at both locations and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library Group:

Circus Chicken Dog – June 9

Kidzscience – June 23

How Fireworks Are Made – July 1

Todd McKinney – Magician – July 7

Bat World Sanctuary – July 21

Blackland Prairie Raptors – August 4

Zooniversity – August 18

Summer Reading Celebration – August 21

Teens will also be involved in the fun with Rockin' Paint and Pizza, Wii Just Dance, Zen Gardens, Giant Games, and a Self Defense Class.

The John and Judy Gay Library was designed with future expansion in mind to include a dedicated children's area and more individual and group study rooms. The great usage of the library attests to the need for this expansion but until that time, our team will continue to work diligently addressing the needs of all patrons who visit this library on a daily basis.

Dear The John & Judy Gray library

I wanted to say thank you for everything that this library has been able to offer to the community which of many includes me.

Over this past year I have been able to do homework, create new friends and do some of the Thursday activities and I don't know how all those nights with endless homework would of got done without the tranquility of this library. Every one that works at the library is kind and without a doubt can be your friend so thank you for providing a study place, friends, and a place to do my work in peace.

From: Gravin J.
Pay It Forward