



Library Director's October Report

Hello and happy autumn, everyone! Let's jump right in:

BC Libraries have been continuing to debate the need for a 72-hour quarantine of library materials.

- The decision to quarantine materials for 72 hours came in response to findings from the COVID-19 Research Project done by the Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) Information Hub.
- The study has found that the virus is gone from all surfaces (cloth, paper, plastic) after 72 hours.
- Stacked materials retain virus levels for longer because there is less exposure to oxygen.
- Many libraries are discontinuing the quarantine in the near future: it is believed the amount of virus on materials in the study was much higher than the amount of virus present on materials in a real library scenario, particularly in an area with few cases of Covid-19.
- Not all libraries are doing away with quarantine; the decision is being made according to what is deemed appropriate for the community and library employees.
- No children's programs are being offered indoors at any libraries.

Circulation stats:

September 2020	1242
September 2019	2475

The Libraries Co-op Connectivity Consultant is approaching telecom Mascon to see if service can be improved. The Library and the Museum have contacted Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation about project. They are projecting completion of permitting by May of 2021 (permitting has been a significant delay) and Feb. 2023 is the projected date for completion of construction and implementation.

I am working with Lisa Bjarnason at CBAL on "Let's Connect" project which would lend out devices like tablets to seniors and other socially isolated individuals. I've applied for funding through the Democracy Spark grant and we will know by the end of this week if we have received it. If we don't receive this funding, I will access other funding streams, and even if we do not receive funding, we will be able to run a smaller project at a slower pace.

After whittling down the applicants (11 total) to the eligible (6) and then to the shortlist for interviews (4 – although 2 were offered jobs elsewhere before they could be

interviewed), we have hired our intern: Melissa Koftinoff. Melissa has worked at the library previously, and will be working with us on a fulltime basis for the next 6 months. She will be working on programming, social media communications, which will free me up to more thoroughly learn the day to day operations. We will be working together on an anti-racism resource for the library to lend out, and on programming around this resource. And of course, we will also be working on NPL Centenary celebrations for 2021.

The Visitor Centre is currently closed while they determine what hours they can offer in accordance with their budget, and they'll let us know when they know.

We have 100 new French language books! Lynne from L'Alliance Francaise swapped out our books, and the new ones are available for the taking.

For the next five weeks, I am enrolled in an Introduction to Cataloguing course offered through the Library Juice Academy and paid for by a Personal Learning grant offered through Libraries Branch. It's already been very illuminating!

Elaine Rogers has taken over the bookkeeping and Treasurer duties, and is getting acquainted with our books. She will have our September report ready very soon and then be up to date.

Terry McKinnon has been healing sick books, and also fixed the broken wooden easel that was in the back office. If any board members feel like tackling anything on our to do wish list, please feel free! We would particularly love a hand cleaning up the outside of the Centennial building.