

Director's Report – January 2013

1. The AADL Annual Report for 2011-12 is now available at aadl.org in video format and can be viewed at aadl.org/node/220605.
2. We have completed another cycle of Second Grade visits to the AADL. Second graders from AAPS, as well as, private and charter schools in our district, are invited for a tour of the youth area downtown and are treated to a story time. The Friends of the AADL paid for the school bus transportation for these students. This year 56 classes came to AADL with 1278 students in attendance. 511 library cards were issued.
3. The Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled at AADL received two commendations after its formal site review conducted by the Regional Librarian for the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons for the State of Michigan.

WLBPD is commended for its involvement in the Midlands initiative to establish a national wiki for libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped. AADL's offer to host the site and our leadership in its development were called out as valuable and greatly appreciated. Terry Soave, Manager of Outreach and Neighborhood Services, was instrumental in developing the wiki.

The second commendation was for the very successful Visions Vendor Fair in 2012 held at the Washtenaw Community College. Approximately 400 persons attended Visions.

4. The WLBPD@AADL also received praise from the National Library Service in its December 2012 Newsletter. The following is their statement of Best Practice regarding the service at AADL. "**The Washtenaw (Michigan) Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (WLBPD)** came up with a creative way to publicize its services. "We'd heard about other libraries creating promotional bookmarks to insert into large-print books, but were looking for an alternative that would be less expensive and require less staff time dedicated to replenishing the bookmarks each time one was taken," says outreach manager

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Terry Soave. The solution: a 4-inch by 6-inch sticker to place inside each of the large-print books in the general collection of the Ann Arbor District Library, which oversees the WLBDP. Four thousand laminated, self-adhesive stickers cost \$640. And, Soave says, "We're working with all eight of our partner public libraries to provide stickers for their large-print collections, too."

To date the Ypsilanti District Library, Whitmore Lake Public Library, Milan Public Library, and the Dexter District Library have agreed to sticker their large print books to help promote the WLBDP service throughout Washtenaw County.



Washtenaw Library for the
Blind & Physically Disabled
@ AADL

If you are only able to read large print, you may qualify for WLBDP @ AADL services, including receiving audio and large print books by mail at no charge.

For more information:

Email • wlbpd@aadl.org
Phone • (734) 327-4224
Website • wlbpd.aadl.org

5. Library Director Josie Parker presented this month at an AAUW meeting as part of a panel presenting on "Digital Resources in Libraries". Debs Biggs Thomas representing the Michigan Electronic Library, Chrissy Postema a school media specialist with the AAPS, joined her on the panel.
6. Library Director Josie Parker also presented to the Librarians' Forum of the University of Michigan in January. The focus of the talk was on AADL's philosophy of providing public library

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services within a culture of generosity, and how that is accomplished in a 21st century digital environment. Ms. Parker also spoke to this group about how the AADL works to provide programming support and collaboration with over 30 units on the UM campus.

7. Burns Park Elementary music teacher, Cynthia Page-Bogen and Singer/Songwriter/Educator Joe Reilly are presenting at the Michigan Music Conference in January on the impact of the AADL Library Songster program on creatively addressing K-5 general education curriculum in the music curriculum.

The Library Songster program began at the AADL over a decade ago, and is still led by Outreach and Neighborhood Services staff person Ira Lax.