

Librarian Report
December 2016

The final books of the year are coming in. Next year will see an equal or greater number of new titles added to keep pace without most enthusiastic patrons.

The outdoor workshop with Luke Boushee (Blacksmithing) was sparsely but enthusiastically attended. Attendees were hammering away on an anvil outside in the cold. He will return in January for further outdoor themed workshops.

Our ILS (catalog system), Library World, is limited in its reports and not intuitive to use. I have been looking for alternatives. Alternatives, however, are in the thousands of dollars for setup with similar annual fees. There is an excellent ILS called Koha that is free with much community support. I am experimenting with hosting Koha on our own computer (in my office). I now have it downloaded and am attempting to learn how to maintain a secure installation that, perhaps, I can roll out next year for the library to replace the \$450 we spend on Library World.

Kids have been using our catapults and electronic items after school. The catapults have been very popular, and I look forward to using them more in the new year. The new VR games are also extremely popular, and I will purchase some new games soon. New additions for the VR will arrive within a week: Oculus Touch. These are wireless hand controllers that will allow virtual “hands” to appear in the games and that are mapped to the patron’s movements. It will add a new level to our VR experience.

Our X-Box 360 has been stolen, probably during open hours. I contacted the police and while it is unlikely we will get it back, we can attempt to claim on insurance. I am currently looking for an appropriate secure box to keep in the junior fiction room and in which we can store the VR as well as its computer.