Library Corps of Adventure
A Library-Filled Trip on the Lewis and Clark Trail
Introduction

• What?
  • Traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail
  • Visiting libraries, museums, local history spots

• Where?
  • St. Louis, MO to Seaside, OR and points in between

• Why?
  • Research! Good sample of the country’s public libraries

• How?
  • Jeep! Also, tons of planning
It was a long trip, with so much to see!
Stage One
The trip begins!
There are so many interesting things to see along the trail!
Lewis and Clark are everywhere!
Libraries are AMAZING!!
Stage Two
Preparation was always the key!

So much preparation! So much time!!
So many people involved!!!
Lewis and Clark turn up in surprising places!
Libraries are so important to their communities...

...and there are so many things going on in libraries!!
Information is important... and the world is incredibly varied

- Dinosaur fossils, reservations, moose, bears, rattle snakes, fracking wells, mountains, glaciers, wildfires— it is interesting/amazing/awe-inspiring to realize how little we can know & experience when we stay home.
- Information is out there, for physical or virtual exploration!
Stage Three
Everything is amazingly beautiful
Information is important – and always has been for us

Pictograph State Park, Montana
The physical journey ends...
The fun part: Data Analysis!

Usually this is the fun part – for this particular research project, it was ALL the fun part!
States Visited

- Missouri: 16%
- Kansas: 6%
- Nebraska: 6%
- Iowa: 6%
- South Dakota: 6%
- North Dakota: 4%
- Montana: 26%
- Idaho: 6%
- Oregon: 10%
- Washington: 14%
Size of community served
Is your library a Carnegie building?

- 53% No, we have never had a Carnegie building
- 31% No, we are not currently in a Carnegie building but...
- 14% Yes, we are in a Carnegie building
- 2% Yes, we have a Carnegie building at one location
Most common programs

• Story time for babies and/or toddlers 91%
• General book group for adults 86%
• Computer/Internet instruction 75%
• E reader instruction 75%
• Story time for elementary school aged 70%
• Crafts 64%
• Movies for families 61%
• Movies for all patrons 57%
• Cultural performances 59%
• Banned book week 55%
• Holiday celebrations 55%
• Movies for teens 52%
• National library week 52%
Does your library have a strategic plan?
- Yes 86%
- No 14%

Any evaluation of plans for the future?
- Yes 65%
- No 35%
Plans for this library

- Creative opportunities: writing, art, crafting, etc. 74%
- Patron training in using social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) 74%
- Outreach to specific community groups 71%
- Partnering with local education providers 69%
- Patron training in using websites (e.g. Social Security, Amazon.com, banking, etc.) 69%
- Increased electronic resources 69%
- Quiet spaces 69%
- Partnerships with other libraries 66%
- Technology instruction 64%
- Reader's advisory 61%
- Patron training in technology literacy 61%
- Architecture/interior design to make physical use easier, more pleasant 59%
- Partnerships with local family service organizations 51%
- Library apps 51%
- Historical issues/learning 51%
Plans for all libraries for the future

- Partnerships with local family service organizations 85%
- Partnerships with local job-finding organizations 85%
- Outreach to specific community groups 85%
- Partnering with local education providers 85%
- Creative opportunities: writing, art, crafting, etc. 83%
- Partnerships with other libraries 81%
- Technology instruction 81%
- Quiet spaces 81%
- Automation of circulation functions 76%
- Reference 76%

- Library apps 73%
- Partnerships with local ethnic/language organizations 73%
- Patron training in technology literacy 73%
- Patron training in using social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) 73%
- Patron training in using websites (e.g. Social Security, Amazon.com, banking, etc.) 73%
- Preservation and exhibition of community history in person 71%
- Reader's advisory 71%
Skills needed for future librarians

- In person communication 85%
- Flexibility 83%
- Self-motivation 73%
- Innovation 63%
- Critical thinking 63%
- Technology software training 61%
- Technology hardware training 59%
- Resiliency 56%
- Advocacy 56%
- Online communication 54%
- Budgeting 46%
- Grant writing 41%
- Continuing education 34%
- Research 32%
- Assessment and evaluation 32%
- Human resources 29%
- Multilingual 27%

- Customer service and building community relationships were most frequently mentioned as important in our discussions
General Impressions...

- **Lack of diversity**
  - Extreme lack: three men, zero non-white employees
  - Lack of perceived need for multicultural or multi-lingual skills

- **Wide range of responses to the survey itself**
  - Some were excited about being part of the information gathering, wanting to show off their libraries
  - Some were wary, nervous – thinking it was a formal evaluation
  - One hid from me

- **Conservative responses, emphasis on traditional**
  - Irritation with gaming

- **Community involvement was perceived as critical**
- **Every single one had something interesting, unique!**
Conclusion

• Go travel more!

• Public libraries are struggling for funding, but still doing great things in their communities!

• New, interesting things are happening all over the country — we just do not always get to hear about them

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