

Weston Public Library

ALSP Review

2021-2022



Our Goals for 2021-2022

Goal #1: To increase Library use and promote literacy in our youth

- **What community needs are you addressing?:** The need to nurture and grow Library users in the community.
- **Priority(ies):** Early Childhood Programs, K-12 Youth Programs

Almost all our activities toward this goal were realized. We were able to resume pre-pandemic levels for most children's programming, and added another regular weekly event. Athena and Weston libraries collaborated once again to create book bags for all preschool through 5th grade students. Thirty-nine in-person programs for kids were held.

We held 30 preschool storytime sessions during the year, with a total of 318 attending. An added feature this year was weekly storytime at the Weston School Preschool, with Athena and Weston libraries alternating weeks.



Summer Reading Program included 6 in-person events in the Weston Park, for a total of 110 attending. Young readers tracked around 1,800 minutes read during the six-week program.

Other youth programs included Santa at the Library, and a popular after school make and take a gift activity.





The challenge for goal #1 in Weston is to remain relevant to middle school and high school students. Middle school book group has not resumed after the pandemic, due to lack of interest. Space constraints in the library are also a challenge to this goal, since we don't have a dedicated program area. The library board is discussing recruitment of a middle school student to be a representative to the board. The possibility of a summer teen intern will be explored for 2023.

Goal #2: To promote the Library as a friendly, active center of rural community life

What community needs are you addressing? The need for members of the community to get back into the habit of using the library for recreation, research, and public computer use after a year of limited access to the facility due to the pandemic.

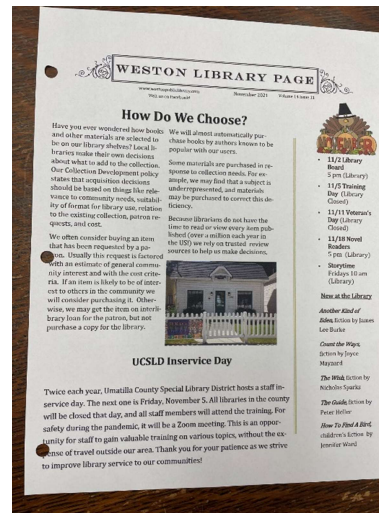
Priority(ies): Welcoming/User Friendly Atmosphere

It seems we had pretty good success with this goal. All events have been moved back indoors after Covid-19 risk was reduced. Community members appear satisfied with our services and facility.

Novel Readers, our adult book group, continues to meet. This group reads and discusses a chosen book each month on the 4th Thursday. Here is a partial list of books from 2021-2022:

- *Circling the Sun*
- *Gutenberg's Apprentice*
- *Hieroglyphics*
- *Miss Benson's Beetle*
- *Prairie Fires*
- *Song of Solomon*
- *Where the Crawdads Sing*
- *Lager Queen of Minnesota*
- *Greasewood Creek*
- *A Christmas Memory*
- *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*

The Library Newsletter has been published and distributed monthly since 2008.

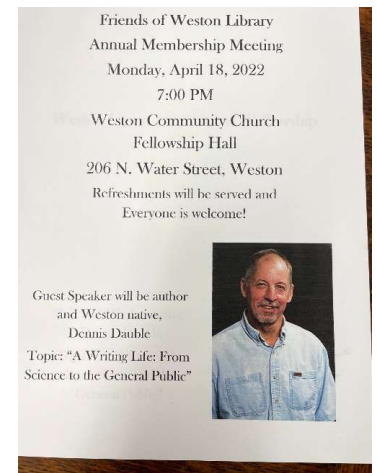


We continued to offer curbside delivery and delivery to the homebound.



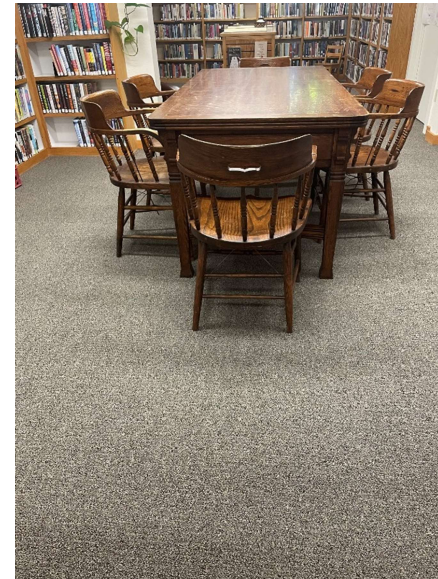
More about Goal #2...

Friends of Weston Library is an active organization, contributing much to this goal. This year they resumed their regular meetings, held an annual membership meeting, conducted their annual book sale outdoors, and participated in the Pioneer Picnic Parade. FOWL also provided financing for new Library carpet!



...and still more about Goal #2

Capital improvements to the facility contributed to the user friendly aspects of our library. This year the City of Weston had the exterior of the Library repainted. Friends of Weston Library covered the cost and provided hands-on help for new carpet in the building. It was a lot of work, but well worth the effort.





The challenge for goal #2 is increasing computer usage in the library. Our public computers are not being used to their full potential. Limited space allows for only one desktop computer and one laptop for public use. We have wifi access, available 24/7. The number of wifi sessions is unknown, but it appears to be many.

Goal #3: To plan for succession of the Library Director position

- **What community needs are you addressing?** The need for a smooth transition and continuity of library service in our community upon eventual retirement of Library Director.
- **Priority(ies):** Training (staff and board)

How was the progress toward this goal?

- Progress was made to compile an in-depth operations manual, including day-to-day, monthly and annual duties
- Worked on maintenance of files and archives
- Kept up to date on maintenance of collection (weeding)



Significant progress has been made toward this goal. The only challenge is finding time to work on these projects, as daily library duties take priority.

How did we create access for everyone?

- We have a robust broadband internet service which allows users to access the Library's wifi from the street, sidewalk, lawn and inside the building. This service is available 24/7.
- We are committed to continuing curbside delivery for any patron who requests this service. To date this has been helpful for library users avoiding indoor spaces, and folks with limited mobility. A few people have asked for their library materials to be delivered to their vehicle during inclement weather.
- We deliver library materials to the homebound.
- We have evening hours two days per week to accommodate different schedules.
- We have digitized our historic photo collection and Weston Leader newspaper collection. Both are available for remote access from our website.

Library and Community Partners Included...

- ✓ Friends of Weston Library
- ✓ City of Weston
- ✓ UCSLD
- ✓ UCSLD Library Partners
- ✓ Athena Weston Schools
- ✓ Weston Memorial Hall
- ✓ Weston Community Church



FOWL is steadfast in their support of our library.

City of Weston provides approximately 30% of the library budget.



Athena Weston Schools allowed us to distribute 215 book bags to students, and access to their preschool class for weekly storytime.



UMATILLA COUNTY
SPECIAL LIBRARY
DISTRICT

Strengthening our community libraries

UCSLD provides stable funding, training opportunities, courier services, Sage and Library2Go membership, Take-Off program, and the support of a larger organization. These are absolutely essential to the smaller libraries.

How did we increase awareness of UCSLD support?

- We reminded City and Library officials of the benefits of membership
- We informed new library card holders of the greater network of 74 library collections they can access
- We submitted events to the UCSLD calendar
- We applied the UCSLD logo where appropriate



How can the UCSLD continue to support district libraries?

- By continuing to provide a platform for communication between staff members
- By providing local training opportunities and staff inservice
- By continuing to provide cataloging and technical support
- By continuing to provide funding for the Sage system and databases
- By advocating for library service in our communities, i.e. attending city council meetings or budget proceedings when applicable
- By providing equitably distributed funding to all District libraries