



2022 Library Visit Interview Form

Library Name: North Freedom Public Library

Certification Grade: 3

Date of visit: 7/7/2022

Library staff present at the visit: Raina Roloff

SCLS staff present: Mark Jochem

Amount of time spent at visit: 45 minutes

[Please limit this section to the answers to the specific questions, and include as much detail as possible. Report other information or observations in the “other information” section below.]

- **How are you and your staff doing?**

Raina is doing “ok.” The library is short staffed. Since April, Raina has been the only employee at the library. There were a total of 3 applications for the library assistant position and none have panned out. Raina explains it is difficult to hire in the current environment when other for-profit entities can pay more. Fortunately, the library board has agreed to suspend Saturday hours until a library assistant is hired.

- **What are the next projects (big or small) on your library’s to-do list?**

The big project is to hire a library assistant. Otherwise, the library just finished up a massive booksale which off-loaded a significant number of weeded materials.

- **Are there service changes or new services from the last two years that you plan on continuing?**

The library has always had a curbside and home delivery service available, they just never referred to or publicized it. Raina will continue to do this for anyone who asks. Additionally, take-and-make kits were popular with youth and families. It will continue to be offered, but perhaps not at the intensity as during the pandemic. Raina explains it is a labor intensive thing, but worth it.

- **How can SCLS help?**

Raina mentioned it would be really helpful, especially for smaller libraries, to have a system of “floating library staff” or library substitutes. She explains, it is difficult to attend meetings, conferences, or have any time away from the desk without additional assistance.

Keep costs down, please.

- **Is there anything else you’d like to share or discuss?**

For the first time since Raina has been working at the library, they will not be running on a

deficit. Turnover at the village board has resulted in plans to double the village contribution to the library budget. This is a 1/3 increase in the budget, and will result in an increase in county funds as well.

Other information gathered at the visit (interesting tidbits, general impressions of the library, or alternative topics):

Multi-part DVD workgroup feedback: The decision to package and circulate DVDs together will have a significant impact on North Freedom. Many of the tv series sets are incomplete at the library. This was okay with the previous model, because patrons could receive the lost disc from another library. Unfortunately, the conversion will result in North Freedom having to “throw out” many tv series, unless a work-around is found (pooled partial sets or match-and-trading between libraries). Raina is also concerned the interim will be difficult for patrons, especially those that struggle with technology. Having a mix of tv DVD sets and separate tv DVD sets could be confusing for people to sort through when using LinkCat.