SUPERIORLAND
Connections

IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY
CELEBRATES THE PAST & LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The Ironwood Carnegie Library is the westernmost library served by the Superiorland Library Cooperative. Located in Ironwood, Michigan this neoclassical building was constructed between 1901 and 1902 of red-orange brick accented by brown sandstone.   This historic building sits majestically on the corner of Aurora and Norfolk Streets on the eastern edge of the City's downtown.   It was the Michigan donation made by iron and steel magnate Andrew Carnegie.   The building is also the oldest continually operating Carnegie Library in Michigan.

Ironwood was founded primarily due to the rich iron reserves found in the area. The Gogebic Range's first mine, the Colby Mine was opened in 1884. These mines formed the basis of Ironwood's economic and cultural life. Carnegie's ties to the Ironwood, Michigan area were closer than to many of the communities to which he donated funds. Carnegie owned the Norrie and Pabst Iron Mines located in Ironwood, and the request to build a public library for the community was made by mine personnel through his trusted friend, Carnegie Steel executive James Gayley.

The building was designed by Alden and Harlow, who also designed many of the branch libraries Carnegie donated to the city of Pittsburgh. The building is a distinguished example of the early twentieth century libraries influenced by neoclassical design.

NEW LOGO FOR SLC

Welcome to the first issue of the Superiorland Library Cooperative newsletter *Superiorland Connections*. This newsletter debuts our new Superiorland Library Cooperative (SLC) logo.

SLC was established in 1974 as a unit of local government established by Public Act 89 of 1977-the State Aid to Public Libraries Act. Members include 38 public libraries and four tribal libraries located in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The SLC is governed by a Board of Directors appointed from each public library member. The cooperative has a staff of four full-time and three part-time employees working from SLC headquarters in Marquette, MI.

SLC develops and sustains innovative programs that are cost effective because libraries collaborate in shared economy of scale programs. Cooperation among libraries allows members to grow and sustain valuable library programs that improve the quality of life in every community.

SLC also manages the Automated Library System (ALS) for the Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation and the Great Lakes Talking Book Advisory Center.

"What in the world would we do without our libraries?"   *Katharine Hepburn*

UPPER PENINSULA & NORTHERN MICHIGAN LIBRARIES GETTING
"SaaSY" in 2016
by Shawn Andary, UPRLC ALS Administrator

SLC libraries moved their library automation system to a hosted solution in 2016. Prior to January of 2016, both the online library catalog and other library automation software were hosted on computer servers in the Cooperative office in Marquette.

SLC staff was responsible for regular backups of the system and were also charged with maintaining and updating the hardware and software. SaaS (Software as a Service) moved the responsibility of maintaining, securing, and updating our library systems and data to our vendor SirsiDynix.

Additionally, the new database provided by the move to SaaS allows our libraries and patrons to enjoy some enhanced features that were not available on the old system such as easily viewing items that are "available now" when searching the online library catalog.

SaaS also includes a separate test instance of the library system where new features and enhanced services can be configured and tested before making them available to patrons and library staff. The test instance allows any bugs with new features to be worked out prior to implementation on the library system. This means new features will be working correctly on the very first day.

SLC is looking forward to offering many new and innovative services to library patrons and staff thanks to the move to SaaS.

SLC Reinstitutes Advisory Board of Librarians Meetings

At the urging of former Menominee County Library Director Pat Cheski, the Superiorland Library Cooperative held two Advisory Board of Librarian meetings in August 2016. Cheski addressed the SLC Board of Directors at their July 27, 2016 Board meeting and suggested that Cooperative staff once again implement the Advisory Board of Librarians meetings.

"The Advisory Board of Librarians was an excellent way for the Cooperative to get ideas from the members, but even more, it gave Library Directors an opportunity to meet face to face, share ideas and get assistance from other Directors. To me the ability to talk to fellow Library Directors was the most valuable aspect of the Advisory Board," said Cheski.

Dave Bonsall of Simply Superior Consulting facilitated the August meetings. The first was held on August 16, 2016 at the Peter White Public Library. The second meeting was held in St. Ignace on August 23, 2016. Notes from both sessions are available on the Superiorland Library Cooperative website.

Following the meetings, Bonsall compiled a list of themes that seemed to resonate with Advisory Board Members.

√ Members appreciate SLC and the services it provides. SLC staff should maintain the positive relationships and high level of service that has been established.

√ Technology assistance is the most valued service provided by the Cooperative. Members appreciate the expertise and availability of this service.

√ Participants suggested that SLC membership increase their involvement though the establishment of committees. Committees that were suggested are-Programming, Communities of Practice, Marketing and Social Networking and Grants.

√ Marketing and branding was needed for the cooperative and member libraries. A desire to raise visibility of libraries, send the message that "we are more than books" and attract new and non-users were priorities.

√ Improve the customer service experience in each member library through training, surveys, marketing and innovation.

√ Assist libraries become major resources and contributors to developing better communities. Economic development, employment skills, hunger, literacy, homelessness and mental health were some of the areas in which librarians thought their libraries could play a role.

√ Enhancing communication between the SLC and member libraries and between member library personnel was expressed many times. Would like committees established to build communication bridges, share ideas and expertise, develop effective communication mechanisms.

√ Professional development and enhancing staffing and employment opportunities throughout our service area is desired. Could SLC develop a MLS program and/or Library Tech certification program? Increasing stipends and scholarships for workshops and conferences would be valuable for improving library service.
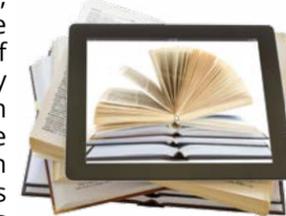
√ Develop ways to attract non-users and young people to the library and to provide services that patrons and members of the community value.

GREAT LAKES DIGITAL LIBRARIES
IMPROVES OPTIONS FOR READERS

The Great Lakes Digital Libraries (GLDL) is a source for downloadable eBooks and audiobooks. This shared collection enables libraries to provide electronic books to their customers in a cost effective way. SLC contracts with Overdrive to provide the GLDL. The collection currently contains 8,717 items. These books are selected by a team of volunteers from member libraries. The collection contains fiction and non-fiction items for children, teens and adults. The popularity of the collection has grown as library users become aware of the fact that they can check out eBooks and audiobooks without charge from their local library.

Last year, 107,662 items were checked out of the collection. 64,327 of those items were downloadable eBooks and 42,149 items were audiobooks. Items can be checked out and placed on hold just like items from a local library. SLC staff monitor the holds list, and regularly purchase additional copies of high-demand titles. The goal is to purchase an additional copy of an item on reserve when the number of holds per copy reaches seven. Hopefully, this system helps to alleviate long wait times for the most popular materials in the collection.

The GLDL is supported by the SLC and member libraries through an annual fee, but donations to the program have helped to add to the collection. Generous donations from the Crawford County Library, Friends of the Menominee County Library, Friends of the Escanaba Public Library and Thrivent Action Team have all helped to increase the number of items in our collection. Donations toward the GLDL are always welcome.

In order to get more input on what readers would like to see in the collection, SLC will be activating the Recommend to Library feature. This will allow readers to recommend a title for purchase. SLC staff will receive the recommendations and can approve the purchase of the titles as the budget allows.

Visit GLDL at: *www.gldl.lib.overdrive.com.*

Peter White Public Library
Welcomes New Director

I have worked as a Library Director for over ten years. In 2008, I was appointed as the Library Director with the Greensburg – Decatur County Public Library in Greensburg, Indiana. Prior to my time in Greensburg, I worked as a Library Director at the Osgood Public Library; Indiana Division Librarian at the Indiana State Library; and a Reference Librarian at the Hancock County Public Library. I earned my Masters of Library Science from Indiana University and have a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Ball State University.

My family is very excited to have the opportunity to join the Marquette community. We are an active family who love to canoe, hike, camp and otherwise enjoy the great outdoors! My husband, Jeremy, and I have two children: Orion is 15, and Lyra is 6. Jeremy currently works for the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and is hoping to transition into federal employment in the Marquette area. My father was raised in Michigan and I still have quite a few family members scattered across Michigan and Canada. We also have access to family property in Paradise, where we camp often.

Libraries across the nation are in a time of flux. I believe that progressive, active, community minded libraries will not only survive, but thrive. During my time in Greensburg, the library has made a number of changes to become the vibrant library that the community wants. In my time

with Greensburg - Decatur County Public Library, the library added collaborative meeting spaces and play areas; renovated the meeting room to include a commercial teaching kitchen; started a seed library; added a branch library in a daycare facility; and are in the process of adding 15 Little Free Libraries in Decatur County. All of these projects are collaborations with community organizations and are in response to community needs. wThe Peter White Public Library has excellent ties with community organizations. I am excited to see what opportunities arise from these relationships!

*Andrea Ingmire - Director
Peter White Public Library*

It is an amazing opportunity to join the Peter White Public Library team. It is a dream of mine to marry my enthusiasm for libraries and my love for the North. And, you know what they say about dreams, sometimes they do come true! Stop in and visit soon!

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Help Steer Your Cooperative!

The two Advisory Board of Librarians meetings resulted in many good ideas for improving SLC, but one of the recurrent themes was the desire for the Cooperative to establish committees. These committees would identify new services or enhance current services. Committees will also give library personnel leadership and networking opportunities. Several categories were identified for potential committees.

The Professional Development/ Continuing Ed Committee will implement professional development programs for library personnel and board members.

The Grants Committee will begin working immediately in response to the Library of Michigan's announcement of competitive LSTA grants.

The Programming Committee will work with libraries across our service area to coordinate educational, informational, music, cultural and/or recreational programming that can be offered in a variety of locations in efficient and cost-effective ways.

The Technology Committee will explore, research and identify new technology that will develop or improve the services offered by libraries to their service populations.

These committees will be in addition to existing RIDES/Delivery Committee. Please volunteer for a committee. Your willingness to serve will improve the Superiorland Library Cooperative and the services our members offer to the public.

Ironwood Carnegie Library *continued from page 1*

When the building opened in 1902, only the main floor was used. The Aurora Street entrance opens into the main lobby where the original wooden circulation desk is still located. The lobby has 15' ceilings and is flanked by two reading rooms. Today, the reading rooms house the adult fiction and non-fiction collections. The fiction room features a fireplace that has recently been upgraded to gas. The building also contains the original plaster, woodwork, radiators, ceiling fans and air intake vents.

In 1916, the main floor of the library was no longer sufficient and services expanded to the basement of the facility. A community room and ladies bathroom were added. The library's children's and teen collections now occupy this space. A ramp providing barrier free access to the facility and updated furnace are recent additions to the facility. During the last 10 years work to improve library services and restore the historic building. In 2016, the library received $60,000 to undertake historic preservation. Repair of window sills, replacement of the library's front entrance doors

Ironwood Carnegie Library Teen Room

and other improvements have been made to maintain and preserve the building and make it more historically accurate.

Despite the fact that Ironwood serves a rural population that exceeds national averages for persons living in poverty, levels of unemployment and lower than average educational attainment, the library makes the most of its

Ironwood Carnegie Library Adult Reading Room

limited resources by working collaboratively with other local agencies such as Great Start, 4H, local school districts and other community libraries (including those in neighboring Wisconsin). Membership in the Superiorland Library Cooperative allows the library to take advantage of cooperative purchasing, a union catalog containing the library records of almost 100 U.P. and Lower Michigan libraries and technology.

The Library augments its budget through active fundraising and grant writing. The Library has been the recipient of several Big Read grants awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts and received $10,000 from AT&T to develop a program pairing teens with older adults for computer instruction. The library's collection and range of programs have been improved through grants from grantors such as the Michigan Humanities Council, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Michigan Center for the Book, Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and an annual fund raising appeal.

The Ironwood Carnegie Library is a perfect example of a public library that celebrates its past and looks to the future to provide a range of quality library materials, equipment and programs to the residents it serves.

UP & Northern Michigan's Library Connection

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WWW.UPROC.LIB.MI.US/SLC/