



Library Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2022
ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018
12:00 pm

Allen
Rosenthal
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam
Conway
Aoh

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – No Quorum, March 17, 2022**
3. **Library Reports**
 - a. Library Staff reports
 - b. Report of Director
 - c. Review of Financial Report
 - d. Statistical and Other Reports
 - e. Report of District Consultant
4. **Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends and ERLF
5. **Unfinished Business**
6. **New Business**
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – No Quorum, March 17, 2022
3. Library Reports

a. Library Staff reports

Adult Services- Courtney Baran presents HistErie project.

b. Report of Director

c. Review of Financial Report

See attachment

d. Statistical and Other Reports

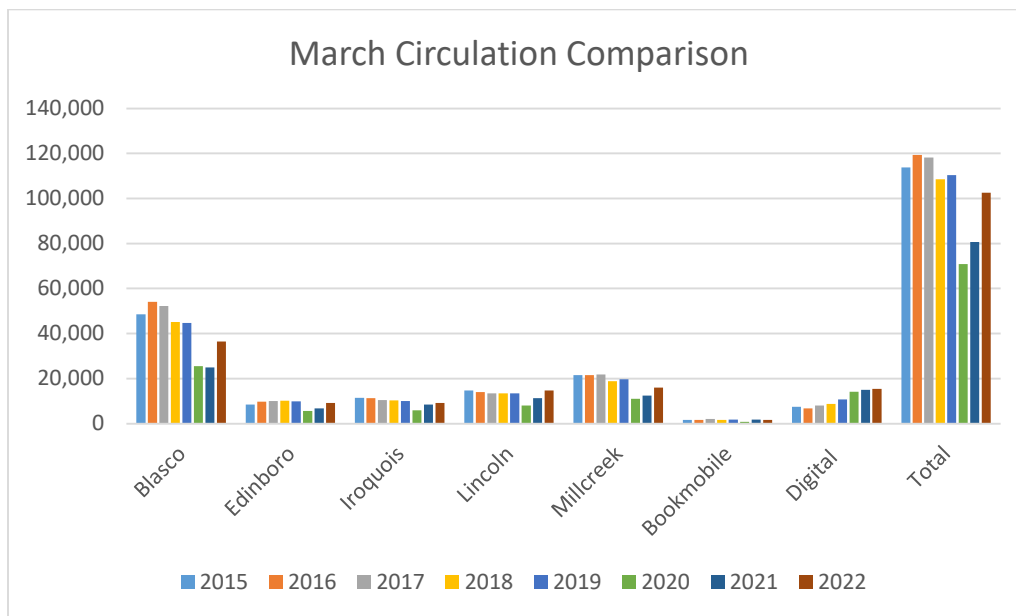


March 2022 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **377** new cards issued, including **35** e-cards
- **4,166** Wi-Fi logins, increase from **2,979** March 2021
- **2,988** computer sessions, **1,976** hours used
- **14,754** check outs at Lincoln: 25% higher than February 2022 and highest March checkout since 2015

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Blasco	48,541	54,106	52,297	45,211	44710	25,478	24,972	36,412
Edinboro	8,431	9,801	9,977	10,203	9932	5,592	6,749	9,123
Iroquois	11,451	11,354	10,496	10,296	10042	5,860	8,503	9,139
Lincoln	14,702	13,986	13,419	13,480	13384	7,997	11,276	14,754
Millcreek	21,577	21,578	21,905	18,878	19743	11,068	12,461	15,985

Bookmobile	1,688	1,673	2,083	1,638	1782	799	1,739	1,677
Digital	7,452	6,763	8,001	8,817	10,744	14,138	14,995	15,478
Total	113,842	119,261	118,178	108,523	110,337	70,932	80,695	102,568

e. Report of District Consultant

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends and ERLF

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. Announcements

Reminder: Board members invited to participate in Outreach Advisory Committee. Committee will meet at conclusion of regular board meeting.

- b. News Articles

A female author whose historical novels shine a light on women is coming to speak at Mercyhurst University.

Marie Benedict said she is on a mission "to excavate from the past these women who have been lost or buried or hidden in shadows." Though they are from bygone eras, she said they're women who dealt with issues that have modern relevance.

Marie Benedict is the pen name under which Heather Benedict Terrell has written titles, including "Her Hidden Genius," about the female scientist who helped discover DNA, and "The Only Woman in the Room," about a beautiful actress and inventor with an idea for fighting the Nazis. She also has co-written, with Victoria Christopher Murray, "The Personal Librarian," about a Black woman forced to hide her true identity. It is as Benedict that the Pittsburgh author will be lecturing Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center as part of the Mercyhurst Literary Festival.

"We're really excited to host her. She's one of the most high-profile writers we've ever had," said Jeffrey Roessner, associate dean of the Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and a professor of English at Mercyhurst. "The themes about race and women's place in history are so timely we're just thrilled to have her here talking about those issues."

The free event at Mercyhurst is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Erie County Public Library and the Erie Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Loretto Bellicini, president of AAUW Erie, said, "The book group within AAUW had already read several of (Benedict's) books and they are always well-received."

Benedict's novels began in 2016 with "The Other Einstein," about Mileva Maric, Albert Einstein's first wife. While Benedict doesn't have a favorite among the women she's written about — she said it would be like saying which of her children is her favorite — she is most protective of the first Mrs. Einstein because Maric was least able to fulfill her purpose because of her life circumstances.

"The Other Einstein" was followed in 2018 by the fictional "Carnegie's Maid," about a woman working for Andrew Carnegie. Next up was 2019's "The Only Woman in the Room," a novel about the real Hollywood screen star Hedy Lamarr, who was also an inventor.

The start of 2020 brought "Lady Clementine," about the brilliant and ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, and the end of that year saw publication of "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" about writer Agatha Christie's 11-day disappearance in 1926.

Benedict's latest solo novel was this year's "Her Hidden Genius" about Rosalind Franklin, a British scientist who didn't get the same recognition as the men working on DNA.



Business Community Education Environment

JCLA Forecasts 'The Future of Work in Erie County'

Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy releases annual report



by **Matt Swanseger** ⌚ March 28, 2022 at 4:55 PM



Where do you see yourself five years from now? Ten?

If you've ever been interviewed for a job, chances are you've been asked something of the sort, any maybe you had no idea whatsoever (e.g. "I don't even know what I'm having for dinner tonight.") Nonetheless, it's definitely important to ask ourselves these questions as individuals, and it's even more vital to ask ourselves these questions collectively as a community — because without goals, there can be no direction.

Earlier this month, the [2021 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy](#), a cohort of 26 young area professionals between the ages of 25 and 45, released their in-depth report on "[The Future of Work in Erie County](#)," in which they identified the ways employment patterns will change going forward and how to advantageously position Erie County's residents for success ahead of that change.

To arrive at their findings, the JCLA cohort canvassed dozens of civic leaders, business owners, and economic developers, researched growth strategies from other economically distressed communities,

<https://www.erie reader.com/article/jcla-forecasts-the-future-of-work-in-erie-county>

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Library manager: Tell us how a new Millcreek - Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) - April 30, 2021
April 30, 2021 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) | John Euliano; Special to the Erie Times-News

Libraries matter. In order to support all Erie County residents, our libraries must be resourced appropriately. With that in mind, the Erie County Public Library has launched a project to plan for the future of its **Millcreek Branch Library** and will be inviting residents to help us determine what amenities and features will best serve our community.

Library planning: A new **Millcreek Branch Library**? County Council to vote on feasibility study

The role of public libraries fills a vital part of every community. Libraries provide programs and literacy for young families, access to technology for job searches, and public spaces for tutors, book clubs and other programs. Libraries create an opportunity for people to learn and grow in a host of ways across generational lines. This project allows all of us to work together to plan a future facility that builds on our existing services and also expands what the library can offer to Erie County.

In the coming weeks and months, the Erie County Public Library will be collaborating with Bostwick Design Partnership on a needs assessment and facility feasibility study designed to set a course of action for an improved Millcreek Branch that will be enhanced in ways that better serve our users. Bostwick has successfully worked on the Blasco Library Master Plan and the Blasco Idea Lab and Teen Space, so they bring a great deal of familiarity with the library to this process.

An essential part of this process will be getting your ideas about what you picture a new library looking like. What services would you like to be offered? What building features appeal to you? In essence, we want you to tell us how a new Millcreek Branch could best serve you.

You will have several opportunities, including targeted focus groups, a public meeting and a community survey, to share ideas. Please help us shape the future of the library. We want this endeavor to result in a facility that best serves our community, and the best way to do that is to hear from you. In collaboration with Bostwick Design Partnership, the Erie County Public Library will conduct a series of focus group meetings so that we can listen and understand the attitudes, beliefs, concerns, behaviors and preferences of the community. These groups will include:

1. Preschool and elementary school parents
2. Middle school students
3. High school students
4. Homeschool parents and children
5. Mature adults age 55 and older
6. Business and professional representatives

After the Audit | PLA 2022

by Meredith Schwartz

Apr 01, 2022 | Filed in News

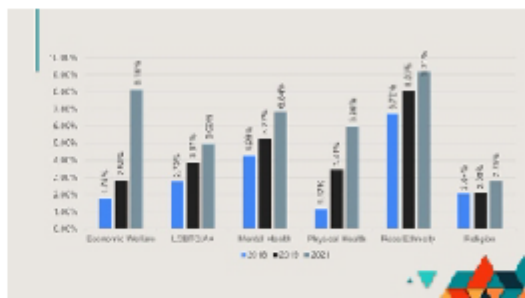
Collection Diversity audits, while crucial, can present a daunting challenge. What can tip the balance toward deciding the work is worth it is a concrete plan for how the knowledge gained can be directly translated into action. At the "After the Collection Diversity Audit" session at PLA, a mixture of in-person and virtual panelists—including Celia Mulder, head of collection management and system administration, Clinton-

Macomb Public Library, MI; Sarah Voels, community engagement librarian, Cedar Rapids Public Library, OH; Anitra Gates, technical service manager, Erie County Public Library, PA; and Amberlee McGaughey, children's librarian, Erie County Public Library—shared their experiences and strategies.

Some panelists audited every title in a physical collection, while others opted for a random sampling. Some considered a broad range of categories, including race, ethnicity, LGBTQIA+ identity, mental health, and religion, while others focused on a single aspect such as BIPOC characters. Even how to categorize characters requires judgement calls: In Erie County, the library used a category of "white or presumed white" to allow for main characters whose race was never identified explicitly.

One of the most interesting takeaways was that fears that books focused on marginalized protagonists would circulate less were unfounded. At one library, they circulated almost exactly in proportion to their percentage of the collection. Another panelist, however, cautioned that it might take time to build up to that level if past collection development practices have created a lack of trust among members of underrepresented groups in the community. The panelists cautioned against applying strict mechanical formulas—such as weeding all books that circulate less after two years—because you can end up with gaps in important categories that may serve numerically fewer people, but are very important to the people they do serve. Personal experiences they cited include weeding books on Hannukah and Kwanzaa because they circulate less than Christmas titles, or Coretta Scott King award-winning titles.

In addition to manual auditing, tools mentioned included Diverse Bookfinder, a picture-book-focused collection analysis tool hosted at Bates College; Follett School Solutions' Titlewave Diversity Analysis, Ingram Inclusive, and a forthcoming service from Midwest Tape. (Those





LIBCON Erie celebrates geek culture, comics, - Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) - April 19, 2022

April 19, 2022 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) | Erie Times-News

You can get your geek on next week at LIBCON Erie.

After a cancellation in 2020 due to COVID-19 and a virtual version in 2021, the **Erie County Public Library's** comic con is back with in-person events, and some online ones, too.

The family friendly free LIBCON will run Monday through April 30, with events at all of the library's locations. This year's con will include workshops, board and role-playing games, cosplay, panel discussions and escape rooms, according to information on the library's website. The site calls LIBCON "a celebration of geek culture, comics, graphic novels and fandoms of all kinds."

Teens ages 13 to 18 can try to solve clues in 20 minutes to get out of the "Haunted Mansion" escape room at Blasco Library. Ages 6 to 12 can play virtual Pokemon bingo. Lego fans of all ages are welcome for the Master Builder's Blocky Party at Lincoln Community Center Library.

'Big honor':Erie EMS responder is a hero in new Marvel comic book

Films that will be shown will include "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and "Guardians of the Galaxy." Con participants can design and make their own comic, learn how to make beads using comic book scraps, create a "Star Wars" craft, paint miniature figures, compete in trivia games, attend a fairytale party and more. Activities vary by library location and registration is required for many events.

Deadline to submit entries for the "Fandom Fanart!" art contest is April 22.

Learn more about LIBCON at eriecounty-pa.libguides.com/LibConErie/Home.

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Times-News, Erie. "LIBCON Erie celebrates geek culture, comics, graphic novels, fandoms at county's libraries." *Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)*, sec. Entertainment, 19 Apr. 2022. *NewsBank America's News*, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1897AADA43CDF020. Accessed 19 Apr. 2022.

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