Media Happenings

April - May

Facebook Highlights

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 30

Do you have an author whose books you buy without reading the back?

1,480 people reached

Boost Post

Donald Showen, Jody Garrison and 11 others

37 Comments

Like · Comment · Share

Top Comments

Write a comment...

Nancy Boykin Jodi Picoult.... except I always know about and anticipate them months before release. 😊
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · March 30 at 6:21pm

Denise Hanson Talley Ilona Andrews, Patricia Briggs, Rachel Vincent, Kim Harrison, Chloe Neill
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 9:07pm · Edited

Barb Nickelsen Lynsay Sands historicals, Jayne Castle/Amanda Quick/Jayne Ann Krentz (before the hardcovers)
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 9:52pm

Alissa Koewler Herman Koch, PD James, Robert Goolrich and Ian McEwan
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 7:22pm · Edited

Pam Albin Louise Penny, John Grisham, David Baldacci, Tom Clancy, Sandra Brown
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 6:02pm

Howard Simms William Kent Krueger, Neal Stephenson, John Sandford, Jim Butcher, Michael Connelly, and Benedict Jacka
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 30 at 6:57pm

Betsi Moffatt Olson Uncle Stevie (King), Erdrich, Picoult, Annie Lamotte,
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 30 at 8:05pm

Anita Alexander Beverly Jenkins Blessings series
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 10:17pm · Edited

Paula Mielke Jacquiline Winspear.
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 30 at 9:07pm

Bonnie Bassett William Kent Krueger, Nevada Barr and Dana Stabenow
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:41pm

Melinda Ludwiczak Louise Erdrich, Louise Penny, Anthony Mara
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 30 at 6:42pm

Patty Collins Dennis Lehane & Steve Hamilton
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 11:55pm

Patti Nault Dick Francis. Felix, too.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:31pm

Tony Palermo Steven Brust, Steven Erikson, Glen Cook, Neil Gaiman...
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 1:36am

Shawn Rounds British author Phil Rickman's mysteries!
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:21pm

Mary Resemius Elin Hilderbrand, Angela Davis, Naomi Klein
See Translation
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 1:42am

Carolyn Kelly Tom Robbins, Sherman Alexie
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 9:46pm

Mary Dunn Greg Iles, David Baldacci, Nelson DeMille
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:40pm

Donald Showen Walter Borneman and William Johnstone
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · April 1 at 10:26pm

Therese Sonnek Sarah Waters
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:45pm

Susan Sedro Too many!
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 4:13am

Janine Smith Jim Butcher and Janet Evanovich
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 7:08pm

Keith Bagge Guy Gavriel Kay
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:35pm

Vicky Jacobson Weise William Kent Krueger
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:46pm

Holly Maddox Julie Klassen
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 10:14pm

Heather Bee Neil Gaiman
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 9:47pm

Nancy Wojack Hendrickson Following
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 11:58pm

Ryan MacAskill James S.A. Corey and Chris Bojalian
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 6:44pm

Jane Kennedy Richard Russo
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 9:05pm

Jackie Schwarz Gilbert JD Robb
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:37pm

Rao Konidena No, I don't.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 6:42pm

Audrey Schneider Hinds Stephen King, every one.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 10:06pm

Lynne Nelson Richelle Mead
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 8:20pm

Raymond Steinke II Kelly McCullough. I also recommend him whenever I can.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 9:32pm

James Garrison No.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 31 at 11:34am

Alyce Morgan Martin Walker, Louise Penny, Melissa Clark, Dorie Greenspan.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 30 at 5:44pm

Rebecca Waldoch Foro Erin Hart - Author, Jasper Fforde
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 30 at 6:24pm · Edited

Check in

Vineeta Ramdhan added 3 new photos — with Susan Tutewohl Smith and 3 others at Ramsey County Library
April 2 · Roseville, MN

'Kids at Heart' gala 2017! Raising money for the children of Ramsey County ❤💚💛💜💜
@allurebyally

Love · Comment · Share

Ramsey County Library, Janet Tutewohl Schneider, Rosanna Jackson and 63 others

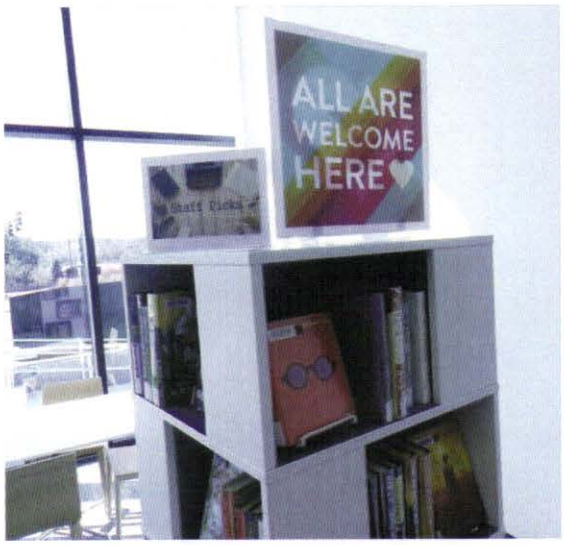
Michelle Calderon Palmborg ❤
Like · Reply · 3 · April 2 at 9:11am

Jan Renn Great cause and beautiful people in attendance!
Like · Reply · 4 · April 2 at 10:43am

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · April 4

We would love to hear from you. How can we do better?
#AllAreWelcomeHere

Tell us: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AllAreWelcome



1,510 people reached · Boost Post

35 · 1 Comment · 1 Share

Like · Comment · Share · Top Comments

Write a comment...

Ellie O'Brien Bring back electronic rentals for e-ink Kindles.
Like · Reply · Message · April 4 at 8:40pm

Ramsey County Library shared Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries's album 2017 Friends Gala: Kids at Heart
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · April 5

Thank you to all of the attendees, volunteers, sponsors and donors who came to support us at the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries 4th Annual Gala!

Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries added 100 new photos
April 3

Photos from our 4th annual Friends Gala fundraiser supporting Ramsey County Library! Please tag yourself and friends you recognize and check back soon as we add more pictures.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated. This event would not be possible without the generous support of hundreds of donors, volunteers, attendees and sponsors.

This year's theme was children's literature. We'd love to hear from you if you have ideas to share for next year's theme!

754 people reached · Boost Post

Mandy Ressler, Therese Matthias Scherbel and 13 others

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · April 14 at 2:54pm

Kids at the library in Maplewood made stop motion animation using Legos.

1,258 people reached · Boost Post

Angie Miller, Ardith Ohka and 7 others

Mention

Roseville Visitors Association ✓ Liked as Your Page
April 19 at 12:48pm

Did you know? Ramsey County Library in Roseville is the largest library within the county and circulates almost two million items annually!

hopefeathers photography

Ramsey County Library and Sebastian Verduyn

Like Comment Share

John Hakes shared Ramsey County Historical Society's post
April 15 at 3:54pm

On this last day of National Library Week, it looks like wonderful things will be continuing at Ramsey County Library- Roseville into next week, as well ! 😊

Ramsey County Historical Society
April 13 at 11:51am

An important History Revealed next Thursday, April 20. Stephen Osman will be presenting on "Fort Snelling and the Civil War," his new book just published by the Ramsey County Historical Society. Join us for a fascinating discussion on the role that Fort Snelling played as a major military post in the Civil War. Minnesota recruits were the first volunteers to sign up to defend the Union, and most of them went through Fort Snelling, which became a thriving community of men and women who supported them. Stephen will be available to answer questions and to sign books. We will have books available at the program. Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm at the Roseville Library (2180 Hamline Ave N, Roseville MN 55113) http://www.rchs.com/.../history-revealed-fort-snelling-civil.../

History Revealed: Fort Snelling & the Civil War - Ramsey County Historical Society

Ramsey County Historical Society Presents Stephen Osman: Fort Snelling and the Civil War History Revealed Series April 20, 2017 Thursday, 7 p.m. Ramsey County Library – Roseville Free and open to all. Join RCHS for...

RCHS.COM Learn More

Mention

USGBC Minnesota Community added 4 new photos Like as Your Page
April 11 at 3:44pm

Our Project Manager Steph Leonard's family likes to gather for storytime in their favorite reading garden at Ramsey County Library in Roseville. #findyourleed #leedgold U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) #NationalLibraryWeek

Ramsey County Library, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Cindy Zork and 2 others

Like Comment Share

Mention

White Bear Lake Area Historical Society added 4 new photos ✓ Liked as Your Page
April 24 at 6:07pm

Really nice group at the Ramsey County Library-White Bear Lake. John always draws a crowd! Thank you all for coming.

Ramsey County Library, Karen Kostuch Maney, Steve Jensen and 7 others

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] April 25 at 11:10am

In 2016, 1,797 volunteers dedicated a total of 16,148 hours to Ramsey County Library. We can't thank you enough! #NationalVolunteerWeek

778 people reached

Boost Post

23

1 Comment

Like Comment Share

Top Comments

Write a comment...

Kristen Klemann Thank you, volunteers!
Like Reply Message 1 April 25 at 2:00pm

Ramsey County Library added 2 new photos to the album Authors Donna Jo Napoli and Eva Furrow
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] April 26 at 4:26pm

Mother and daughter writing team, Donna Jo Napoli and Eva Furrow, visit Shoreview. What a nice surprise on such a gloomy day!

1,178 people reached

Boost Post

Sally Peters, Mary Haider Larson and 8 others

Check-in

Diane L. Augustin at Ramsey County Library
May 2 at 11:25pm Roseville, MN

Thanks to my wonderful Knit 2 Together class at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville. Everyone did an excellent job learning to knit. See you next week! Practice, practice, practice. Take care.

Like Comment Share

Ramsey County Library, Diane L. Augustin, Carol Rieger and 8 others

2 shares

Check-in

Torri Johnson added 6 new photos — at Ramsey County Library
April 29 at 1:18pm Roseville, MN

Sixth stop of the day. Ramsey County Fix It Clinic. They fixed the chain on our Tiffany lamp. Yay! Thanks to Alvin the volunteer who fixed it. He is a retired electrical engineer who worked as a consultant on various stray voltage issues with Xcel Energy. It was fun to chat while he fixed my lamp.

Like Comment Share

Ramsey County Library, Charmaine Wahlstrom, Mary Frankus and 5 others

Jim Lewis at Ramsey County Library
May 1 at 2:23pm Roseville, MN

Happy May Day!!

240 Views

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · May 3 at 2:33pm

Roseville Area School's student artwork showcase is currently at the library in Roseville through May 19!

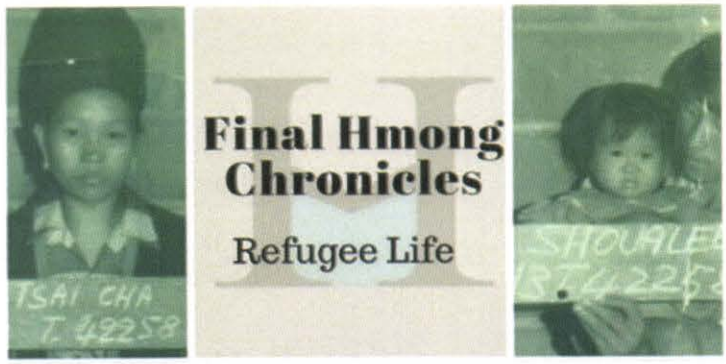
1,177 people reached

Boost Post

Grethe Bornhoft, Abe Holte and 16 others

Ramsey County Library shared Hmong Museum's event
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · Yesterday at 9:02am

Join Hmong-American writer Shoua Lee and her mother Tsai Ly as they reinterpret Hmong oral history traditions at the library in Maplewood.



MAY 20

Hmong Chronicles: Refugee Life
Sat 2 PM · 3025 Southlawn Dr, St Paul, MN 551...
Kathy, Khou and 12 friends

★ Interested

609 people reached

Boost Event

Jenne Davis Kirkham, Amber Schoeller and 6 others

Twitter Highlights

St. Paul City GOP
@STPCityGOP

Follow

@rclreads we've noticed a white sedan in Roseville parking lot. Hasn't moved in a couple of weeks. Should alert law enforcement, then tow it

9:47 PM - 29 Mar 2017

Tweet your reply

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Mar 30
Replying to @STPCityGOP
Thanks for letting us know!

St. Paul City GOP
@STPCityGOP

Follow

We use @rclreads computers for website work. Not sure why they were closed today usually for a holiday. What holiday was today?

9:07 PM - 6 Apr 2017

Tweet your reply

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 7
Replying to @STPCityGOP
Libraries were closed for service improvements, building projects and an all-staff training. Thx for putting the computers to good use!

St. Paul City GOP
@STPCityGOP
Follow

@rclreads a subscriber asked how to get you take down the pro Homosexual agenda rainbow signs in your libraries?

5:44 PM - 23 Apr 2017

Tweet your reply

St. Paul City GOP @STPCityGOP · Apr 23
Replying to @STPCityGOP @rclreads
The "everyone is welcome" signs they say promote the Homosexual agenda. The term public says it's open to everyone. Why the xtra emphasis?

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 24
Replying to @STPCityGOP
1 of RCL's guiding principles is "provide services to whole spectrum of community." These signs emphasize respect & inclusiveness for all.

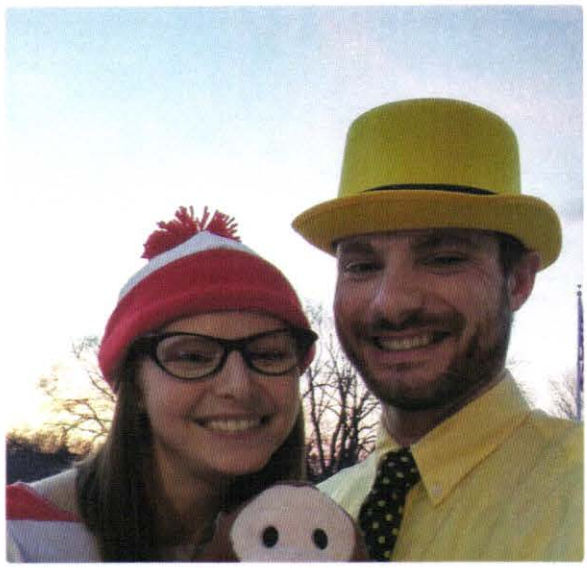
St. Paul City GOP @STPCityGOP · Apr 24
When we're at RCL we don't care your ism or orientation as long as you don't draw attn 2 yourself by making others uncomfortable or are loud

St. Paul City GOP @STPCityGOP · Apr 24
Some ppl don't think the rules apply to them.

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 24
Replying to @STPCityGOP
If you'd like more information about "All Are Welcome Here," the Library Director is happy to talk.

St. Paul City GOP @STPCityGOP · Apr 25
Replying to @rclreads
We think they show a possible Transgender Bathroom policy change or other nonsense

Ryan T. O'Connor @oconnoryan · Apr 1
Tonight's @rclreads gala was a huge fundraising success with a great theme - favorite children's book characters!



8

BookManiaLinda
@LindaWonder
Following

Yay! Love my @MELSA_Minnesota ! Love my @rclreads ! We have the best libraries in MN! 😆

CarverCountyLibrary @CarverCoLibrary
Some of us got to promote library/@MELSA_Minnesota services like #smARTpass bit.ly/1Rk7ysZ at @falenkdwb's book club last night :)

LIKES
4

12:47 PM - 30 Mar 2017

4

Tweet your reply

MELSA @MELSA_Minnesota · Mar 30
Replying to @LindaWonder @rclreads
Thanks for the library love!

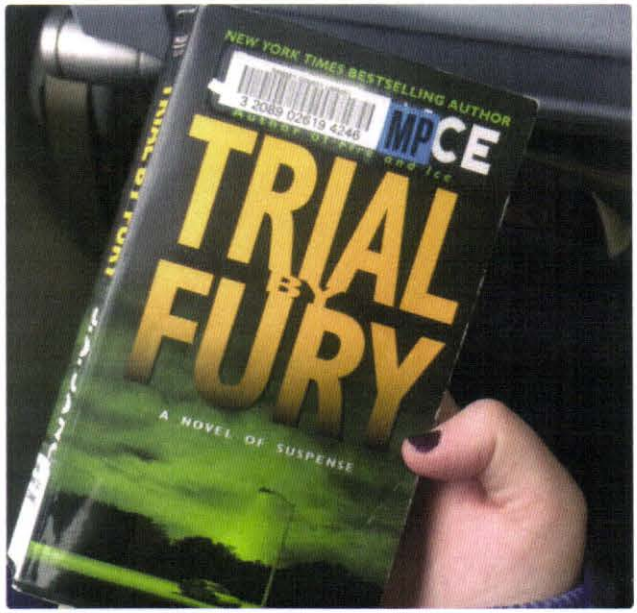
2

BookManiaLinda @LindaWonder · Mar 30
Absolutely! And Always!

1

Natasha West
@NatashaWest_
Follow

@rclreads I found this book on a flight from Seattle to Detroit last week. Please don't charge a late fee! I'm sending it out today.



LIKE
1

8:54 AM - 11 Apr 2017

1

Twin Cities Geek
@TwinCitiesGeeks
Follow

It's #NationalLibraryWeek! What's your favorite library in #Minnesota? #LibrariesTransform @hclib @rclreads @thefriends @hclfriends @umnlib

RETWEETS 6 LIKES 11

10:38 AM - 10 Apr 2017

1 6 11

Tweet your reply

Madeleine @mnbookgeek Apr 10
Replying to @TwinCitiesGeeks @rclreads and 4 others
After working there for almost five years, I'll always have a soft spot for the archives at @umnlib's Andersen Library. #NationalLibraryWeek

2 4

Just Kidding Improv @jkimprovllc Apr 18
Love this idea!

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads
Have broken stuff lying around? Come to the next Fix-it Clinic, Sat., Apr. 29, 10:30 a.m. at RCL - Roseville. Video: youtu.be/8YYDsJRWtBc

2

Lisa Laliberte @lisa4roseville Apr 22
Today at 10:30am - Roseville Library: ask questions/learn about healthcare directives & #ACP documents/Plus: #WheelsOfJustice bus 12:30-2:30

You, Mitchell Hamline, Roseville, MN and 2 others

3 3

Huffman for MN Gov
@BlakeCHuffman
Following

Congrats to @craigklausing & @johnhakes, as returning @rclreads board members, and welcome to new board member #HectorGarcia. @RamseyCounty

RETWEETS 3 LIKES 3

9:50 AM - 11 Apr 2017

3 3

struhar
@stevenstruhar30
Follow

@rclreads you guys have got to know how bad that cloud library thing is. It's embarrassing to even look at.

6:12 PM - 13 Apr 2017

BookManiaLinda @LindaWonder Apr 19
I had to go to The Vitamin Shoppe so naturally I stopped at Half Price Books. I may have just cleaned out my bank acct. Oops.

1

Christina Zander @C0ffeeH0 Apr 22
Did you know that local libraries sell used books for a quarter? And! Large libraries have their used books categorized.

2 1

BookManiaLinda
@LindaWonder
Following

Replying to @C0ffeeH0

I shop my library Friends store @rclreads every single time I walk in there. It's a goldmine! But I was in hurry, Half Price was on the way.

LIKES 2

8:51 AM - 22 Apr 2017

2

Jo @wickedjoe8 · Apr 22
I went to the library today @rclreads

2

Jo
@wickedjoe8

Follow

@rclreads I'm looking for a Bulgarian music cd

LIKES
2

4:22 PM - 24 Apr 2017

2

Tweet your reply

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 26
Replying to @wickedjoe8
RCL owns two CDs titled "Mystere des Voix Bulgares" (vol. 1 & 2) with Bulgarian Folk songs.

Jo @wickedjoe8 · Apr 26
Thank you so much for the help

2

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 26
Replying to @wickedjoe8
There is one folksong in "The International Book of Folk Songs".

1

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 26
Replying to @wickedjoe8
If you need help placing a request for these items Ask a Librarian at rclreads.org/services/ask-l...

Jo @wickedjoe8 · Apr 26
@rclreads I have a wonderful question

Jo
@wickedjoe8

Follow

@rclreads could I help u guys @rclreads

4:26 PM - 26 Apr 2017

Tweet your reply

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 27
Replying to @wickedjoe8
Our Volunteer Services Librarian is happy to talk to you about volunteer opportunities. Call 651-724-6023 or email volunteer@rclreads.org

1

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Apr 27
Replying to @wickedjoe8
How would you like to help?

1

RC Library Friends
@RCLFriends

Following

Visit our Friends Used Book Sale at @rclreads Maplewood this weekend! 5/6 10am-5pm, 5/7 Noon-4:30pm Maplewood Library 3025 Southlawn Drive

RETWEET
1

LIKES
3

3:03 PM - 5 May 2017

1 3

Teen Lit Con
@TeenLitCon

Following

Thanks for the website love @hclib, @rclreads, and @CarverCoLibrary! :)

TEENLITCON
A free conference where teens can meet some of their favorite authors (and get their books signed), attend sessions on writing, get free swag, and more.

rday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p
y Sibley High School
' Delaware Ave, Mendota

LIKES
10

12:33 PM - 27 Apr 2017

10

RamseyCounty @RamseyCounty · Apr 29
Thanks to all the volunteers involved in the Ramsey County Fix-It Clinics! Your time and talent are what makes this program a success! #NVW

You

4 7

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · May 2
If you missed this one, don't worry. There are still three Opera storytimes left.
Details: host6.evanced.info/melsa/ramsey/e...

Anna Haase Krueger™
@opinionsbyanna
Following

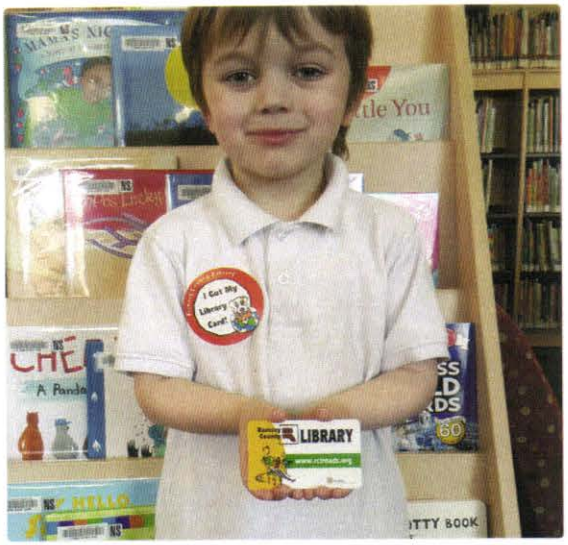
What an amazing storytime guest this morning at @rclreads--a story performance by a real opera singer! Thank you Bergen Baker and @mnopera!

LIKES
10

12:37 PM - 1 May 2017

10

Lara Willard @larathelark · May 2
My little reader got his library card today!



You

1 · 1 · 13

RamseyCountyLibrary
@rclreads

Replying to @larathelark

Congratulations on your new card!

LIKE
1

7:46 PM - 2 May 2017

1

Google/Yelp Reviews

Ramsey County Library - Maplewood

Write a review

3025 Southlawn Dr, Maplewood, MN

4.3 ★★★★½ 31 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Lee Hang
2 weeks ago
★★★

Vanessa Head
a month ago
★★ I usually enjoy this place and the staff are usually super friendly. I drove about 5 miles to get here to send one fax and it took me longer than expected to write it out. 10 minutes. I messed up the first. So the bish comes up to me and says "you know we are closed" at 9:01. I say im ready to fax can i please do that? "She said no we are closed" all stern like a child. I came a mess in my sweats. I bet she would be different if i was put together. Brown girl in sweats doesnt get the privileges. Haha Ive been there other times having trouble faxing taking 5 or 10 minutes into closing. Its always the last thing i do, but i especially came to fax today. The staff are usually so nice. This one has a stick up her but forreally. Im tired of crabby ol ladies with perms

Ramsey County Library - Shoreview

Write a review

4560 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN

4.6 ★★★★½ 14 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Jae Hong Park
in the last week
★★★★★ Places are very good and people are very nice
Helpful?

Ramsey County Library - New Brighton

Write a review

400 10th St NW, New Brighton, MN

4.4 ★★★★½ 12 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Stefan W
2 weeks ago
★★★★★ Awesome and helpful staff.
Helpful?

Ramsey County Library - Mounds View

Write a review

2576 Moundsview Dr, Mounds View, MN

4.9 ★★★★★ 8 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

CLAMS PLEX
a week ago
★★★★★ Awesome

Ramsey County Library - Roseville

Write a review

2180 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN

4.7 ★★★★½ 48 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Donald Canales
a week ago
★★★★★ Very clean library with friendly helpful staff.
Helpful?

Giulia Priore
3 weeks ago
★★★★★ Amazing I can aways find a book that I will read and my brother and sisters love the kids area

EAST METRO

Fix-it clinics help Ramsey County residents make repairs themselves

Monthly Ramsey County events encourage repair, not disposal.

By James Walsh (http://www.startribune.com/james-walsh/10646161/) Star Tribune

APRIL 21, 2017 — 11:30PM

Raise your hand — or a hammer — if you can relate.

That gizmo of yours, whether it be a drill, sewing machine, blender or lamp, doesn't work. The repair place? They want more money than what you paid to buy it. So, you throw it away.

Ads by ZINC

false

(http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows_149283496469194.jpg)

RAMSEY COUNTY

A damaged drill got repairs at a recent fix-it clinic in Ramsey County. One will be held April 29 in Roseville.

But Ramsey County officials have another option. Instead of tossing out broken stuff, try fixing it — with a little help from the fix-it clinic.

Since July 2015, Ramsey County has offered the free clinics at sites around the county, including one scheduled for 10:30 a.m. April 29 at the Roseville Library.

With the help of a squadron of volunteer fixers, the goal is to keep those nonworking items out of landfills by making them work again. Even if you have no repair skills, volunteers like Bill and Cory Berschneider can show you how to make simple repairs to items like appliances, clothing and electronics.

"The purpose is trying to help people do it themselves," Bill Berschneider said, before admitting the fixers often make the repairs.

Fix-it clinics are held about once a month, usually on the fourth Saturday, at places ranging from county libraries to community rooms, said Terese Bordeau, a Ramsey County environmental health specialist who coordinates the program. In all, 55 to 60 people volunteer as fixers, with about 20-24 showing up at each clinic.

While the clinics are free, Bordeau asks that items be small enough to easily carry into the clinic and that people bring tools or parts that might be helpful to fix them.

But Cory Berschneider said most fixers have a plethora of parts and tools they bring to every clinic. Her expertise is sewing, and she has helped fix everything from backpacks to curtains. Her husband, Bill, is a Jack-of-All-Trades, with broken lamps being the most common items he helps disassemble and repair.

Bordeau said Ramsey County got the idea for the clinics from Hennepin County, which started its own fix-it clinics years before. The idea is to reverse the trend of just throwing stuff away, she said. Since its start, the Ramsey Clinic has helped people fix three out of every four items brought in — 828 items in all — keeping 4,800 pounds of stuff out of landfills and incinerators. The program's annual budget is less than $9,000.

"In this field, we are succeeding if we can just get someone to think about fixing an item, rather than disposing of it," she said.

Those lessons were ingrained in the Berschneiders, whose parents grew up during the Great Depression, and throwing away non-working items was not an option. They say they grew up tinkering, fixing, taking things apart, only to put them together again.

"You have these skills and you don't really know you have these skills because you just do it," Cory Berschneider said about deciding to volunteer. "It's fun problem-solving."

Bill Berschneider, who admits he's frugal and a bit of a pack rat, started volunteering about a year ago, after his daughter saw details about the program.

"She said, 'Here, Dad, you can do this,' " he said, laughing.

In addition to the upcoming one in Roseville, clinics have been scheduled for May 20 at the Rondo Community Outreach Library in St. Paul, June 24 at the Maplewood Library, July 22 at Arc's Value Village Thrift Store in St. Paul and Aug. 12 at the St. Anthony Community Center in St. Anthony. Call 651-266-1199 or go to ramseyrecycles.com for more information.

jim.walsh@startribune.com 651-925-5041 stribjwalsh

Go MN. com

Want to read *The Handmaid's Tale* before the TV series?

by Shaymus McLaughlin
April 27, 2017 12:39 pm

Credit: Hulu, YouTube

A new TV series based on *The Handmaid's Tale* novel hit Hulu this week.

If you haven't read the acclaimed 1985 novel (which, fun fact, has apparently never been out of print) and want to catch up before bringing the show … you might just have to buy it.

Many libraries in Minnesota are all checked out of the Margaret Atwood novel in advance of the show's premiere. And with hold after hold request lined up after the book gets checked back in, even with libraries ordering extra copies ahead of the demand.

"Many people want to read the book before watching the movie, so we ordered extra copies of Margaret Atwood's novel in anticipation of the show's release," said Duluth Public Library spokesperson Jocelyn Baker.

The library has four copies of the novel, all checked out, with 13 holds.

The Handmaid's Tale is about a closed-off totalitarian community that springs up in the United States following a series of crises. The TV show stars Elisabeth Moss (Peggy from *Mad Men*) as the main character, Offred. Recent demand for the book has been high across America, with New York, Chicago, and San Francisco libraries completely booked, the Huffington Post reported.

Like Duluth, Ramsey County libraries ordered extra copies – and way back in February. And they're all checked out, with 43 additional requests.

"We kind of figured that would happen," Mary Moran, a reference librarian at Roseville Library, told GoMN, adding they usually pay attention to film or TV adaptation release dates since they know demand will spike.

"A lot of people want to read this stuff because they get inspired by watching the movie or the TV show or whatever, but they don't necessarily really want to go buy it and have it forever," she said. "So it's a nice thing to be able to get it from us."

Hennepin County Library meanwhile, which includes 41 libraries serving 1.2 million people, has 128 physical copies of the book – all of which are claimed, and have a total of 388 holds on them. And the ebook version has 389 holds on 49 copies.

Gail Mueller Schultz, manager for collection and technical services at Hennepin County Library, said the "great demand" they are seeing isn't abnormal when a book has a TV show or movie coming along.

"The buzz is also happening by word of mouth," she said. "A lot of people are talking about women's rights, highlighting titles like *The Handmaid's Tale*, and dystopian fiction, such as George Orwell's *1984*."

So what to do in the meantime …

You've got a few options. You can just buy the book – it's pretty easy to locate a used copy for a cheap price, considering it's 30 years old.

You could jump on the wait list and read something else in the meantime. Use a recommendation tool to find something related – the Hennepin and Ramsey county libraries have something built-in online, or try a site like GoodReads.

Or just plow ahead and watch the TV series. Hulu put out the first three episodes Wednesday, and will release one a week this first season. And if you have any concerns about the adaptation, it's getting widely excellent reviews.

Five years later, Lake Elmo may rejoin Washington County library system

By BOB SHAW | bshaw@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press
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Libraries are usually such relaxing places.

But the anxiety level at Lake Elmo's city-owned library is increasing over a proposal to return it to the Washington County library system.

The plan would guarantee that the library remain open for four years. But because it could be closed after that, some Lake Elmo officials and volunteers are pushing back.

Julene Swenson, a volunteer since 2012, said that under county control the library's programs may not be continued. "I have seen nothing that guarantees they will go forward," she said .

But Judy Gibson, a member of the the Lake Elmo Public Library Board of Trustees, supports the move, which would end a five-year experiment in city ownership.

"I would love to stay and have our own little library. But I don't think it's sustainable in the long run," she said.

The library board will meet May 3 to discuss the proposal.

Library lovers are worried because the county closed the library before — in 2012.

At the time, patrons of the county-owned Rosalie Wahl Library checked out fewer materials than patrons of the unmanned library kiosk in Hugo. Lake Elmo residents didn't support their own library — 80 percent of the material they checked out was from libraries in other cities.

To cut costs, the county closed libraries in Newport, Marine on St. Croix and Lake Elmo.

A woman talks to Steve DeLapp, president of the library board, as he paints a safety stripe around the raised concrete pad at the Lake Elmo Library on July 17, 2013. (Jean Pieri / Pioneer Press)

The Lake Elmo City Council rebelled. They bailed out of the county system and set up their own library — in a $240,000 building staffed by volunteers with mostly donated books.

The $260,000 in annual library taxes was diverted from the county to the city. The budget for the library is now $300,000 a year, said Gibson.

Lake Elmo's independent venture has since grown to a library with 20,000 materials, three paid staffers and more than 20 regular volunteers. In March, the library's calendar was crammed with 29 community events involving Brownies, Cub Scouts, movies, churches, knitting, tai chi, adult coloring and cooking.

But critics say the library is clunky for users.

With their taxes supporting only their city library, Lake Elmo residents can't automatically use county libraries — which are closer for many residents. For those who request it, Lake Elmo has agreed to buy a county library card for $60 per year per household.

Library supporters say the Lake Elmo library buys new books on request, keeping its collection current. But it doesn't have complete access to the books, videos, e-books and CDs in the metro-wide library system — the way that county libraries do.

Board member Gibson said county cards are given to households, not individual users. "And it's an incomplete card at that," said Gibson, because it does not give access to all materials and services.

This year, city administrator Kristina Handt was told by the city council to negotiate a merger deal with the county. She is proposing that the county take over the library on Jan. 1 and:

- Keep the library open for 40 hours a week for four years, down from 48 hours now. The county could cut the hours further if the hours at nearby libraries were reduced "due to an economic downturn or loss of state aid."
- Retain the present library staff of one full-time director and two part-timers.
- Receive $200,000 from Lake Elmo for use in maintaining the library.

"Every card would work everywhere," Gibson said. "You could do all the online things wherever you lived and wherever you went."

Gibson said she will vote in favor of the proposal. Other board members aren't so sure.

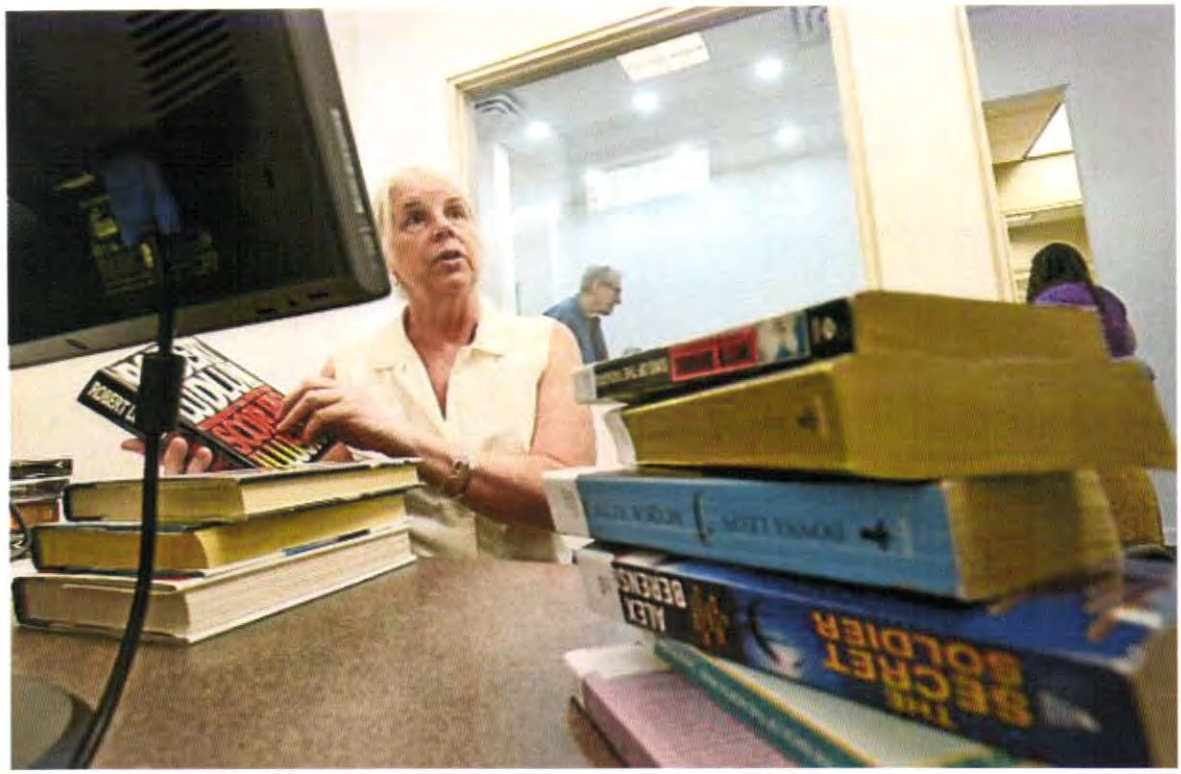
Steve DeLapp, a former city council member who is secretary on the library board, said that as a taxpayer, he wants the library to stay open permanently. As a board member, he wants his vote to reflect public will, and he isn't exactly sure what that is.

In emails, board members Julie Fliflet and Thomas DeGree didn't say if they supported the proposal, only that they favored re-merging with the county system and insuring that the library remain open.

DeLapp said the switch would result in an immediate 47 percent increase in a property owner's library taxes.

Administrator Handt denied that. "That is absolutely not true. There are a lot of scare tactics going around."

Handt said she doesn't know the tax rates for next year, but taxes this year for the owner of a $245,000 house would have been $15 more if the city library had been in the county library system.



Volunteer Candace Ryberg of Lake Elmo catalogues popular fiction books while helping ready the new Lake Elmo Library for its official Friday grand opening on Sept. 4, 2012. (Richard Marshall / Pioneer Press)

"You pay $15 more, and you get more," Handt said.

Elsewhere in the county, other small cities are adapting to change and still paying county library taxes.

In Newport, the county operates an unmanned kiosk to request and receive materials, and the city operates a separate city-owned library. There is also a kiosk at Marine on St. Croix, along with a room in city hall for a small collection of books, supplemented with donated materials.

But Lake Elmo's volunteers are squeamish about the switch.

"We are a little nervous about what will happen when the county takes over," said Claude Forshier, who volunteers every week.

"The worry is that we may lose it in the downtown location. Or once they take over they'd reduce the volume of books and then lose patronage."

The library offers small-town charm at its best, he said. He likes to see groups of early risers gathering in the reading area to sip coffee and read newspapers.

"Change might be inevitable," said Forshier, "but we just hope we can retain some control."

From The Atlantic
CITYLAB

– Submitted by Paula Mielke

NAVIGATOR

Against Little Free Libraries

Does that birdhouse filled with paperbacks on your block represent an adorable neighborhood amenity or the "corporatization of literary philanthropy"?

KRISTON CAPPS | @kristoncapps | May 3, 2017 | 58 Comments

This sucks. (Jim Mone/AP)

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The take-a-book, leave-a-book movement has gone global. As of last year, Little Free Libraries—those birdhouse-looking book-stops that pop up in people's front yards—were represented in every U.S. state. Little Free Library has now touched down in more than 70 other countries. These book exchanges are now 50,000 strong and growing.

And at least one person wants to put a stop to them.

"There was something that kind of irked me about the title," says Jane Schmidt, librarian at Ryerson University in Toronto. "As a librarian, my gut reaction to that was, 'You know what else is a free library? A regular library.'"

Where many people see a charming yard decoration or a heart-warming civic-minded gesture, Schmidt finds something more nefarious at work. In a recent article for the Journal of Radical Librarianship—this is a real publication, launched in 2014 by the Radical Librarians Collective, now three peer-reviewed volumes in—she and another Canadian library scholar outline the case against Little Free Libraries, diving deep into mapping data, network effects, and recent library history to make their stand.

The three-story mansion with a Little Free Library (the box on the right) is around the corner from one of the better branches of the Toronto public library system. (Google Street View)

Schmidt says that, in 2014, she found a kindred spirit—Jordan Hale, an original cataloguer and reference specialist for the University of Toronto who was also putting "hot takes out on Twitter on Little Free Libraries." They shared an observation: They only noticed Little Free Libraries in Toronto's wealthier neighborhoods.*

Little Free Libraries sprout where public library branches are

plentiful and where neighborhoods are white.

Hale, who is trained as a geographic information systems specialist, geocoded the location data for Little Free Libraries for two cities, Toronto and Calgary, drawing from lists of installations available on the Little Free Libraries website in 2015. Onto these maps, Hale and Schmidt added several data layers —median income, percentage of minority residents, education level attainment, and distance from a public-library branch—to test their hypothesis.

Their analysis shows that Little Free Libraries predominantly appear in medium- to high-income neighborhoods in Toronto (an effect that is less pronounced in Calgary, a wealthier city). For both cities, Little Free Libraries are distributed almost exclusively in neighborhoods where 25 percent or more residents have university degrees. In Toronto, Little Free Libraries sprout where public library branches are plentiful and where neighborhoods are white.

(Journal of Radical Librarianship)

"Despite the fact that we've just done a case study of two Canadian cities that are probably not entirely representative of the locations of Little Free Libraries across the world, they did raise and confirm our suspicions toward the organization," Hale says.

Schmidt and Hale conclude that Little Free Libraries are The Actual Worst. Okay, perhaps not quite that far. But they do have stinging critiques, centered mostly around the top-down branding of the universal idea of book exchanges:

> We submit that these data reinforce the notion that [Little Free Libraries] are examples of performative community enhancement, driven more so by the desire to showcase one's passion for books and education than a genuine desire to help the community in a meaningful way.
>
> [. . .]
>
> [Little Free Libraries] are a highly visible form of self-gratification cleverly disguised as book aid, and the effects of this visibility can be better understood through a consideration of their role in a landscape . . .

This kind of "branded philanthropy" serves as a vehicle for virtue-signaling by the homeowners who install Little Free Libraries in their front yards, Schmidt and Hale say. They're particularly ubiquitous in hyper-educated, affluent, crunchy blue enclaves across the country—your Ithacas, Berkeleys, and Takoma Parks, where residents tend to wear their shabby progressivism on their sleeves. But the Little Librariest neighborhoods may be tucked away in the Midwest, where the movement got its start.

With its wild success have come some lofty assertions about what Little Free Libraries are for. Some of them, say Schmidt and Hale, are unfounded. For example, they used mapping data in Toronto to sort out the organization's claims that its book exchanges help to water "book deserts." Not so much: The exchanges track closely with public library branches. Schmidt also challenged the suggestion that Little Free Libraries are truly "free." She says that she paid more than $600 (Canadian) for a Little Free Library for research purposes. ("I

wanted to have the Full Monty Little Free Library experience," she says.)

Little Free Library co-founder and executive director Todd Bol—who launched the organization in 2009 by building a one-room schoolhouse model and sticking it in the front yard of his home in Hudson, Wisconsin—says that Little Free Library exchanges come at a variety of price-points. So they do: Models range from the bare-bones Essential book-exchange box ($134) to the deluxe Walnut Grove ($995) model to the ultra-luxe Peace Pole exchange ($2,500). Most of them sell at around $250 a pop. Plenty of people choose to build their own, on their own dime, for a one-time registration fee of $40 to use the Little Free Library name.

In the paper, Hale and Schmidt describe Little Free Libraries as "neoliberal politics at street level."

But anyone who really wants a Little Free Library can get one, Bol says. The organization's Impact Fund is meant to address the equity question at the root of the radical librarians' complaint. Every month, the organization donates free exchanges to applicants who apply for one; from January through March, the group gave out 13 of them. Schmidt notes that the Impact Fund application lacks any determinative standards for socioeconomic status or other indicators that might qualify a household or community.

"What happens is, somebody reads about us. They hear about us," Bol says. "And likely, who hears about us is a great champion of books and literacy. They put one in their neighborhood. They put one out their front door. Their neighbors put one in. That has a tendency to be a higher-echelon neighborhood."

He adds, "But then what happens in the community is they say, 'Hey, you know what? Where they really need those libraries is down at the laundromat, or down at the trailer park, or in this high-needs neighborhood.' And so the community starts spreading them."

In the paper, Hale and Schmidt describe Little Free Libraries as "neoliberal

politics at street level."

"It's very important to consider the role that private property plays, in terms of who is able to build one, whose values are represented in it, and what kind of effect does this have on those who either drive by it, walk by it, see it in front of a community center or school, or even seeing it on Instagram," Hale says. "What does it mean that this is the way in which 'library services' are being presented to community members?"

The journal article names one place where Little Free Library exchanges may have grown at the expense of the public library system. In September 2014, the mayor of tiny Vinton, Texas, announced plans to install five Little Free Library book-stops across town—while implementing a $50 fee for access to the El Paso Public Library system to balance state-imposed budget cuts. Schmidt can name at least one alternative to Little Public Libraries that supplements public-library branches: the "Twig" mobile book-stops of the Appalachian Regional Library System in northwest North Carolina. If Watauga County were to refer to (unlicensed) Twigs as Little Free Libraries, they could run afoul of Little Free Library's registered trademark—which the organization does enforce through litigation. "I used to call the ones who used our name 'rogues,'" Bol says. "My wife would say, 'Oh, Todd, don't be so crabby.'"

Little Free Library's methods don't bother all (or even most) librarians. Bol rattles off a list of honors that librarians have bestowed on Little Free Library, including Library Journal's Movers and Shakers Award (2013), the National Book Foundation's Innovations in Reading Prize (2013), and a Library of Congress Best Practices Award (2015), plus the praise of super-librarian Nancy Pearl and The View host Whoopi Goldberg. "Our biggest fans are librarians and teachers," Bol says.

Nancy Pearl
@Nancy_Pearl

Follow

I love this Little Free Library-it changes its appearance for each holiday @Thatstack

2:27 PM - 12 Dec 2014

4 19

The case against Little Free Library is not necessarily a case against little free libraries. "I wouldn't go down hard and say that Little Free Libraries harm public libraries," Schmidt says—although she and Hale expressed lasting anxiety over the library budget attacks waged by former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford and his austerity agenda. Both librarians are eager to acknowledge places where Little Free Libraries are put to good use by public-library systems. They mention Winnipeg, where librarians give book-exchange stewards in marginalized neighborhoods first dibs (and free access) to the system's friends-of-the-library book sales. "I don't think we can definitively say that they [don't] reduce inequality," Schmidt says. "I just don't think they can say they reduce inequality, either."

Bol reminds critics that Little Free Library is hardly Big Little Free Library: The Midwestern nonprofit employs 14 people.

If the biggest knock against Little Free Library is that it represents the usurpation of public service by a brand serving vainglorious homeowners —well, that's still kind of a big knock. Bol would like to remind critics that Little Free Library is hardly Big Little Free Library: The Midwestern nonprofit employs 14 people.

But if the best takeaway from a close investigation of Little Free Library is that the organization could work better or smarter (which is not necessarily Schmidt and Hale's conclusion), then that is an optimistic case. In just 6 years, the organization has emerged as a recognizable new element of the urban landscape—or at least certain landscapes. Now that all those boxes are out there, Little Free Library could really do something to activate and extend their network.

Or maybe it doesn't matter? A check of the Little Free Library closest to my neighborhood reveals Commercial and Debtor–Creditor Law: Selected Statutes (1995 edition) and Basic Plumbing Code (1978), leftovers from professionals who practiced the magic of tidying up by dumping their textbooks into the nearest receptacle marked "FREE." Nobody finds Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad in a Little Free Library—much less Wi-Fi, college counseling, or jobs services. A well-funded library system has little to fear.

RELATED STORIES

Maybe the solution is to fight for library services in underserved neighborhoods and expect less from Amazon-inclined households in the first place. Radical librarians have other complaints about Little Free Library: the colonialism implied in sending cast-off books around the world, the eyebrow-raising suggestion in

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The Case Against 'Ethical Landlording'

The Case Against Giant Traffic Robots

Little Free Library's literature that "stewards" not seed their exchanges with political or religious texts.

Some of their complaints might fall to the wayside if public support for library services and innovation were stronger, especially in marginalized communities. If book deserts weren't a thing, then Little Free Library would have no claim over them. Librarians can do more and better with books than homeowners can: Little Free Library acknowledges this much. And book exchanges aren't the issue, of course—the branding of them is. In any case, the fight for public libraries is bound to play out in city council hearings, not front yards.

"I acknowledge that we can seem like a couple of librarians touting sour grapes by crapping all over this movement that so many people love," Schmidt says. "We did try to come at this in a constructive manner. We maintain that you don't really need the branding of Little Free Libraries. If anything, I think there's a missed opportunity for public libraries to put their own branding on these things."

***CORRECTION:** This post originally indicated that both front-yard boxes on the Toronto street pictured were Little Free Library exchanges. In fact, the box on the left is a Street Gallery Project, a mini-forum for art. The post has been corrected.

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