



Message From The Director

This time last month I was wracking my brain, wondering what to write about for the newsletter. Then the world changed! I NEVER thought I would be closing the doors of the library to the public. Fortunately, it's only temporary.

Looking around the world, across the nation, and across the state, I am thankful that we were not hit as hard initially. It gave us the chance to adjust our operations so that people could continue to check out items. As schools and libraries were closing across the state, we had the opportunity to allow patrons a little more time to prepare for their social separation. On the last full week open, we averaged 1,400 visits a day. And while that was down from our normal visits, our circulation was up by 2,000 checkouts in comparison to last year.

Having said that, as the transmission of COVID-19 started to spread in our area, 1,400 visits a day represented a major problem. Our goal is to share our resources within the community, but that model is a little challenging regarding the pandemic. That was a lot of additional exposure to both library staff and the library community. I deeply regret having to do it, but it was the right choice for everyone.

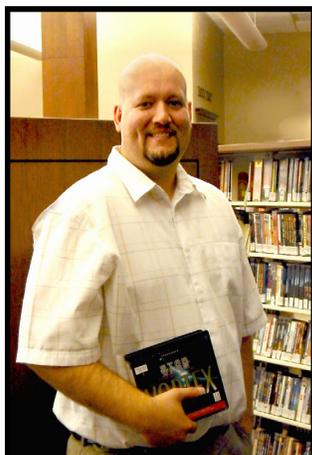
While closed, fines have been suspended, so you do not need to worry about returning that book. Furthermore, our collection process has also been suspended. Practice your good social separation. Just make sure you bring it back when we reopen.

Finally, in conjunction with the state, we are offering a lot of good online resources for our patrons. Our audiobook collection on RBDigital is HUGE, with no holds. We are expanding our Overdrive collection, we are on with Creativebug and we have many other resources available on our website. Share with a

friend. If they don't have a library card, some of the digital resources don't require one, and some offer an instant temporary digital card for use.

Check it out ... online!

Joel E. Tucker, Director
Washington County Library System



What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Library Closures

In order to promote the health and safety of the patrons and staff in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commissioners in consultation with the Health Department closed all library locations as of March 26, 2020.

The Commission did not make this decision lightly as they understand the important role the library plays in providing access to important public services, however, considering the rapidly changing dynamic brought about from COVID-19, this is in the best interest of everyone. Here is what you need to know about your library services during this time.

- All fines have been suspended until the library is reopened to the public.
- You may place items on hold through the online catalog, you will receive notification when the library reopens and your items are available for pick up as usual.
- If you have items on hold, they will stay on the shelf until the library branches are reopened.
- If you wish to return items, the book drops on the library buildings are open. Staff will disinfect materials as they come in through the book drops.
- The library staff are doing inventory and applying disinfectant to surfaces, computer labs, keyboards, books, movies and other library items.
- The library provides free online resources for eBooks, RB Digital audiobooks, craft tutorials on Creativebug, Heritage Quest genealogy database, and more that are available 24/7. Check out our resource page online at: library.washco.utah.gov.

Library Board Members:

Kelly Atkin	435-680-4833
Lacie Hughes	208-881-1234
Gerald Jones	435-878-2563
Dan McGuire	435-772-3144
Michele Mitchell	435-632-7286
Rob Goulding	435-429-4058
Dean Cox (Commissioner)	Dean.Cox@washco.utah.gov



Greetings to all you social distancing folks! By now, you've received a comforting message from pretty much every company that has ever had your email. We don't think we need to add to it by telling you we're here for you, or that we're all trying to get through uncertain times. (Although, we are TOTALLY here for you and good heavens are these times uncertain!)

Instead, we want to let you know that, although we're closed for now, our DVD collection will be ready and waiting for you to check out as soon as we're open again. When we are, you could try any of these recently added DVDs, or thousands more:

MOVIES:

- ADDAMS FAMILY (ANIMATED)
- A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
- BOMBSHELL
- CHARLIE'S ANGELS (Kristen Stewart version)
- DARK WATERS
- SPIES IN DISGUISE
- TERMINATOR. DARK FATE

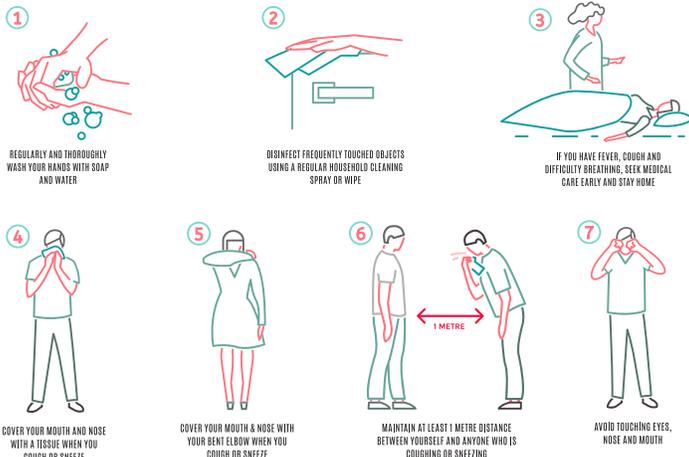
DOCUMENTARIES:

- ALWAYS AT THE CARLYLE
- ANCIENT ALIENS. SEASON 11, VOL. 2
- ECHO IN THE CANYON: THE BIRTH OF THE CALIFORNIA ...
- FOR SAMA
- INSIDE THE MEGAFIRE
- SEA OF SHADOWS

Though things ARE uncertain, you can rest assured that we haven't changed how we handle DVDs: they're FREE to borrow with your Washington County Library Card. Plus, the DVDs you have currently checked out won't be accruing fines during our closure. And while you're waiting for the library to reopen, log in to OverDrive with your library card; there are thousands of movie and TV titles available to stream now!

-Beth Meyers,
St. George Library

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS



Employee Spotlight

These are crazy times, so I think I'm gonna do something a little crazy for the March Spotlight. I'm going to break all the rules with this one...☺. I would like to recognize...the branch managers!

That's right. Instead of one spotlight winner, I'm doing eight. No presentation, no pictures, no days off, no extra love. Just a short moment to recognize the men and women of the library who stand up and represent the library in the management role. As we moved from awarding mug sets to doing lunch boxes, I noticed that I had a perfect amount of mug sets to give to the managers. So I did. Enjoy!

Just a short note on each (in alphabetical order):

Abe King: The Hawaiian Santa, the snow white for the seven dwarves, the Santa Clara Manager. Abe has an easy-going demeanor that is easy to love. Just don't eat food in the library.

Alan Anderson: The assistant director for the system and the branch manager for St. George. My right hand in decisions for the library. If he would just clean his desk!

Amanda Gardner: Our connection for Green Screen awesomeness, a primary powerhouse for children's programming, the manager for our newest location – Hildale...and surrounding areas.

Chris Gardner: Also a children's programming powerhouse, with strong connections with the local community, a solid and dependable manager of one of our oldest branches – Enterprise!

Jeff Lewis: Was a bookmobile driver for 20+ years in his pre library life, one of my main sources of budget information, and an excellent community advocate for the Springdale branch.

Lauren Stoddard: My most experienced manager with great library insight, the Horizon shortcut expert, who just wants a drive-through in the library, the Hurricane branch manager

Maricarol Darden: One of the nicest people you will ever meet, a school librarian before coming to the public library world, excited to have a new A/V Makerspace within the Washington Branch.

Robin Nielson: My newest branch manager, making the trip down from Cedar City to manage the New Harmony branch, just a fun person to be around, and a great addition to the team.

Thank you to all the managers for the work they put into making the library a great place, for both staff and patrons.



In-N-Out Burger has decided to extend the Cover to Cover Library Reading Program due to the library branches closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program which began on Saturday, March 7th will be extended. The exact date will be determined by the program coordinator at In-N-Out when they receive notification that the library branches have been reopened. The program gives families with young readers ages 4-12 an opportunity to earn a free hamburger or cheeseburger.

We are grateful to In-N-Out for their support of young readers and for making accommodations to the program during this time.

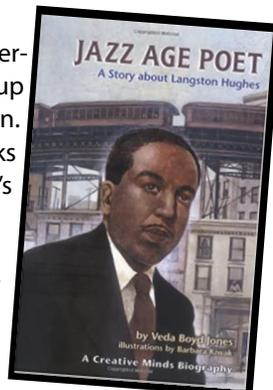
Children's Book Review

Jill Nethercott of the St. George Library recommends the book "Jazz Age Poet: A Story about Langston Hughes". This biography chronicles African-American writer Langston Hughes' life (1902-1967) from a childhood of poverty, hardship, and racial discrimination to his emergence as one of America's leading poets.

In this biography, we are introduced to Langston when he is five years old, and traveling to Mexico to meet his father, who separated from his mother shortly after his birth. More than anything, he wants to have a stable and happy family life. Unfortunately, his mother moved frequently, and Langston spent most of his childhood with his grandmother. Langston's childhood created a feeling that he was a "passed around boy", due to moving frequently between various relatives and struggling to find a place where he fit in. Eventually, he found a home in Harlem, and was influential in creating the "Harlem Renaissance". He was one of the first poets to explore in his poetry the jazz rhythms in music, improvisation, speech patterns and lifestyle of black Americans at the time.

While his life was far from easy, he was determined to continue. Hughes never gave up trying to be a better writer and a better man. He won many awards and honors for his books of poetry, novels, short stories, children's stories, and plays.

His life is an inspiration because it shows how he struggled in a hostile and unfriendly world and managed to succeed despite the opposition he faced.



Un-Bound

2020 UPCYCLED BOOK ART CONTEST

TAKE AN OLD BOOK REMAKE IT WIN

Due to the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the deadline for the Un~Bound Upcycled Book Art Contest has been extended to May 9, 2020. This is a great activity to do while staying at home! The contest theme is "Libraries Transform", and entries will be judged on originality, technique, and theme.

The contest is open to residents of Washington County ages 5-105! Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Kids 5-8, Kids 9-12, Teens 13-15, Teens 16-18, Adults, Seniors 62+, and Special Needs in all age groups.

No hanging or wall mounted entries will be accepted. The contest is sponsored in part with funding received from the Recreation, Art, and Parks Board.

For more information, please email Micki Clements at: mclements@washco.lib.ut.us

FIND YOUR PLACE AT THE LIBRARY

Celebrate **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK** APRIL 19-25, 2020

The theme for this year's National Library week was chosen before any of us could imagine that a global pandemic would force many libraries to temporarily close their buildings.

We hope to reopen soon, but until then, please visit the library online! You can still find your place at the library by using the digital services available. You can access eBooks, video, audiobooks, and craft tutorials from the comfort of your home.

Please celebrate by showing your support for the many innovative ways libraries serve their communities during this unprecedented crisis. Find out more at library.washco.utah.gov.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>APRIL 2020</h1> <h2>ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING</h2>			1 Begin a 30 Day challenge on Creativebug	2 Start Learning a new language with Transparent Language	3 Hand Sew Springtime Bunny and Carrot Softies- watch the class on Creativebug	4 Download an audiobook on RB Digital
5	6 Write a letter to someone special in your life	7 Create an upcycled book art project	8 Download an eBook from the library website	9 Tune up your car - learn how on Auto Repair Source database on the library website	10 Research your genealogy on the Heritage Quest Database on the library website	11 Write a family memory book
12	13 Learn to crochet with a class from Creativebug	14 Stream a movie on Overdrive	15 Build a wish list of books you want to read on NovelList Plus	16 Write a poem and share it with family and friends through social media	17 Learn to draw with a class from Creativebug	18 Play a board or card game
19	20 Go for a walk and find five new things i.e. birds, plants, rocks, etc.	21 Have a family cook-off. Assign a part of the meal to each family member & vote on the favorite dish!	22 Create an indoor scavenger hunt	23 Have a family read-a-thon	24 Make a DIY mask on Creativebug kids	25 Download an eBook from the library website
26	27 Learn Hand-build ceramics on Creativebug	28 Make DIY wrapping paper with recycled newspaper and finger paint	29 Write a Haiku	30 Make a Floral Pop-Up card for Mother's Day		