

Services that can/should be shared with other libraries.

I spoke with the Library Directors, Nancy Crowell, Susan Winch from Scarborough, and Kevin Davis from South Portland as well our own Library Director, Jay Scherma, about how libraries share Services, Programming and Space.

I received consistent view from the 4 Librarian Directors. I heard that Librarians are highly efficient. Libraries look at intentional cooperation so that they can share opportunities with public and peers. Librarians work to build on their past and their strengths efficiently so they can continue to serve the public.

The 4 Directors stated that, although they would all be open to working more collaboratively, currently, each town operates independently serving their patron's desire to have a local library for convenient access and individual community needs.

All Directors stated that if their Town Council asked or required them to consolidate that they would reach out to make a mutual arrangement.

Ways that our area libraries do already collaborate:

Participating in the Minerva Program.

Interlibrary loans that allows residents to access materials from area libraries to be delivered to the cardholder's home library.

All Libraries Switching to a One Bar Code system to make staff work efficient.

Library Directors attending Regional Meetings to ensure working together to provide best services and preserve resources.

Librarians are trained by different Library Directors and share their skills as they move from one job to the next. This is seen as a benefit.

Open registration for programs, such as guest speakers, children, teen and adult programming, book groups, knitting/craft groups.

Publicizing programming in local papers so public can take advantage of offerings.

Availability for non-residents to purchase a Library Card from another library.

Availability for non-residents to rent space in their buildings.

Future Collaboration that are being discussed at the National level of Library Services:

One Regional/Universal Library Card

Ways that Town Librarians provide services outside the Library walls.

South Portland has a monthly Book Talk at the Betsy Ross House.

Scarborough goes into their schools to host Puppet Shows and Readers Theatre to help the school district raise students excitement about reading. These programs tend to be held closer to summer to build the excitement of summer reading programs held at the library.

Cape Teachers and Librarians consult each other to meet the needs of their students and curriculum.

Ways that Libraries are utilized by their municipal partners.

South Portland's meeting room is used by planning board and city council as a secondary meeting space.

Scarborough's school district uses the library space for teacher in-service. Municipalities can use the space for no charge. It seats 50. The main library room can fit 100. The rooms are not televised.

Public can rent room for 40 dollars an hour.

Cape Elizabeth and the School District have co sponsors programs held at the library.

Historical Society is housed in the Cape Elizabeth Library.

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