



MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES GENERAL LIBRARIES

Currently, there are 12 Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Main Libraries; 16 Branches; a Bookmobile; 3 Brig Libraries and 4 Reading Rooms on the East and West Coasts, Hawaii, Japan and Korea. FY20 is the most recent year for statistics and saw a decrease in physical library usage and a great increase in digital access due to COVID-19. The MCCS Libraries closed to patrons in mid-March 2020 and slowly reopened in July and August with limited hours and decreased services and programs. Curbside pickup, virtual story time and craft programs and “Grab and Go” story and craft kits became normal business for the remainder of 2020. In FY 20 – 732,354 patrons walked through our doors, 434,959 physical items were circulated, computers were used 398,914 times and digital resources were accessed 4,426,233 times, doubling previous years’ statistics. We offered 3,195 in-person and virtual programs with a total attendance (or views) of 125,167

COVID-19 greatly affected the library hours, services and programming and our libraries have still not returned to pre-COVID-19 functioning. Library staff stepped up to take on additional tasks of cleaning and sanitizing materials and facilities. Staff tasked with programming for children and teens did an amazing job with immediately stepping in front of the camera to record story times, craft and Makerspace programs to post on Library Facebook pages. As libraries slowly reopened in July and August staff took on additional tasks of fielding emails and phone calls from patrons for curbside pick-up of library materials and preparing many “Grab and Go” story and craft kits for all ages.

Since the last MLTW, MCCS Libraries has hired eight new Librarians. New Directors are Kelley Woolley, Camp Pendleton and Julie Bramman, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. Additional Librarians are Jeanne Holmgren, Reference Librarian, Camp LeJeune; Rami Messinger, Makerspace Librarian, Camp Pendleton; April Stone, Youth Services Librarian, Camp Pendleton; Danielle Preniczky, Youth Services Librarian, MCRD San Diego; Jeffrey Middleton, Acquisitions Librarian, Camp Butler, Okinawa and Christy Vasquez – Googe, Northern Camps Librarian, Camp Butler, Okinawa.

In 2015, HQMC embarked on a five year renovation plan for the entire MCCS Library system, to include paint and carpet and expanded electrical capabilities; new lower, mobile shelving; display units; new comfortable seating; collaborative areas and new signage. In conjunction with the renovations we are converting the



non-fiction collections from the Dewey Decimal system to Semper FindIt!, a subject based bookstore model of classification. Twenty-four of our libraries have completed their renovations and conversions to Semper FindIt! The final four libraries have just begun their renovation and conversion planning for completion in FY22. We are excited to finish this system wide project and provide Marines and families with updated library facilities. Our non-fiction circulation numbers have more than doubled due to the bookstore model classification.

MCCS Library services extend beyond brick and mortar facilities to online resources and support. We provide over 100 educational and recreational digital resources that are USMC; Department of Navy and DoD funded, for installation library patrons and for Marines and families stationed and deployed throughout the world. These resources also support Voluntary Education needs of Marines everywhere.

The MCCC Libraries have greatly expanded library programming beyond the traditional story time and book clubs to promote the library as an installation community center. With the installations of Makerspaces in 2016 we continue to offer spaces and programs to encourage innovative and creative pursuits; 3-D printing; robotics; circuitry and coding; astronomy; Lego and other construction projects; arts and crafts and photography. We also offer video gaming, board gaming and Escape room events for all ages. The libraries have also begun an Early Literacy initiative providing programs, for the youngest military children from birth to toddler and their caregivers.

The 2021 MCCS Library Program's annual Summer Reading Program "Reading Colors Your World" has been the very successful in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. The MCCS Libraries registered 8,431 participants; they read a total of 16,336,801 minutes (272,280 hours). Libraries planned and presented 291 in-person and virtual programs and events with 15,773 attendees. Camp Pendleton once again had the largest participation in all DoD MWR Libraries with 3,473 participants.

The HQMC Library Program is also responsible for providing library support to deployed and remotely stationed Marines. We provide magazines and paperbacks to Marine Security Guards at 180 embassies and foreign missions and Marines serving in combat and humanitarian missions around the world. The HQMC Library Program also serves as the point of contact for access to all of the digital resources.

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