Report on Library Progress

Library Cards

The library card drive has been very successful. In fact, of all eligible adults in the Aspen Falls Public Library area, 73% now have library cards. This is far above the national average, not just for cities our size, but for cities of any size. Part of this is due to the fact that our community has two universities, a community college, and a business college nearby; part of it is due to the very active nature of our residents.

Circulation

Our circulation of all materials year-to-date is up 23% over the same period last year. Part of this is due to the publicity campaign and library card drive, but part of it is also due to the recent economic downturn—it is much less expensive to borrow books from the library than it is to buy new books from local bookstores.

eBook Downloads

Our new eBook program, which enables our patrons to download eBooks for up to three weeks and listen to them either on their computers or on their portable media players, has not been as successful as anticipated. Part of the reason for that is that one of the major audio players will not play these files, and another part of the problem is the difficulty involved in downloading the files. We are rewriting the download directions and including many more illustrations. If the number of downloads does not increase, we may have to reconsider the $10,000 yearly fee that we currently pay for this service.

Wireless Access in the Library Buildings

After several years of intermittent problems with wireless access in the Main Library, the problems seem to be fixed, and patrons are happy with their ability to connect their laptop computers to the Internet. We have extended this service to two of our other branches, and hope to have all of the branches ready by the end of the year.

Friends Bookshop

The Friends of the Aspen Falls Public Library have sorted book donations and sold books in a shop for many years. With the move last year to the larger shop, and the hiring of a wonderful new shop manager and assistant manager, sales have nearly doubled. This results in increased funding for special projects in the library and its branches.