**Topic: Book Clubs**

I have had the privilege of working at multiple locations and granted the opportunity to observe variations in the implementation of library programs. The Woodward Park Regional Library (my first branch library) hosted a book club that was self-sufficient. The book club selected the subject manuscript for each monthly meeting. The staff only had to reserve the meeting room for their use during their regular scheduled time, but my current location the Gillis Branch Library does not yet host an established book club, but the matter has been on my mind. Lately, the staffers at the Gillis Branch Library have been fielding questions on book clubs. Personally, I have had to refer other patrons to nearby branches. Despite my first impression that book clubs operated independently, I recently became aware that are newly hired teen librarian seeks to start a book club at the Gillis Library. She intends to run the program by facilitating discussion at each meeting. Nichols-Besel, Cassandra, O’Brien, and Dillion provide suggestions for hosting a facilitated book club for minors. They suggest that some ground rules are established at each meeting and that activities incorporate some fun aspect to differentiate themselves from classroom learning. Clearly, there is some demand to host this activity at our branch library. I am using this discussion topic as a vehicle in which to conduct some preliminary research on book clubs.

Of particular interest in my research was a book club that did not have regular meetings. Most of the communication was constructed by email where the librarian curated a suggested reading list and parents and their children middle school aged children read a book together to foster a habit of voluntary reading and provide a conduit for parents to interact with their own offspring. What made this program more than a reading list was the way it was marketed. “Consistent communication was the key to making the book club a success” (Deuschle, 2017, p. 20).

**Why it Matters**

I do not think that there is any question about public libraries wanting to continue to host book clubs in the future. Will book clubs have to adapt to the digital environment? What will generation’s X, Y, and Z behave when they enter their retirement years? With digital natives are so use to collaborating and meeting online either through social media or other platforms, should the library create a “digital meeting room” to accommodate these future needs? Whatever the case, serious discussion and research need to take place in order for book clubs to continue to be part of the programming mix for public libraries.

**References**

Deuschle, K. (2017). Using parent book clubs to build a school-wide reading community. *Knowledge Quest*, *46*(2), Retrieved from Library & Information Science Source. (Accession No. 125991978)

Nichols-Besel, K., Cassandra S., O’Brien, D. G., & Dillion, D. R. (2018). A space for boys and books: Guys Read book clubs. *Children & Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children*, *16*(2), 19–26. Retrieved from Library & Information Science Source (Accession No. 129937596)