**REACHING THOSE WITHOUT ACCESS**

**Bookmobiles**

Bookmobiles are a great way to bring the library to its community. The first bookmobile was a horse-drawn buggy in 1905. Today’s bookmobile has evolved into vans and bicycles. The Racine Public Library is a great example of a modern bookmobile that provides books, computer access, registration services, check-out and return services, and technology to the community. Their slogan is, "Can't you come out to the library? We are where you are!” The Racine Public Library makes weekly visits throughout Racine County and stops at the parking lots of grocery stores, churches, or banks. The bookmobile is a great source of visibility in the community and a great way to promote engagement with the library.

**Home delivery programs/Homebound patrons**

Patrons with physical disabilities or who are homebound need home delivery programs. Libraries offer services such as free delivery and return of library materials, extended check-out periods, and librarian assistance with the selection of desired materials requested by patrons. Home delivery, braille titles, audio books, magnifiers, and large print books are also offered to patrons who are homebound/disabled. Patrons who benefit from home delivery programs also include the elderly, those with visual or auditory issues, or someone who suffers from social anxiety.

**Visits to homeless shelters**

The homeless community includes young and older adults, minor youth on their own, and children with homeless parents. Access to computers to apply for jobs, housing, childcare, set up doctor appointments, and maintain contact with social workers and family members is vital. In 2009, the San Francisco Library (SFL) hired an in-house social worker to address the needs of their homeless patrons. Positive outcomes included patrons attaining housing and connecting with social services. Based on the positive outcomes at SFL, twenty-four libraries across the country adopted a similar service template for their homeless patrons.

**CONNECTING OUTSIDE OF THE LIBRARY**

**Story time in the parks and pools**

Summer learning loss is the regression of academic achievement during the school year. Libraries providing reading opportunities at places such as parks and public pools, a summer camp location, or other community agencies, is a way to combat this phenomenon. Elementary and high school students are the beneficiaries of a bookmobile visiting a park or pool. Families tend to visit public pools and parks during the summer and library outreach encourages families to visit libraries during summer. Offering story time or reading clubs to young people is a great way to foster literacy learning over the summer and keep reading levels stable. Chicago Public Libraries offered career workshops, scavenger hunts, and Maker Mondays, to keep young people engaged during summer.

**On the Road Book Clubs**

Adults and senior citizens often join book clubs for the purpose of socializing with other people. However, adults or senior citizens may not live near a library or cannot drive to a library. Therefore, a mobile book club is a way to have a book club at a retirement home, a local bar, or at someone’s home. Librarians can assemble book club kits for independent book clubs, which include discussion guides and multiple copies of a book. The Glenview Public Library supports five senior book clubs at their respective retirement centers.

**Pop-Up Tents**

Underserved communities and non-library users are people that library outreach services want to connect with through a pop-up library event. A pop-up tent or pop-up library is an opportunity to introduce the library and explain the services it offers, such as content creation labs or STEM programs. The goal is to send the message that the library is there to offer support to all members of the community. A pop-up location can be near a public pool, a church, a homeless shelter, or under a tent in a park. Fiore (2017)

**Partnering with schools**

**Programming in classrooms**

Public and school librarians foster a partnership to create a school readiness program for kindergarten students. Librarians work together to develop a story time program that benefits the child, the teacher, caregiver, and day care centers. School readiness fairs are a way to share information about story time programs and other resources available to Pre-K families before the school year begins.

**Partnering with universities**

Western Kentucky University’s library worked with students who resided in Living Learning Communities (LLC)—student residence groups usually based around shared academic interests. Students live together, participate in extracurricular activities together, and are often enrolled in one or more classes together. The librarians provided outreach to the students by offering programs like book clubs, workshops, author talks, or roving reference services. The librarians also offered yoga classes, tax prep help, arts and crafts, and banned books week. This partnership between the library and students led to higher retention rates and academic performances among students in the LLC.

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