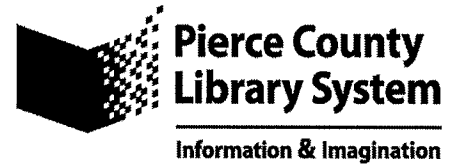

M E M O



Date: January 3, 2012

To: Chair Stephen Albers and Members of the Board

From: Neel Parikh, Executive Director

Subject: Librarians in Large Washington Libraries

Every year the budget shows the numbers of staff members by department; calling out the number of professional librarians with a Masters degree. This year, J.J. McCament asked Cliff Jo how the percentage of librarians compared to other like-size libraries. Attached for your information is a chart showing these ratios for libraries in the State of Washington serving over 200,000 people. We could also gather this information about like-size libraries across the country.

MLS/Librarians in Large Washington Libraries

Library	Population	MLS FTE	% of Overall Staff	Population to MLS Ratio
Fort Vancouver Regional Library	456,145	41.50	21.63	10,991
King County Library System	1,330,955	199.73	26.07	6,664
Kitsap Regional Library	248,300	29.63	22.73	8,380
Mid-Columbia Library*	213,535	8	10.74	26,692
North Central Regional Library*	246,420	3	3.40	82,140
Pierce County Library System	556,520	53	25.36	10,500
Seattle Public Library	612,000	140.55	27.46	4,354
Sno-Isle Regional Library	671,075	78.11	25.16	8,591
Spokane County Library	255,780	24	19.50	10,658
Spokane Public Library	206,900	23.20	21.86	8,918
Tacoma Public Library	204,200	20	15.57	10,210
Yakima Valley Library*	229,810	8	9.63	28,726

*These systems have many branches in largely rural areas.

Note: The statistics are taken from the "Washington Libraries 2010 Statistical Report". Timberland Regional Library was not included in this chart as it did not submit 2010 statistics for the report.

WORKSource Pierce

1305 Tacoma Ave. S. Ste. 201
Tacoma, WA 98402

November 22, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We at WorkSource Pierce have formulated a partnership with Jason Anderson and the Job + Business Center at Pierce County Library over the course of the past several months, and we have been very pleased with the partnership and the support this program has given to our job seekers here in Pierce County.

This program provides a wide variety of job search advice and support and makes the information available to all residents in Pierce County, regardless of location. Their onsite locations are spread throughout the county, and online services are offered as well on such subjects as resume creation, finding targeted employers, and interview preparation. Information is also offered on resources available for starting your own business, personal finances and training.

Job searching today is nothing like it has been in the past. Job seekers need to formulate a plan based on current employment trends and employer needs. This calls for extensive research to carry out a successful job search, and it can be a very daunting task. The tools necessary are easily found and accessed through the Job + Business Center, for both job seekers and employers.

We have been pleased with our partnership with the Pierce County Library and the services it has provided. These days the state resources are stretched thin and it is very important to us to continue to provide assistance to the public even with diminished resources. The Job + Business Center helps us to do that, and do it well.

Sincerely,



Kim Myers & Peter Mihaluta

Career Brokers

WorkSource Business Services

Ph: 253.552.2547 / 253.593.7345

e-mail: kmyers@esd.wa.gov / pmihaluta@esd.wa.gov

THE LAST WORD

Superheroes in our Midst

Susan Anderson-Newham

Superheroes—we know they populate shelves of comic books and DVDs. But years spent working in a library and quiet observational powers—or, in my case, perhaps not so quiet—have revealed to me a secret sect of superheroes. You too may recognize them.

- **Reference Deity.** He or she might appear normal, unassuming even, but trust me, Reference Deity is a beast! Able to leap tall questions at a single bound, pulling obscure reference texts from dusty shelves, navigating mountainous databases in a flash. Reference Deity's brain holds the magical key to seemingly impossible questions—and, often, a wry sense of humor.
- **Upholder of the Flow.** This mighty hero is able to move materials at the apparent speed of light, emptying an overflowing book drop bin in the blink of an eye—juggling holds processing, telephone calls, library card registrations, mechanical breakdowns, and patron problems with the derring-do of a true caped crusader (and with no more than two hands!).
- **Guardian of the Shelves.** These wunderkinds can accurately shelve an entire book cart down to the last ridiculous decimal point in what seems an instant—all while simultaneously directing patrons to the reference desk, the tax forms, the bathrooms, and the genealogy section.
- **Astonishing Leader.** Not content to merely manage a branch, Astonishing Leader blesses a branch with true leadership. Unafraid to seduce funds out of local Rotary groups, then roll



Susan Anderson-Newham, Early Learning "Super" Librarian, a.k.a. Champion of the Wee!

- **Champion of the Wee.** Obsessed with saving the world one child at a time, the Champion sings (not necessarily on key), rhymes, reads, dances, chants, hops and leaps, using puppets, hats, and costumes and spouting early literacy lingo while vehemently proclaiming the critical importance of mudpies, Mother Goose, and free play.

Yes, these superheroes bless the halls of libraries all across the country. Hopefully, you have met many of them. Perhaps you are one!

And if all of this seems unfamiliar to you at present, stay tuned, you never know when the next employee walking through that door might turn out to be a new kind of superhero!

Up, up, and away!

Susan Anderson-Newham is Early Learning Supervising Librarian at the Pierce County (Wa.) Library System.

up the sleeves of a grown-up-looking suit and clean poo off bathroom walls, the Astonishing Leader does it all—budgets, meets, manages, tidies, and most importantly, inspires.

- **Radical Defender.** Armed with a strange combination of sarcasm and passion, Radical Defender is able to tame packs of wild teens with uncanny "Spidee-sense," knowing exactly when the teen area is just about to erupt, or the precise moment a new technology is about to emerge.

Got a great, lighthearted essay? A funny story about children and libraries? Books and babies? Pets and picture books? A not-so-serious look at the world of children's librarianship? Send your Last Word to Sharon Verbeten at CALeditor@yahoo.com.