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

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

*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.
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,

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Career Brokers
WorkSource Business Services
Ph: 253.552.2547 / 253.593.7345
e-mail: kmyers@esd.wa.gov / pmihaluta@esd.wa.gov
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 shelf 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 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.

- 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.*

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 CAEditor@yahoo.com.