

Jennifer Cronin

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PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFILE

The South Georgia Regional Library currently serves the greater Valdosta area, which includes the counties of Lowndes, Lanier, and Echols. In addition to the central facility, the Library has six branches, a Talking Book Center, and a Book Van.

BUILDING AND SETTING:

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Library is the central facility for the South Georgia Regional Library. It was first located at the building that now belongs to the Lowndes County Historical Museum in downtown Valdosta. In 1968, the current facility was constructed in a location that was determined to be centrally located within Valdosta and within close proximity to Valdosta State University and South Georgia Medical Center. In 1996, the facility was renovated and expanded. The older wing of the library currently houses the administration offices, the cataloging and processing areas, the adult collections, reference, genealogy, and meeting rooms. The expansion addition was designated to house Children Services, the Talking Book Center, and the Book Van services. In addition to the central facilities, the library system supports five other branches: McMullen Southside Library, Salter Hahira Library, Johnston Lakes Library, Allen Statenville Library, and Miller Lakeland Library.

SERVICE POPULATIONS:

As previously mentioned, the South Georgia Regional Library serves the counties of Lowndes, Lanier, and Echols; however, it also participates in the PINES library system, a statewide collection of over 250 libraries in the State of Georgia. Through the PINES system, a patron can return material to any PINES location or request material held by any library that is a participant in the PINES system. This network of libraries allows more material to be made available to residents in the state of Georgia.

In addition to serving the general library-centric needs of the greater Valdosta area, SGRL has developed a special collection of services and materials to accommodate patrons with vision or other physical impairments through their Talking Book Center. The Talking Book Center has a collection of over 20,000 books on audio recording. The collection offers a variety

of genres for both children and adults, although senior citizens are the most frequent patrons. This service is offered free of charge to individuals who are visually impaired or who have a physical handicap preventing them from using the standard library services.

The SGRL also offers a Book Van, which serves community patrons who are physically unable to visit the library facilities. Operating under the motto, “If they can’t come to us, we go to them”, these services provide an outreach service to retirement centers, nursing homes, day-care centers, and schools of all levels.

MISSION, VISION, AND OBJECTIVES:

The mission of the South Georgia Regional Library system, as stated in their Policy Guide, is to “furnish library services to the people of this region.” The service region, as defined by the SGRL is the greater Valdosta area. Their vision is to meet their organizational mission while maintaining or exceeding state library standards. The Library has established several objectives to provide guides as they meet their organizational mission and vision. The first objective is to meet or exceed the regional educational, informational and recreational reading needs through the various services and centers offered by the Library, including the Learning Support Center, the Young Children’s Support Center, the Popular Interest Support Center, and the Special Needs Support Center. The second objective is to maintain a courteous and well-trained staff, adequate to meet the staffing needs of the Library. The third objective is to plan and implement proper business management techniques. The fourth and final objective is to maintain a positive relationship with the community while promoting the library system and its services.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

The office of the regional director is located at the main facility in Valdosta; however, the day-to-day operations of the main facility are coordinated by the assistant director. The Assistant Director is responsible for all services provided by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library, the Talking Books program, and the Book Van program. The services provided by the Valdosta-Lowndes Library are further divided into several departments: Reference, Children and Youth Programs, Cataloging and Processing. Each branch facility is assigned a local director who is responsible for the services of their specific facility and for coordinating those services that require intra-Library cooperation. Each of these local directors report to the Regional Director. Due to recent economic funding issues, the state hiring freeze has resulted in several of the

branches being understaffed and directors being assigned the responsibility of multiple branch facilities.

LIBRARY SIZE:

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Library has over 32,000 square feet of facilities and regionally offers a collection of over 200,000 books and other materials. At cost, the collection is currently valued at \$450,000; however, their participation in the PINES library system gives each library in its network the potential to offer the collective works of all member libraries.

After interviewing several employees, I was directed to the Assistant Director for all questions regarding circulation statistics and budgeting. The Assistant Director was willing to provide the needed information at a personal meeting, but was unavailable until Wednesday, September 16th. Part of the delay was due to her schedule and part was due to the Assistant Director needing clarification from the Director as to what information was allowed to be released to the public and what information was not. Due to the timetable for submitting this report, I was unable to include the information at the time of submission.

REACTIONS:

I have lived in Valdosta for over two years now and this is the first opportunity I have utilized to visit the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library. Previously, I was unaware of the extensive service area served by the 'local' library through its widespread branches. I find the PINES library system to be innovative, forward thinking, and a fantastic way to make material available to smaller communities that would otherwise have severely limited access to services and materials due to financial constraints imposed by smaller local budgets.

THE LIBRARY AND THE COMMUNITY

MISSION

The Literacy Volunteer Program (LVP) has been providing quality instruction to the Valdosta area for twenty-three years. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase public awareness of the existence, the extent, and the



disadvantage of illiteracy in Valdosta and the surrounding areas.

VOLUNTEERS

Local volunteers are an essential element of the Literacy Volunteer Program (LVP). Volunteers are the core resource of the organization as the organization has few resources to dedicate to salaries and human resources. With volunteers constituting such a vital position in the organization, recruiting is both a primary and ongoing objective. The Literacy Volunteer Program has developed a thorough application and interview process to ensure each volunteer has the knowledge and experience necessary to deliver the quality instruction needed by the communities serviced by the program. After the selection process is completed, each volunteer is required to complete training sessions that facilitate the orientation of the volunteers to the specific services offered, the overall mission and goals of the organization, effective instructional methodologies, and any training necessary for various specialized programs that the instructor might be tasked with assisting. One of the common methodology courses offered to new volunteers is training in the Laubach method of teaching adults utilizing the student's native language as a bridge to literacy in the English language. After the training process is concluded, volunteer members are tasked with diverse responsibilities that can include any and all of the following needs: literacy advisement, literacy education, coordinating the training of new volunteers, and evaluation of new candidates for individual instruction and volunteer positions.

SUBJECTS

The Literacy Volunteer Program's (LVP) primary objective is the promotion of literacy amongst adults who have not previously acquired the skill. Volunteers within the LVP program are not limited to English centered education programs, but may assist clients and the committee with fundamental knowledge in the Math, Science and Social Science fields. For those volunteers who feel that their talents are not directed toward instruction, the LVP utilizes volunteers to coordinate and assist with fundraising efforts, community publicity, website maintenance, development and distribution of newsletters, and general office work.

FUNDRAISING

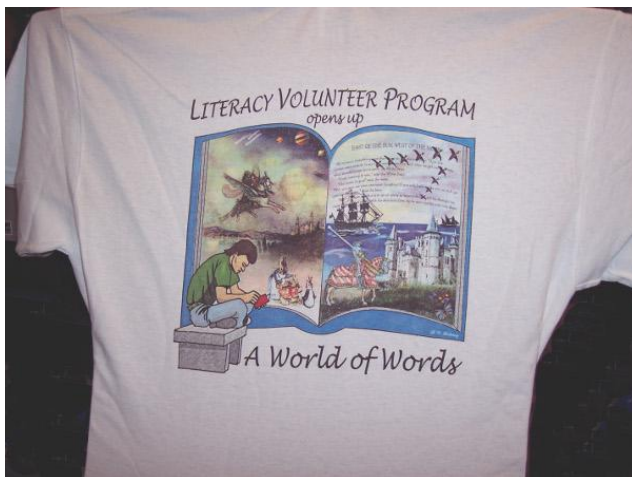
As with most non-profit, volunteer organizations, fund-raising is an ever-present necessity. In order to support the goals of the Literacy Volunteer Program (LVP), fundraising activities are coordinated throughout the year. The organization strives to offer fundraising activities that remain true to the purpose of the LVP, that collect the resources necessary to keep the organization running, and that inform the public of the purpose and the importance of their mission. Recently, the LVP offered a fundraising opportunity promoted as the “Bowl for Literacy Campaign”. This promotion was designed with the goal of generating operating funds for the organization and increasing the literacy needs of the Greater Valdosta area. Donations were collected through the participation in the Bowling Tournament and individual donation through T-shirt sales.



THE SHARED ROLES OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL LIBRARY AND THE LITERACY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The mission of the South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) system, as stated in their Policy Guide, is to “furnish library services to the people of this region.” The mission of the SGRL continues by outlining several methods by which they hope to achieve this need. Two of the targeted areas for achieving this goal are listed as: 1) assisting ABE/GED/ESL students and teachers through their Information and Learning Support Center and 2) Special Needs Support Center. The intersection of these targeted mission goals are individuals who either through

special needs or previous life experiences are now in need of assistance in obtaining literacy in the English language. Unfortunately, assisting individuals with this particular set of needs can be expensive when the human resources’ cost of assigning a specific



employee to accomplishing this task is factored in. Thus, most libraries accomplish this goal through self-study manuals and partnerships.

South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) has succeeded in obtaining both solutions for reaching the target audience of individuals in need of literacy education. They worked to develop a sufficient catalog of self-help literacy materials and formed a partnership with the Literacy Volunteer Program to offset the human resources cost. The Literacy Volunteer Program (LVP) is aided by the library by having access to the facilities and library collection. The collaboration with the Literacy Volunteer Program provides an educational resource to the greater Valdosta area.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL LIBRARY AND THE LITERACY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The relationship between the Literacy Volunteer Program (LVP) and The South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) system appears to be a collaboration that is mutually beneficial, providing cross-utilization of resources that would otherwise have resulted in duplication between the two non-profits and otherwise limited the success of both organizations. The Library continues to fulfill its traditional role as a community center for the gathering and disbursement of knowledge and the LVP continues to target its resources toward the education of those with literacy needs. At present, the LVP conducts monthly meetings and occasionally conducts free tutoring sessions in the Valdosta-Lowndes Public Library. The two organizations, the South Georgia Regional Library and The Literacy Volunteer Program, worked together on the LVP's September Bowl for Literacy fund-raiser. The primary burden of the coordinating the fund-raiser was held by the LVP, but the SGRL coordinated various promotions within and without the organization.

The LVP is strongly supported by the employees of the library, with multiple members attending the March 2008, September 2008, and June 2009 meetings, whether in the capacity of a volunteer or a library representative. Both organizations recognize the common goal of encouraging education and literacy within the community and view a strong relationship as a means of improving the ability of their organization achieving this task.

FINANCES

South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) has a well-developed and well-attended Youth Program, with groups as large as 300 children in attendance for functions in the reading room. Each branch is responsible for managing local Story Time Programs, but occasionally will collaborate resources for the presentation of 'Signature Programs', special events linked to seasonal holidays or other pop culture events with literary tie-ins. At present, the Valdosta-Lowndes Public Library is operating without a dedicated Children's Librarian due to the current hiring freeze; however, Suzy Butts, an employee of the library, has resumed her on-again, off-again coordination of the Children's Programs until a new Librarian can be hired. Jen Tyler, another employee of the library, shares some of the responsibilities by periodically assisting with Story Time and other Programs offered at the remote locations. Ms. Butts described a program that has continued to grow by leaps and bounds over the last nine years. In the fiscal year 2008, SGRL served over 9,000 children.

MARKETING

The Youth Services at South Georgia Regional Library is marketed through several passive and active methodologies. Passive Marketing is achieved through a combination of library arrangement and notification. The library has been designed with the children's book section remaining apart and distinctive from the other departments in the library, with the inclusion of a reading room in the general vicinity. Youth Program schedules are posted throughout the Children's area, drawing attention to the other opportunities and services available, with the hoping of increasing interest of patrons already actively using the facilities.

The other passive form of marketing utilized by SGRL is their website. An entire section is dedicated to the Youth Services. The website discusses the benefits of Pre-literacy in young children and provides schedules for the various activities being offered by the SGRL and its branches. Contact information is listed for those seeking additional information, those who desire to coordinate a classroom visit, or arrange for a private function. The library is expanding to utilize a MySpace page, but at present, is unaware of its general effectiveness. The MySpace page is managed by a coordinated effort between Ms. Butts and Ms. Tyler, with the Youth functions being addressed by Ms. Butts and the Teen Services being addressed by Ms. Tyler.

Active marketing for SGRL is handled primarily through local newspapers, the Valdosta Magazine, and regular distribution of flyers to area schools. The library realizes that Word-of-Mouth is an extremely powerful marketing tool in its arsenal and actively works to provide coordinated programs with surrounding daycares, schools, homeschooling groups, and other agencies. SGRL works in coordination with the groups to make their regularly scheduled activities accessible to these groups and to offer specialized activities where possible.

PROGRAM AND AUDIENCE

South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) offers a variety of programs targeting children of all ages. Although the Valdosta-Lowndes Public Library presents only four scheduled story-times for the public each week, Ms. Butts estimates that ten to fifteen additional group specific story-times are scheduled each week. Most of the services coordinated through the Youth Services program can be listed into one of the following categories or activities.

BABY TIME (STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS OLD)

Baby Time is offered on Mondays at eleven a.m. Due to the short attention span often possessed by the targeted audience, the program is usually limited to five very short stories. Additionally, the children are only required to listen to the first three stories before being allowed to raid the toy box. Children that are still interested in hearing the remainder of the stories can elect to remain and listen to the two concluding stories. Baby Time utilizes a variety of tools to stir the children's imaginations and engage their attention, including finger plays, baby exercises, and baby sign language. The coordinators understand the difficulty of limiting movement by individuals within this age category, thus making it both acceptable and even, at times, encouraging movement with the goal of increasing the children's interest in discovering the world around them. When I asked Ms. Butts what the most challenging aspect of Baby Time was, her response was watching the frustration of parents attempting to deal with inattentive and/or misbehaving children. She stated, "No one wants their child to be the one that is disrupting the class", but Ms. Butts explained that librarians general understand the limitations of the age and are rarely bothered by the disruptions, though it is often difficult to assure and explain this understanding to the parent(s) whose child was 'the disruptive one' and is attempting to apologize.

TODDLER TIME (STORY TIME FOR TWO TO THREE YEAR OLDS)

Toddler Time is scheduled for Tuesday mornings at eleven. This program presents several short stories with periodic songs and wiggle activities. The reader addresses the short attention span of the audience through interactive questions, most of which are simple and/or silly, such as the color of a hat in the story or how many dogs are displayed on a page. Attendance is often supplemented by local day care classes. During one recent Toddler Time, two day care classes were in attendance, adding nearly twenty additional participants. Although that action of holding the attention of so many young children could easily be thought of as a taxing chore, the presenters rarely display any signs of distraction or distress and often express their enjoyment of the activity.

Ms. Butts explained that the key element to keeping a child's attention is to become the character in the story. This element doesn't change whether the audience is one child or a hundred children. She noted that even adults hate to be read in monotones. By becoming the characters in the stories and adding the appropriate amount of drama/emotion, it becomes difficult for the children's attention to wander. Projection is another key ingredient, as children have a hard time paying attention to anything that they cannot hear. Familiar songs and nursery rhymes can be adapted and included into any story, adding fun sparks for the children to key in on.

STORY TIME (STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN AGED FOUR TO TWELVE)

Story Time is offered after school on Monday at four p.m. is available to all ages, though targeted to children between four and twelve. This program is in its infancy and therefore is not as well attended as some of the more established programs. Ms. Butts expects that attendance will grow as the program becomes more established, just as it has with the older programs. Since the target audience is children of school age, there is an expectation that the children will be better behaved and more attentive. Ms. Butts expressed her belief that this group is often forgotten, but that Story Time (or similar activities) is just as important, if not more. She notes that she believes that engaging and exercising their imaginations through song, art, and literature is an imperative that has unfortunately fallen victim to recent school budget cuts and other constraints. Children are encouraged to draw pictures depicting their favorite scene or to participate in singing a song related to the theme of the story. Ms. Butts expressed her belief that

these activities aren't just a way to vary the activities, but a key ingredient to stimulate thought and the well-rounded development of the participants. Ultimately, Story Time is designed to inspire children about the wonders of reading and possibly show them a new subject that may lead to a life-long passion.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) offers a series of annual and one-time events referred to as their Signature Programs. Several of the annual programs are their December Meet and Greet with Santa, the January Snow Day, the spring Dr. Seuss Day, and the fall festival usually coordinated on October 30th. For these events, the library employees will coordinate theme appropriate activities, games, and guest speakers. At present, the library is gearing up for the fall festival and will include a Haunted House in the Story Time Room.

Some Signature Events are not annual, but are coordinated with one-time events. A recent Signature Event was tied to the release of *Harry Potter: The Half-Blood Prince*. Ms. Butts, Ms. Tyler, and other volunteers, including both library employees and public supporters, dressed in Harry Potter style regalia, recreated classrooms from The Hogwarts School for Wizardry, and even offered the opportunity to have pictures taken with Doby, the skittish house elf. This event was held in the balcony of the local movie theatre and was designed to encourage interest in the book series, as well as spark the imagination.



TEEN GROUP

Ms. Jen Tyler coordinates the teen programs. At present, the teen offerings are coordinated in a manner more similar to a book club with weekly meetings at the Valdosta-Lowndes and the Allen Statenville Library. The participants are expected to complete the majority of the reading at home, with the meeting time being dedicated to discussion, activities, and/or field trips. Ms. Tyler edits the monthly newsletter for participants in the Teen Program,

The Monthly Grind. The newsletter is designed to keep participants informed as to the current readings, birthdays, and other snippets of information of interest. The group is currently reading *Cirque Du Freak* and *A Great and Terrible Beauty*.

PLAYTIME

Play time is offered Thursday mornings. It is designed to cater to the needs of the preschool aged child and lasts about one hour. Parental supervision is a requirement of the program, though librarians participate as allowed by other duties. Attendance for this service tends to increase when the outside weather is less than hospitable, such as when it is rainy, cold, humid, or hot. When the weather is nice, attendance may only average around four children, but that number can swell to twenty-five on days with poor exterior conditions.

PRESCHOOL AND OTHER GROUPS

As previously mentioned, many local schools, daycares, and other agencies are frequent participants in the services offered by the library's Children's Services. These outside agencies regularly make use of specially scheduled Story Time Programs, including special programs for home schooled children and special-needs children. On Fridays, during the special needs programs, students participate in a variety of book-related experiences targeted to their unique needs, based on physical limitations and/or mental delays.

EVALUATION AND REFLECTIONS

It is obvious that the Youth/Teen Programs for the South Georgia Regional Library benefits from strong community support and the dedicated care of the institutional employees; however, there are several deficits in areas of marketing and support that hinder the progress of the program. The most notable deficit is the lack of a dedicated Youth Services Librarian. That isn't to say that these ladies are not doing a fantastic job on their own, but that the burden of running this program should not fall to them, and unfortunately the library is currently unable to hire a replacement due to the hiring freeze, and will likely not be able replace this librarian until 2011.

While current marketing may be bringing in many schools, daycares, and other agencies, I wonder if the library is reaching the everyday community member. On the day I attended their

Story Time only six of about thirty children were brought by their parents, the remainder were a part of a local daycare system. There is nothing wrong with daycares attending these activities, but may be misleading when reporting attendance statistics. On the other hand word-of-mouth may be slow to serve the library's needs, but as the librarians maintain the interest of the community through creative planning word-of-mouth may serve this library well, in addition to light marketing and news coverage. One possible way to improve marketing easily would be to update the Story Time schedule listed on the website, as I noticed some programs were missing, and possibly spice up the website to make it more user-friendly for the young.

It is exciting to find out about all of the creativity that has gone into planning these programs and I hope to be able to attend some in the coming year. Even with its limitations, this is a program that I would attempt to emulate in future developments of my own library's youth programs.

CHALLENGES TO YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

The key challenges facing the South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) system, relate to allocation of funds and space.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The recent economic slump has left local government officials with the onerous task of cutting expenses. South Georgia Regional Library (SGRL) has been the recipient of funding reductions in three areas during this fiscal year: the operating and facilities expenses, personnel budgets, and force reductions requiring remaining personnel to serve various capacities at multiple branch sites.

In March, The Valdosta Daily Times reported that the city of Valdosta had mandated a 120 day hiring freeze on all vacant positions. Larry Hansen, the Valdosta City Manager was reported as saying that "no department [would have] their ability to perform their service compromised in any way"; however, the hiring freeze currently remains in effect for the SGRL, far exceeding the original 120 day time frame. There are expectations that the hiring freeze may be extended for up to two years, depending on the state of the economy, but no official announcements have been made to confirm this possibility.

The Valdosta-Lowndes Library is currently providing the services to the community as outlined in their mission goals, but the hiring freeze has required various sacrifices to be made. A continuous strain is placed on the personnel of the library as individuals are required to complete the responsibilities usually assigned to two or more positions. The Librarians rotate Branch Librarian responsibilities as they attempt to complete the responsibilities of the unfilled Branch Librarian positions. The staff and librarians pitch in to take over the various responsibilities of the missing Youth Services Librarian and whichever Librarian is currently operating at one of the branches that day. Additional responsibilities through expanded services remain virtually unreachable as the Library continues to struggle to meet the current needs and creative reprioritization has become the norm.

While the reductions in personnel have made the day-to-day operations a struggle, it is the local budget reductions that constitute a greater threat to the SGRL. In August, the Valdosta Daily Times reported that the Library Board of Trustees were attempting to renegotiate a \$65,000 reduction to the library's budget. This reduction in funding was stalled as the proposed reductions could violate Georgia's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) regulations. A second article published later in August highlighted the situation further, explaining that if the local government failed to maintain the funding as allotted year-over-year, that the state had the right to reduce state funding by up to \$600,000. The Administrative Assistant to the Regional Library Director for SGRL stated that as of November, this issue had failed to be resolved and would most likely fail to be resolved prior to the end of the year. Although funding is always, and probably always will be an issue for libraries, a budget cut of this magnitude would have a significant influence on the library's operations, possibly even eliminating its ability to operate in a meaningful manner.

The third primary challenge facing the SGRL has been the reduction in human resources funding. This reduction in funding has resulted in the staff of the library being required to take six furlough days between September 2009 and May 2010. This requirement was first published in the Valdosta Daily Times in September when the state announced its new cost saving planning which was echoed by most state and local government agencies. During a furlough day, the libraries will be closed and the staff will not be compensated. The projected budget savings for the city was estimated to account for approximately \$28,672 and would help to close the gap in

the budget deficit. It was deemed that the furlough option was a more acceptable solution to the budget reductions than a permanent salary decrease or personnel force reductions. The library was tasked with selecting the specific dates of the furlough days and did so by selecting days with historically low library attendance. Chuck Gibson, Regional Library Director, was reported as saying “there is simply no way for the system to absorb budget cuts of this magnitude without impacting our services.”

ALLOCATION OF SPACE

Although the Valdosta-Lowndes Public Library has been remodeled several times over the last twenty years, the library has once again begun to reach its maximum capacity. Recent remodeling efforts have attempted to alleviate the pressures throughout the regional system, but the last major constructive remodeling effort of the central library was done prior to the explosion of the internet and failed to account for the ever growing demands of the community for increased technology/computers with internet access. Furthermore, the library is approaching capacity both internally with regard to storage space, and externally, as demands for parking often exceed the number of spaces available. Due to the size of the plot on which the facility is located, there is often a greater demand for parking during peak hours of operation that can only be met by additional parking spaces on the lawn or in the hospital parking areas nearby. Neither of these problems will be alleviated over time, but will in fact, be exacerbated by the continued development and growth of the greater Valdosta region. Potential plans to grow within the confines of the current facility are made more difficult by the close proximity to the facilities of South Georgia Medical Center and Valdosta State University, both of which are also growing and fighting for the limited real-estate resources within the area. SGRL has utilized the remodeling of its branches as a means of improving services within those areas and alleviating some pressures on the main branch. Some believe it is only a matter of time before the Central building will be rendered unsuitable to meet the growing demands of the community. With no options for outward growth, the library will be forced to tear down the building and start from scratch (thus reducing the services it can provide during the time period of the construction) or sell the property and move to another location.

10-YEAR FORECAST

The immediate future remains bleak as the system will have to continue to deal with the budget difficulties presented by a recession just as their services are needed most. However, it is anticipated that as soon as the economy begins to regain its footing, so will the SGRL. It is impossible not to envision a new main branch building within the next ten years; it is only the specifics that have yet to be decided. My forecast will see the library seeking a capital spending allotment to purchase a new property and construct a larger, more modern facility. The capital expenditure will be supplemented by selling the property to either South Georgia Medical Center or Valdosta State University, both of which are consistently looking to expand within their tightly locked real-estate areas. The current facility is well-designed and much loved, but has begun to be stressed by the current demands let alone those that will be placed on it in the future. It is hoped that the future plans will include the new demands of computer and internet access as an integral feature, and possibly even include an internet café that will serve as a bridge to the local college clientele.

SGRL Strategic Plan

The Regional Library Director, Chuck Gibson, has recently finished revising the Library's Strategic Plan; however, at the submission time for this paper, the plan had not yet been released to the staff or public. Due to the fact that the plan has not yet been released, I am unable to address specifics within the document. The Administrative Assistant to the Regional Library Director, Terry Prout, has informed me that during the development of the plan that the committee viewed the recent financial difficulties as temporary and thus irrelevant when developing a long range planning document. The Administrative Assistant did confirm that the plan addresses measures to relieve the parking pressures, processes for evaluating expansion (including the possibility of relocating), and the continuation of services aimed at meeting the information demands of the community.

As a concluding statement for the profile of the Valdosta-Lowndes Library I would like to say that I did not know I could learn so much about a library without day-to-day contact with the staff and interactions with the problems as they are happening. I always felt that I would not really know what it was like to work in a library until I get to experience it first-hand. I probably still have a lot to learn, but I feel better prepared for the obstacles I will face in this profession.

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