



## **Libraries Transform Communities: Community Conversation**

*Erin Kolb, adult services librarian*

On [Thursday, September 29](#), a handful of Asotin County residents accepted our invitation and met online for a conversation about library services and possible project ideas for a \$3,000 grant from the [American Library Association: Libraries Transforming Communities](#). Turnout for our virtual conversation was small, but lively! I took this opportunity to [share a bit](#) about what Asotin County Library offers in way of programs and services, specifically highlighting how we've adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bulk of our conversation focused on possible projects or new services we could offer our community with the generous \$3,000 award. We had some ideas up our sleeve and wanted to know if any resonated with our community. We also asked for other ideas hoping to learn more about our community's needs and interests. We wanted to know how the library might be able to help! Attendees were thoughtful and generous with their time, feedback and input!

What stood-out and was met with the most enthusiasm was the library's collection. I suppose this comes as no surprise since the collection is our bread and butter! The collection consists of books in various formats (regular and large print, CD audio, digital), movies, magazines, digital resources and it's the bulk of what we physically offer our community. Conversation centered on enhancing unique aspects of the Asotin County collection with special interest on highlighting local/regional authors and displaying our local history.

So! It is with delight that I share we are diligently working on boosting aspects of our collection with the awarded Libraries Transforming Communities grant. We are supporting our community of readers, movie-watchers, local/regional writers, and local history aficionados in a couple of ways:

- **New books! New books! New books!** We are busy adding new books – both fiction and non-fiction - by local and regional authors. Spine labels on these new books will highlight "Local Author", "Regional Author" or "Local History" making these titles extra easy to discover in the collection. Special thanks to Clarkston's independent bookseller Judi Wutzke at [And Books Too](#) who was a big help with this project. Stay tuned for a display coming soon to the downtown branch along with a curated digital collection available on OverDrive/Libby.
- **Book Club Kits!** We've added to our stash of kits. Kits include everything you need to start and host a book club. They contain multiple copies of a book and questions to generate discussion. Added titles include books by several Northwest authors: [Cloud Cuckoo Land](#) by Anthony Doerr (Boise, Pulitzer Prize winning author), [The Cold Millions](#) by Jess Walter (Spokane, 2021 Washington State Book Award Winner), [The Great Glorious Goddamn of It All](#) by Josh Ritter (Moscow, Idaho native), and [The](#)

*Magical Language of Others* by E.J. Koh (Seattle, 2021 Washington State Book Award Winner). Other titles include [Fuzz](#), [The House in the Cerulean Sea](#), [Parable of the Sower](#) and [The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation](#) by Anna Malaika Tubbs (Tubbs' mother is a Clarkston native!). For a full list of Book Club Kits available to borrow visit <https://bit.ly/ACLKits>.

- **Coming Soon ... Binge Boxes!** Our ever-popular DVD collection is getting an exciting boost! For the ultimate movie night, check out a Binge Box. These themed boxes consist of 4 to 6 DVDs in one case for easy check-out and quality bingeing ... popcorn not included. Themes include "I Call Shotgun", "You'll Ugly Cry", "Dino-Mite Movies", "Don't Miss This Creature Feature", "Tempt Your Palate" and more! Film bundles will be available for a variety of ages. Watch for these items to be added to our collection in the coming weeks.

Our community conversation encouraged us to explore special aspects of our collection. While the Library offers an amazing amount of programs and services (to name a few: [Tech Help](#), [Job & Career Services](#), [Laptop Kits](#), [Hotspots](#) for wireless internet connection, [science and crafts for kids](#)) we recognize the value and importance of books, especially those with a connection to our region. Thank you to all who contributed in our conversation. If you weren't able to join us, but want to learn more, have questions or other project ideas please reach out to me. I'm always up for library talk and I hope to continue to learn more about our community!

*Erin*

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**"A library is infinity under a roof" - Gail Carson Levine, author**