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**Update January 15, 2011**

The new year is here and the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library is busy! Based on my observations, the Encino and Tarzana communities are as enthusiastic about reading and movie-watching as ever. Currently, some of the most popular titles for adults are *The Confession* by John Grisham, *Room* by Emma Donoghue, *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, and *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen. Young adults are really into *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, the *Percy Jackson* and the *Olympians* series by Rick Riordan, and anything about vampires! And, kids are requesting books from the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney and the *Guardians of Ga'hoole* series by Kathryn Lasky. Also, we are always adding great new books and movies to the shelves, including those that are 'Hot-Off-The-Press.' Many new items are gifts from the Friends of the Library.

**The most awesome thing about the Los Angeles Public Library is that there is something here for everybody and it is entirely free.** At LAPL we have programs for children, teens and adults. We have a collection of over 8 million items, including books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, magazines, and electronic media. The Library provides free use of Internet/word processing computers and wireless connection for laptop users. The Los Angeles Public Library is a place to read, study, research, explore infinite subjects and ideas and gather with your friends. We are a not-for-profit organization, staffed by trained, knowledgeable, information-organizing and gathering specialists, that exists solely for the public's use and enjoyment.

**Annual Report November, 2010**

I began my assignment as Acting Senior Librarian/Branch Manager at the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library in early July 2010 and these past four months have been busy ones for me. My first observation of this branch was that this is an extraordinarily busy library. The staff, volunteers and patrons welcomed me immediately, offering their support, ideas and assistance. Right away I knew I was in a place where people care about their community and participate in shaping the quality of the service at the library. And, I was impressed by how involved the Encino-Tarzana Friends of the Library group is and their outstanding service to and support of this Branch.

My first month was spent actively observing and exploring the daily function of the Library and the large collection. I wanted to discover which sections of the collection are particularly popular and borrowed frequently, in order to try to enhance them; and how well our programs and services are received. This branch is one of the five busiest in the system and very well used by the community. Every week we have a variety of events going on in our community room. A number of organizations rent the room and present their own programs, but by far most of the

activity is a library or Friends of the Library event. The librarians at Encino-Tarzana are constantly planning and presenting programs many with generous funding and support of the Friends of the Library that are of interest to the community. Since I began here in early July, the Adult, Children's and Young Adult Librarians have presented over 40 programs, including Summer Reading Club events, story times, arts and crafts, special feature movie events, Teen Council Events, volunteer orientations; programs on opera, astronomy, doll fashion, organizing your home, recycling, and Social Security; cultural performances of song, dance and storytelling; book clubs, and a college preparation practice test. Additionally, I observed my first Encino-Tarzana Friends of the Library book sale and was amazed at the hard work and organization of Friends members. Their tireless efforts in planning, publicizing, sorting through thousands of donations, setting up and operating the sale made the August 2010 book sale one of the most successful ever.

I have continued the work of senior librarians who preceded me in collection maintenance. This collection serves a diverse community that loves to read and watch movies. We have limited space and we have to make the most of it. The audiobook and movie collections, and the cases in which they circulate, are funded not only through the Los Angeles Public Library's budget, but also through the generous and substantial support of Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club, and the Encino and Tarzana Neighborhood Councils. Both our Russian and Persian collections books, CDs and DVDs have expanded and we have made more room for them.

One change we have made is to arrange popular and frequently requested materials so that they are instantly visible and easily accessible, particularly to those patrons who are coming in for that one hot book they just heard about. The Information desk is one of the first things people see as they enter the branch, so we have our Travel books, Friends funded Hot-Off-The-Press, New Books (which includes Young Adult, Children's and Adult fiction and non-fiction books), audio books, and frequently requested reference items close by.

Updating our reference collection, adding the items that patrons rely on the library to have, such as latest edition dictionaries, antiques and collectibles price guides, stamp catalogues, frequently requested directories, medical guides, college and university guides has also been ongoing since I arrived. These days it seems that most people look to the Internet for information, and a good number of reference materials in book form are no longer in publication, but there are many that still are and a good number of library users in this community rely on these items and expect them to be on the shelves. We really try hard to have the books that people want here. Both the Children's and Young Adult Librarians know many of the children and teens who visit this branch and both are sensitive to the literary needs and desires of our young patrons, often relying on their feedback to guide them in their collection development.

The modern library is a place of learning, a place of leisure, of entertainment and a community meeting place, and the Encino-Tarzana Library is certainly representative of this. One goal that is important to me is that all citizens who visit the Encino-Tarzana Branch feel welcome and comfortable. While the wide-open space and glass walls of the interior are hallmarks of the architecture, we try to make each community group feel that they have a special place in this branch. For example, in an effort to make teens feel that they have a space here, the Young Adult Librarian and I have tried to make Young Adult section more inviting to teens simply by moving

large paperback racks to create a sort of wall of books and by rearranging the furniture to make the area seem more private. We regularly plan timely and thought-provoking displays in the branch for all to view, but often they have themes about the issues that are important to young people today.

Future goals of mine include continuing to work on maintaining the high quality of our collection as well as enhancing certain areas and developing new collections, such as an adult graphic novel section and enlarging our language learning CD collection. I am working on a pictorial display featuring the original Encino-Tarzana Branch Library and the current one, and looking into the possibility of a short series of local history lectures to coincide. I am also working on ways to support City Librarian Martin Gomez's goals of investing in new readers, helping students succeed and building the virtual library, with emphasis on the first two. I believe that one way to learn is to teach and an idea that came from the teens in one of our Teen Council meetings is a computer class for seniors taught by young adults. This would give them an opportunity to learn the value of the learning process and cultivate their skills as teachers as well as get involved in their community.

These past few months at Encino-Tarzana Library have been awesome. At first it was almost overwhelming. Nearly every aspect of this position was new to me. If not for a hardworking, knowledgeable staff and the generous support of the very active and always available Friends of the Library I would have foundered. While the public is used to seeing us in the public area, behind the counter checking out items to patrons and shelving books and helping people find information and use the computers, the staff is often most busy in the workroom and behind the scenes. In light of budget cuts and staff reductions, the Encino-Tarzana Branch staff continues to work hard to keep this library operating. Every day the Librarians, Clerks, and Messenger Clerks are busy assessing, ordering, processing and organizing thousands of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, and audio books; planning and presenting the types of programs important to this community; keeping in touch with schools and the community; making sure that the materials that this community wants are on the shelves; and helping to ensure that everyone's visit to the Encino-Tarzana Library is productive and pleasant.