

2014 Ohio SRP Evaluation – Comments and Suggestions

Appendix to 2014 Ohio Summer Reading Program Evaluation Final Report

This is a compilation of the evaluative comments and other narrative feedback from survey respondents. Comments are grouped by category but are otherwise unsorted. The categories are: CSLP themes/artwork/etc., Upstart products, State Fair coupon, State Parks certificate, Regional Library System workshops, State Library, and General Comments.

CSLP themes/artwork/etc.

We appreciate that the graphics include components appropriate for various age groups. Our teens didn't like the artwork for Spark a Reaction.

The science theme was fun and opened up a lot of possibilities for programs & presenters. Attracted boys to the SRP.

We found the CSLP manual more helpful for the children's and teens programming. The graphics were eye catching and the children loved the Science experiments.

Please note that the reading contracts contained in the manual should be changed as they could be deemed offensive or discriminative to those with disabilities, special needs or mental illness. They contained the statement 'able bodied and sound mind'.

I loved the theme and the artwork! It was a wonderful year!

Having to have a username and password just to look at the products is a pain. I understand needing an account to order items, but sometimes staff want to look but we don't want to share our account login and password.

We LOVED the science oriented theme for 2014!

The adult themes are always so childish.

This was an excellent program, kids loved the hands-on experiments, no one was bored!

We did not find the manual to be as helpful this year as it has been in the past. Also, we did not care for the artwork -- too dark.

More info on all the partners such as Bedtime Math would be helpful.

The manual and clip art were fantastic this year.

Not enough variety of ideas. Summer Reading Club is primarily about school aged programming at my library. There was too much time spent targeting all ages with the same topics. If there is a greater abundance of topics, I can adjust it for age myself. The more different approaches taken, the more likely it is I can find something I'm comfortable doing at MY library.

The children's artwork was delightful, and the teen artwork was okay, but the adult artwork was fairly unimpressive. Only the poster looked professional.

We used the teen theme for the Children's and Teen program. We were unimpressed with the slogan for the children's reading program in 2014. For 2015, we are also considering going with a library wide theme because of an awkward slogan and unrecognizable graphics (although we still enjoy the Punk Farm and Lunch Lady series)

This theme was very well received by all. We had a great summer of fun reading and programming.

Loved the art this year and used a lot of it!

Our patrons enjoyed the themes this year. They loved doing science experiments. We used a lot of the ideas in the manual, but added some of our own crafts and experiments. I think the manual is a great guideline. We appreciate all the hard work that goes into the CSLP summer reading program.

The artwork for the adult portion of the program is too juvenile-looking to appeal to our patrons. In 2015, we will use the same theme as the children's department to have a more cohesive experience for our readers.

The artwork for children is always nice and we use it, but sometimes it appears a little too juvenile for our middle school-age participants. We often like the teen artwork better (except for this year) and often use a combo of the two. It would also be nice if there were more background options for posters. A template that maybe included the theme and a nice border with enough blank space for your library name and space to promote programs for posters.

We loved the artwork this year. The manual had a lot of good information, but many of the activities were supply-heavy. Future manuals might benefit from more free or almost-free programs to offer. (We have the library support to provide these supplies, but it was discouraging to think of everything we had to buy.)

From an adult standpoint, it was very difficult to use the science theme. If the adults you are targeting do not enjoy or are interested in science, it's very hard to interest them into coming to programs or becoming involved in the summer reading program as a whole if they do not have an initial interest. From this standpoint, it was very difficult to incorporate.

The science theme was great--we had an increase in participation and a large increase in the number of kids/teens reading all the way to 20 hours.

Having a theme is a good thing to help us plan.

We really enjoyed the science theme this year. It was a lot of fun. It was easy to come up with program ideas.

As always, as many images as you can provide with the themed artwork in varying dimensions, with transparent backgrounds and without, would be greatly appreciated. Loved the Facebook cover photo this year! So helpful!

The children and teens especially had a fun time with this SRP theme. It seems anytime you can incorporate science experiments, messes, and summer it is sure to be a huge success!

We love to decorate our library with as much as the licensed artwork from CSLP as possible.

This year's artwork was good, however it felt like there wasn't enough different scenes in the artwork to use. They were all very similar. We like the quality of the artwork, we just want more!

I really liked the art work this year for kids. It was not too juvenile. Always need to gear artwork to 3rd, 4th & 5th graders, the little kids will always sign up, but if the trappings are too babyish the older kids don't want any part of it.

The children real enjoyed the science theme!

The theme was great. The kids loved all the hands on experiments.

The theme was awesome! There was so much hands on with the experiments we did each week the kids really enjoyed this year.

Update the recommended book list.

I loved this year's theme. I'm hoping for some really good ideas for next year's super hero theme, because I think it's going to be difficult to stretch that theme for 7 weeks. I would love to be proven wrong!

Was a fun theme but challenging to find appropriate crafts for all ages

The manuals could be available exclusively online and be equally as useful if not more so.

Thank you for the paper manuals. I still use them, as it's much easier to organize programs when you can shuffle around and write on the physical paper materials.

The manual needs improvement. With the advent of Pinterest and other online resources, the manual seems dated/not as useful. Don't really know what the answer is; I just know my staff finds very few ideas they can use for multi-age groups.

I would like the children, teen and adult slogans to all be combined. (One slogan, three takes on the artwork.) As a small library, a centralized theme AND slogan with coordinating artwork would make our program seem much more cohesive. I think its confusing to the patrons.

We LOVED this year's theme. The artwork was great, the programming ideas were great, but we also had a lot of fun coming up with ideas on our own. Our patrons were also very excited about the theme. We're very much looking forward to Heroes next summer!

We loved the graphics, and the theme was so fun we incorporated it into everything we did all summer.

Liked that they included a Facebook cover photo on the CD of images. Like that the manual included ways to modify the reading program for early childhood.

We really liked the artwork. I was contacted by a librarian in New Zealand that wanted info on one of our programs and asked if she could use the artwork. I sent her the contact info from the manual. The students loved the science theme and our "new" grid.

Really liked the theme this year. Easy to do STEM activities and kids were excited by the science related programs.

WE LOVED THIS THEME and we are looking forward to next year!

We had difficulty downloading artwork from the DVD

Loved this years science/ math theme! Our families had loads of fun! Made a lot of use of the Early Literacy Manual this year and found it very helpful.

It would be beneficial to have one theme for all ages and use the same artist with all. Have some elements that are older, some younger, but not a different name and artist for each age group.

This was a great theme! We loved the graphics provided by CSLP.

I was at a meeting just the other day with some NEO librarians and some of them weren't even familiar with the Platypus Police series, so the (2015) artwork made no sense to them. I love his Punk Farm and Lunch Lady series, but this seems like a missed opportunity to get some well-known comic book or graphic novel artists to design empowering and versatile artwork. The

signal light in the shape of a book for instance is a wonderful graphic that takes a recognizable icon of comic book history and alters it just enough to fit our purposes.

Upstart products

For the money, can't beat the incentives offered through Highsmith/Upstart. Artwork for the program was much better this year than last.

Please make adult and teen t-shirts available in 3X size.

Can we please work with Upstart/ Highsmith to get more reasonable ordering and shipping dates? It is crazy that it takes three months to get items. We ran out of some of the toy prizes we ordered and could not order more in the middle of the summer so had to order different items from Oriental Trading.

Upstart shipped us the incorrect items and when we called we were told that they were out of what we wanted so they had substituted other materials (without asking if we wanted them). Why does it take months and months to receive an order? I don't think we'll be ordering again. Too long of a wait and poor customer service.

I am always very frustrated with Upstart/Highsmith when they run out of their products. I also found it irritating that I was unable to get some samples in advance from them to share at a summer reading conference in November.

I wanted to give the Highsmith t-shirts as prizes this summer. But I wanted my library's name on it. Is there anyway there could be a one or two line personalization option on the back for a couple bucks?

Many of the incentives we purchased were not popular with the kids and teens.

Over the last few years, we have supplemented the themed products provided by Upstart with less expensive and more reliable products from other vendors. For instance, the balloons provided with the racecars were insufficient for the product, and children had a difficult time inflating them. Trading out the balloons seemed to fix the problem. By comparison, miniature slinkies purchased elsewhere were a huge hit, highly inexpensive, and less problematic.

I would love a music cd to go with the summer theme.

A lot of the products offered from Upstart/Highsmith are junk. Many of the trinkets don't work when we receive them or break right after the kids get them. I love the t-shirts and bags.

I purchased some of the incentive prizes for the first time this year from the catalog. Many of the slime containers broke or the slime was watery, and several of the light-up toys did not

work at all. I will not be purchasing these types of items again as I cannot afford the loss to my budget and time.

State Fair coupon

Kroger's gave a better discount to the State Fair than the coupon we gave out.

State Fair is too far from Painesville

Disappointed Ohio State Fair didn't send out free passes this year.

State Parks certificate

State Park coupons were very popular.

The Ohio State Parks coupon is not a popular one - when you read the fine print on the coupon, you will find that the coupon can only be used on a walk in basis. Most families with small children want to reserve a site, cabin etc. I have had parents return the coupon to me because it is "useless".

State Parks have many restrictions so when used in past people didn't want them

Too many restrictions on State Parks coupons.

Regional Library System workshops

I wish our workshops could be more of a demonstration and share like it had been in the past. I feel we gained so much more that way.

The SRP workshop hosted in the fall was a fantastic idea! The presenters were very informative and it "got the creative juices flowing" early.

SWON RLS workshops are always very, very good

Workshops should be earlier to help plan.

Very glad that SWON hosts the SR in Sept. as our PR is due before March.

We always enjoy our regional workshops through SWON. We appreciate them being offered early enough to help plan!

Had a wonderful time at the workshop in Wellston. Very informative and entertaining! I always leave with so many great ideas that people have shared. I look forward to it every year. It's a BLAST! :)

The summer reading workshop at the state library does very little for me. The best thing I get out of it is the networking. I love the idea shares that we do.

missed workshop this year--hope to be back next year--always helpful

I'd like to see more workshops offered in the Fall of the year prior to the next year's program. Winter workshops are too late to benefit our staff due to our publicity deadlines, so we have stopped sending anyone.

Even though we have a lot of our summer program already in the works by the time of the regional workshops, I really enjoy the all day summer reading program workshop and we get additional ideas to use in our own programs.

Summer Reading Workshops earlier so you can get the benefit of the knowledge. By the time they are presented you have most if not all of your planning done or you can't get entertainers.

State Library

I'd suggest stepping up the exposure for the state wide program on the state library's website. For example, I could not find the media public service announcement this year and had to finally email someone to ask for a link.

Could not get fair and park certificates to print

Didn't know there was a OSRP webpage, plus I find trying to find anything on the state library website impossible. I had to google this survey to find it.

If there would ever be monies for a public service campaign for television ads to help CSLP for adult summer reading programs at Ohio libraries, that would be nice. People may remember summer reading as children, but may not think about it as adults; This makes the promotion of summer reading for small local libraries a wild headache. I realize that these ads would have to be general and not specific, but for those libraries who adhere to the themes, maybe there could be a website where local libraries can indicate which teen and adult themes that they are using, e-mails to their applicable local television stations, and then CSLP or the State Library could send the video to the TV stations???

Where do we look for/or find the Ohio State Fair coupons and Park certificates for next year? Where do I find Info on an adult SRC? Thanks!

General comments

Our teen program, "Humans vs. Zombies" took place over 4 days and was rather successful. The teens really liked the "almost instant gratification" of completing the program in a short amount of time.

Wish more businesses would donate (McDonald's didn't give out kids meal coupons, Wendy's etc.)

Thank you for your support. Although we are free spirits and eschew registration and documentation of reading, we do appreciate the thematic inspiration and graphics that are provided. Also, next summer we are determined to better serve teens.

This year our library was under construction as we remodeled the original Carnegie portion of our building. We were unable to hold any programming in our storytime/craft room and did all programming off site or on the floor of the reference area. It was quite hectic and we purposefully did not promote adult programming or participation in our press releases or signage this year in an effort to ease some of the congestion. We also did not do our online program this year due to cost constraints.

I came into my position mid-July, so I am not sure what resources were used in the planning of SRC, but we did use the artwork and the manual for promotion and some programs. Teen department used more of the materials since they followed the state theme than children's used.

There are many library systems in Northeast Ohio who use the CSLP theme for summer reading programs. Patrons often frequent several of them so we wanted to offer something different from the other libraries in this area. However, we are very excited about super heroes!

I forgot to use the state fair and parks coupons this year. We were SO BUSY with kids using the library and programs that I never thought about them once we were in the thick of things.

I was not aware of many programs but will now know to access them for next year. This year was a crunch to get things started.

A great BIG thank you to the State Library and Janet for all of the hard work that goes into CSLP! It is appreciated immensely.

We would like to suggest that Budget packages of resources be made available for smaller libraries. Also would it be possible to collaborate with other libraries of a similar size to compare budgeted expenses for SRP?

It was a great STEM theme and went over very well! We were happy to provide a program for adults this year and it went over great!

We did Chicken Hatching at our library, and after the chicks hatched a mother told us she found eggs out of the fridge in her daughters bed so she asked the child what she was doing and the little girl told mom she was hatching chicks.

We had a 10% increase in the number of kids & teens who registered and an increase in the percent of kids reading 12 hours to complete the program.

We used the ticket method at our library that when they handed in either a book review on one of the worksheets. We had buckets set out with names of different prizes to win and at the end drew a name for winners (MudHen tickets, Gift card from Barnes and Noble, Combo meal from local pizza place, etc) Had a total of 682 tickets handed out over the Summer Reading Program. I find this works out better for adult programing.

This was our most successful summer reading program ever! We broke all previous records, including our circulation numbers. With the science theme we were able to create many hands-on programs and our participants seemed really excited about this.

We had a record number of registrants for our children's and teen's summer reading program. We really appreciate the support we receive from the State Library and CSLP. Thanks!

When we first got our manuals, we were unsure of how to progress with the theme. It all came together at the right time, and our program was a huge success and so much fun for staff and kids alike. Our Build-A-Bot program was a favorite with the kids and the community.

The Cleveland Gladiators offered 2 free tickets to 2 designated home games to each child who reached the halfway point by July 19. The local Menchie's Frozen Yogurt offered one 8 oz. cup of frozen yogurt to each finisher. Madison Square Lanes Bowling Alley offered one free game and shoe rental to each finisher. The library hosts an end of summer reading party where each finisher gets to soak a librarian!

I would like to say that the surrounding Libraries were very kind. They came with great programs and I am looking forward to working with them this coming summer :)

Had a wonderful SRP! The theme was awesome and you could really work around it. I had some new performers this year who were great!! Matt Jergens and Mr. Molecule were new to our library and did an outstanding job!! Also always love Mark Wood, Jeff Nicholas and Peter Rushton!! We also had a t-shirt contest for children ages 5-12 and 13-18. The winner got that picture put on a t-shirt and a \$20.00 gift certificate to Walmart. The staff also chose one of the winning pictures to put on a t-shirt to wear on a casual day to work. We laminated the

drawings and displayed them at the library. The kids really enjoyed this! Thanks for all the great information and hard work that you do!!

The weekly updates we receive from Janet Ingraham-Dwyer are very helpful. I have gotten a lot of useful information this way.

We were fortunate to work with the Columbus Center of Science and Industry, renting two of their Science Spots kiosks. We cannot even begin to guess how many people (all ages) interacted with these boxes.. It was a tremendously successful collaboration, and quite an achievement for our children's librarian, Kristy Spreng, for making it happen for this small, lower income rural community.

I just started this job. I look forward to utilizing all of these excellent resources.

In the past we have required ten books to be read before a child "completes" the SRP, but lately we've heard older kids saying that ten books are too many when we also require the books be age-appropriate, i.e. chapter books. We did this because we have had tweens checking out JE books by the ton and then claiming they read the most books so they qualify for the grand prize. We're unsure exactly how to rectify this, other than to change the tweens' requirement to five chapter books rather than ten. There will likely be changes in our program next summer, but we're still "at the drawing board" for ideas.

This year our community volunteers included our local fireworks expert who spoke about the science of fireworks, plus demonstrations! We also had a teacher who blasted off Model Rockets. Both were excellent programs for this year's theme.

The broad nature of this year's theme and its connection to STEM really made it popular. It also greatly impacted our nonfiction circulation for the summer.

I feel that all the children enjoyed the program we had a lot of fun doing the stories and crafts, and experiments that we did.

We had juggler Matt Jergens at our library for a program. The event was inside, and we thought that he might raise the roof, being so close to the ceiling - both his head (while on the unicycle) and the juggling pins. There were a lot of nervous parents, but it all turned out fabulously. The suspense was just wonderful.

This was my First Summer Reading as The Childrens Librarian at our library and it was an amazing experience all of the information was very helpful!

This year we raffled off a Google Nexus 7. For every week teens read 5 hrs during the summer they were entered in a drawing to win the prize at the end. Our goals for the prizes this year were 25 hrs for a book prize and an additional 10 for a second prize.

I bounce back and forth between the CSLP and iReads theme, depending on what they are. Sometimes I find that the CSLP themes are too complicated, or vary too much between age groups. I like to have a very cohesive theme between babies, toddlers, childrens, teens. We also did outreach to our preschools/daycares and received participation from about 200 kids.

The days read worked very well for us! Our participation increased considerably over last year.

We partnered with our local Girl Scout and Boy Scout councils to offer a participation patch to Scouts who completed the Kids or Teen SRC. While participation was low (probably due to late marketing!) we plan to offer this incentive again in 2015. For 2015 we are planning to offer a more experience-based/learning focused Summer Reading Challenge. We are in the very early planning stages so not sure what direction it may take.

It was a successful summer, thanks for the great theme and ideas.

Families that came to our science programs had a great time. Those who registered and never showed up missed out on a great summer. So sad that parents choose reading to give up for their children.

We're interested in offering a program that's a bit more interactive next year. Information about libraries offering summer "doing" programs or revamped summer reading programs or summer "gaming" programs would be extremely helpful.

We create our own game boards for the children that are able to read on their own. They really seemed to enjoy reading books about scientists and learning about different aspects of science. For life science, we had a wallaby come for a program. Children and adults alike enjoyed petting the wallaby.

Would love program suggestions, activities, etc. on how the adult program can use the same theme as the children's program.

Great job. I used the manual, CD and the website, numerous times planning and preparing for this years' summer reading program.

I just wanted to share that by having patrons switch from checking off each day that they read for 20 minutes, to tracking all the reading that they are doing, we saw a 400% increase in the amount of reading by children and teens over the course of Summer Reading Program! Also, fun fact: the average child or teen registrant who turned in reading time, read for 29 hours. The average registrant, regardless of whether or not they turned in reading time, read for 12 hours.