

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights November 2018

1. The library's Dark Stacks experience was a sellout in its second year, with this year's event featuring the stories of the Brothers Grimm. More than 200 people took our haunted tour through the German brothers' twisted tales, Oct. 25-27. Much of the event was held in frightfully dark and creepy backstage areas of the library building, providing the perfect backdrop for the scary and sometimes disturbing stories told along the way. Reviews of the event were positive, with those who completed a short survey saying that they would recommend the event.
2. The Children's & Family Outreach Department received 32 entries in our annual Pumpkin Pageant. The decorated (but not carved) pumpkins were displayed in the lower level and prizes were awarded in age and theme categories. A pumpkin decorating DIY Lab also drew 35 people on Oct. 20.
3. The Write Now Novel Writing workshop is wrapping up this month, with 16 participants taking a six-week deep dive into the process of writing a novel. The workshop followed the methods of New York literary agent and writing coach Donald Maass and was led by members of the Oshkosh Area Writers Club.
4. An estimated 1,100 people enjoyed the library's annual Grinchmas Celebration on Nov. 17, as part of the Whoville Holiday in Downtown Oshkosh. There were games, readings of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, a chance to write a holiday postcard to the Grinch and even a Whoville Hair Salon station where kids could get a stylish new "Whodo."
5. The library's First Floor has seen some changes recently, with most of the Internet computers moving to Second Floor and public services consolidated at the long checkout desk. Having one main service point alleviates confusion for customers who need to check out or ask questions. Use of the library's Internet stations is down, so fewer units are needed. The changes also free up space for other possible uses, including more comfortable seating for adults and a centralized business center with copier, fax machine and other office supplies in one convenient location for library users.
6. Guest presenter Antje Petty did a program on Nov. 5 in conjunction with the exhibit, ***In Their Own Words: German Americans in the WWI Era***. Petty discussed how German-Americans saw world events and their own position in American society in the years before, during and after the Great War. Fifty-two people attended the program. Petty and the exhibit, which was at the library Oct. 15-Nov. 5, both hail from the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at UW Madison.

7. The program ***Black Thursday Remembered: 50 Years Later***, looked back at a racially-charged event on the UW Oshkosh campus during which 94 African American students occupied the university president's office and were subsequently expelled. The event was attended by 43 people and was presented in partnership with the university.