Log 3

The last few weeks have been winding down fast without a notice except to keep in mind that the reading and postings must be done. My mind is stuck on the previous week's reading and with a few weeks to do the work, I am trying to get the ball rolling on understanding what I can about librarianship and learn from others.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I was planning to do two more service learning sessions but with the Tazhii (Navajo for turkey) holiday and the librarians wanting more hours to work at the Martha Cooper library, I was left to work for four and a half hours, which would complete my service learning through Martha Cooper library.

On my third day doing my service learning, I was shadowing the librarians at the reference desk, I would help patrons in locating, checking out, reserving and at time discussing books, authors, movies & directors. Since I was Native American, I suggested some books & movies of interest from our (550) Tribal Collections for the patrons to reserve or if it was at the library, I would show them where it was.

As I was working, I had the chance to speak with one librarian in particular named Mary, who is a consulting collaborative that specializes in social marketing and design that, helps non-profits and businesses that work towards the public good. We got into a discussion about the current need for designers and developers to aid libraries in creating usable online libraries, upto-date websites and mobile websites, so that users can reserve items from home or on a mobile device.

As we talked patrons would stop by the reference desk to checkout, reserve, renew, make payments, get ID numbers for the computers, a demand for a particular book or genre, some would apply for a new library card or others would ask for a new one. I felt the conversation was good because the librarians there demonstrated their willfulness to work with the public and trying to make the Martha Cooper library, a community center where everyone can come and use their services.

My time with the Martha Cooper library will not be forgotten because of how they were able to do some much with so little. Their funding comes from friends of the library, who allow the library to create programs that are a hit or a miss and they understand what not to do. They have a strong sense of resiliency in serving, outreaching, programming and accepting. I will use this experience in molding my ideas on what to expect with public and tribal libraries.