

Farewell Message from the Library Director

I have said this many times since the announcement of my retirement, but I am most sincere in sharing again that it has been a tremendous privilege to lead Madison Public Library. It seems like yesterday that I was arriving in Madison for my first time and being considered for this position, and to be fortunate enough to have been selected. There have been many memories created of accomplishments and challenges during my tenure, and I am extremely proud of what we have achieved during that time.

Thank you to the many members of the Library Board who served during my time for your guidance and support of our libraries and services. Thank you to City leadership - to the Mayors and Alders who see the value in our work and make our mission a reality. Thank you to the many community leaders who stepped up to partner with Madison Public Library so we could help each other in service to our common communities. And thank you to our amazing staff that continue to be the most important element to our success. Without your hard work and dedication, we could not have achieved the level of service and resources that is so essential to enrich the lives of our patrons.

My time at Madison Public Library has been truly special in my career that has spanned over 40 years of work in libraries. I have had the pleasure to work in just about every position there is in a library (even in a few that no longer exist!) Many of my most fond memories are from working reference and service desks. As library workers we can make a real difference in people's lives. Now in my leadership role I support and advocate for the staff who are making a meaningful difference for people—and that too has been especially rewarding.

I have been very fortunate to have had a career working in public libraries. And despite the rollercoaster of experiences this work demands, I will always be drawn to a favorite quote by Jorge Luis Borges, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library. "

I hope you will always recognize in good times and challenging times that libraries stand for the common good that needs to be supported. I wish you continued success to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Mickells