

Tina Kakuske Retires



My first library job was in 1993 at the Eger Free Public Library in Evansville, WI, where I was a library clerk. Then I became Head of Adult Services and was promoted to Assistant Director. I also filled the Interim Director role at one point.

I was then hired at the Beloit Public Library as Head of Circulation and later was promoted to the Head of Adult Services where I led several teams including Adult and Teen Programming, Reference, and Collection Development.

When the second posting for the Door County Library Director position appeared, I applied and was honored to be chosen in 2017 to lead the Door County Library.

I have always loved reading and being in libraries since first going to the library as a child. As an adult, I was a classical musician and teacher, and I wanted to find a part-time job to supplement my music income. When I moved to Evansville and noticed that there was a part-time position open at the local library, I applied and was hired. Within a short period of time, I knew that I wanted to learn more and move ahead in the library field.

There have been a lot of changes in the library world since I was a child. But the biggest change came in the early 1990's, when libraries started to put their card catalogs online and enabled electronic check out and check in. When I started in the library field, my small town library had just gotten their first computer! At that time staff still took daily, monthly and yearly statistics by hand and manually recorded them in a ledger. The physical card catalog lasted a few more years, but was gone by 1998. We also used discs with information on them that was 6 months old to order Interlibrary Loan (ILL) requests. Nowadays, libraries cannot function without computers and technology, which is integrated into every aspect of library service, and the speed of transaction is immediate.

In retirement, I look forward to having time to read books! Also, I hope to continue to explore Door County and revisit past trips to northern Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.