

## OVERVIEW OF THE GUAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

### Mission Statement

**The Guam Public Library System will provide free and open access to information and ideas fundamental to a democracy to every resident of Guam, and will protect intellectual freedom, promote literacy, encourage lifelong learning, and maintain cultural materials.**

The Guam Public Library System (GPLS) currently serves the whole island community of Guam, with its branch libraries located in several villages (“village” – *small island communities-municipalities*) around the island. This includes individuals with special needs and Guam’s elderly.

Guam is a United States Territory in the western Pacific located about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines. The Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library is the Main Library and is centrally located in Hagatna, the capitol of Guam. Guam is approximately 212 square miles with a population of approximately over 159,350 people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. *Chamorros* comprise the island’s indigenous population and the island’s “*Manamkos*” (elderly) are considered a very important part of their culture. Other ethnic groups, in order of size, include Filipinos, other Pacific Islanders, Caucasians, and other Asians. In addition, there is a large number of Americans, including roughly 12,000 U.S. military – related personnel stationed on Guam. The government and construction industry generate a large percentage of local jobs with the private sector relying heavily on tourism.

The Agat branch is located in the southern part of the island and Dededo in the northern part, both near a military installation; Barrigada centrally located; Yona south centrally located; and Merizo located in one of the southernmost part of Guam. Several schools, low-income housing and daycares are also located near several of these branches. All GPLS branch libraries are similar in design, staffing, holdings and operation and are roughly 4,800 square feet in size and staffed by one library technician. The Main Library has a collection of approximately over 266,000 books and non-book items, and over 61,000 library cardholders. It is also located approximately 500 feet near a school where oftentimes children are seen utilizing the library after school. In 2011, a grant from the Department of Interior awarded to the Guam Public Library System the amount of \$1,586,000.00 for the main library. The main library has not had any major improvements in at least the last 40 years. After being closed for several months, the library finally opened its door to the public on March 3, 2016, with improvements toward the existing building with its first ever study room *and* game room, and a *NEW* building which is a children’s library and internet café.

## THE SURVEY

The survey conducted was for the Guam Public Library's 2016 Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program is an annual event and is one of our most popular literacy programs. This year, the program was held from June 6, 2016 through July 14, 2016. The main purpose of this event is to promote literacy as well as the value of reading by encouraging participants, **ages 0-12** years, to read for fun and enjoyment, especially during the summer. Total of (240) participant registered for the program. Taking into consideration the renovations, and the *new* children's library, this is the first time ever a survey has been conducted for the program.

### Current Survey

#### Objectives

The objectives of this survey were:

1. To measure how successful the Library has been in meeting the needs of the participants.
2. To measure levels of awareness of informing the public of the program.
3. To identify areas of improvement.

### Questionnaire

The survey conducted had the following questions:

1. How did you learn about the Summer Reading Program?
2. Participation in the Summer Reading Program – first time this year? More than once?
3. How many children participated under the care of the parent?
4. As a result of the participation in the program, did your child(ren):  
Enjoyment of reading – Increase or remain the same?  
Reading skill – Increase or remain the same?  
Amount of reading – Increase or remain the same?
5. Comments.

### Administration

The Survey was designed by the Library Survey Team in the Administrative Support Unit. The team consists of the Project Director, Library Technician Supervisor, Program Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and the Clerk Typist III. In discussions prior to the survey, it was agreed by the Team to simplify it with closed-end questions. Closed-end questions have a higher response rate because they ask a little less of participants.

A total of 200 printed surveys were distributed from June 1 to July 30, 2016 between the Main Library and the(5) branches. The surveys were also posted online via the library's website.

### Presentation of Findings and Analysis

The findings are presented as a percentage based on the number of respondents and comments noted on survey

## FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY

A total of 67 patrons completed the printed survey, giving us a response rate of 34%.

### Results as follows:

#### Question No. 1

How did you learn of the Summer Reading Program?

At school	-	9%
At my local library	-	43%
Flyer	-	19%
Word of mouth	-	18%
Website	-	10%

#### Question No. 2

We participated in the Summer Reading Program

<input type="radio"/> For the first time this year	-	60%
<input type="radio"/> More than once	-	40%

Survey results from questions No. 1 and No. 2, reflect an increase of *new* participants with the program and an indication of the library's commitment in the planning and promotion of library events and the dissemination of program information.

#### Question No. 3

How many children, under your care, participated in the Summer Reading Program?

Survey results:

One child	-	19%
Two – seven children	-	45%
Eight or more children	-	36%

The numbers suggest the need to continue and sustain the Summer Reading Program. It encourages parents to be involved in their children's reading and play a huge role in literacy development.

#### Question No. 4

As a result of the participation in the Summer Reading Program, did your child(ren).....

	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Remain the Same</b>
Enjoyment of Reading	79%	21%
Reading Skill	64%	36%
Amount of Reading	72%	28%

Survey results show an increase with all three. There needs to be more emphasis on reading for FUN to further develop interests.

## Comments on Surveys

“kids enjoyed themselves and loves coming to the library”

“I love it very much! Thank you people. The library is awesome”

“my daughter enjoyed everything about the summer reading program”

“my kids got to read better and enjoyed every minute of it”

“great program and I will be back next year”

“thank you for the arts & crafts and for encouraging kids to read more. Great program!”

“well organized and friendly staff”

“my kids learned a lot and had fun. This summer they weren’t bored”

“doing a great and wonderful job”

“so much fun to meet new friends and new books”

“staff and presenters were awesome”

“I love how they all interact with each other”

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Review the previous summer reading program. What were your successes? What weaknesses can you identify? What does the statistics tell you?
2. Plan the components of the program.
3. Seek community support for the program.
4. Seek school support for the program.
5. Publicize and promote the summer reading program both in the library and the community

**SUBMITTAL OF SRP SURVEY'S**

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>SURVEY'S SUBMITTED TO BRANCH</b>	<b>SURVEY'S COMPLETED</b>
Hagatna	75	53
Agat	25	0
Barrigada	25	5
Dededo	25	4
Merizo	25	4
Yona	25	1

**Total survey's distributed       :       200**

**Total survey's completed        :       67**

**Response rate                       :       34%**