On January 27th Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library in Brundidge held their Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. Kids participated in a short Dr. King timeline and games such as Martin’s Big Words (similar to Pin the Tail on the Donkey), Bingo, and memory games related to Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. Attendees also participated in Dreams Rock, where they decorated rocks with meaningful words or phrases. The kids were allowed to take the rocks with them and place them in different locations around town. At the end of the program, they released balloons as they did in 1986 when Dr. King’s birthday became a holiday.
The Birmingham African American Genealogy Group hosted a Black Heritage Fair on February 3rd at Birmingham Public Library (BPL) to kick off the Central Library’s 2018 Black History Month programs. The event featured African dance and art, speakers on genealogy and researching black family history, and educational displays. Eighteen of BPL’s 19 library locations are hosting over 80 Black History Month programs during February.

BPL is displaying “Textures of Jazz: Threads of Change,” a 25-piece jazz portrait exhibition by Birmingham artist Leanna Leithauser Lesley, from February 6th to March 31st in honor of Black History Month. Her collection of jazz needlepoint portraits is accompanied by biographies explaining the role each musician played in jazz history, American history, and civil rights history. The exhibit featured two workshops by the artist and live music on February 14th and 15th.

Leithauser Lesley received a B.A. in Art Education from Auburn University. Though she has done art in many mediums throughout her career, her passion as an avid needle pointer and music lover led her to put together the “Textures of Jazz” exhibit. Her exhibit has appeared across the Southeast, including Atlanta and at the Hoover Public Library in 2017.

The BPL Spinners Club met on February 6th in the Central Library’s Story Castle. The brainchild of Russell Lee (featured below), Library Assistant III in the Art, Literature & Science Department, BPL Spinners Club is a music-based program where attendees aged 18 and up listen to and discuss preselected music recordings. The club explores a different genre of music monthly. The inaugural session focused on blues.

Winfield Public Library’s recent story hour had a space theme. The children enjoyed two books about outer space and planets before creating their own planets!
Using Public Library Survey Data to Tell Your Story Part II, by Stephanie Taylor, APLS Consultant

To reiterate what we discussed in Part I ([http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds_2018_01_19.pdf](http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds_2018_01_19.pdf)), statistics are an important part of telling your library story. Impact stories and outcome measures are essential, but you also have to know the quantitative part of the story to see trends and find out what services are growing or shrinking. Libraries are required to collect data for the Public Library Survey, so you already have the information at your ready. Part I covered how to use Bibliostat Connect to pull comparison data into a table. In Part II we will go over some other ways to display your data.

Charts and graphs are a great way to illustrate your point. Bibliostat Connect allows you to pull your data into this format just as easily as a spreadsheet or table. Login to the link provided using the same username and password you use in Collect: [http://collectconnect.baker-taylor.com/](http://collectconnect.baker-taylor.com/). Follow the steps in Part I to choose the data you need.

After you select the data, you will choose which format you want to view it. Check the Graph option. Next enter a title if you’d like. For this example, I pulled 10 years’ worth of visit statistics for Woodville Public Library, hence the title listed. Bibliostat data goes back several years so you can easily see growth or decline of library services. You can also label the X and Y axis. If you are comparing more than one element, you can choose how to group them from the dropdown. For Data Type, you can choose one of four choices from the dropdown. Rank is the default selection and will work best in this scenario. You can choose a color scheme and Graph Type as well. If you are comparing several years of data, a bar or line graph works well. Try several different settings to get the chart that works best for your needs. Once you have chosen your settings, click Next.
Your graph will be displayed, and there are several more options here to tweak it. You can see the different color options with the dropdown menu shaped like a paint palette. You have the option to print or send yourself a jpeg by entering your email address at the bottom and clicking the submit button. This is a great tool for strategic planning.
Using the chart function is also a great way to illustrate and compare similar services. In this example, I used Florence-Lauderdale Public Library's book vs. electronic material circulation from 2013, the first year we collected e-book statistics, and from 2016. You can make pie charts to better visualize other proportional data, such as comparing program attendance or circulation among the different age groups.

Bibliostat Connect is a great resource for visualizing your data. What are some ways your library uses the Public Library Survey results? If you need help using this tool, please contact me at staylor@apls.state.al.us.