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Library director plans poll

By **C.D. MATTHEWS**
Staff Writer

LANSING — The newly hired Lansing library director plans to survey residents on what they want from their library after she takes over the top job next month.

"It has been a long time since a complete survey was done. A survey helps to set the library's role," said Janice Bojda, who takes the reins Nov. 5.

Bojda said the Lansing library conducted a survey about two years ago, but it did not include responses from a cross section of the community.

She said the American Library Association recommended surveys as "a tool to determine how a library is going to spend its money," but added that not all survey recommendations would necessarily be put into action.

"If the community wants me to serve coffee and doughnuts every morning until 10 a.m., I don't

know about that," she joked. "I'm in the library business, not in the doughnut business."

Heading the Lansing library will be a homecoming for Bojda, who grew up in Lansing and attended St. Ann Grammar School

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and Thornton Fractional South High School.

"I got my first library card in Lansing," said Bojda. "I felt I owed something to the community."

Bojda, 32, will move from a smaller library, the Indian Prairie Public Library in Willowbrook,

where she heads the children's section.

The Lansing library, 2750 Indiana Ave., is nearly four times as large and houses 95,000 books, compared to 50,000 at Indian Prairie.

Despite the size difference, the Lansing library has fewer employees, about 20 full- and part-time staff members, compared to 48 employees at Indian Prairie.

Bojda, who has a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois in Champaign, also was director of the Park Forest library and the Grand Prairie library in Hazel Crest.

Bojda will draw on her 10 years of library management experience to provide additional training for the Lansing library staff.

Beyond that, Bojda said it was premature to discuss her plans except to say she will listen closely to the library board. "They're in charge," she said.



Staff photo by George Bertonz

Janice Bojda, the new Lansing library director, cuts the cake at a welcome reception for her Thursday at the library.