Celebrating Literature
Vanessa, a 4th grader, visited with "artistrator" E.B. Lewis at BPL's Inaugural Youth Literature Festival. Lewis autographed *Tea Cakes for Tosh*, a picture book he illustrated.
From the Library Director

- The year 2015 is in the record books for BPL’s **highest circulation**, totaling 651,289 checkouts of physical items and downloadable content.
- Usage of print and audiovisual materials continues to climb, alongside eBooks, digital audiovisuals and magazines, plus streaming music. **Digital downloads** totaled 114,966; this was a **48% increase** over 2014.
- BPL expanded tech access with new eLearning resources and growth of our **BPL Tech Card** program.
- Our Materials Recovery Program continues to promote the responsible return of library assets, recouping **$29,040.41** in materials, fines and fees.
- The Library experienced increases in many categories of use over the prior year with a **26% growth in program attendance**. This increase is comprised of new programs, library outreach activities, passive programming and cross-departmental offerings for children, teens and adults.
- Public computer use at BPL is declining; this is a **national library trend** due to the growing use of personal devices. BPL’s WiFi use and other digital services continue to increase.
- BPL established a solid **partnership** with the **Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department** to open a Mini-Branch Library at the new Community Center. BPL at the Community Center is where the ‘Epicenter of Fun’ meets Lifelong Learning!
- Bentonville’s Inaugural **Youth Literature Festival**, hosted by BPL in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, was a lovely event that was well-received by our community.
- The Library **upgraded circulation technology** that was outdated and inefficient. New hardware and software programs were implemented through planned budget expenditures and phased projects.
- BPL partnered with Bentonville Film Festival to host **The Library Series** for BFF’s inaugural celebration of women and diversity in film.

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**Bentonville Public Library Budget**

**Library Expenditures**

- Personnel Salaries: $662,821
- Personnel Benefits: $181,483
- Library Materials & Digital Resources: $252,491
- General Operating & Maintenance: $244,250
- Capital Expenditures: $91,499
- **Total**: $1,432,543

**Library Revenue**

- Cost-Recovery Fees & Overdue Fines*: $58,844
- Grant Funds & Donations**: $9,200
- **Total**: $68,044

**Contributions**

- Materials: $44,759
- Monetary Donations**: $64,021
- Volunteerism: $193,615
- **Total**: $302,394

*Revenue continues to increase due to BPL’s Materials Recovery Program; MRP recovery totals $99,900+ (Jul 2012-Dec 2015).

**Monetary contributions were made to partner 501c3 groups to support library collections, the Youth Lit Fest and the Summer Reading Club (includes foundation’s end-of-year appeal).
### BPL Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>651,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Visits</td>
<td>298,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Attendance</td>
<td>49,509</td>
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<td>43,738</td>
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<td>Computer Usage</td>
<td>29,041</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material Requests Filled</td>
<td>22,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Library Cards*</td>
<td>13,824</td>
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<td>7,815</td>
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<td>Meeting Room Attendees</td>
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<td>Collection Size</td>
<td>131,070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Value</td>
<td>$2,859,012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New Library Cards include the BPL Tech Cards issued to 8,400 students*

**Library Tours and Outreach attendance included with Program Attendance

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### Technology Supports Learning

- Our innovative **BPL Tech Card** program expanded to 11 schools in the Bentonville Public School District, with more than 8,400 cards distributed to students.
- Nine new databases were added for younger audiences, history and science topics: Capstone **PebbleGo**, Rosen **PowerKnowledge** and **Core Concepts**, and Scholastic **FreedomFlix** and **TrueFlix**.
- **Flipster** is a product that provides access to popular magazines titles.
- A new **Kid Tech Portal** was launched at BPL providing direct links to library databases.
- Visit [www.bentonvillelibrary.org](http://www.bentonvillelibrary.org) to access BPL Downloadables, eLearning resources and the Student Portal.

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### Donation Sponsors

**Tech Cards**

Special thanks to the Ron McDevitt Agency, Farmers Insurance for sponsoring 2015-2016 Tech Cards with a gift of $2,665 to the Bentonville Library Foundation.

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*The BPL Tech Card program is in partnership with*
Youth Literature Festival
Bentonville’s Inaugural Event

“When libraries, authors, illustrators and children connect, ... magic happens!”
This lovely sentiment from Obert Skye was a reality on May 2nd in Bentonville.

Bentonville’s Inaugural Youth Literature Festival, hosted by BPL in partnership with the Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department, was attended by 1,250 participants.

Thirteen authors and illustrators of youth literature inspired attendees of all ages in a celebration of reading, writing and creativity.

The festival was considered an “official event” by Children’s Book Week!

Amazing Talent
These authors and illustrators are people who possess amazing talent, humility, thankful hearts and genuine interest in their readers.

[R: Front / L to R: Marie Smith, Kashmira Sheth, Mary Casanova and E.B. Lewis; Back / L to R: Obert Skye, Ard Hoyt, Roland Smith, Janet Wong and Henry Cole; Not pictured: Cheryl Harness]*

Special Thanks
In addition to our partnership between the Library and the Parks and Recreation Department, Bentonville’s Youth Literature Festival was supported by grants, private donations, gifts, in-kind contributions and sponsorships. BPL is grateful to Bethany Culpepper, co-founder of the Bentonville Youth Literature Festival, for her hard work and passion.

Bentonville Film Fest
Joining our city and community to welcome the inaugural Bentonville Film Fest (BFF), the Bentonville Public Library hosted “The Library Series.” The series focused on educational panels and workshops that were free to attend.

- Fly Low Jack and the Game with Nora Brown and Mike Champlin
- Seed & Spark: Crowdfunding Workshop by Emily Best
- Connecting the Dots presented by Anna Martemucci
- A Director’s Process with Catherine Hardwicke

*Tina Hoisington, literacy teacher and 2015 festival volunteer, commented on the authors’ and illustrators’ “amazing talent.” Photo by Bethany Culpepper.
BPL at the Community Center
Bentonville Public Library partnered with the Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department to open a Mini-Branch Library at the new Bentonville Community Center.

BPL at the Community Center features an exterior book drop, internet computers, materials available to check out, browse-able magazine and newspaper collections and outreach library programming.

New self-service kiosks were introduced to the public with Parker and Rex at the Mini-Branch! New library materials stock the shelves in the two lounge areas. Bestsellers, large print, movies, plus health and fitness resources are available to check out by patrons of the Bentonville Library.

BPL’s Mini-Branch has been well used by visitors to the Community Center! Patrons have checked out 4,246 library materials from the 1,965-item collection; this is equivalent to 216% collection use. The convenient exterior book drop is also popular with 6,998 books and audiovisuals collected (May – December 2015).

The project was primarily funded by the City of Bentonville, with donations and sponsorships to support magazine and book collections. Designated funds in the Library’s operating budget will support the mini-branch in future fiscal years.

The Bentonville Community Center is located across town at 1101 SW Citizens Circle. Featuring a gymnasium, indoor track, exercise equipment, meeting rooms, outdoor spaces, competition pool and interactive leisure pool, the facility is 83,000 square feet with a price tag of $16.5 Million. The library presence is included as a unique amenity. BPL appreciates David Wright and Lee Famer for their supportive partnership. Learn more about the Community Center at www.playbentonville.com.

New & Improved Technology
The library upgraded RFID (radio frequency identification) equipment that was more than eight years old to improve efficiency and enhance the customer experience.

Existing security gates were ‘end-of-life’ and no longer supported; the new gates are sleek and modern!

New self-service kiosks replaced outdated equipment. The main library introduced Arwen, Frodo and Gandalf to library patrons in August.

Staff workstations at the Check Out desk were also upgraded.
Children’s Services
- The Bogle Family Children’s Library expanded its program offerings to include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) activities.
- Read to Obi was added to BPL’s Ruff Ruff Read therapy dog storytime schedule.
  - Art, LEGO® and DUPLO® offerings are now included as passive programs that foster creativity and learning through hands-on activities.
  - Attendance at children’s programs increased 16% over 2014 attendance.
  - Summer Reading Club participants logged 29,682 hours; readers were kids, teens and adults!

Teen Zone
- Teen collection checkouts increased 110% over the prior year.
- Teen volunteerism totaled 4,650 hours of service to our library.
- Local author Karen Akins discussed her book, LOOP, with the Teen Book Club.
- BPL partnered with the Bentonville Police Department to offer Safe Driving Lessons for Teens.

Adult Services
- Program attendance at adult offerings increased more than 100% over the prior year.
- BPL produced several tabletop gaming events, along with crafts for adults and other new offerings.

The Library Team
Cross-departmental offerings included Youth Lit Fest, Free Comic Book Day, Summer Reading, the Tech Card campaign and other initiatives for all ages reaching more than 3,000 patrons.

Program Volunteers
Karen Akins
Katherine Auld
Katrina Baker
Laura Brewer
Sarah Burks
Darby Bybee
Melsine Carter
Sandra Chandler
Srikar Chikkala
Cody the Dog
Jenna Cook
Mattie Couch
Carol Cowell
Shruti Dere
Shevawn Dillingham
Tim Ernst
Leslie Evans
Ashley Feng
Marissa Fennell
Katie Fitch
Melanie Gartside
Diane Giannini
Namrata Gopinath
Larry Gramling
Amber Harris
Jonathan Holmes-Smith
Kathleen Holmes-Smith
Houston Hughes
Tricia Jennings
Jesse the Dog
K.B. Kidder
Susan Knapps
Danielle Koerner
Nick Lai
Rick Marshall
Chas McCoy
Obi the Dog
Margaret Ann Parenti
Roman Rios
Teresa Robinson
Paula Ryburn
Ross Sanchez
Matthew Sisson
Sophie the Dog
Alan Thomason
Corrin Troutman
Mike Vass
Ed Wheeler
Charles Wright
Zaida the Dog
Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board members represent our community, advising on all library business. The volunteers are presented by the Mayor of Bentonville for appointment by the City Council.

Members: Aaron Jones, Judy DeGarmo, Elaine Kerr, Judy Marquess, Kimberly Seay; Chair: Hadi Dudley; Ex Officio: Octavio Sanchez, Brenda Compton and Michelle Vargas

[R: Board & Mayor recognize David Wright & Lee Farmer]

Teen Advisory Board 2015-2016

Teens apply and are selected through a panel interview process. These young leaders advise on library services that support our community’s teenagers. Teen Advisory Board members volunteer for special projects throughout the year including a “1,000 Books for 1,000 Readers” book drive, Summer Reading Club workshops and represent BPL at outreach programs in the community.

Junior Partners

Gina Allen  Nick Mitchell  Ally Swindell  Lori Todd
Mackenzie Allen  Nadine Moustafa  Kevin Swindell  Raja Valli
Amy DeMania  James Orejuela  Amy Thomas  Daniel Vogel
Mackenzie DeMania  Kate Orejuela  Lilli Thomas  Susan Vogel
Michelle Garcia  Nicole Orejuela  Joan Timmerman  Angelica Yang
Norma Garcia  Laasya Ravigati  Megan Timmerman  Estrella Yang
Vinod Kanna  Sravya Ravigati  Bria Todd  Nhia Yang
Sandra Leal  Eric Rosales  Kinley Todd  Snow Yang
Dardyn Mitchell  Amal Soliman

Adult Volunteers

Andrew Adams  Elizabeth Fuller  Sidharthan Madhavan  Sudha Shanmuganathan
Deepika Anantharaman  Taylor Genser  Mamie Matteri  Divya Sivasankaran
Dana Apple  Andrew G. George  Joshua Matthews  Sabrina Stephenson
Minu Babel  Melissa Halsema  Jeff Myers  Tiffany Stephenson
Narayanan Balagopalan  Rene Harper  Madhu Nagadjody  Nandini Tedla
Gorian Barquero  Nick Harvey  Zeena Nair  Ramya Thiagarajan
Kaitlyn Bewley  Lucas Hobson  Adela Nochebuena  Shervon Thomas
Morgan Brown  Archana Kalidindi  Dominique Nyce  Ramyasai Uppuluri
Amanda Bryson  Narmadha Karthick  Cathy Otto  Preeti Varshney
Sandy Buckley  Suguna Krishnamurthy  Rebekah Parsa  Vamshi Veggalam
Megan Byrnes  Narmada Krushna  Jordan Perry  Holly Wertens
Margaret Curry  Teresa Lamantia  David Plunk  Pamela Willis
Marbella De Salvador  Roni Lewis  Vinita Ramakrishnan  Ulyana Zavadskaya
Petula DeSylva  Mark Lloyd  Diane Rennell  Amanda Zoellick
Kalpana Devarasetty  Monica Lopez-Gallo  Akshaya Samy

L to R: Delaney Pollard, Shruti Dere, Sadie Pate, Nikhita Nakka, Autumn Roberts, Christofel Enslin; Front: Austin Kreulach

Not Pictured: Vakula Mallapally, Trevor Smith and Saranya Varanasi
Teen Volunteers

Hashane Abey          Stephanie Galen          Mirdula Manivannan          Anna Robertson
Gabrielle Agcaoiili  Aaliyah Garcia         Rithu Manoharan            Katelyn Robinson
Jessie Agcaoiili     Matthew Gates           Ruth Martinez              Jason Rosete
Lily Agnacian         Aaron Gbedey            Cassie McCreary            Joshua Rugger
Jose Aguilar          Wesley Gernstetter       Cayla McGrl               Paula Ryburn
Benjamin Allen        Namrata Gopinath         Nathan McSpadden           Sri Sanjanaledalla
Isabella Anderson     Mackie Gregory          Omar Moustafa              Lydia Scallion
Max Arteaga           Zander Gregory           Abdussaabo Muhammad        Lauren Skinner
Khadeeja Asif         Alec Gudenaau            Haadiya Muhammad           Alex Solis
Emily Badeen          Yashika Gupta           Pranav Natargjan           Estefano Soria
Maddy Baumhover       Courtney Gutche         Meesha Naveen              Jacob Spinato-Taylor
Shiloh Beeler         Whitney Haak             Nickolas Newnham           Kaelyn Stewart
Ethan Bennett         Alison Harp              Christina Olson            Nithya Sundar
Lizzy Bermudez        Nicholas Herlevic         Stephanie Olson            Tanvi Sunkireddy
Emma Berndt          Monica Hernandez          Brenner Ordendorff         Robyn Surber
Madelyn Bertrand      Alyssa Hobbs             Marie Osmola               Amirtha Sureshbabu
Nikita Britto         John Horton              Kaylan Oxford              Hayley Szmanzk
Nicholas Brophy       McKensie Hulsey           Rachna Panechur            Rachna Talluri
Laura Browning        Furqaan Indori           Alex Paprocki              Vanessa Tam
Sarah Burks           Sarah Jackson            Sarah Paracha              Abby Terlouw
Shyam Chandra         Julia Jeffrey             Wesley Parker              Drake Tittle
Matthew Chastain      Duke Jenkins             Amrutha Parvathaneni       Samantha Trujillo
Meghana Chithirala    Beth Jennings            Sadie Pate                Cameron Turner
Chloe Christian       Haley Johnson             Alex Paprocki              Christian Turner
Mary Claire Clark     Madison Johnson           Sarah Paracha             Paige Van Oudheusden
Kayton Coffee         Lian Juan                Wesley Parker              Brittany Vandevort
Colin Conway          Radhik Kalaiselvan        Amrutha Parvathaneni       Saranya Varanasi
Jenna Cook            Nawal Kashif              Sadie Pate                Vini Vianna
Shelby Costley        Aroob Kasif              Reetik Patel              Sydney Vissar
Mattie Couch          Mandeep Kaur              Kailee Patterson          Ryan Wahl
Mackenzie DeMania     John Kent-Hicks          April Perrin              Gillian Wall
Shruti Dere           Savannah King            Jada Peten                Zhong Yu “Alice” Wang
Sophia DeToro         Madeline Knight          Delaney Pollard            Brandon Ward
Jessica Dias-Jayasinghe Varsha Kolluru         Logan Pollard            Michel Waterhouse
Anna Disney           Austin Kreulach            Lydia Pope                Rebekah Weiberg
Saivipulteja Elagandhula Arthi Krishna          Sarah Price              Abigail Wiatrek
Chris Enslin          Suqna Krishna            Caitlyn Purcell            Natalie Widdowson
Austin Estabrook     Apoorva Krovvidi           Jack Purcell              Kylie Wilkins
Jonathan Ewin        Sophia Lacy              John Robert Purvis        Brianna Willis
Alyssa Fakunle        Joana Lome               Kaitlyn Putnam            Timothy "Grant" Wilson
Rebecca Farfan        Carla Lutcher             Montserrat Rangel         Emily Wurzer
Jake Fennell          Natalie Macias             Seth Rippetoe            Samantha Yamane
Marissa Fennell       Aryan Maheshwari         Emilee Roark              Sterling Yang
Kaleigh Fischer       Shreya Majagi             Maeghan Roark             Elise Young
Sian Fox             Vakula Mallapally          Autumn Roberts
Volunteers in Action
At BPL, our volunteers are the greatest! From shelving to book repair to craft prep, many people give their time and talent! From service on boards to program expertise, we are grateful for everyone who serves. In 2015, **331 volunteers gave 8,392.48 hours.** This is valued at **$193,614.50!**

*Library volunteers only; Genealogy, Foundation and Friends volunteered thousands of hours to support BPL too.*

Genealogy Volunteers
Community Partners & Corporate Sponsors

Alzheimer’s Association, Arkansas Chapter
American Legion
American Library Association
Ancestry Sleuths
Anderson Merchandising
Arkansas Arts Council
Arkansas Department of Heritage
Arkansas Geological Survey
Arkansas Guardian literacy mentors
Arkansas State Library
Asian American Living
Bee Well Yoga
Benton County Master Gardeners
Benton County Sheriff’s Office
Bentonville Film Festival
Bentonville Garden Club
Bentonville Library Foundation
Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department
Bentonville Police Department
Bentonville Public Schools
Calliope Games
Central Garden & Pet
Chick-Fil-A
Children’s Book Week
City of Bentonville Community Center
City of Bentonville Human Resources
Compton Gardens
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Delta Cultural Center
Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc.
Downtown Bentonville, Inc.
Dryden House Publishers
Free Comic Book Day
Friends of the Bentonville Library
Game Exchange
Gamer Utopia
Gear Gaming Store
Geek and Sundry
Girl Scouts
Illinois River Watershed Partnership
Inferno Fitness and Mixed Martial Arts
Kendrick Fincher Foundation
LeaderOne Financial
Legal Aid of Arkansas
Literacy Council of Benton County
Looney Labs
Malco Theatres
Marco’s Pizza Bentonville
McDonald’s
Museum of Native American History
National Novel Writing Month
Northwest Arkansas Naturals
NWA Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
NWA Roleplaying Gamers
Paranormal Ozarks Investigations
Passport Game Studios
The Peel Compton Foundation
Pro Martial Arts
Reef Ready
The Roark Group
Rogers Historical Museum
Ron McDevitt Agency Farmers Insurance
Rotary Club of Bentonville
Sam’s Club
The Scott Family Amazeum
Southern Girl Sweets
Spice and Tea Exchange of Bentonville
Steve Jackson Games
Storybook Strings
Swasthan Seva Foundation, Care-A-Child Tutoring
Table Mesa
Tea Rose Foundation of Northwest Arkansas
Teen Action and Support Center
Trike Theatre
Walmart Foundation
The Walmart Museum
Walmart Volunteerism Always Pays
University of Arkansas
Vintage Stock
Zaxby’s

Corporate Groups Volunteer at BPL

MaxAttention Team with Software Solution Company
Walmart Global Back Office Solutions
Walmart ISD Infra Ops Collaboration
Walmart Health & Wellness Compliance Team
**BPL Leaders are ALL-In**

Courtney Fitzgerald [left] and Sarah Gowdy [right] attended the Arkansas State Library’s Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (ALL-In). They are photographed with the Arkansas State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft.

Fitzgerald also graduated from the Leadership Benton County program, representing the City of Bentonville.

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**Session Presenters at Library Conferences**

Dudley with Fayetteville PL Executive Director, David Johnson [above].

Dudley with Fort Smith PL Director, Jennifer Goodson.

Heather Hays presented two sessions at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference; and one session at the Arkansas Library Association conference.

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**Special Presentations & Tributes**

Ms. Juanita Fryer, longtime member of the Bentonville Garden Club, shared a portion of her flower frog collection at Bentonville Public Library inside the Coughlin Reading Hearth room.

Members of the Book Lovers Book Club honored their friend Joan Clifford by sharing a special presentation with Ed Clifford. The club contributed memorial funds to the Bentonville Library Foundation to purchase books for BPL at the Community Center.

In Honor of Mary Baggett, several new books on fitness for seniors were purchased by the Library Foundation for BPL at the Community Center to recognize her long-term service on the Bentonville City Council.

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**Library Friends Support Reading**

The Friends of the Bentonville Library sponsored the Summer Reading Club with a generous donation of $6,000. The Library also received new picture book bins in the Children’s Department.

2015 Friends Executive Committee

Brenda Compton, President . Jean Batta, Vice President

Luci Henderson, Treasurer . Dalene Schrier, Secretary

Ex Officio: Hadi Dudley
Give Today, Make a Difference Everyday!

The Bentonville Library Foundation spearheaded a successful end of year appeal to support Bentonville Public Library. Special thanks to Mike and Marianne Poore who served as campaign co-chairs!

Library Loyalists, Honor Society & Youth Literature Festival
The Foundation’s end of year appeal featured new societies and designations for donors. These giving opportunities honored library lovers and supported BPL services!

The Mary Baggett Loyalist Society
The Culpepper Family Supports the Youth Literature Festival
The Douglas Honor Society

Supporting our library, enlightening our community—more information available at bentonvillelibraryfoundation.org.

Our Mission
To engage our community, encourage discovery and promote literacy by offering lifelong learning opportunities.