Governance & Funding

Governed by the Bentonville City Council, BPL is a City Department. Primarily funded by the City of Bentonville general operating fund, BPL’s annual budget of approximately $1 million supports library personnel and operational expenditures. Revenue resources include overdue fines, basic cost-recovery fees, donations and grants. Bentonville Library benefits from the Arkansas State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) programs under the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) supporting summer reading and technology.

Library Partners

Bentonville City Administration | Library Advisory Board | Bentonville Library Foundation
Friends of the Bentonville Library | Northwest Arkansas Genealogy Society

Our History — Incorporated in 1934

From 1979 to 2006, Bentonville Public Library occupied the first level of the Massey Hotel. A historic space with great character, the small library was unable to meet our growing community’s needs; so in 2003, grassroots efforts to fund a new library began.

A public/private partnership: the Bentonville Library Foundation succeeded in raising $7,000,000 joining the City of Bentonville’s $2,000,000 contribution for construction of the Library.

When our modern 38,000 square foot Library opened October 30, 2006 at 405 South Main Street, BPL became a destination place in downtown Bentonville.

Something For Everyone...How Can BPL Help You?

Storytimes & Crafts | Library Lessons | Workshops | Special Events | Book Discussions
Clubs | Film Events | Technology Help | Computer Classes | Art Exhibits | Lectures
Music Concerts | Author Events | Continuing Education | Special Collections | Meetings
eBooks | Mobile Apps | Online Resources | Interlibrary Loan | WIFI | Friendly Staff

405 S Main St. Bentonville, AR 72712 . 479.271.3192 . www.bentonvillelibrary.org
Monday—Thursday 9:00—8:00 pm . Friday—Saturday 9:00—5:00 pm
I have always imagined Paradise will be a kind of library.

Jorge Luis Bourges

What’s Our Mission at the Bentonville Public Library?

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

BPL’s Featured Amenities

- High-energy Children’s Library
- Trendy Teen Zone
- Free public computers / free WIFI
- Private study and meeting rooms
- Comfy chairs in the Fireplace Room
- Genealogy department
- Read it Again used bookstore
- Library Café

Specialized Services for Adults @ BPL

- Basic tech help and computer classes for iPhones, iPads, PCs & eReaders
- Customized résumé assistance and job & career resources
- eBooks and other Online Resources for both learning & recreation
- NOOK and Netbook loans, bridging a digital divide
- Mobile apps for patrons on-the-go
- Book clubs, special programs & much more!

Children’s Services Inspire Young Readers

Early literacy storytimes are offered for babies, toddlers and preschoolers featuring books, songs and rhymes. Homeschool lessons, book clubs, film events and other educational programs engage and educate young library users.

Summer Reading @ BPL

Studies show that students who read during summer months have higher reading achievement scores. Children read 100,201 hours while participating in BPL’s Summer Reading Programs.

Library Volunteers Give Back

39,468 volunteer hours directly support Library services to our community. This generous contribution is valued at over 800,000 dollars.

Annually, more than 125 teens volunteer at BPL. Our teen volunteers are exposed to education, positive work ethics and public service. Teen leaders are selected by an application and panel interview process to serve on the Teen Advisory Board.

Our Collection Contains

114,238 items valued at $2,499,341.05

We Have Experienced

59% Collection Growth Across 7 Years

On Average, One BPL Book Will Check Out 5 Times Per Year

Main Street Facility Stats - At A Glance

Library Visits: 1.9 Million
Circulation: 3.2 Million
Computer Usage: 327,860
Program Attendees: 155,728
New Library Cards: 45,419
Meeting Room Groups: 8,532
Meeting Room Attendees: 111,233

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