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Bentonville Public Library was happy to receive feedback from the patron survey last spring. You spoke, we listened! The overall consensus is that you want MORE! And that's exactly what we've done.

- · Increased library shelving by 10% for more materials.
- Added thousands of new items including books, DVDs, and special collections such as games, technology, and book club kits.
- Offered more digital resources like NewsBank and increased our selection of eBooks and downloadable audiobooks.
- Added to the number of library programs for all ages.
- Provided more technology with circulating iPads and new telescopes with plans to add iPad stations for teens & tweens. And, last but certainly not least the library's café space is filled with the aroma of Guatemalan coffee!

We are looking to the future and have more plans. With everything we do, we keep you, our patrons, at the center of our thoughts. We believe that libraries are the heart of a community, and our patrons are the heart of this library.

If you haven't visited in a while, come see what we're doing! We'd love to have you here!

Welcome Mayor Orman

At year-beginning, the City of Bentonville welcomed Mayor Stephanie Orman's leadership. Community-driven and citizen-focused opportunities for people to be more engaged with our local government were evident early in the first year of her first term.

Ward meetings and open forums for citizens and downtown businesses were hosted at the Library and the Community Center.

A social media presence and the Bentonville 311 platform connected citizens to the City in new ways.

Mayor Orman also helped me welcome Delia Owens, New York Times bestselling author of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, to Bentonville Public Library last summer

The compelling story of Kya reminds us of the importance of community, how humankind should value our differences, and that literacy and education can create opportunity for anyone, regardless of age, gender, or wealth.

Hadi S. Dudley, M.S., M.A. Director, Bentonville Public Library



"Once you learn to read anything, you can learn everything." - Delia Owens, Where the Crawdads Sing

Shelving Expansion: Making Room for More Books

After more than 12 years at 405 South Main Street, Bentonville Public Library expanded its shelving to accommodate its growing collections. BPL installed several new steel-shelving units and the library team shifted thousands of books, videos, magazines and other physical collections.

Physical collections have grown 120% and circulation is up 71% since 2007. While use of digital content is increasing, physical collections are still important to our library patrons.

The Library's 2019 Capital Budget through the City of Bentonville, which was approved by City Council, funded the shelving expansion project.





Summer Feeding Program

For the first time, BPL was a designated site for Bentonville Schools' and Aramark's Summer Feeding Program. More than 7,360 free lunches were served to youth with 1,160 Snack Packs distributed on Fridays by the Second Street Pantry Missions.

BPL was the perfect place to host Bentonville Schools' & Aramark's Summer Feeding Program. Families attended library events and checked out materials, then enjoyed a nutritious lunch on the veranda. It was well received by our community, and many families who need the support benefited from the summertime program.

Bentonville Public Library was happy to host and looks forward to partnering again on such an important project.

"Many days, it was like a community picnic at the Library" - Hadi Dudley





Café Opened at BPL

Bentonville Public Library was pleased to help share the news that 211 Café opened in October!

211 Café is owned and operated by Mauricio and Norma Guerrero. They are true coffee connoisseurs and offer a unique roast of coffee from their home country of Guatemala.

Sharing coffee in its purest form, 211 Café features pour overs such as Aeropress, V60, Chemex and French Press. Specialty coffee drinks, teas and other beverages are also served. The food menu features local vendors as well as meals made fresh on-site.

The Library Advisory Board supported the endeavor for BPL. "Part of the mission of BPL is to engage the community through discovery. The ability to share food and drink with others - especially over a good book! - is a powerful tool in community-building and developing relationships that enrich the lives and families of our city."

211 Café was selected by a BPL committee through the City of Bentonville's Request for Proposal process. Bentonville City Council approved the lease agreement through a city ordinance.

Walmart Gives NWA

Last summer, the Library partnered with the Bentonville Library Foundation and Walmart Foundation in Walmart Gives NWA. For every hour volunteered, Walmart pledged to make a financial donation to the eligible organization. Walmart matched BPL's volunteer hours with a gift of \$12,299.75!

During the "Libraries Build Communities" reception, Ben Lacy, Bentonville Library Foundation board member said,
"We are deeply grateful for the many hours volunteered at
the library to support programs and services as well as the
Walmart Foundation for their call to action, financial
support, and vision to encourage community
engagement."

The gift benefits the library and the community through the purchase of new iPad stations for tweens and teens, as well as funding for other special projects.



Bentonville's Literature Festival was reimagined in its fifth year to provide seasonal opportunities for readers of all ages to celebrate good stories and art. More than 600 people connected with authors and illustrators at BPL.

Suzanne Woods Fisher

BPL hosted best-selling, award-winning author Suzanne Woods Fisher on January 26. She promoted her new book, *Mending Fences*, and discussed the Amish traditions and lessons she learned from the Old Order Amish. Forty-five patrons and guests attended.



Rich Davis

BPL hosted Rich Davis, professional artist, children's book illustrator and author, and drawing game inventor, June 20 for a drawing workshop attended by 137 kids and parents. Children enjoyed the fast-paced, interactive program where they practiced eye/hand coordination leading to creative exploration and discovery.



Ashley Franklin

Debut author Ashley Franklin entertained toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers at a BPL hosted storytime on July 23 with 163 in attendance. Franklin read her first book, *Not Quite Snow White*. The story and activities that followed encouraged attendees to let their own magic shine.



A Visit with Delia Owens



BPL hosted "A Visit with Delia Owens," NY Times bestselling author of Where the Crawdads Sing with 290 in attendance.

In partnership with the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library, the presentation was part of "If All Arkansas Read the Same Book" statewide tour. A special reception was sponsored by the Bentonville Library Foundation.

The festival's mission is to connect our community with authors and illustrators to inspire readers of all ages, celebrate storytelling and foster a lifelong love of literature, writing and creativity.

Presented by BPL and supported by the Friends of the Bentonville Library and the Bentonville Library Foundation.

"Nobody is a stranger here." - Mauricio Guerrero, founder and owner of 211 Café

"You're just enough of all the right stuff." - Not Quite Snow White



May 4, 2019

Bentonville GeekCon 2019 was a superhero-sized success! More than 3,600 people visited the library on May 4, 2019 for workshops, door prizes, a costume giveaway, photo booth, free food, and the annual Free Comic Book Day comic giveaway!

The day began with our first-ever costume giveaway -- we gave out over 300 costumes! Special workshops focused on physics, animation, and illustration. Kids enjoyed *Masha and the Bear* storytimes along with geeky science activities. *Baby Mouse* made character appearances throughout the day. Patrons got crafty making dice necklaces and chainmaille jewelry. Everyone loved getting in super-hero poses in our photo booth area. Patrons signed up to win dozens of door prizes.

Crowds lined up around the exterior of BPL for the comic giveaway! BPL staff and volunteers gave away over a thousand bags in less than an hour! After the comic giveaway, patrons got a free lunch from Jimmy John's and enjoyed cookies at the "Party on the Porch" presented by the Satellite Rotary Club of Bentonville.









"May the Fourth be with you!"

























GeekCon ended with our grand finale, Galactic Hero Training! Patrons learned that they just need their imagination and a few dance moves to save the Universe!

GeekCon was proudly sponsored by the Friends of the Bentonville Library, Jimmy John's, Palamon, Rubie's, Animaccord, Masha and the Bear, Satellite Rotary Club of Bentonville, and Branding Streams.

GeekCon is a Children's Book Week official event.

BPL first participated in Free Comic Book Day in 2013. With attendance and interest growing exponentially each year, BPL expanded the program and create Bentonville GeekCon featuring Free Comic Book Day in 2018, a library centered convention that promotes literacy and creativity through graphic novels and pop culture.



Library Expenditures

Personnel Salaries Personnel Benefits Library Materials & Digital Resources General Operating & Maintenance Capital Expenditures	\$\$\$\$\$	906,746 276,666 260,881 291,718 33,399
	\$	1,769,410









Library Revenue

Cost-Recovery Fees & Overdue Fines	\$ 55,335
Rental Income & Misc Income	\$ 5,919
Grant Funds & Donations	\$ 41,931
	\$ 103,186



Materials & In-Kind Sponsorships & Donations Volunteerism	\$ \$	78,107 127,249 509,239
	\$	714,595











Budget & expenditures are unaudited; some contributions are estimated

Circulation includes eBooks & Downloadables

New Library Cards do not include BPL Tech Cards issued to local students

Outreach and Library Tour attendees included in Program Attendance

Collection Size and Value does not include digital materials such as eBooks, databases or eLearning resources

Stats-at-a-Glance

Circulation	725,056
Library Visits	319,697
Program Attendance	65,021
Computer Usage	15,990
Material Requests Filled	37,018
New Library Cards	5,835
Outreach & Library Tours	7,515
Summer Reading Hours	27,053
eBooks & Downloadables	142,207
Database Use	277,571
Website Hits	539,436
Staff Full-Time Equivalent	22.25
Meeting Room Groups	866
Meeting Room Attendees	12,845
Collection Size	149,962
Collection Value	\$3,267,732



Adult Volunteers

Aaron Garcia Alison Thomas Amanda Bryson Amanda Donaldson Amber Massev Anne Marie Schudy Annette Savage Antriksha Verma Anushka Sista Audrey McDonald **Autumn Roberts**

Avmslee Mathis Bartholomew Warfield

Bekah Haught

Ben Kuykendall Bobbylee Ingals

Bryan Collom Cassie Hannah

Catherine Kromkowski

Charlotte Shurtz

Chhavi Shrivastava

Cody Wheeler Connie Brown

Crystal Cole Crystal Tibbetts

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Dawson Davley Deena Davis

Deepali Bhurat Diana Guerin

Dominique Dandridge-Chapman

Elizabeth Graham

Elizabeth Hundley Gaye Kiker Georgia Choate

Hasky McCool

Holly Wertens Janet Rivera Janet Tonne Jessica Roux Jody Agnacian Jon Bee

Joshua Hummell Justin Powell

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Shawn Sawyer Shelley Slinkard

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Sundaravalli Sethurajan

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Tyla Morris Van Tabbert

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Teja Gaddam

Yashu Gaddam

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Dalton Bane

Dalton McMillan

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Bekah Haught Bentonville High School French Club Bentonville High School Guitar Club

Bella Elkins Carroll Electric Cooperative

Hannah Vass Immaculin Joe

Ivon Wong Jonathan Holmes-Smith

Jonathan Hawks Jonathan Marks

Julie Jarrett & Haylee the Dog

Kate Peretz

Dr. Katherine Auld Kathleen Holmes-Smith Katrianna 'Katv Beth' Brisack

Kim Sanders, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

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Khushi Taori

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The Bentonville Public Library's mission is to engage our community, encourage discovery and promote literacy by offering lifelong learning opportunities!