



Black Earth Public Library

2015 Annual Report

In an effort to better describe the annual statistics reported to the WI Department of Public Instruction, this narrative is being submitted to the Black Earth Public Library Board, its staff, the Village of Black Earth administration and the general public via our web site

(www.blackearthpubliclibrary.org). Viewing the annual report as submitted to DPI doesn't effectively tell our story. It is my desire to demonstrate trends experienced within our library and feature highlights over the past year.

New and Noteworthy

Staff

As is always true, our staff is our most valuable resource. In 2014, we lost a beloved staff member of 17 years to another employer. By the end of the summer reading program that year, we had hired two new regular part-time employees, Michelle Zander and Donna Vought. 2015 was the first full year of staffing with our new crew. Each new staff member has completed many and varied training programs. Together, we are a strong team and are looking forward to providing continued excellence in services across the spectrum. Everyone has learned quickly and stepped into their respective roles with professionalism and a service-minded attitude. We also have been able to maintain high school student help, even with turnover due to graduation. Our student help has been of the highest quality and adds much to the vibrancy of our library services.

In 2010, we hired our first Youth Services Librarian. Thus, 2015 marked her five year anniversary for which we celebrate! It also marks more than five years of Play Literacy programming that the library has provided at the Black Earth Elementary School. This is a significant accomplishment, as few libraries, even of much larger scale, offer this level of programming in preschool classrooms. Kirsten Rogers has been an exceptional addition to our library team and provided outstanding programming to children ranging in age from infants to young teens.

Adult Programming

A milestone in programming for adults was achieved in April 2015, when motor journalist, Peter Egan (*Cycle World, Road & Track*) spoke to a crowd numbering over 100. The years of effort put into raising funds for the Beyond the Page/National Endowment for the Humanities project has paid off in dividends through such programs, more of which were proposed in 2015 and funded for 2016 implementation.

The Friends of the Black Earth Library were critical in these efforts and many others to support library funding.

Community Outreach

2015 saw the completion of the indexes to the research we conducted on the Black Earth veterans of WWI and WWII at the Black Earth Historical Society in the local newspaper archives. A key contributor to this research, funded by our *Honoring Our Ancestors* grant, was Sue Michaels. We mourned Sue's untimely passing in the fall of 2014, but are aware that her parents would find great comfort in the completion of this project in 2015 on which she worked so diligently. We look forward to working with Commander Dennis Wood (Mickelsons-Martin Post 313 American Legion) to bring this research forward to the public and through his writings in the *News Sickle Arrow*.

The Live Homework Help through tutor.com which we have enjoyed through the initial grant from Madison Community Foundation in 2008 has seen its ups and downs in funding throughout the years. 2015 marked the decision to reduce funding from \$4,000 (400 sessions) to \$3,000 (300 sessions) to reduce the burden of responsibility on the Friends groups of Black Earth Library and Mazomanie Free Library. The Friends of the Black Earth Library are initiating a fundraiser at Roxbury Tavern to continue funding in 2016-2017.

The Trivia Night collaboration with Mazomanie Free Library picked up again in Black Earth at the firehouse in October 2015.

Library Facilities

Our library space in the municipal building has seen some wonderful changes. A colorful and fun mural was started in late 2015 and continued into early 2016 to grace the walls in the children's area by artist, Matthew Laznicka, funded both by Trustee funds and Friends of the Black Earth Library. Also, 2015 saw the beginning of a study on the expansion of the library space on the south wall of the building, into the parking lot. A great deal of effort went into the reorganization of the basement storage area, as spearheaded by Village Administrator, Shellie Benish.

The Black Earth Library Board itself worked diligently in 2015 to draft our Bylaws, which have been neglected for many years. Their attention to these details of governance and those of managing fiscal responsibilities and accounting has led to seamless services valued by all and an enjoyable work environment for staff. They also evaluated the CIPA-compliant filtering proposal from the library system, and though declined on the first offer, decided to go with the pilot enrollment, using the iBoss filtering product, and thus making the library eligible for the federal e-rate discounts.

The library web page, which has been in progress to transition from Dreamweaver to Drupal since late 2014, and all of 2015, went live on March 18, 2016.

Library Operation

The Black Earth Public Library operates under Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 43 as well as under the provisions of Village Ordinance 9-4 and the Black Earth Public Library Bylaws. The Library functions as a department of the Village of Black Earth and extends service to residents of the village of Black Earth, residents having a valid card in the South Central Library System, and residents of other library systems which have obtained registration within South Central Library System. Financial Support for the library is obtained by taxation through the village of Black Earth, Dane, Iowa, Sauk and other adjacent counties with the budget being set by the Library Board.

Mission and Goal Statements

The mission of the Black Earth Public Library shall be to provide quality materials and services which fulfill education, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respectful.

The general goals of the Black Earth Public Library shall be:

1. To serve all residents of the community and surrounding townships.
2. To acquire and make available such books, audiovisuals, periodicals, technology and services to satisfy user needs.
3. To have resources to provide the most frequently requested materials from its collection or through system requests.
4. To maintain a program of service which locates requested information or makes referrals in a timely manner.
5. To review regularly these objectives of the Black Earth Public Library and, if necessary, revise them in the light of new developments.
6. To maintain membership in system in good-standing and adhere to Dane County standards, which exceed State statutes.
7. To provide programs for youth, especially the Summer Reading Program, that enhance individual interests, pursuit of knowledge, encourage extra-curricular reading and promote library use.

The Library Board

This board shall consist of five members who shall be residents of the Village of Black Earth. There shall be one member from the Village Board, appointed by the Village President, and one member shall be a school district administrator or his representative (whom may live outside Black Earth, but within the school district). The Library Board President may appoint a nominating committee or Library Board members may appoint, from among the residents of the Village, to vacant library trustee positions at the April meeting.

Years of Service

In 2015, the Black Earth Public Library marked 25 years in the municipal building on Mills St. and 107 years of service in Black Earth (established in 1908).

2015 Library Board Members

President - Heather Schomber
Vice-President - Angie Updike
Secretary - Heather Reader
Treasurer - Brian Klaschus
Village Representative - Ted Pritchett

The Budget

The 2015 operating revenue of the library can be broken down as follows:

Village of Black Earth \$93,277
Dane County \$38,693
Other Counties \$9,408
Grants \$1,050
All Other \$17,742
Total \$159,120

The 2015 operating expenditures of the library can be broken down as follows:

Salaries and Wages \$74,005
Employee Benefits \$22,434
Library Materials \$24,810
All Other \$43,455
Total \$139,894

The capital revenue/expenditures of the library can be broken down as follows:

Revenue/Expenditure: None in 2015
Totals \$0

The Library held \$165,127 in its building trust fund at the end of the year.

Statistics

Circulation:

The library circulated 35,109 items in 2015 a 5.5% decrease from 2014 (this number does not include the checkout of 1,001 digital items).

The circulation can be broken down as follows: 23,359 adult items were circulated and 11,750 children's items were circulated. Digital circulation appears in parentheses. These figures can be further broken down into e-book, e-audio, and now e-video downloads.

2015 35,109 (1,001)
2014 37,160 (1,114)
2013 35,703 (491)
2012 43,142 (373)
2011 44,288 (144)
2010 44,044 (78)
2009 40,842 (NA)

Digital Magazine Collections

Electronic Digital Download Circulation:

E-books, digital audiobooks, videos and magazine issues were downloaded (total): 1,001

Number of Registered Borrowers:

In 2015 there were 669 registered Black Earth card holders and 449 nonresident registered card holders for a total of 1,118. Cards not used in two years are purged, if there is a not a balance over \$20.00.

Library Visits: 25,412 people visited the library in 2015. This number is based on the figures from the new door counter installed last fall and extrapolated over the year.

On average, over 88 people visit the library each day.

Interlibrary Loans: We supplied 23,939 items to other libraries and received 14,158 from other libraries. This means we lent 9,781 more items than we borrowed from other libraries, which is nearly 28% of our total circulation of 35,109. Alternatively, just over 40% of our total circulation to local library users is from materials that belong to other libraries. Therefore, 32% circulation is from locally owned materials to local library card holders.

Overdue Statistics :

2.82% of check outs were overdue at one sample in time. The system average is about 6.5%. Our overdue fines are as follows:

Most items are \$.05 per day for books and DVDs being \$.50 per day.

Library Collection:

The library continues to add new materials to the library collection, but each year we also withdraw outdated and worn out materials. The library added a total of 1,949 items to the library collection in 2015 and withdrew 2,343 items (not including magazines). We have 394 fewer items in 2015 than we did in 2014, so we weed slightly more than one item for each item that we add.

Our library houses books, audiobooks, videos and other items for a total of 24,199 items.

Electronic books, e-audiobooks and e-videos are part of our digital collection and available in digital versions online through the Wisconsin Digital Library Collection. Through our payments into the Digital Buying Pool, we have access to 175,798 titles. This number is items in Overdrive and does not include Flipster magazine issues or databases leased, such as *Consumer Reports*.

LinkCat, our online shared library catalog, provides a catalog covering 54 public libraries in seven counties. The LinkCat database holds well over 3 million items.

Magazines: The library subscribes to, or receives through a gift, 64 magazines and newspapers and provided access to over 200 digital magazine subscriptions through Flipster in 2015.

Computers: There are 5 Public Access Computers, 4 offer Internet access (with Microsoft Office products, Adobe Reader and various web browsers including Chrome),

One is an early childhood literacy computer. There are 3 staff computers, one of which is a laptop, and an Amazon Fire.

Programs:

The library held 126 programs for people of all ages. The attendance for the year was 2,375. There were 97 programs for children, 8 for young adults and 21 for adults. Attendance for Children's programs was 1,831, Teens 53 and Adults 491.

STAFFING

The library had a staff of 2.40 FTE. 1.5 of the FTE is staffed with MLS (ALA accredited Master's degree). The library director at this library must hold a Grade III certification from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

A total of 155 children registered for the Summer Reading Program.

Completions Numbers

Grade School **Total: 83**

Teen/High School: **Total: 16**

Extra Reading Records completed: 13

Grade School participants read five books or five hours for each of four levels, thus they read up to 1,660 hours or books altogether. Tweens/Teens read for 290 hours this summer.

Compared to last year, we had 32 fewer kids sign up. However, only 19 fewer kids completed the program.

LIBRARY HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 2PM-7PM, Friday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Sunday Closed

1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515 Phone: 608-767-4905 FAX: 608-767-2564

Webpage: www.blackearthlibrary.org

Find us on Facebook and Pinterest

Library Catalog: www.linkcat.info

2015 BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

What's Bred in the Bone / Robertson Davies
I Am Malala / Malala Yousafzai
Wild / Cheryl Strayed
Falling Through the Earth / Danielle Trussoni
The Devil in the White City / Erik Larson
The Sparrow / Mary Doria Russell
Boys in the Boat / Daniel James Brown
Just Mercy / Bryan Stevenson
Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter / tom Franklin
Good Omens / Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman
Too Close to the Falls / Catherine Gildiner
The Bookseller of Kabul / Asne Seierstad
Franklin and Winston / Jon Meacham

PROGRAMMING

Children's, Family and Young Adult Programs

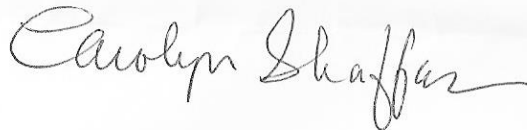
Tween Spa
Preschool Storytimes
Early Release
Play Literacy
Summer Reading Program
LMC Lunch Bunch
Spring Break Activities
Messy Mondays
Crafternoon
Summer Middle School Book Club
Wii Games & Minecraft
Rick Allen's Beyond Belief Magic Show
Movie Night – Big Hero 6
Be a Superhero Party
LEGO Club
1000 Books Before Kindergarten party
Monster Mash
Mrs. Claus
Star Wars party

Adult Programs

Taiwan Travelog
Seed Starting
Antiques Appraisal
Book Discussion Club

38 Years of Motorjournalism/Peter Egan
American Café (movie)
GMOs: what do we know?/Warren Porter
Straw Bale Gardening/Josh Dodge
Climate Change/Bill Bland
Organic Gardening/Emerson
Sit Stay Ride (movie plus guest appearance)
Jurassic Park (movie)
Self-publishing/Henry Olsen
Dinosaurs/Kevin Hutchison
Gas Fracking/Tom Newman
Vampire Cabbie (book)/ Fred Scherptz
Don Falkos, storyteller
Printmaking
Mayflower descendants party

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Shaffer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Carolyn Shaffer