

FY23

WPL ANNUAL REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

Library
Visitors
129,327

Reference
Questions
Answered

19,799

OPERATING EXPENDITURES
\$2,882,220

LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS
39,186

SIZE OF COLLECTION
113,349

3D Printer
Jobs
54

Licensed
Databases
18

PHYSICAL MATERIAL CHECK-OUTS
183,288

FTES
28.46

139,381
Digital
Downloads

30,853
Wireless
Sessions

105,998
Website Visits

Library
Programs
823

20,758
Program
Participants

21,398
Public
Computer
Sessions

11,413
Interlibrary
Loans
Provided

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

BLUEY-MANIA:

In May, the library's youth department threw an "ulti-mutt" Bluey bash that broke attendance records! Inspired by the incredibly popular Australian animated series starring the adorable Bluey and her family of Blue Heelers, the event featured character-inspired crafts and games, photo opportunities with Bluey and her sister Bingo, and, of course, a delightful dose of the show's best episodes. We were thrilled to welcome a whopping 635 enthusiastic children and their caregivers to join in the fun. What a wackadoo-tastic time!

FUNDER SUPPORTED:

The library was thrilled to receive \$251,000 in grant awards from seven local funders. These grants will play a crucial role in supporting a multiphase renovation project, which will bring much-needed improvements and enhancements to our youth and teen departments.

LIBRARY OF THINGS:

Why make a purchase when you can simply borrow? In May, the library introduced our Tool Library, a lending service for gardening and yard maintenance tools. From essential tools like rakes and shovels to more specialized equipment such as loppers and post-hole diggers, our cardholders now have the convenience of borrowing the perfect tool for their projects.

DEMENTIA CAREGIVER KITS:

The Alzheimer's Association reports that nearly 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related conditions. In response to the needs of caregivers, both personal and professional, the Waterloo Public Library began circulating Dementia Caregiver Kits that contain elements designed to facilitate meaningful interactions with people living with dementia. Each of the six themed kits has books, DVDs, music CDs, instruments, games, activities, and tactile engagement items with two kits each being appropriate for those in early, middle or late stages of dementia.

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY:

International Dot Day, celebrated each year on September 15, holds a special connection to Waterloo thanks to its founder, Terry Shay, a retired vocal teacher from North Tama who made Waterloo his home.

For the 15th anniversary of International Dot Day, a collaboration between the library and students in the Waterloo Community School District resulted in a captivating display of over 3,000 hand-drawn dots.

They adorned the library for two weeks, hanging from the ceiling and covering most of the first-floor walls and windows. This powerful tribute became even more significant as Mr. Shay unexpectedly passed away just two weeks after this year's celebration, making it all the more meaningful for him to witness a testament to the day's true spirit of boundless creativity and unwavering courage.