

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



## INSIDE THE REPORT

### PG. 2

Eliminating Overdue Fines Provides Access

Enhancing Library Services

Adding Connections Through Partnerships

### PG. 3

Summer Reading

Adapting Services

### PG. 4

Quick View of Library Statistics

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Library Friends and Supporters,

Concern for the health and safety of our patrons and staff remained a priority this year as the Library navigated phases of reopening. Curbside continued at Perry Creek Branch, walk-in service at the Morningside Branch started in July, and the Aalfs Downtown Library was accessible by appointment beginning in October. In May, all locations fully opened to the public, with most services restored. The Library installed permanent glass dividers at each service desk in the Downtown Library to help with future public health concerns, as well as cold and flu seasons. Plans are in place to install them at the Morningside Branch in the next fiscal year.

Even with limitations and reduced hours part of the year, and while dealing with the repercussions of two water main breaks that flooded the lower level of the Aalfs Downtown Library and displaced staff offices, the Library continued offering impactful services through the ongoing pandemic. Staff adapted to virtual programming, added valuable resources, and worked with organizations to find creative solutions for providing outreach. The Library also increased its ebook and digital audiobook collections as the demand for virtual services

skyrocketed. Some of the most notable accomplishments throughout the past year are the addition of Smarter HotSpots, which serve as a hotspot connection to the internet and allow borrowers to access the internet directly on the devices, the addition of the streaming service, Kanopy, and the elimination of overdue fines for full-service cardholders.

At more than 145 years old, the Sioux City Public Library is a vital component for an enriched life and community in Sioux City. It is the Library's honor to serve residents of all ages and walks of life. To help them discover stories, explore opportunities, connect to services, and improve their lives. We continuously strive to fulfill our Mission of providing equal access to quality resources for personal empowerment and community enrichment.

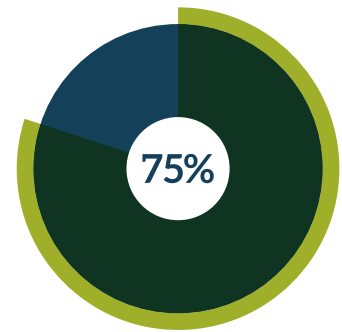
*Helen Rigdon*

Helen Rigdon, Library Director

# ELIMINATING OVERDUE FINES PROVIDES ACCESS

At the March meeting of the Board of Trustees, board members voted to permanently eliminate overdue fines for full-service Sioux City Public Library cards, a move that benefits at least 75% of the Library's cardholders.

Overdue fines are often a barrier preventing people from using the Library. By focusing on getting materials back rather than penalizing individuals, the common mistake of late returns no longer disproportionately affects lower-income households and individuals' access to the Library. The change fulfills a major focus area in the Library's strategic plan, equitably providing access to information and resources for all Sioux City residents.

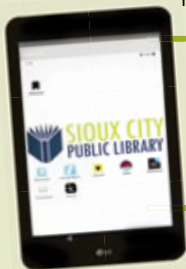


*Eliminating overdue fines benefits at least 75% of the Library's cardholders.*

## ENHANCING LIBRARY SERVICE

### › Smarter HotSpots™

A Missouri River Historical District (MHRD) grant received by the Friends of the Sioux City Public Library funded the Sioux City Public Library's purchase of five tablet-sized and ten phone-sized Smarter HotSpots, providing a vital electronic and communication resource for Sioux Cityans lacking internet at home. Borrowers can access the internet and preinstalled apps directly on the device or enable it as a hotspot and connect up to eight web-enabled devices to its mobile data for the internet.



The Library's Smarter HotSpots checked out **114 times** between January and June.

*"It's like having my own little computer."*

### › Kanopy

Sioux City Public Library introduced Kanopy in January, which adds movie streaming to its many digital offerings. More than 30,000 films are available through the Kanopy streaming service and include critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, and award-winning foreign films, as well as a collection of children's programming.

From its introduction in January through June 30, **Library patrons watched 39,190 minutes of content in Kanopy**, which equals about four hours each day since the service became available.

## ADDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



Sioux City Public Library provided space in the Garretson Room at its Morningside Branch for Drilling Pharmacy to offer vaccination clinics in March and April.

Sioux City Public Library partnered with WITCC to provide a series of free classes to the community. Librarians from the

Reference Department taught the 62 participants how to use Overdrive for reading ebooks, to find craft ideas and home improvement or auto repair information in the Library's EBSCO databases, and to download and stream music with Freegal.

In the February episode of *The First Fifty Pages* podcast, librarians Jenn Delperdang and Kelsey Patterson welcomed NYT bestselling author Katherine Center as their guest. Center read an excerpt from her essay "Read for Joy," and discussed with Jenn and Kelsey what it means to read for joy and why it is so important. Produced in partnership with KWIT-KOJI: Siouxland Public Media, the podcast continues to reach readers in an engaging way.



The Library hosted 12 of Drilling's clinics where pharmacy staff administered **5,390 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine.

# SUMMER READING



Youngsters color in designs with chalk and enjoy the storywalk at the "Chalk the Walk" Summer Reading kick-off event.

The Library celebrated the kick-off to the Youth Summer Reading Program with its "Chalk the Walk" event, which was also the Library's first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic. The colorful sidewalk chalk art, along with an outdoor story walk, brought 94 people to the Library for the start of Summer Reading. Throughout the summer, the Library hosted events such as Imagination Builders and Innovation Studio, along with a reading challenge to keep young minds active.

**1,676 children and teens** signed up (+113%) and took home Summer Reading kits, complete with a brand-new book.

The number of engaged participants increased again in the Adult Summer Reading Program, where participants **earned 756 badges (+101%) for reaching reading goals and completing various activities**, such as streaming a movie on Kanopy or trying a graphic novel.

**124 individuals** (+72%) logged their reading.

School-aged participants logged **215,930 minutes** of reading (+199%). In addition, the youngest participants logged **7,046 books** (+109%).

Adults read a total of **90,250 minutes**, beating last year's total by more than 36,000 minutes.

# ADAPTING SERVICES

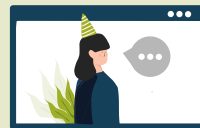
Sioux City Public Library followed a phased reopening plan, working toward safely reopening locations to the public. While hours and services were limited, the Library found ways to ensure patrons had access to their favorite Library features:



The Library offered **Contactless Curbside Pickup** while still closed for walk-in service, and even after branches reopened as an option for patrons who preferred limiting contact. Patrons utilized the service 5,136 times between July of 2020 and May of 2021.



The Library restarted its **Home Delivery service to homebound patrons** who reside in the city limits of Sioux City, do not drive, and do not have a way to visit the Library. While the assistance of volunteers was temporarily suspended, the Library regularly mailed books to 20 homebound patrons between July 2020 and April 2021. Many expressed their gratefulness to have access to books again. One individual said, "This Home Delivery just saves my life. I would just die without these wonderful books."



Youth Services adapted to hosting the popular **1st Saturday Family Storytimes virtually**. Families picked up Storytime Kits and came together over Zoom to listen to stories and follow along as staff lead creative crafts. 262 participants joined us for 1st Saturday Family Storytimes between November and May.

Carol Harder preps for the first virtual Family Storytime.





Staff issued **1,091 (-60%)\*** new **Library cards** this year.



**230,941 (-20%)\*** items checked out, with digital items making up 34% of that total.



The Library welcomed **82,983 visitors (-63%)\*** over the past year.

- 16,675 at Aalfs Downtown
- 59,379 at Morningside Branch
- 6,929 at Perry Creek Branch



**4,426 (-86%)\*** public-use computer logins. **76,740 (-44%)\*** WIFI logins.



The Library now holds **166,459 physical books and recordings** in three locations.

- 8,828 new items added
- 10,537 outdated or damaged items withdrawn



The Library holds **92,876 downloadable materials**, a 2% increase in the amount of downloadable materials the Library held at the end of last year.

**\***Numbers reflect reduced hours and locations (July 1, 2020 to May 24, 2021).

Providing equal access to quality resources for personal empowerment and community enrichment.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees, January 2020*

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (Not Audited)

**\$3,121,286** City Adjusted Budgeted Amount

**Expenditures:**

\$2,367,837 Personnel  
 \$253,386 Materials  
 \$500,063 Building/Operations/Equipment

**Revenue:**

\$86,093 Fines/Fees Collected

**Gifts and Grants Received:**

\$84,730 Library Foundation Endowment  
 \$17,250 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library  
 \$29,386 State of Iowa Funds  
 \$1,039 Other

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**President:**

Todd Stanley

**Vice President:**

Jane Vereen

**Secretary:**

Heidi Reinking

**Trustees:**

Charles (Bill) McKenny  
 Terry Dahlquist  
 Jessica Board