



# Annual Report

2021 - 2022



**SIoux CITY**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Helen Rigdon, *Library Director.*

## Dear Library Friends,

As we enter the third year of the pandemic, **it is gratifying to look back at how user-focused and flexible Sioux City Public Library staff have been and continue to be in serving our community.** After a year of having limited services, staff and patrons were more than happy to return to a sense of normalcy. Staff were eager to resume in-person programming, including offering new programs such as Writers Circle, Teen Writing Club, the Adult Summer Reading Trivia event, and Baby Boot Camp.

Due to a retirement and staff turnover, there were a number of promotions among current staff as well as hiring of new staff. Thanks, in part, to these fresh perspectives from staff in new positions, exciting changes have been happening. Creating an exceptional user experience is always the top priority of the Library and to help meet that need, staff studied the layout at the Perry Creek Branch and rearranged some resources to give it an updated and more inviting look. Patrons have voiced their delight in these changes. Staff also focused on getting the word out about all our wonderful services through social media and other outlets. The Library's *Facebook* and *Instagram* accounts have reached more people than ever before. Reader Services staff also planned and implemented our biggest Adult Summer Reading Program yet, with more than double the number of participants from the previous record-breaking year, which also featured our first mascot, a Sasquatch named Kevin who loves to gobble up a good book!

In April, the Sioux City Council proclaimed April 4-10 *Library Week in Sioux City*, which coincided with *National Library Week*. That same month, the Friends of the Sioux City Public Library held their first book sale since 2019 and it was a huge success. The proceeds from this sale fund the Youth Summer Reading Program as well as numerous other important projects not included in the Library's regular budget.

Library staff are preparing for the next three years by creating a new strategic plan that will continue to focus on the user experience and follow the latest and greatest trends in public libraries. The **Sioux City Public Library** is committed to being a safe space where "All Are Welcome."

## Board of Trustees

Jane Vereen, *President*

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Jessica Board

Adam Dean

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

- Adopted by the Board of Trustees, January 2020

# Sioux City Public Library

## by the Numbers

2021-2022



**291,457** (+20%)

Total Items Checked Out

That's **798 items** per day!

29% of materials checked out were eResources



**184,209** (+55%)

Total Visitors

Aalfs Downtown: 101,220  
Morningside Branch: 57,580  
Perry Creek Branch: 25,409

**2,513**  
New Library Cards Issued (+56%)

**20,275**

Active Library Cards

19% of Sioux City residents have active library cards based on 16,039 active resident/owner cards.



**7,102**  
Hours of Service at **3 Locations**



**2,810.75**

Volunteer Hours

**760**

Meeting Room Bookings

**3,432**

Attendees



**157,534**

Total Number of Physical Items & Recordings

10,260 Physical Items Added  
19,185 Items Withdrawn or Damaged  
142,764 eBooks & eAudiobooks Held  
49,888 eBooks & eAudiobooks Added

**66,584**  
Unique Website Visitors



**7,800**

People Attended a Library Event

**402**

Total Programs/Events

**271**  
Electronic Device Checkouts



**13,326**

Computer Lab Logins (+67%)

**99,602**

Wifi Logins (+23%)

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (not audited)

**\$3,246,991** City Adjusted Budget amount

### Expenditures

\$2,519,217 Personnel  
\$253,386 Materials  
\$474,338 Building/Operations/Equipment

### Revenue

\$86,093 Fines/Fees Collected

### Gifts & Grants Received

\$90,721.09 Library Foundation Endowment  
\$11,895.81 Gleeson Book Fund Distribution\*  
\$500 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library  
\$18,786.38 State of Iowa Funds  
\$1194.98 Other

\*2 years of distribution – did not receive distribution in FY2021

# Partnerships

Sioux City Public Library forms partnerships with a variety of organizations to help further its mission to provide equal access to quality resources for personal empowerment and community enrichment. Partnerships provide the Library with additional audiences, input on diversity, and access to new programs.

In partnership with **Siouxland Public Media**, the Sioux City Public Library is able to share book recommendations and author interviews with radio listeners.

### **Check it Out**

*Check It Out* is a weekly spotlight on literature and book culture that **Siouxland Public Media** co-produces with the Sioux City Public Library. Library staff and enthusiasts share books they love with public radio listeners. 38 new segments aired on KWIT in the 2021-2022 year.

### **The First Fifty Pages**

The Library partnered with KWIT to host a diverse line-up of authors on the podcast: *The First Fifty Pages*. Dean Koontz, Emily St. John Mandel, V.E Schwab, and Alice Hoffman were some of the star-studded authors who spoke with Library hosts Jenn Delperdang (Circulation Services Manager) and Kelsey Patterson (Morningside Branch Supervisor). 11 authors were featured in podcast episodes throughout the last year.



Authors: Emily St. John Mandel, V.E. Schwab, Dean Koontz & Alice Hoffman.

### **The Difference is Dialogue**

In partnership with the **Sioux City Community Inclusion Liason, Semehar Chebrekidan**, this event series was launched in January 2022 and is an initiative of the City. It serves as a way for the community to have honest conversations about tough topics. Conversations include group dialogues, panels and more. The Sioux City Public Library provides staff, promotion, space and book recommendations for these events. Reader Services Librarian, Michael Maxwell, also worked with the Friends of the Sioux City Public Library to acquire a grant for additional Library resources to support these events.

**100**  
in-person  
participants

**1200+**  
online  
participants

# Adult Summer Reading

Sioux City Public Library crafted a revamped **Adult Summer Reading Program** for 2022. This program followed the same timeline as the Youth Summer Reading Program and used the *Beanstack Tracker App*, the same app used in the Youth program, so parents and caregivers could earn badges and prize entries alongside their children and teens. The Library hopes these tie-ins encourage a love of reading for all family members.

The Library held a trivia night kickoff event with 90+ attendees in partnership with a local business, Buffalo Alice. Attendees enjoyed an evening of trivia, received information about the Library's *Summer Reading Programs* and voted to name our Summer Reading mascot.

The Library also hosted a Zoom event with Doug Bierend, author of *In Search of Mycotopia: Citizen Science, Fungi Fanatics, and the Untapped Potential of Mushrooms*, one of the books selected for the Adult Summer Reading List.

Over the course of summer, **300 adults signed up on the Beanstack Tracker App and earned 1,510 badges.** The most popular badges earned were for checking out a book from a Library display, time spent reading, reading a book from the Summer Reading book list and telling a friend about Summer Reading.



**300**  
participants

**1,500+**  
badges earned

## Homebound Services

Library volunteers gave **89.25 hours of home delivery service** in FY22 to ensure households in Sioux City were served.

## Open Book Club

Sioux City Public Library hosts *Open Book Club* the first Monday of each month at two locations. This lively discussion with fellow reading enthusiasts averages **20 participants each month.** The *Open Book Club* also participates in the *All Iowa Reads* initiative with a special event each year.

## Community Outreach

The Sioux City Public Library attends community events to educate children and adults about the Library. Attending events allows staff to interact with thousands of Sioux City residents who may be unfamiliar with Library programs and services.

(Left) The Library attends a pop-up park event at Dale Street Park. (Right) Hundreds of SUX Pride attendees visited the Library booth.



# Youth Summer Reading

In addition to the thousands of amazing books and resources at the Library, **over 1800 young patrons kept their brains strong by participating in the Summer Reading Program.** Participants read 7,062 picture books and school-age children and teens logged 232,254 minutes of **chapter books** on the Beanstack Tracker App. That's over 160 days of reading! **Over 1500 children & teens picked up Summer Reading Starter Packs** from the Library.

All *Summer Reading* events and activities were free and open to all. Over **200 attendees** joined the Library for the *Youth Summer Reading Kickoff* event with musician *Duke Otherwise*. Weekly *Imagination Builders* events used hands-on STEAM based activities to take stories beyond the pages of the book.



Over 80 teens participated in the Library's after-hours event, *Expedition: Seeking Sasquatch*.

In partnership with Woodbury County 4-H, youth in grades 4-8 attended *Innovation Studio* with hands-on STEM-based learning modules focusing on horticulture and agriculture. Over **80 teens attended a special after-hours event, *Expedition: Seeking Sasquatch*** to solve puzzles, compete in challenges, and look for clues to solve the mystery of Bigfoot. Kids also enjoyed *Read-to-Me-Dogs* events, Storytimes, LEGO events, and a *Wild About Reptiles* event in partnership with the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and their scaly ambassadors.

Local businesses supported the *Summer Reading Program* by donating around \$6,000 in coupons for free food & activities. Coupons were awarded to children ages 0-18 in their *Summer Reading Starter Packs*. Powell Broadcasting donated \$7,500 of free radio PSAs for the *Summer Reading Program*.



Babies and toddlers attend *Baby Boot Camp* at the Library.



An *Imagination Builder* works on a birdhouse design.



*Innovation Studio* participants check to see how thorough their hand washing techniques are.

**1,800+**  
Youth Summer Reading participants

**232k+**  
Minutes &  
**7,000+**  
Books read by kids

**1,500+**  
Kids picked up Summer Reading Starter Packs from the Library.



The reptile event at Morningside Branch Library hosted 87 scale-loving visitors.

Teens at the Library's after-hours event, *Seeking Sasquatch*, formed teams to solve clues. Teens played challenge games, unlocked codes and solved an escape room before enjoying snacks, being awarded prizes and selecting a free book.

Sioux City Public Library works hard to help children in Sioux City prepare for kindergarten with a variety of programs like *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, *Summer Reading*, *Storytimes*, *Book Walks*, outreach activities and partnerships like *Bridge to Reading* and *Our Bookshelf*.



The Youth *Summer Reading Kickoff* event with musician *Duke Otherwise* attracted 214 visitors to the Library.

## Bridge to Reading

The Sioux City Public Library took part in the annual Iowa *Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award* voting event. *Bridge to Reading* promotes early literacy and reading to children through the introduction of quality picture books. Children are encouraged to read, or have a caregiver read to them, five of the 10 books nominated and then vote for their favorite.



(Above) Painted window murals featuring *Summer Reading* characters were created at all three Library locations. (Below) Therapy dog Roy is a very good boy during a *Read-to-Me-Dogs* event at Aalfs Downtown Library.



Young artists chalk the walk at the *Summer Reading Kickoff* event at Morningside Branch Library.



# Outreach & Library Storytimes

A love of reading starts young, and the Library believes reading to children is one of the best ways to encourage that spark. In the 2021-2022 year, the Library held over 60 storytimes at our Library locations with **895 children and 656 adults in attendance**. Over 2,000 children heard stories, songs and rhymes when youth staff presented 141 storytimes at 25 Sioux City child care centers.

**141**  
Outreach Storytimes

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

*1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program encourages parents to read to their kids frequently. Research shows that reading to your child is the most reliable predictor of school success. Using the Beanstack App, parents track the books they read to their child. Kids receive a special reward for every 200 books read. In 2021-2022, 307 kids enrolled and recorded 33,743 books.



**33,743**

Books read by 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten participants

## Visiting Groups

Sioux City Public Library works with local schools, child care programs and learning centers to provide staff and resources for any area group who wishes to visit the Library. Tour groups receive tailored information prepared by staff for the needs of their age range or interest. This summer **659 kids and caregivers visited the Library with a group**.



## Sioux City Community Schools Event Partnership

In honor of *National Reading Month*, the Library partnered with *Sioux City Community Schools* for a special reading event at the Aalfs Downtown Library. *Sioux City Community School* leaders read stories to attendees. A book walk, crafts, activities, and snacks were part of the event. *Sioux City Public Schools Foundation* also gave away free books. **184 children and adults attended this event.**



Sioux City Community Board Member, Perla Alarcon-Flory, reads a book at the Aalfs Downtown Library.

## Our Bookshelf Partnership

Sioux City Public Library partnered with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension for the program, *Our Bookshelf*. This program provides free books and classes to help parents and caregivers of preschool age children learn about reading techniques and ideas on how to make reading fun for themselves and their children.



# eResources

The Library provides a variety of tech services for the Sioux City community including computer labs at both Aalfs Downtown and Morningside Branch locations, *Smarter Hotspots* for checkout, Wifi, printing, mobile printing, tech consultations, and a variety of databases and eResources.

## Hotspots

Provided by a grant from Missouri River Historical District (MRHD), the Library has 12 *Smarter Hotspot* devices available for patrons. Checkouts on these devices have doubled from the previous year and all devices are often checked out.

Sioux City Public Library provides patrons an online Library of eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, and movies accessible on their smart devices. Early in the pandemic, these **eResources** were essential for continued access to Library materials. As pandemic restrictions wane, **eResources** have continued to be a patron staple for accessing Library resources.

**Total FY22 e-resource checkouts:**

**84,304** (-5%\*)

**29% of total checkouts.**

\*compared to 88,838 checkouts in FY21, accounting for 38% of total checkouts – Library had reduced hours for 11 months of that term.

Checkouts are overall still lower than pre-pandemic numbers - except the number of **eResource** checkouts which is higher than pre-pandemic **eResource** checkouts by 12%.

### **Libby Checkouts**

eBooks – 32,809 (accounts for 30% of Fiction/Leisure checkouts)

eAudiobooks – 28,979 (accounts for 50% of Recording checkouts\*)

eMagazines – 2,169 (accounts for 22% of Magazine checkouts)

### **Freegal Music** (accounts for 33% of Recordings\*)

Streaming – 16,021

Downloads – 3,004

### **Kanopy Movies**

1,295 plays/credits (+62% from FY21)

\*83% of total Recordings checked out in FY22 were eResources

***“I don’t know what I would do without the library. It’s my favorite place!”***

**- Library Patron**

Libraries are filled with words, but none are more important than the feedback received from patrons and stories heard from the staff. Here are a few of the comments and stories received in the 2021-2022 year.

*“A patron came in to renew his library card and told us that his wife wanted him to tell whoever he talked to how much she enjoyed **The First Fifty Pages**, that she thinks the hosts do a phenomenal job and is impressed by the authors they get on the program. He said he was going to start listening to it as well since she raves about it, and he also said they both enjoy hearing staff recommendations on **Check It Out**.”*

- Ben Bemus, Library Service Associate

*“A patron born in 1942 came to the desk at Morningside. She shared that she is a big fan of **Libby**. She “Never Ever” (her words) thought she would use it, but she loves it and thinks it is very easy to use.”*

- Peg Johnson, Library Service Associate

*“A patron came to the Circulation desk and asked me about getting a library card. He asked me how much a card cost to have, and I explained that it was free. I was able to issue his library card to him in a matter of minutes. He smiled and said, “Thank you! That was so easy!””*

- Jenn Delperdang,  
Circulation Services  
Manager

***“I love the recent changes here at Perry Creek! The space is so wonderfully open and inviting. I have volunteered here for many years and the place looks better than it ever has. Love it!”***

**- Perry Creek Library Patron**

## Social Media Comments

The Library has a robust social media following with 5,000+ followers on *Facebook* and 900+ on *Instagram*. The Library's website received 65,000+ unique visits last year. In addition, the Library produces several live programs for consumption on social channels:

**Reference Roundtable** - weekly 30 minute live broadcasts on books & Library happenings.

**Let's Get Crafty** - monthly segments where staff walk viewers through a seasonal craft.

Here are a few comments from our social media audience:

*"It is terrific that the library has so many fun activities for everyone & that the staff is willing to do these outside of regular hours. Very much appreciated."*

- comment referencing the Summer Reading teen after-hours event.

***"I wish more people knew how helpful you all are."***

*"I love our library!"*

*"I'm enjoying the Libby App; I've been listening to many, many audiobooks. Love it!"*

***"These are great fun. Thanks."***

- comment from **Wayback Wednesday** posts on Facebook

From **Reference Roundtable** episodes:

*"These Roundtables are a blast!! You guys might be becoming celebrities!"*

*"Thank you so much for sharing your reading tips, I will be reading some of these books."*

*"I've never listened to a audiobook but listening to you makes me want to."*



Coloring sheets from patrons for National Library Week were displayed in the windows at the AalFs Downtown Library.

## National Library Week

During **National Library Week**, the Library asked visitors to color a page to hang in our windows and to add a comment about their favorite book or what they like most about the Library. Some of the comments we received from these were:

***"Dear Librarians, Thank you for all you do. You have always worked with me and have been super lenient on certain things. You guys do a lot. I can't imagine this job being the easiest, but I bet it's super fun! ..and quiet. Keep working hard and being yourself because you don't know who you will impact."***

*"I love the Library because it has amazing books!"*

*"I love the library because it has a good collection of non-fiction books."*

*"I like to color at the Library."*

***"I love going to the Library with my Grandma."***

*"The Library staff are nice to see!"*



# SIoux CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## **Aalfs Downtown Library**

529 Pierce Street • Sioux City, IA 51101

712-255-2933

Monday - Wednesday.....9 am - 8 pm

Thursday - Saturday.....9 am - 5 pm

Sunday (Sept - May).....1 pm - 5 pm

Sunday (June - Aug).....Closed

## **Morningside Branch Library**

4005 Morningside Avenue • Sioux City, IA 51106

712-255-2924

Monday - Wednesday.....10 am - 6 pm

Thursday - Friday.....10 am - 5 pm

Saturday.....9 am - 5 pm

## **Perry Creek Branch Library**

2912 Hamilton Blvd. #101 • Sioux City, IA 51104

712-255-2926

Monday - Friday.....10:30 am - 5:30 pm

## **SiouxCityLibrary.org**

Access Library catalog & databases.  
Download eBooks, eAudiobooks & music.  
Request titles & renew checked out items.