

Annual Report

2022-2023

**Early
Readers**



SIoux CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Helen Rigdon, Library Director.

Dear Library Friends,

What a busy, wonderful year the Sioux City Public Library saw. The Library was awarded over **1.1 million dollars** for the **Emergency Connectivity Fund** to finance **2,000 Internet-enabled devices and connectivity for each device for a year**. These devices included hotspots, 5G routers, iPads, and Chromebooks. Staff, including myself, never thought we would circulate all these devices when we kicked off the “Internet For All” program on January 6. Little did we know that six weeks later, all devices would be in circulation. The demand for these devices has proven to the community that there are still many that lack adequate Internet connection and devices. As this funding draws to a close, staff are working on alternative funding sources to be able to keep circulating a portion of these devices.

The Library also created a **new strategic plan** that outlines the steps and goals that will guide the Sioux City Public Library to serve as a vital asset in meeting the needs of the diverse community it serves for the next three years. Besides a new mission statement, the Library identified its values for the new plan: **Inclusion, Equity, Intellectual Freedom, Social Justice, and Excellent Customer Service**.

The Library was also awarded re-certification from the State Library at the highest level for public libraries in Iowa. This certification is valid for the next three years.

Sioux City Public Library continues to advocate for intellectual freedom for all people by supporting the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements.

“I hate it that Americans are taught to fear some books and some ideas as though they were diseases.” – Kurt Vonnegut

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The Sioux City Public Library welcomes all people and provides equitable access to all resources and services.

- Adopted by the Board of Trustees, January 2023

Sioux City Public Library

by the Numbers

2022-2023



237,156 (+28%)
Total Visitors

Aalfs Downtown: 151,929
Morningside Branch: 59,381
Perry Creek Branch: 25,846



312,855 (+7.3%)
Total Items Checked Out

That's
857 items
per day!

31% of materials checked out were eResources



2,897
Electronic
Device
Checkouts

4,217
New Library
Cards Issued
(+40%)

25,466 (+25%)
Active Library Cards

20% of Sioux City residents have active library cards based on 17,416 active resident/owner cards.



156,857
Total Number
of Physical Items
& Recordings



11,462 Physical Items Added
12,139 Items Withdrawn or Damaged
151,960 eBooks & eAudiobooks Held
Downloadable materials increased by 9,196



12,638

(+62%)
People Attended
a Library Event

515
Programs/Events

18,285
Computer Lab
Logins (+37%)

96,650
Wifi Logins

87,396
Unique
Website
Visitors



\$3,283,544.56

Money saved by patrons in FY23*

*The Library tracked dollar amounts patrons saved by borrowing vs. buying. This does NOT include e-resources.

Dollar for dollar and more, the Sioux City Public Library re-invested it's budget back into the community in FY23.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (not audited)

\$3,238,406 City Adjusted Budget amount

Expenditures

\$2,503,741 Personnel
\$253,386 Materials
\$481,279 Building/Operations/Equipment

Revenue

\$55,383 Fines/Fees Collected

Gifts & Grants Received

\$94,017.11 Library Foundation Endowment
\$6,173.95 Gleeson Book Fund Distribution*
\$66,115.46 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library
\$19,215.00 State of Iowa Funds
\$647.00 Other

7,104
Hours of Service at
3 Locations



2,506.25
Volunteer Hours

1,296 (+70%)
Meeting Room
Bookings

4,949
Meeting Room
Attendees



Reader Services

Reaching Out

Online, on-air, at community events, in partnerships with other organizations; wherever Sioux Cityans were, the Sioux City Public Library worked to be there.

Streaming LIVE from the Library

Sioux City Public Library produces two regular streaming programs that air LIVE on Facebook. Weekly **Reference Roundtable** offered 48 live streaming events in FY23 and explored books, history, and what patrons are checking out. Monthly **Let's Get Crafty** encouraged viewers to follow along from home with simple craft ideas.

Open Book Club

Sioux City Public Library hosts *Open Book Club* the first Monday of each month at two locations. This lively discussion averages **14 participants each month**. The *Open Book Club* also participates in a special event for the *All Iowa Reads* initiative.

Home Delivery Services

Library volunteers served 31 patrons and gave **71.5 hours of home delivery service** in FY23.

Outreach

The Sioux City Public Library holds events at our Library locations, and attends community events to educate children and adults about the Library. Hosting and attending events allows staff to interact with thousands of Sioux City residents who may be unfamiliar with Library programs and services.

906

in-person participants at events for adults in 2023



Authors: (Top) Ali Hazelwood, (Bottom) Benjamin Stevenson.

On-Air

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 share books they love with radio listeners. 36 new segments aired in the 2022-2023 year.

The First Fifty Pages

The Library partnered with **KWIT** to host authors on the podcast: *The First Fifty Pages*. Library hosts Jenn Delperdang (Circulation Services Manager) and Kelsey Patterson (Morningside Branch Supervisor) featured 7 authors in podcast episodes in FY23.



(Top) The Library attends a pop-up park event at Riverside Park. (Bottom) Attendees visited the Library booth at the SUX Pride event.

Sioux City Reads

In FY23, Sioux City Public Library launched **Sioux City Reads**, a new community-based reading initiative where Sioux Cityans were involved in every step – from book selection, to programming and book discussions.

During November 2022, 160 Library patrons voted to select the 2023 Sioux City Reads title. Voters chose *Calling for a Blanket Dance* by Oscar Hokeah. This book served as the inspiration for reading lists, events, discussions, and online content from January through early April 2023.

Events held included screenings of the films *The Warrior Tradition* and *Wind River*, Art at the Library with Denise Semple, a discussion on



Hoop Dancer, Starr Chief Eagle at the Aalfs Downtown Library.

Authenticity & Healing with Trudy Soole, Trivia Night, book discussions, and 2 performances by Hoop Dancer, Starr Chief Eagle.

Over **500 people** participated in Sioux City Reads events and activities, with over 300 people attending the Hoop Dancer performances held at Aalfs Downtown Library and the Sioux City Art Center.



Artist Denise Semple gives a demonstration and talked about her work.

Adult Summer Reading

298

participants

2,495 (+66%)

badges earned



Sioux City Public Library's **Adult Summer Reading Program** followed the same timeline as the Youth Summer Reading Program and used the *Beanstack Tracker App*.

The Library held a Trivia Night kickoff event with **over 70 attendees** in partnership with a

local business, Buffalo Alice.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of trivia and received information about the Library's Adult and Children's Summer Reading Programs.

Over the course of summer, 298 adults signed up on the Beanstack Tracker App and earned 2,495 badges, a 66% increase from 2022.

Participants could earn badges by reading, visiting a Library location, reading a book from a book club, downloading an eBook on Libby, reading book recommendations from *Check It Out* on KWIT, or checking out different Library media. Suggested reads to earn badges were featured in Library displays.



Trivia participants listen closely during a tiebreaker question.

Youth Summer Reading

In addition to the thousands of amazing books and resources at the Library, the Sioux City Public Library's Youth Services department worked hard to ensure kids of all ages enjoyed 2023 Summer Reading. **2,564 kids participated in Library events, and 612 children & teens signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge on the Beanstack Tracker App.** Participants on Beanstack read 317,305 minutes this summer, an increase of 26% from the 2022 Summer Reading season!

All Summer Reading events and activities were free and open to the public. **375 attendees joined the Library for the Summer Reading Kickoff** event at the Aalfs Downtown Library enjoyed crafts, karaoke, and added their handprint to our summer window mural.



Children helped create the Summer Reading window mural during kickoff at the Aalfs Downtown Library by stamping their painted hands on the window in the atrium.

Imagination Builders in grades 1-3 used hands-on STEAM based activities in conjunction with stories to create science crafts. Kids in grades 4-8 attended Innovation Studio with STEM-based learning modules focusing on science and technology.

Over 90 teens attended 3 special teen events: A Rock & Roll Mystery, Sioux City Has Talent, and Mindfulness for Teens.

In total, youth attended over 50 events during Summer Reading which also included Read-to-Me-Dogs events, Storytimes, LEGO events, puppet shows, and interactive movie, a Tots & Tunes event, Friday Movies, the Great Plains Zoomobile critters, and a visit from Illusionist Keith West to discover the magic of books!

Local businesses supported the Summer Reading Program by donating \$7,175 worth of free food coupons and prizes.



Storytimes held weekly at Perry Creek and Morningside Branch Libraries were often held outside. A volunteer provided sign language interpretation at Morningside.



Imagination Builders select components for creating spoon catapults.



(Above) Children 2 and under enjoyed a special storytime event just for them. (Below) Children visit a Library booth during a pop-up park outreach event.



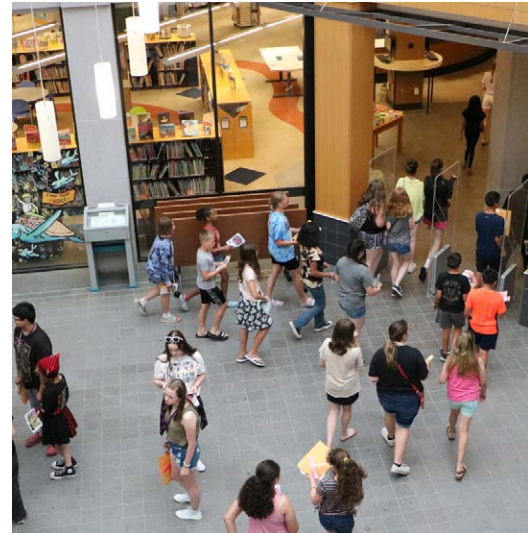
The Great Plains Zoomobile attracted hundreds of attendees to see animal ambassadors up close and personal.

2,564
Youth Summer Reading
participants

612
Kids participated on the
Beanstack Tracker App

50+
Events for kids during
Summer Reading

317k+
Minutes read by kids
on Beanstack



Over 70 teens participated in *Teen After-Hours: A Rock & Roll Mystery* at the Downtown Library.



Illusionist Keith West delighted hundreds of magic lovers with his illusions. West spoke on how important the Library is and blended magic with his love for books.



(Above) Painted window murals were created at all three Library locations. (Right and Below) Therapy dogs provided comforting listeners for well-attended *Read-to-Me-Dogs* events at Aalfs Downtown Library.



Sioux City Public Library works hard to help children in Sioux City prepare for kindergarten with a variety of programs like *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*, *Summer Reading*, *Storytimes*, story walks, and outreach activities. Staff strive to grow children's love for reading and make the Library an enjoyable destination.

Beyond Summer Reading

A love of reading starts young, and the Library believes reading to children is one of the best ways to encourage that spark. From August of 2022 - May of 2023, the Library held over 87 storytimes at our Library locations with **822 children and 698 adults in attendance**. Over 2,400 children heard stories, songs and rhymes when youth staff presented 151 storytimes at 26 Sioux City preschool classrooms.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Research shows that reading to your child is the most reliable predictor of school success. The **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** program encourages parents to read to their kids frequently. Parents track the books they read to their children on the Beanstack Tracker App. Kids receive a special reward for every 200 books read. In FY23, **40,450 books were recorded, and 243 kids enrolled.**

40,450 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 information prepared by staff for the needs of their age range or interest. **252 kids and 30 adults visited the Library with a group.**

Special Events

Sioux City Public Library creates special events outside of Summer Reading throughout the school year to keep kids engaged in the Library and books. Events such as First Saturday Storytimes, Baby Storytimes, story walks, Fall Fest, movie events, Bridge to Reading, Drumming with Koffie Dennis, and others. **776 children and 469 adults participated in special events in the Library and in the Sioux City community.**

151

Outreach Storytimes



"To whom it may concern. I just want to say thank you for making the Library feel like home whenever I come here. I always immediately feel happy and calm. You provide so many fun activities, so thank you."

- letter from Jazmyn



(Above) Families enjoy an outdoor storytime at Morningside Branch Library.
(Below) Kids attend the First Saturday Storytime: Jammie Jam event.



Internet for All

The Sioux City Public Library received more than \$1 million in funds from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a federal program to help schools and libraries address the gap for those who currently lack necessary Internet access.

With this funding, the Library launched the *Internet for All* initiative, a program that made 2,000 internet-enabled devices available for checkout through the Sioux City Public Library during 2023.

2,897

Total number of device checkouts from January 1, 2023- July 30, 2023

2,000 Devices made available for checkout:

300 iPads

600 Chromebooks

550 5G Routers

550 Hotspots

In addition to providing *Internet for All* devices directly to residents, the Sioux City Public Library partnered with community organizations to provide access to these devices to those they serve.

60% of *Internet for All* user survey respondents said access to these devices helped them have internet at home.

Internet for All Stories of Impact:

At an outreach event in Riverside Park, a patron came up to me and said, "I have a question...Will you be continuing your internet program after the end of the year?" I explained that we were looking to secure funding so that we could continue in some capacity, and she said, "I have one of your wifi boxes, and I didn't have internet before. I didn't realize how much we do need it—for the kid's school work and just everyday life. Before I felt 'lower', but having this, I feel like I'm more 'middle'. I hope it can continue, it has made such a difference in our lives." - Jenn, Circulation Services

"A friend of mine who is disabled and is not able to get out much has been so happy about being able to check out a laptop and hotspot from the Library! Her world was very small since it is hard for her to get out and she can't drive, but having access to the internet makes her life so much better. She would not have been able to have that without the Library." – Library patron comment

(More impact stories on following page.) 9

(Internet for All impact stories continued)

"A single mom patron said her daughter wanted to take drivers education through the D.O.T online program but could not afford a computer. The patron was able to get a Chromebook and hotspot the mom was so happy." - Sienna, Circulation Services

"I am thankful for the use of the laptop and having internet access when I got it. The lady spent time with me going over different things and walking me through the use of the laptop. Everyone was helpful." - Library patron comment

"I had a patron come in to check out a Chromebook. He explained that he wanted to get his GED and his friend had heard about our Internet for All initiative and told him about it. As we were finishing up the checkout process, I gave him the due date and he said that he hoped to have his GED by then. He was very happy when he walked out of the Library."
- Peg, Circulation Services

"Thank you for getting this program. It helped me get on the internet without having to find a place with WIFI." - Library patron comment

"A woman came in during the Internet for All Kickoff Event with her daughter and grandson to check out an Internet-connected device for her home. They had some great questions about devices. The grandson said he would be setting up the device for his grandmother and had offered to come help her check out the device. This would be the first time she would have internet at home. Both the daughter and grandson were very excited and wanted to be there to help make the process as easy for her as possible." - Matti, Library Graphic Services

"Very cool program. Keep it up!"
- Library patron comment

"An elderly woman was returning a Chromebook she checked out to try Libby because it is harder for her to get around and some day she might not be able to come into the library. She said Libby was just so fun and she really appreciated the library giving her the opportunity to try it out!" - Laura, Circulation Services

"A patron came to the Main library to return her iPad. She said she used it to teach her grandma how to use the device. The grandmother ended up buying an iPad because she enjoyed it so much."
- Sienna, Circulation Services

eResources

Total FY23 e-resource checkouts:

96,840 (+12%)

31% of total checkouts.

Sioux City Public Library provides patrons an online Library of eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, and movies accessible on their smart devices. **eResources** are a growing segment of Library resources. Most notable are the growth of eAudiobooks, which exceeded eBook checkouts and increased by 26%; and streaming music, which also increased 26%.

Libby Checkouts

eBooks – 34,761 (33% of Fiction/Leisure checkouts)

eAudiobooks – 36,675 (53% of Recording checkouts*)

eMagazines – 2,105 (24% of Magazine checkouts)

Freegal Music (34% of Recordings*)

Streaming – 20,205 (+26%)

Downloads – 3,094

Kanopy Movies

1,225 plays/credits

*eAudiobooks and Freegal account for 86% of audio checkouts.

“The uplifting and inspiring attitude that I find whenever I go to one of branches encourages me to keep learning and helps me to have a positive attitude about how amazing life is. Thank you all for being so amazing.”
- Library Patron

“All of the librarians are very helpful. They follow through locating books and suggest new authors to try out.” - Library patron

“You all help make our libraries such fun places to come to, and you help us to have fascinating new adventures!”

- comment on Reference Roundtable

“Throughout the month, I received several comments from patrons impressed by and appreciative of our banned book display. Our community appreciates their freedom to access information through the library, and they are glad to hear that we have not been subject to book bans.”

- Ben, Circulation Services

“I love the inter-library loans and the willingness there is to locate hard to find books.” - Library Patron

“The library has always been cool, but I wish the library was THIS cool when I was a teen!” - comment on the Teen After Hours event

“What a fun time! Thanks for all that hard work and energy. Great happenings at the library!”

- comment on Summer Reading Kick-off

“All of these new authors and books is so exciting, my brain is dancing with happiness.”
- comment on Reference Roundtable

“I like to come listen to the books. My favorite books are Caterina and Babbysitters Club Little Sisters.” - comment from young patron

“I like Cat Ninja books and monkey books. I like story time.” - comment from young patron

“Thank you so much for creating such an amazing experience for my students. I appreciate all the time you put into this day and the knowledge you shared. My students continue to talk about how much fun they had!” -Megan, Teacher

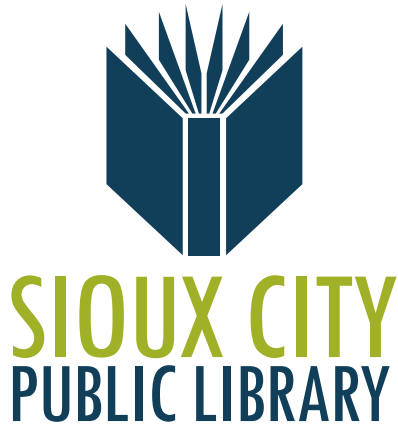
“Thank you for giving us a full tour of the Library and a tour of the teen section because I got three Dragon Ball Z books and read them in three days.” -Savino, 5th grade

“Thank you for the for showing us the tour of the library especially the anime section. The craft was so fun. It made my day.”
- Lameck, 5th grade

“Thank you for everything! You guys are so nice. Thank you for letting us visit the library. I love you so much. I love the library.”
- Ari, 1st grade

I had a patron come in and needed help on the computers. He was trying to upload a picture of his photo id to Facebook as he has just had everything on his phone hacked. After about 15 minutes of helping him, we got it submitted. He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said “thank you, no one ever helps me, thank you.” He asked for my name and left for the day. Every time he comes in while I am on desk, he would come up and say hi to me, thank me again and his response to “how are you today” started getting more positive as he made progress recovering everything he lost. Its moments like these that are the reason I love working at the library.” - Savannah, Reference Librarian

“I love to read! I love the Library!” - comment in crayon from young patron



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.

Stream movies & music.

Request titles & renew checked out items.