



Annual Report

2024-2025



Helen Rigdon, *Library Director.*

Dear Library Patrons, Friends, and Supporters,

This year has been one of notable growth, innovation, and community engagement for the Sioux City Public Library. As we reflect on our achievements and challenges, we are proud to share the milestones we have reached and the impact we have made on our community.

Our Library continues to be a cornerstone of knowledge, learning, and intellectual freedom. Over the past year, we have expanded our collections, enhanced our digital resources, and introduced new programs that serve the different needs of our patrons. From children discovering the joy of reading to adults seeking lifelong learning opportunities, our Library has been a hub of activity and inspiration.

We have also strengthened our partnerships with local organizations, schools, and businesses, fostering a collaborative spirit which benefits everyone. Our dedicated staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional service, ensuring that every visitor feels welcome and supported.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission of welcoming all people and providing equitable access to our resources and services. We are excited about the future and the opportunities it holds for our Library and the Sioux City community.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference.

Helen Rigdon

Sioux City Public Library Director

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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

2024-2025



239,763 (+2%)
Total Visitors

Aalfs Downtown: **160,661** (+6%)
Morningside Branch: **57,642**
Perry Creek Branch: **21,460**



That's
879 items
per day!

DVD/Blu-ray Checkouts **+26.2%**
Playaways & Wonderbooks **+28.5%**

320,973

Total Items Checked Out



559
Hotspot
Checkouts

2,907
New Library
Cards
Issued

24,218

Active Library Cards

23% of Sioux City residents have active library cards
based on 19,778 active resident/owner cards.



38% of total checkouts are eResources

124,493 eResource checkouts

eAudiobooks now have more checkouts than eBooks!

148,410

Total Number
of Physical Items
& Recordings



10,061 Physical Items Added
11,222 Items Withdrawn or Damaged



16,410

(+21%)

People Attended
a Library Event

625

Programs/Events

18,461
Computer Lab
Logins

WiFi
Logins have
increased
+82%

183,661

Wifi Logins (+82%)

78,768
Website
Visitors



34,662 Database Sessions

7,124.5

Hours of Service at
3 Locations



2,637

Volunteer Hours

1,623 (+17%)
Meeting Room
Bookings

5,902

Meeting Room
Attendees

over \$3 million

Money saved by patrons in FY25

The Library tracked dollar amounts patrons
saved by borrowing vs. buying. This does NOT
include eResources, databases, or use of Library
computers, equipment, and spaces.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (not audited)

\$3,629,609 City Adjusted Budget amount

Expenditures

\$2,849,603 Personnel
\$253,386 Materials
\$526,620 Building/Operations/Equipment

Revenue

\$50,554 Fines/Fees Collected

Gifts & Grants Received

\$124,192.35* Library Foundation Endowment
(*25,000 from previous year)
\$6,258.95 Gleeson Book Fund Distribution
\$37,696.23 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library
\$18,830.83 State of Iowa Funds
\$5,594.70 Other

Adult Enrichment

The Sioux City Public Library sought to spread the word on how the resources offered by the Library can help Sioux Cityans and their families enrich their lives and reach their goals. In addition to the thousands of books and resources offered, the Library provides a variety of activities and media for adult audiences including Trivia Nights, Crime Talks, Open Book Club, Sioux City Reads, a podcast, and more!

1,026

in-person participants attended Library events for adults in FY25

Big Names on The First Fifty Pages

In partnership with **Siouxland Public Media**, the Library interviews authors for the podcast, **The First Fifty Pages**. Library hosts Jenn Delperdang (Circulation Services Manager) and Kelsey Patterson (Morningside Branch Supervisor) interviewed twelve authors in FY25. Authors included: **Katherine Center, Ruth Ware, Jodi Picoult, Stuart Turton, Leif Enger, Liane Moriarty, Lisa Genova, Chris Bohjalian, Nickolas Butler, Tim Johnston, Emilia Hart, and T.J. Klune.**

Check It Out

We're proud to celebrate 10 years of **Check It Out**, a weekly radio segment co-produced by **Siouxland Public Media** and the Library. Each week, Library staff highlight their top book picks for listeners. In FY25, **33 new segments** aired.

Sioux City Reads

In FY25, Sioux City Public Library held its 3rd **Sioux City Reads** season. In November, Library patrons voted to select the 2025 title. Voters chose **Unmask Alice by Rick Emerson**. During March 2025, events held included book discussions, a poetry contest, an Unsolved Mysteries True Crime Talk, a community mural, a Trivia Night, and a presentation on how to be news savvy. **186 people participated in Sioux City Reads events and activities.**

Open Book Club

The *Open Book Club* meets each month for two in-person sessions, plus a virtual Zoom session for a total of **39 events** in FY25. These lively discussions averaged **10 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 36 patrons and gave **56 hours** towards home delivery service in FY25.



(Above) Library visitors were invited to add a thought to a window 'diary' as a part of Sioux City Reads. (Below) Author Marc Cameron signs a book for a fan during an author talk and book signing event.



Adult Summer Reading

300+
event attendees

2,128
badges earned



Sioux City Public Library's **Adult Summer Reading Program** occurred from June 1 - July 31. The program tracks participant activities online.

Adult Summer Reading kicked off with a Trivia Night event. **Over 100 attendees** joined Library staff at Buffalo Alice, who partnered with us for the event. Participants could win books from the Summer Reading book list and learn more about Adult Summer Reading.

In addition to Trivia Night, the Library also held several presentations in partnership with Senior Planet Resources, a board game day, an intro to Dungeons and Dragons session, and a puzzle competition. **Over 300 people attended Adult Summer Reading events.**

Over the course of the summer, 292 adults signed up on online and earned 2,128 digital badges. Participants could earn badges by reading, visiting a Library location, reading a book from the Summer Reading book list, downloading an eBook on Libby, or checking out different Library media. Badges could then be put towards chances to win prizes.

Library partner Games King brought some adventure into the Library with an introductory session of Dungeons and Dragons.



"As a busy mom of 4, I've been trying to find a place of peace and calm. Getting back into nightly reading has been that peace (or piece of peace). Thanks for all the page-turners!"

- patron comment from Mary O.

"This Library has changed my life in so many ways there really isn't enough paper to write it down. Thanks, Sioux City Library and staff." - patron comment from Matt B.



Reader Services Librarian Michael Maxwell talks about Adult Summer Reading during a Library press conference.

"This is my favorite of the summer reading list, and I also loved the others I read, too. Historical fiction plus magical realism... so great. I loved the variety of characters. Prairie witch. Teenage girl. Her farmer uncle. Scarecrow? Russell pulled together some very important pieces of history: Dust Bowl, treatment of Native Americans, immigrants to the U.S. racism... I don't want to include any spoilers, but the mothering theme touched my heart so much."

- Ivy P. on *The Antidote*, from the Adult Summer Reading Book List



Youth Summer Reading

The parachute games were a favorite during Toddler Game Day.

A Summer of Fun

543,829
(+24%)

Minutes read by Sioux City Public Library Youth Summer Reading Participants!

The Sioux City Public Library's Youth Services department went above and beyond to ensure kids of all ages enjoyed Summer Reading in 2025. **1,663 children and teens** participated in the Summer Reading program at the Library with **1,318** registering on the *Beanstack Tracker App*, earning **6,528** badges. Participants on Beanstack read **543,829** minutes this summer, an increase of **24%** from the 2024 Summer Reading season!

All Summer Reading events and activities were free and open to the public. **1,298 kids and teens** and **594 adults**

attended Library youth Summer Reading events. Over 300 youth and adults attended the kickoff event at the Aalfs Downtown Library. Kickoff participants could create a character to add to the window mural, sing karaoke, sign up for Summer Reading, make crafts, follow the book walk, and capture memories during photo opportunities with the Sioux City Explorers and the Kingdom of Riverssance!

Kids and teens attended **34** events during Summer Reading which included Read-to-Me-Dogs events, Storytimes, LEGO builds, Family Yoga, Toddler Game Day, Free Movie Fridays, a play with Climb Theatre, the Great Plains Zoomobile, Teen After-Hours events, Teen Crafternoons, Imagination Builders, Innovation Studio sessions, and a Board Game-a-Palooza!

"Such a great environment for kids to meet other kids. I love that my daughter made new friends at the Library today. Thank you for all the amazing and creative kids activities."

- patron comment from Stacy V.



(Above) Teens participate in activities during a teen after-hours event. (Below) Keepers from the Great Plains Zoo visited the Library to provide education and an opportunity to see amazing animals up close.





(Above) Attendees enjoy a play from Climb Theatre. (Right) Innovation Studio featured robot modules this year, giving kids an introduction to coding.



"My son and I had so much fun attending the summer sessions. The Innovation Studio with the robots were fantastic. Thank you for making my life easier."

– patron comment from Tom S.

1,892

Youth Summer Reading event attendees

1,663

Kids & teens participated in the Summer Reading Program

6,528

Beanstack badges earned



Youth at Imagination Builders work together to code Bee Bots and complete challenges.



(Above) Toddler Game Day participants try on scarves. (Below) Children listen to a story at an Imagination Builders event.



(Above) Teens make a boho yarn tapestry during Teen Crafternoon. (Below) Read-to-Me Dogs events offered a fun and calm way for young readers to practice their reading.



During the Celebration Event, families were invited to sign up for Summer Reading, pick a book, and meet members from the Kingdom of Riverssance.



"I was assisting a little boy in finding books about Lightning McQueen from the movie 'Cars.' We found a couple and he said, how about Spider-Man? Check. He then said, how about Paw Patrol? Check. He said, Mom, this lady is giving me everything I want!"

- submitted by Library Staff

Read, Learn, & Grow!

Special Events

Sioux City Public Library staff plan and create programs to keep kids engaged with the Library and books all year. Programs included 1st Saturday Family Storytime, Baby Storytime, book walks, Storytime en Español, Crafternoons, STEM Saturday, teen trivia and mystery events, an Open House, Innovation Studio, and hosting musical groups. **53 special events were held with 906 children and 629 adults participating.**



In partnership with Siouxland African Association, Wolf Trap Master Storyteller Kofi Dennis gives a drumming demonstration at the Library.

Weekly Storytimes

The Library holds year-round, twice weekly storytimes. **99 storytimes** were held at our Library locations with **1,209 children and 964 adults in attendance.**

Weekly storytimes occur at Perry Creek and Morningside Branch Libraries all year round.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Research shows that reading to your child before they enter school is the most reliable predictor of school success.

The Library's **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** program encourages parents to read to their children prior to starting school. In FY25, **320 new readers were enrolled and 39,697 books were read to children.**



"It is the best place to go. Everyone is nice. They have good books."
- comment from patron Sam S.

39,697

Books read to
1,000 Books Before
Kindergarten
participants



Kids at 1st Saturday Family Storytime: Celebrate Seuss enjoy a meet and greet with the Cat in the Hat.

Carolers from Sioux City Community Schools visited the Library to provide some holiday cheer.



Tours & Outreach Storytimes

Sioux City Public Library works with local schools, child care programs, and learning centers to provide staff and resources to enhance literary experiences for youth.

In FY25 349 kids and 39 adults toured the Library with a group.

485+

Preschool students enjoyed outreach storytimes each month.

Every month during the school year 485+ preschool students had Library Storytime brought to them at 34 child care centers.

The Library also delivered book boxes curated by staff every three weeks to 11 child care centers for use in their classrooms in Sioux City.

201

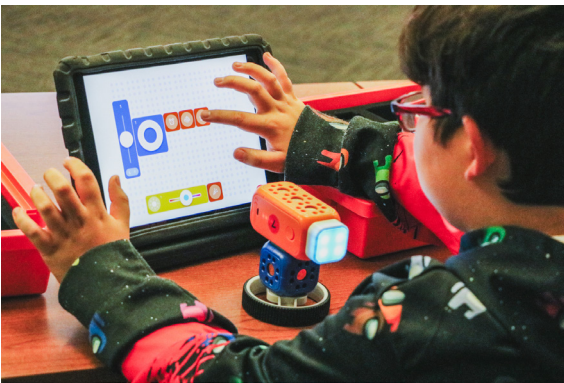
Outreach Storytimes
in FY25

3,564

Children &

564

Adults



STEM Saturdays for kids ages 9-11 featured Robo Wunderkind - teaching kids about robotics and coding.



Teen craftersnoons during the winter break were a popular way to get out of the house and make something fun!



Teen Trivia Night was held in February and provided a much needed break from the winter blues for over 30 teens.



(Above) After creating a noisemaker during Holiday Break Craftersnoons, this crafter shows off her work. (Below) Families made crafts, enjoyed tours, and played games during the Library's Open House event.



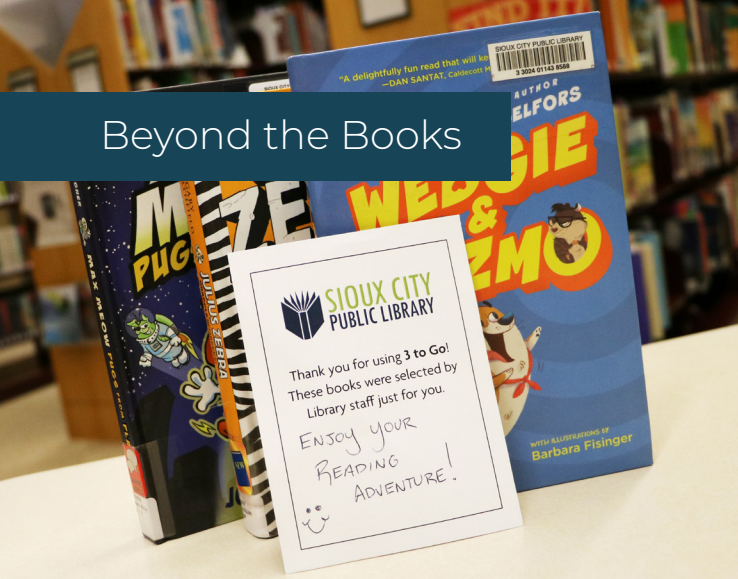
(Above) Kids worked together to operate Bee Bots during STEM Saturday. (Right) Children get up and dance to a funny song during 1st Saturday Family Storytime.



"I really like the new addition of activities and games they have for children. My daughter LOVES coming to the library any chance we get."

- patron comment from Raquel

Beyond the Books



A 3-to-Go book bundle for a young reader.

New at the Library

In August 2024, the Library created **3 to Go** - a personalized book bundle service to help patrons who may not have time to browse or parents trying to please a picky reader. Patrons submit an online form detailing their book preferences. Library staff then select books for that patron and send them to the patron's Library location of choice for pickup. **124 patrons have tried out 3 to Go since inception.**

Youth staff at the Library created **STEM Saturdays** which offered STEM-based stories and activities for young visitors. Children ages 4-7 learned coding with **Bee Bots** and kids 9-11 enjoyed **Robo Wunderkind** modules which taught coding using robotic building blocks and the Library's iPads. These programs occurred every month from November-April. Materials were provided through an award by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

New to Library collections are **Blu-ray** discs and **Hot Reads**. Adding Blu-ray allowed the Library to add films to the collection that are not offered in DVD format. The Hot Reads collection is comprised of new and popular books with shorter, one-week checkouts to allow for faster circulation of popular titles.

Started in fall of 2024, the Library now shows movies at Morningside Branch Library every Monday afternoon. These free **Movie Matinees** offer a variety of titles and are designed for adult viewers.

Facebook
Followers

6,417
(+3%)

Instagram
followers

1,099
(+4.6%)

Online Engagement

The Sioux City Public Library maintains an active social media presence to help spread the word about our resources and events. This year the Library dove into **the creation of video reels** to help boost online engagement. Over 20 short video reels were featured on the Library's Facebook and Instagram pages in FY25 with videos averaging **150 fifteen second views per video**. The Library also hosts a weekly Facebook event, *Reference Roundtable*. **49 Reference Roundtable events** aired on Facebook live in FY25.



This photo featuring staff with the city proclamation for National Library Week was one of the most liked on social media in FY25.



Comments from Facebook:

Our public library and its amazing staff do so much to engage, enlighten, and entertain our community! Thank you so much!

Love my library, thank you library workers!!

You are all rock stars! Thank you for being so helpful and kind. ❤️

And THANK YOU to all the people at the Sioux City Public Library for all you have done and are doing to encourage people to be excited about the library and reading! You are awesome!

Full house last night at this very informative and intriguing presentation! Thank you to all the folks at the SC Public Library! Your efforts and dedication to make our libraries vital, exciting, and enjoyable are VERY appreciated!



Local History Librarian Sarah Enright becomes a part of history in a news article about the *Unsolved Mysteries* Local History display she curated.

Out and About with Outreach

In order to reach Sioux Cityans where they are, Library staff attended various community events including pop-up parks with Sioux City Parks & Rec, Art Splash, The Multicultural Fair, and others. Library staff engaged with over 2,000 people during outreach events in FY25.



Kids and families visit the Library table at a pop-up park.

Optimizing Spaces

A major project at the Library this year was the **moving of various collections at the Aalfs Downtown Library** to better optimize spaces. Teen fiction, teen nonfiction, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, graphic novels, and many nonfiction books were shifted to new areas to better align with patron browsing and provide a new space for teen collections.

Library Director Helen Rigdon leads Library staff in clearing off shelves during the collections move.



Displays that Engage

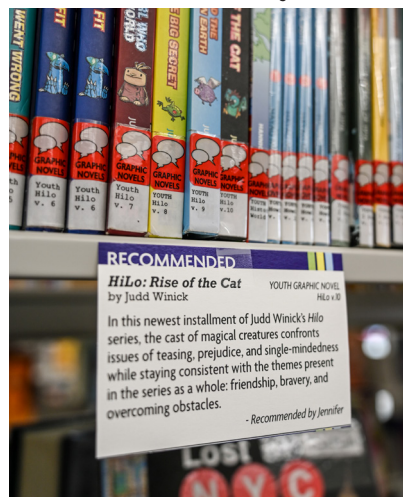
Aalfs Downtown Library offers a **book walk** for children and families to read their way around the Library. The book walk changes several times each year to provide a fresh path and story.

On the upper floor, there is a **permanent local history display** featuring articles and clip files from the area's past. Displays change out every few months. Displays in FY25 included **Unsolved Mysteries, Siouxland Eats, The Murders of 1925, Winter in Siouxland, Flooding History**, and more.

The Library also offered displays that encouraged viewer participation. Library visitors were invited to add a journal entry to our Sioux City Reads window display and add a favorite book to a post-it mural. **577 people added their piece to these interactive displays.**

The Library offers other ways for patrons to visually engage - **book recommendations** from staff and patrons were placed on shelves during National Library Week and Library Card Sign Up Month. The popular **holiday book tree** was back with a smaller sister tree at the Morningside Branch. Library fixture displays are changed out monthly by staff providing topics that are relevant and fresh.

Book recommendation cards from staff and patrons could be found on shelves at all three Library locations.



(Above) Patrons were encouraged to add a book they love to the post-it display. (Below) The Library book tree at the Aalfs Downtown Library.



"I get excited to come and find books for me!"

- patron comment from Angel

*"Thank you for all the help you give kids and older people in Sioux City, IA.
We are grateful for you guys."*

- patron comment from Liliana L.



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.

Stream movies & music.

Request titles & renew checked out items.