During a single day at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in 2018...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People visited the Library &amp; outreach services</td>
<td>1,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public computer &amp; Wi-Fi sessions took place</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People attended a children’s or teen program</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items were checked out</td>
<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults attended a Library program or meeting</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference questions were answered by library staff</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers based on 357 days open per year

“The Library is an important service that everyone in the community should have access to. Knowledge should be free to all.” - Paula, library patron
A New Roof for the Library
The Library spent the majority of 2018 under construction as our 30-year-old roof was replaced. The project began in April and was completed in mid-October. Though the Library continues to sport the same signature blue metal roof as the original from the 1980s, we are happy to have the building and its contents protected from the elements by our brand new high-tech replacement.

Star Library Award
The North Dakota State Library awarded the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library the 2018 North Dakota Star Library Award for going above and beyond with service provided to the community. The awards were given based on circulation of collection, hours open to the public, program attendance, combined computer and Wi-Fi usage, and the percentage of North Dakota Library Coordinating Council Standards for Public Libraries met. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is the #1 ranked public library in North Dakota for hours open to the public, program attendance, public computer usage, and library card holders.

U.S. Flag Collection Point at the Library
Jacob Southam, Boy Scout Troop 109, established Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library as a U.S. flag collection point for worn flags. Southam collected U.S. flags and conducted a flag retirement ceremony in early November for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Southam said, “People don’t normally know what to do with worn flags. Sometimes they end up in closets. The ceremony will allow for retiring the flags in a correct and respectful manner.” The Library was chosen as a collection point because of its long history of supporting and serving military veterans and its central location.
**New in 2018**

**Board Game Collection**

The Library now has a circulating board game collection, thanks to funding from the Bismarck Library Foundation. We have a great selection of games for families and players of all ages, from classic board games like Battleship and Clue, to new favorites such as Pandemic and Yeti In My Spaghetti. The board game collection is located on the main level of the Library near the Information Desk and the teen collection. You can also find a complete listing of all the games in the collection on the Special Collections page of the Library’s website.

**Library Card Redesign**

The Library began issuing its newly redesigned library cards in June. The new card for adults features the Library’s logo. Children who get new library cards may choose from two different designs. One card depicts a shuttle blasting off in a space scene, and the other features hot air balloons on a blue sky background. To celebrate the launch of the new cards, patrons were invited to trade in their old cards for a new one in June. Over 2,000 new cards were given out throughout the month.

**By the Numbers**

- **256,049** Total items in the collection
- **29,364** New items added
- **46,315** Individuals with library cards
- **535,758** Total items checked out
- **148,979** Children’s/Teen items checked out
- **63,006** Digital items checked out
- **26%** Increase in digital item checkouts
- **48,507** Digital items in the collection (E-Books, Audiobooks, Videos, Magazines, & Comics)
- **470** ND State Park pass checkouts
# Library Services

## By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to the Library</td>
<td>366,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference questions answered</td>
<td>35,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting room event attendees</td>
<td>11,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People utilized study rooms</td>
<td>4,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen visits to HQ</td>
<td>1,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public computer &amp; Wi-Fi sessions</td>
<td>170,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library website visits</td>
<td>78,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library catalog searches</td>
<td>634,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## New in 2018

### Bismarck-Capital City Memories

After a brief hiatus, our digital photograph collection came back online in early 2018. **Bismarck-Capital City Memories** is a collection of images depicting the history of the City of Bismarck from its early pioneer days through the 1990s. The collection is made available through the Library’s partnership with Digital Horizons, an online treasure house of thousands of images, documents, video, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains from the late 1800s to today. The collection is accessible online at [digitalhorizonsonline.org](http://digitalhorizonsonline.org) or via the Library’s website.
**Programs & Events**

**2018 Highlights**

**Okee Dokee Brothers Live in Concert**

We were thrilled to have the GRAMMY® Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers in Bismarck in June to perform a concert of family music with a goal to inspire children and their parents to get outside and be creative. Over 500 excited kids and adults attended this free family concert at the Belle Mehus City Auditorium, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.

**English for Everyone**

Our English for Everyone classes provide English-language learners (ELLs) the opportunity to practice speaking English without fear of making mistakes, with the goal of improving conversation skills to help attendees become better workers, students, and community members. People from all over the world attend this weekly small-group class to work with an ELL instructor and community volunteers to improve their English skills.

**Crazy Horse Book Discussion**

Members of the Edward Clown family, the nearest living relatives to Crazy Horse, joined author William Matson to discuss and sign their recently published book "Crazy Horse: The Lakota Warrior’s Life and Legacy," based on the family’s oral history.

**Bismarck Comic Con**

Bismarck’s second annual Comic Con was held at the Library in May. This year’s event, held in partnership with the Dakotas’ CW2, saw added panels with local artists and authors who sold their wares, expanded trivia competitions, the Discovery Dome, video game tournament, and more photo opportunities. The popular costume competition, photo booth, and the TARDIS were all back for year two.
2018 Highlights

**LEGO Holiday Ornament Make & Take**

There were lines out the door of the Children’s Library for our first-ever LEGO holiday ornament make and take event. LEGO bricks and instructions were provided to attendees, who created one of four holiday-themed ornaments to take home. This free family event was sponsored by the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.

**Capture the Flag NERF Battle**

The Library became a NERF battle zone after hours, as three groups of teens in grades 6-12 faced off to try to capture the other teams’ flags.

**Art from the Heart**

This year we held two sessions of Art from the Heart, which offered a creative outlet for kids to play with paint, experiment with texture, and create their own color masterpieces. Children age 5 and under were encouraged to get messy while exploring with different art materials.

**Summer Concert Series**

In conjunction with this year’s music-themed summer reading program, several concert events were held at the Library throughout the summer. Performances included Celtic guitarist Jerry Barlow, The History of Blues in America featuring Joey Leone, and classical guitarist Peter Fletcher.

**The Library @ Community Events**

Miss Sparkles and Colette took their story time and puppet show out on the road at a number of events and locations throughout the year, including Riverwalk, NDSU Extension’s holiday event, Urban Harvest, Dakota Zoo, and Lincoln Literacy Night. In addition, our youth services staff spread the word about the Library to over 6,000 students at Bismarck Public Schools. We brought information about the Library to community gatherings and fairs, including the Multicultural Fair, Capital Pride, the YMCA’s Senior Health Fair, Burleigh County Senior Center, and Gateway to Science.
Programs & Events

By the Numbers

600 Children’s programs held
23,884 People attended children’s programs
245 Story times held
9,319 People attended story time
669,119 Minutes read by children’s summer reading program participants
104 Teen programs held
5,308 Teens attended programs
244 Adult programs held
11,264 People attended adult programs

Our Community Partners

We are grateful to have so many wonderful partner organizations in our community, whose contributions make it possible for us to offer many additional programs, events, and services.

- AARP of North Dakota
- AID, Inc.
- Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- Bismarck Fire Dept.
- Bismarck Forestry Division
- Bismarck Garden Club
- Bismarck Global Neighbors
- Bismarck Historical Society
- Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.
- Bismarck Parks & Rec.
- Bismarck Police Dept.
- Bismarck Public Schools
- Burleigh County Senior Center
- Burleigh County Sheriff’s Dept.
- Capitol Shakespeare
- Community Action
- Dakota Media Access
- Dakota West Arts Council
- Dakota Zoo
- The Dakotas’ CW2
- Dungeons & Dragons Group
- Friends of the Bismarck Public Library
- Furry Friends Rockin’ Rescue
- Gateway to Science
- Humanities ND
- Laughing Sun Brewing
- Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club
- Midcontinent Communications
- Missouri Slope Area United Way
- Morton Mandan Public Library
- ND Brain Injury Network
- ND Center for Independent Living
- ND Farm Bureau
- ND Game & Fish Dept.
- ND Parks & Rec. Dept.
- ND State Library
- NDSU Extension Service
- Northern Plains Dance
- Prevent Child Abuse ND
- Sanford Health
- Shiloh Christian School
- State Historical Society of ND
- Three Crowns Swedish American Assoc.
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- UND Thormodsgard Law Library
- Urban Harvest
- Wing Senior Center
Outreach

2018 Highlights

Mobile Library Continues Growth

The Bismarck Mobile Library ensures that residents who are not able to visit the Library in person still have access to our services. Two new stops were added in 2018, at Prairie Pointe Assisted Living and the Sierra Court Apartments, bringing the total number of stop locations per month to twenty-one.

Little Free Libraries in Burleigh County

The Burleigh County Bookmobile placed five Little Free Libraries at locations throughout Burleigh County this year, with the purpose of ensuring that rural residents have access to reading material in between bookmobile visits. Bookmobile staff will re-stock the libraries on an ongoing basis as they travel throughout the county. Little Free Libraries are located at General Sibley Park, Wing Senior Center, Main Street in McKenzie, North Haroldson Lane in Apple Valley, and Santee Road in Lincoln.

By the Numbers

8,994 Bookmobile visitors
7,163 Miles driven by the bookmobile
540 Bookmobile stops
49,490 Outreach items checked out

792 Mobile Library visitors
57% Increase in visits to the Mobile Library
276 Mobile Library stops
4,241 Outreach cardholders
People

Library Staff

Christine Kujawa - Library Director
Elizabeth Jacobs - Assistant Library Director
Lynn Bryntesen - Head of Maintenance
Troy Hamre - Interlibrary Loan Manager
Alison Hiatt - Bookmobile Assistant
Matt Hovland - Head of Circulation Services
Traci Juhala - Head of Youth Services
Bea Kaiser - Administrative Assistant
Jana Maher - Children’s Program Director
Vern Mastel - Technology Coordinator
Sarah Matthews - Adult Programming Coordinator
Keli McDonald - Head of Bookmobile
Becky Needham - Circulation Manager
Lora Rose - Head of Technical Processing
Laura Rysavy - Teen Programming Coordinator
Kate Waldera - Head of Information Services

Volunteers

15 Ongoing volunteers
1,350 volunteer hours worked
$21,000 Saved by the Library

Library Board of Directors

The Library is governed by a city-appointed five member Board of Directors. Terms are for three years with a six year limit. Major duties include hiring the Library Director, setting policy, overseeing finances and approving monthly expenses, and advocating for the Library.

The Board of Directors meets in the Library at noon on the fourth Thursday of every month. Meetings are open to the public.

Michael J.B. Schaff, President
Bob Bartosh, Vice President
Pat Grantier
Joyce Hinman
Sue Sorlie
Bismarck City Commissioner Nancy Guy, Library Liaison
Burleigh County Commissioner Kathleen Jones, Library Liaison

Volunteer appreciation event
Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.
The Library Foundation, Inc. was established in 1975 to support the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. Their mission is to enrich publicly-funded Library services by raising private funds to enhance collections, resources and facilities.

Jesse Sailer, President

2018 Foundation-Funded Projects

- Construction of a second family restroom in the Children’s Library
- Additional shelving for special collections in the Missouri River Room
- New end panels for Children’s Library shelving
- Three mobile device charging stations
- Additional study tables for the main level adult area
- $5,000 in new digital audiobooks made available for checkout through Library 2 Go
- Ten family-friendly Binge Boxes

Friends of the Bismarck Public Library

346 Friends of the Library members
$46,390 Raised from used book sales
160 Members volunteered in 2018
$11,335 Directly contributed to support Library programs & projects

Jennifer Bandy, President

Funded By the Friends in 2018

- Sponsorship of Capital Area Transit’s Read & Ride Bus
- Okee Dokee Brothers family concert
- Bismarck Comic Con event sponsorship
- Songs & Stories of the American West concert
- Additions to the Binge Box Collection
- Holiday LEGO ornament make & take event
- Temporary parking during roof construction
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

515 N 5th St
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-355-1480

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

www.bismarcklibrary.org
www.facebook.com/bismarcklibrary