2022 AT A GLANCE

A New Look for the Library
We completed a renovation of the library’s exterior in 2022, including new siding and brickwork, windows, doors, and signage, thanks to funding from the City of Bismarck’s building fund. Check out the major transformation!

Library Receives Humanitarian Award
The library received the City of Bismarck’s Human Relations Committee’s 2021 Humanitarian Award. The library is recognized for its equal service, welcoming atmosphere, safe gathering space, and respect for the diversity within our community. The Library Board of Trustees had approved a new section in the library’s public service policy titled Youth Anti-Bullying Prevention.

New Strategic Plan
The library board of trustees approved the 2023-2030 Strategic Plan in December 2022. The plan provides direction and a cohesive vision for the library, outlining goals and associated objectives, which position the library to better serve the Bismarck-Burleigh County community as a relevant and high-achieving public service organization. This plan, developed from community input, prepares the library to adapt to changes in our community to successfully meet the needs of our patrons and serve as the community’s “third space,” a communal space distinct from work and home. Learn about our plans for the future of the library. Read the full plan online at bit.ly/BVMPL-23StrategicPlan

AN AVERAGE DAY IN 2022

- **539** people visited the library
- **1,153** physical items checked out
- **120** people used a library computer
- **332** digital items checked out
- **123** people attended a library event
- **81** questions answered at service desks
New in 2022

**CHILDREN’S BROWSING BIN COLLECTION**
The Children’s Library has a new addition for our youngest readers. Pre-readers can struggle to find the books they want to look at. The Browsing Bin collection gives these young patrons more autonomy by organizing the books into broad categories of interest instead of by subject or author. The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library gifted this new collection.

**HOOPLA DIGITAL COLLECTION**
We expanded our popular digital resource collection in 2022 by introducing hoopla, giving patrons instant access to an additional one million+ titles in ebooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, TV shows, and music. Thank you to Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. donors and Friends of the Bismarck Public Library for sponsoring the first year of this collection.

**LOCAL ART COLLECTION**
Our circulating art collection includes reprints of famous works from Monet and Degas. Now, thanks to Dakota West Arts Council and Bismarck Library Foundation, you can also borrow locally produced art! Works by Bill Brien, Zack Hargrove, Thea Gilbertson, Joanne Dreviol, Anthony Nelson, and Paul Noot are now available for checkout.

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### 2022 COLLECTIONS AND CHECKOUTS STATISTICS

- **Total Items Checked Out:** 542,428 (16% increase)
- **Total Digital Items Checked Out:** 121,418 (23% increase)
- **Children/Teen Total Items Checked Out:** 143,177 (26% increase)
- **Top Circulating Item:** North Dakota State Park Pass, checked out 380 times
- **Total Digital Collection:** 1,391,791
- **Total Physical Collection:** 192,206

Your library card opens up a world of entertainment, learning, discovery, and personal enrichment. Borrow books, movies and TV series, audiobooks, board games, video games, and more. Access our digital collection of ebooks, audiobooks, videos, and music, all 24/7. Cards are free to Burleigh County residents. Join a community of 42,000 friends and neighbors! Visit our website for more info and to apply for your library card.
New in 2022

**NEW AND IMPROVED PUBLIC COMPUTERS**
We updated our 49 public access computers with new hardware, up-to-date software, and operating systems in 2022. Patrons of all ages can utilize the library’s computers to do homework, apply for jobs, complete and print forms, communicate with friends and family, and more.

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**2022 LIBRARY SERVICES STATISTICS**

- **196,673** total visitors
  - 14% increase
- **29,617** questions answered at library service desks
- **182,909** library website visits
- **43,956** public computer sessions
- **767,982** library online catalog searches
- **56,168** Wi-Fi sessions accessed
  - 20% increase
- **1,596** documents notarized for free by library staff
- **5,281** study rooms users
- **457** meeting room uses
  - 123% increase
- **11,826** people attended meeting room events
  - 163% increase

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**DID YOU KNOW?**
The library has meeting and study rooms to accommodate groups from 2 to 200! Our large rooms can be reserved for a nominal fee. Study rooms are always free!
OUTREACH SERVICES

2022 BURLIEGH COUNTY LIBRARY STATISTICS

45,614 TOTAL CHECKOUTS 32% INCREASE

19,191 TOTAL ITEMS

8,606 TOTAL VISITORS 39% INCREASE

THROUGHOUT BURLIEGH COUNTY:

6,530 MILES DRIVEN

513 @ 68 STOPS LOCATIONS

New in 2022

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

The Burleigh County Library added three Little Free Libraries at new locations in the county in 2022. Driscoill, Sterling, and Menoken residents now have access to a rotating collection of books at their new Little Free Libraries, which bookmobile staff regularly restock. These three new Little Free Libraries join existing locations at Wing Senior Center, McKenzie, Lincoln, General Sibley Park and Campground, Apple Valley, and Country Creek Drive.

Burleigh County Bookmobile and Mobile Library in the Community

2022 MOBILE LIBRARY STATISTICS

IN THE CITY OF BISMARCK:

1,857 MILES DRIVEN

276 @ 23 STOPS LOCATIONS

NATIONAL OUTREACH DAY

BAND DAY PARADE IN MAY

GATEWAY TO SCIENCE

ZOO BOO IN OCTOBER

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
Programs & Events

2022 Programs & Events in Summary

- Total Events: 808
- Total Attendance: 44,924
- Avg. People per Event: 56

- Children 0-5: 418
- Children 6-11: 181
- Teens: 48
- Adults: 123
- All Ages: 38

Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was one of 50 United States libraries selected to host AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST, a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This exhibit examined the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibit was on display at the Library during April, with a series of related special events throughout the month. An estimated 1,800 people visited the exhibition, and 415 attended related events.
We’re Something to Talk About -- Talking Trails!

Have you checked out Talking Trail’s ten historic Bismarck self-guided audio tours, including our library? Each location has a Talking Trail sign posted with a QR Code and phone number. Download the free app or call the phone number to listen to the self-guided audio tour at each location. The library’s sign is right outside the front entrance. Visit the Talking Trail website to see all historic Bismarck audio tour sites. Talking Trail is a project of the Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with the City of Bismarck’s 150th anniversary.

Thinking Money for Kids Exhibit

In July and August, our Children’s Library featured Thinking Money for Kids, a free multimedia experience for children ages 7 to 11 and their parents, caregivers, and educators. The interactive exhibit uses games, activities, and a fun storyline to help children understand what money is, its function in society, money choices, and money values such as fairness, responsibility, and charitableness. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was one of just 50 libraries nationwide selected to host Thinking Money for Kids. The American Library Association (ALA) developed the exhibition with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

Tower Garden

The library began a partnership with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and Bismarck Parks & Recreation, with funding provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND Caring Foundation, to host a Tower Garden in the Children’s Library. Using an aeroponic gardening system, the Tower Garden holds and sustains 20 plants without soil! Patrons and staff alike have enjoyed watching them grow, in addition to promoting a healthy lifestyle. The library held several programs focused on our new garden throughout the year.
2022 PROGRAMS & EVENTS SAMPLING

- Crafts
- Concerts
- Painting Classes
- Reading Challenges
- Author Visits
- Genealogy Classes
- Book Clubs
- Computer Classes
- Gardening
- Meet & Greets
- Therapy Pets
- Personal Enrichment
- Mindfulness for Beginners
- Hygge Hangout
- Winter Painting Class
- Storytelling Book Club
- Galactic Challenge
- Author Visits
- Genealogy Classes
- Book Clubs
- Computer Classes
- Gardening
- Meet & Greets
- Therapy Pets
- Personal Enrichment
- Mindfulness for Beginners
- Hygge Hangout
- Winter Painting Class
- Storytelling Book Club
- Galactic Challenge
Let’s Talk About It! Women’s Suffrage Book Discussion Series

The library was proud to be chosen by the American Library Association to participate in Let’s Talk About It: Women’s Suffrage. These books focus on the history of women’s suffrage in the United States. The selected books were: The Woman’s Hour by Elaine Weiss; Women Making History, essays compiled by the National Park Service; Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All by Martha S. Jones; Ida B. the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells by Michelle Duster; and The Once and Future Witches by Alix E. Harrow.

Families Around the World

The library’s third annual Families Around the World event embraced the diversity in our community and celebrated the unique cultures we share. The evening hosted lively music and dancing presentations, guest exhibitors at information tables, hands-on activities and craft projects, and tasty food samples from local purveyors. The library presented Families Around the World in partnership with Bismarck Global Neighbors, Bismarck Public Schools, and the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

International Observe the Moon Night

On a clear October night, we joined together to look up to observe our moon along with the rest of the world community. Multiple crafts and activities, a special guest speaker, and powerful telescopes were available to view the moon in all its splendor. Binoculars and curiosity were abound with space-themed refreshments that were out of this world. The library offered this observation in partnership with the Bismarck-Mandan chapter of Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons and North Dakota’s Gateway to Science.
2022 LIBRARY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Christine Kujawa, Library Director
Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director
Lynn Bryntesen, Building and Grounds Manager
Matthew Engel, Technical Services Associate II
Troy Hamre, Adult Services Librarian
Alison Hiatt, Burleigh County Library Associate II
Matt Hovland, Head of Circulation Services
Traci Juhala, Head of Youth Services
Bea Kaiser, Administrative Office Manager
Beth Schatz Kaylor, Library Executive Foundation Director
MacAllistar Kemmer, Adult Services Program Coordinator
Sky M. Kujawa, Chief Morale Officer (CMO)
Jana Maher, Youth Services Program Coordinator-Children
Sarah Matthews, Head of Adult Services
KeliAnn McDonald, Head of Burleigh County Library
Laura Rysavy, Youth Services Programming Coordinator-Youth
Kevin R. Tengesdal, Public Information Specialist
Patrick Trotter, Technology Manager
Hannah Vanorny, Circulation Services Manager

DID YOU KNOW?
The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing the mission and vision for the Library, determining the policies implemented to govern the Library, hiring and evaluating the Library Director, advocating for the Library, and overseeing the finances of the Library.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2022
- LaVilla Opp – 35 years (PT)
- June Preszler – 30 years (PT)
- Debb Lorenz – 15 years (PT)
- Sarah Matthews – 15 years (FT)
- Keli McDonald – 10 years (FT)
- Brenda Paxton – 5 years (PT)
- Laura Rysavy – 5 years (FT)

VOLUNTEERS
Thank you to our volunteers Sally, Sylvia, and Connie for sharing their time and talents with the library. We are grateful they volunteer here and are glad to have them on the library team. Last year they donated a combined 300 (1) hours of service to the library. Thank you!

PT Service Award Recognition (L to R):
Library Board Trustee Dianna Kindseth,
Brenda Paxton, Debb Lorenz, June Preszler,
LaVilla Opp & Library Director Christine Kujawa
$315,280
GRANTS, GIFTS & DONATIONS
DISTRIBUTED TO THE LIBRARY

4-STAR
HIGHEST RATING FROM
CHARITY NAVIGATOR

2022 PARTNERS
• American Library Association
• Andrist Charitable Trust • Arts Midwest • Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health • Bravera • Dakota West Arts Council • Frederickson & Byron
• FINRA Foundation • MDU Resources Foundation • Midco • ND Council on the Arts • Petro-Hunt • Sanford Health • Scheels • Susanne Mattheis Charitable Trust • Target • Tom & Frances Leach Foundation • Donors Like You!

A SELECTION OF PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE BY FOUNDATION DONORS AND PARTNERS:
• 1,500 youth LEGO kits
• 6,500 additional digital checkouts
• Computer lab upgrade
• Fresh paint for library’s main level
• New heating equipment on order
• New ride-on commercial vacuum
• Tower garden for children’s library
• Youth summer reading kick-off

FRIENDS OF THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

FEATURED IN 2022:
LIBRARYPALOOZA
The Friends of the Library organized the first annual Librarypalooza event in August, which welcomed community members to explore all the library has to offer, along with fun events, music, food, and even a magician! An estimated 300 people attended this fun library-wide event for all ages.

309 TOTAL MEMBERS
$34,744 RAISED THROUGH USED BOOK SALES
$35,043 CONTRIBUTED TO LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

PROGRAMS & SERVICES MADE POSSIBLE BY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:
• Browsing Bin collection for young children
• Library Connections email newsletter
• Additions to the teen manga collection
• The hoopla digital collection
• Furnishings for the Missouri River Room
• Financial support for many additional programs and events
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

CONTACT US
515 North Fifth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 355-1480
www.bismarcklibrary.org

HOURS
Monday–Thursday
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday–Saturday
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM