



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

WAVERLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FY20 BY THE NUMBERS

This year's statistics were greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the library's closure and subsequent phased reopening. For clarity and ease of comparison, these usage numbers have been separated out into the months prior to closure and the months following.

PRE-PANDEMIC

(JULY 2019-FEBRUARY 2020, 2/3 OF FY)

71,618 books checked out (**8,952**/month)
17,759 DVDs checked out (**2,220**/month)
2,242 audiobooks checked out (**280**/month)

1,531 uses of Ancestry.com (**191**/month)
261 uses of Bookflix (**33**/month)
7,651 eBook/audio checkouts (**956**/month)

DURING PANDEMIC

(MARCH 2020-JUNE 2020, 1/3 OF FY)

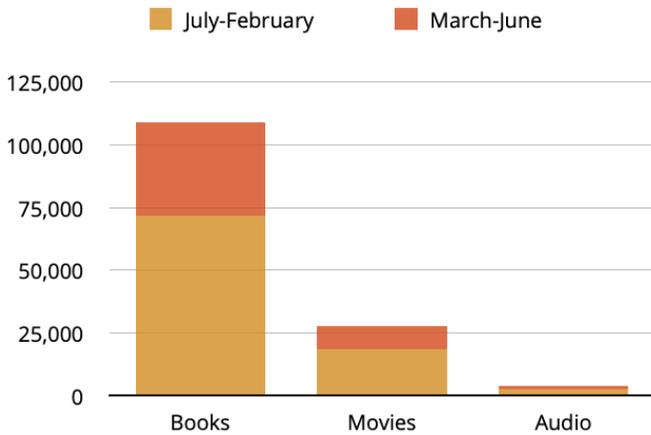
11,654 books checked out (**2,913**/month)
2,300 DVDs checked out (**575**/month)
323 audiobooks checked out (**81**/month)

2,201 uses of Ancestry.com (**550**/month)
757 uses of Bookflix (**189**/month)
6,179 eBook/audio checkouts (**1,545**/month)

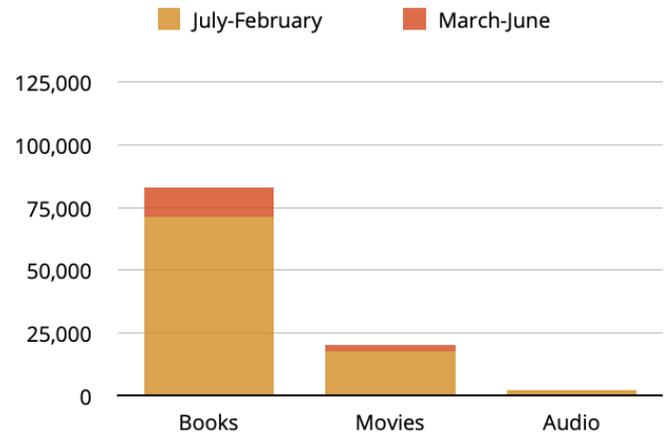
While checkouts of physical items were down significantly during the pandemic when they were unavailable or only available by reservation, usage numbers of digital materials and databases was significantly higher. **Although the pandemic period only accounts for 1/3 of the fiscal year, eBook checkouts for those months alone account for 45% of the total for the year. Similarly, Bookflix usage for March-June accounts for 59% of the year's total, with Ancestry.com numbers at an impressive 74% of the FY20 total.**

COMPARING USAGE OF PHYSICAL MATERIALS FROM 18-19 TO 19-20

FY19 Physical Collection Statistics

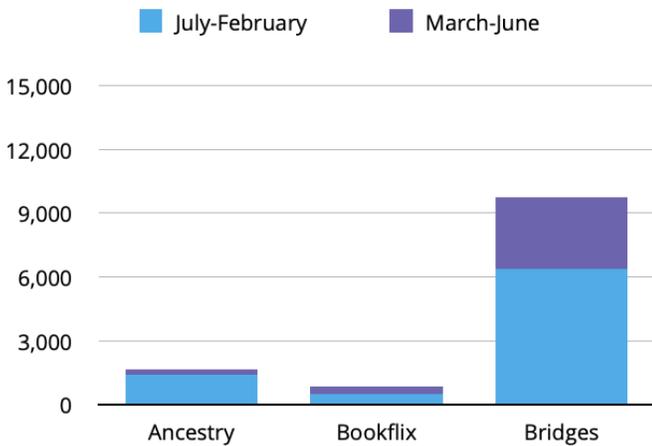


FY20 Physical Collection Statistics

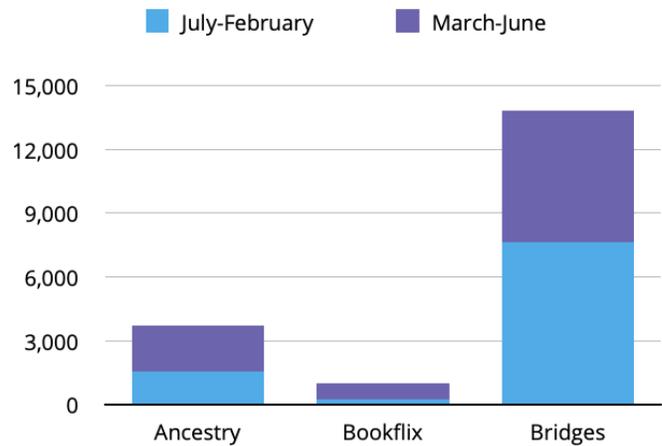


COMPARING USAGE OF DIGITAL MATERIALS FROM 18-19 TO 19-20

FY19 Digital Collection Statistics



FY20 Digital Collection Statistics



Prior to the pandemic, statistics for both digital and physical collections were very similar to numbers from the previous fiscal year. After the closure in March, physical materials trended sharply downward, while usage of digital collections skyrocketed. This was as expected, considering limited access to physical materials and the convenience of online resources in shutdown times.

MISS SUE RETIRES



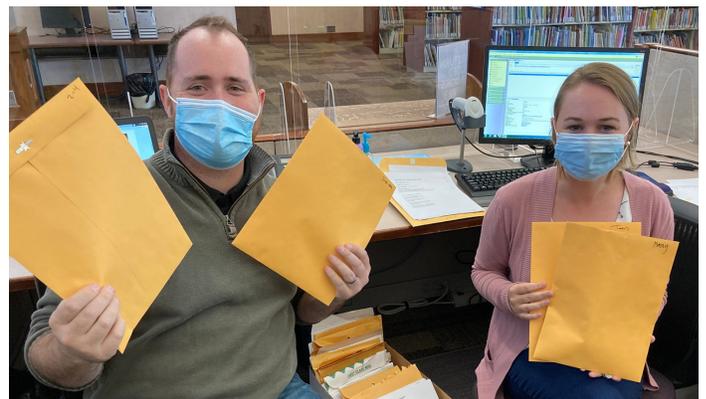
After an astounding 43 years of service to the Waverly area's youth, Sue Van Hemert retired at the end of May 2020. Though her last few months with the library looked much different than anyone anticipated, the community was able to celebrate her legacy through a virtual celebration on Facebook, as well as a drive-by thank you parade. Well-wishers of all ages were able to thank Sue as they drove by her house, where she sat in her yard with friends and family. Miss Sue's impact is truly incalculable, and her devotion to helping generations of children grow their love of reading has truly shaped the Waverly Public Library into the institution it is today.





Longtime Teen Services Librarian Emily McClimon stepped into the role of Youth Services Librarian after Sue Van Hemert's retirement. Though she had quite a legacy to live up to, Emily has risen to the occasion, guiding the Youth department through the sometimes daily changes necessary with the COVID-19 pandemic. She quickly developed, among other programs, an outdoor storytime program that featured oversized books that could still be seen by a socially distanced crowd. Already a familiar face to many, the WPL is very excited to see where Emily will take youth library services in Waverly.

Library Circulation Clerk Zack Leisinger was hired as the new Teen Services Librarian and has already begun to form valuable relationships with the area's teen population through virtual Teen Advisory Board meetings, a series of 60-second book talks, and virtual Minecraft programming. He and Emily worked tirelessly over the summer months to create weekly take-home kits for babies up through teens. These kits were extremely popular with community members seeking at-home entertainment for their families while many attractions were closed. Zack is actually a former high school WPL page, and he has been welcomed back with enthusiasm.





On March 17, 2020, staff made the difficult decision to temporarily close the library building due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Librarians worked remotely on engaging with the public through social media, developing virtual programs such as DIY nights and online storytimes, and answering reference questions through email and forwarded phone calls. IT Librarian Ryan Webster recorded several original stories featuring characters he developed with his daughter that were then played over KWAY radio. Working together remotely, staff created the WPL's first-ever online summer program, which was enjoyed by 720 community members of all ages. As the library began to reopen for drive-through pick up of materials, staff created new procedures for operation, including a quarantine system for returned items and, in June and July, determined how to safely carry out appointments for computer use and browsing. The library added online services like Kanopy, a movie and documentary streaming service, and Overdrive Advantage, which expands the number of eBooks available to Waverly citizens within the larger consortium collection. Information Services Librarian Bethany collaborated with the Waverly Chamber of Commerce to put on a drive-in movie night event, and Outreach Librarian Kris implemented a delivery service to reach those who were not comfortable venturing out for library materials. Looking ahead, we remain excited about the possibilities for innovation and encouraged by the community's response to our adapted services so far.



A photograph of two women standing in a library. The woman on the left is smiling and holding a white card. The woman on the right is also smiling and wearing glasses. In the background, there are bookshelves and decorative items, including a sign that says "BOOKS".

REACH OUT AND READ

One third of children in the U.S. under the age of 5 arrive at Kindergarten without the skills necessary for succeeding at school. A vital part of setting children up for success is reading to them often and having books present in the home. Librarian Kris Fagre has been working tirelessly for several years to spearhead a Reach Out and Read program in our area and was successful in doing so this year. Through Reach Out and Read, a nationwide program, area doctors are trained to give parents information on the importance of reading for brain development. Each family receives this information, as well as a book to keep, at each well-child doctor visit. By age 5, each child will have their own library of 10 books. Because of this program, parents are 2.5 times more likely to read to their children, and children's pre-school language development is improved by 3-6 months. This program is funded through a generous grant from the Max and Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation, as well as support from the Waverly Health Center Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Friends of the Waverly Public Library and Redeemer Lutheran Church.





Teaching STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) skills to our community's children remains an important part of the library's work, as these lessons can help young people become leaders and innovators in ever-changing work environments as adults. This past year, we developed new STEAM programs such as Clay Day, a once a month modeling clay play day, and Science Wednesdays, live science experiments put on in the library by the Grout Museum and funded by the Greater Waverly Kiwanis Club. One of our biggest initiatives was developing BCLA STEM Learning Playtimes. These programs were a collaboration with other Bremer County libraries to purchase robotics and coding toys and hire instructors to travel between libraries to facilitate the playtimes. Ryan Webster, IT Librarian, was instrumental in getting these off the ground, and says this about the classes: "The BCLA STEM Learning Playtimes gave children the chance to explore problem solving using technology and opened their eyes to the basic concepts and power of programming and electricity. The devices we used were incredibly fun to experiment with. Part of the appeal of the devices was learning new things you could do with them by asking good "what if" questions. It was always a joy to watch students' shock as a robot suddenly turned the wrong way—because it was doing exactly what they told it to!—all the way to their eyes brightening up and their shouts of joy as it completed the task that they wanted it to."

