

KNOXVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Connecting people, places, and ideas

Established in 1912

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2023



From the Director:

Some of you know that I first came to Iowa and the US to attend the University of Iowa in 1980. I was 19 years old and eager to see the world, explore new ideas, and learn new things. I started out as a biology major, switched to computer science, then fell in love with literature the very first class I took. The instructor was a wonderful mentor and we became friends. I had always loved to read and considered English my first language while growing up in a country where multiple languages are spoken.

We always had books at our home, but public libraries were not common at all in Malaysia. In fact, my niece told me that she had to turn in her library card when she turned 12 years old and that made me very sad. The history of libraries, especially the Carnegie libraries in the US, is a testament to the importance of learning and improving oneself. Andrew Carnegie (1835 – 1919) provided funding to communities to build libraries saying, “I choose free libraries as the best agencies for improving the masses of the people because they only help those who help themselves.” The Knoxville Public Library was founded in 1912 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation and a promise from the city council to continue the funding for staff, operations, and materials.

Think of all the changes and transformations in the one hundred and eleven years of this library. The one constant: BOOKS! Whether it be in print form or mobile device, audio or visual. And of course, libraries have added a lot more to their services and programming – computers, movies, STEAM kits, Discovery kits, musical instruments, puppets, puzzles, games, etc. They now call it the Library of Things.

What will libraries look like in 5, 10, 50 years? I would like to hope that we continue to keep changing and evolving, adapting to meet our communities’ needs, staying relevant. I do know that reading will remain the one constant and thank goodness for that because there’s a strong link between reading and having empathy. I want my kids and grandkids to grow in a world with empathy and kindness. After 24 years in the library world, I still think myself so fortunate to be in the best profession and to have had all the wonderful opportunities in the world. I have lived a thousand lives through the books I have read.

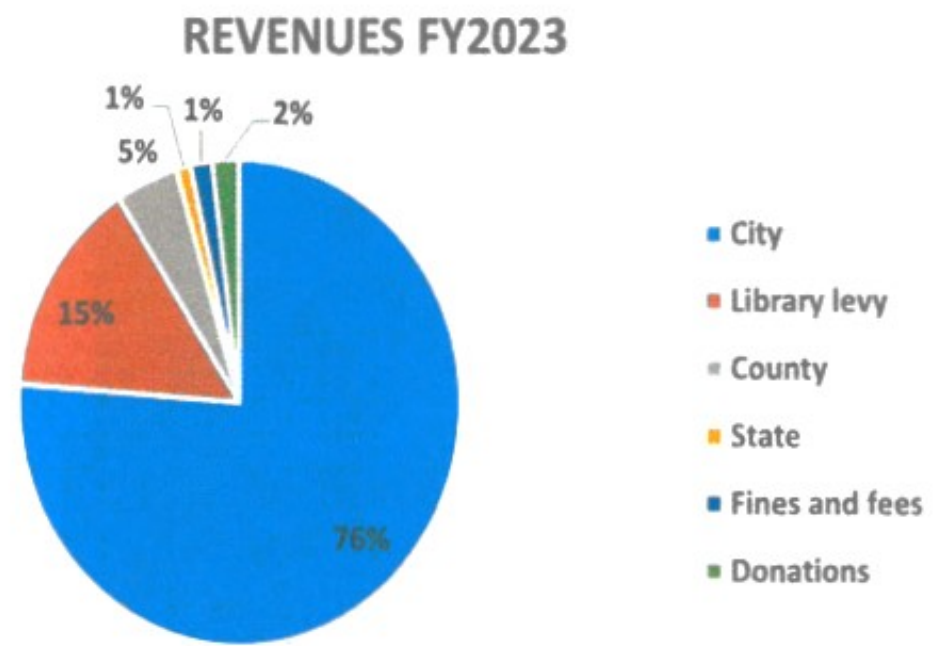
“Books, even bad ones, let you live another life for a few hundred pages. They let you walk in the souls of people you may never meet and connect you in ways you might not expect.” – Brian Lyman. And from the incomparable Dr. Seuss: *The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go...*

Roslin Thompson

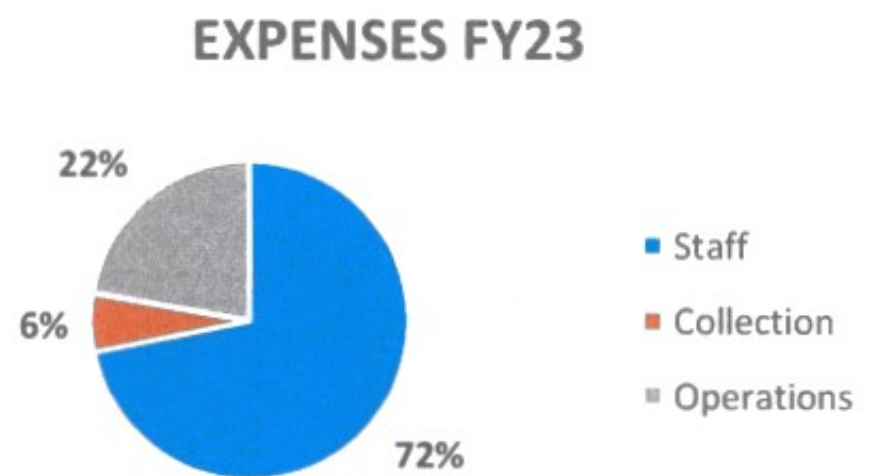
Funding Sources: The Knoxville Public Library is funded primarily by the residents of the city of Knoxville, Marion County Board of Supervisors, state/federal monies, private donations, and collection of fees.

The Knoxville Public Library is accredited at Tier 3, the highest level of accreditation set by the State Library of Iowa by meeting and exceeding the standards of service In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards, 6th ed.

City	\$350,001
Library levy	\$67,212
County	\$21,161
State	\$4,828
Fines and fees	\$7,177
Donations	\$12,965
Total	\$463,344



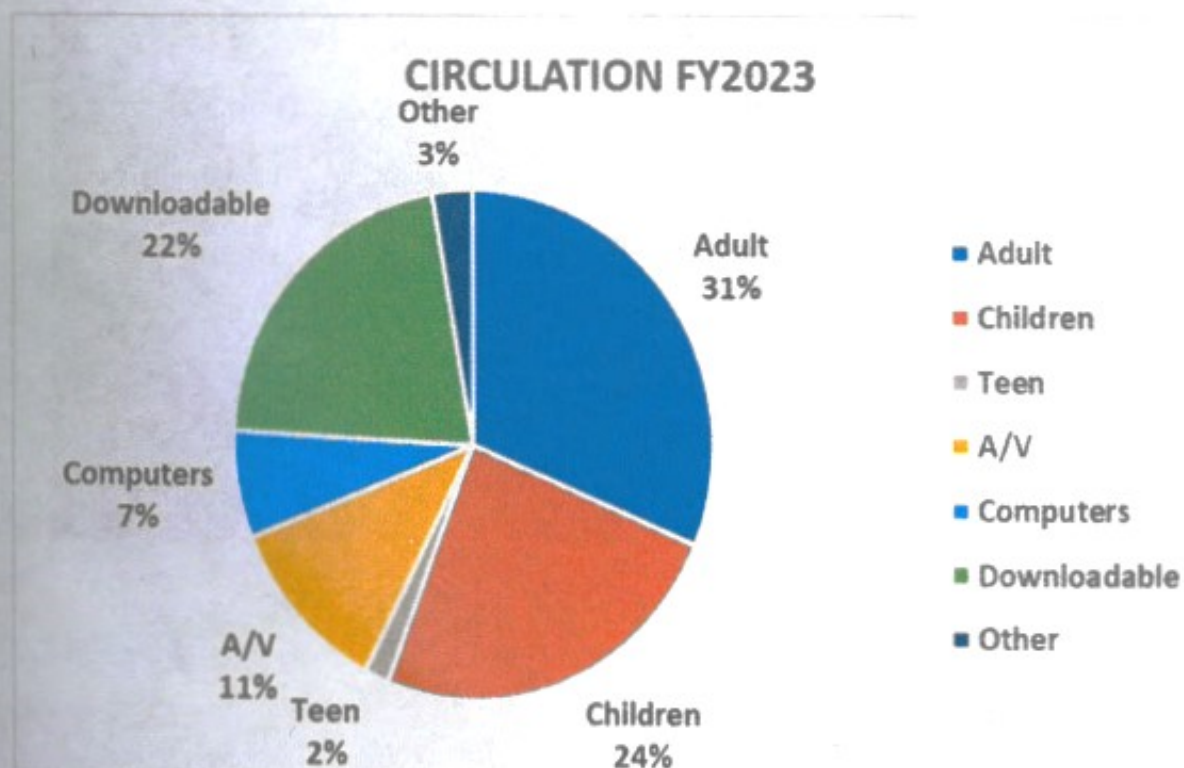
EXPENSES FY23	
Staff	\$334,838
Collection	\$27,473
Operations	\$103,707
Total	\$466,018



Circulation and collections:

Our collection totals **39,951** physical items and **147,603** downloadable items (e-books and audio-books) = **187,554 items**. We added **2,086** items (5%) and withdrew **2,142** items (5%). The standard requirement is 4%.

Total circulation of physical and downloadable materials = 59,694 items.



Who we serve:

There are 8,782 registered library card holders. 64% of the patrons live within city limits, 31% come from rural Marion County or neighboring towns, while 5% come from other areas.



Find Your Voice SRP 2023



Smiling for the camera



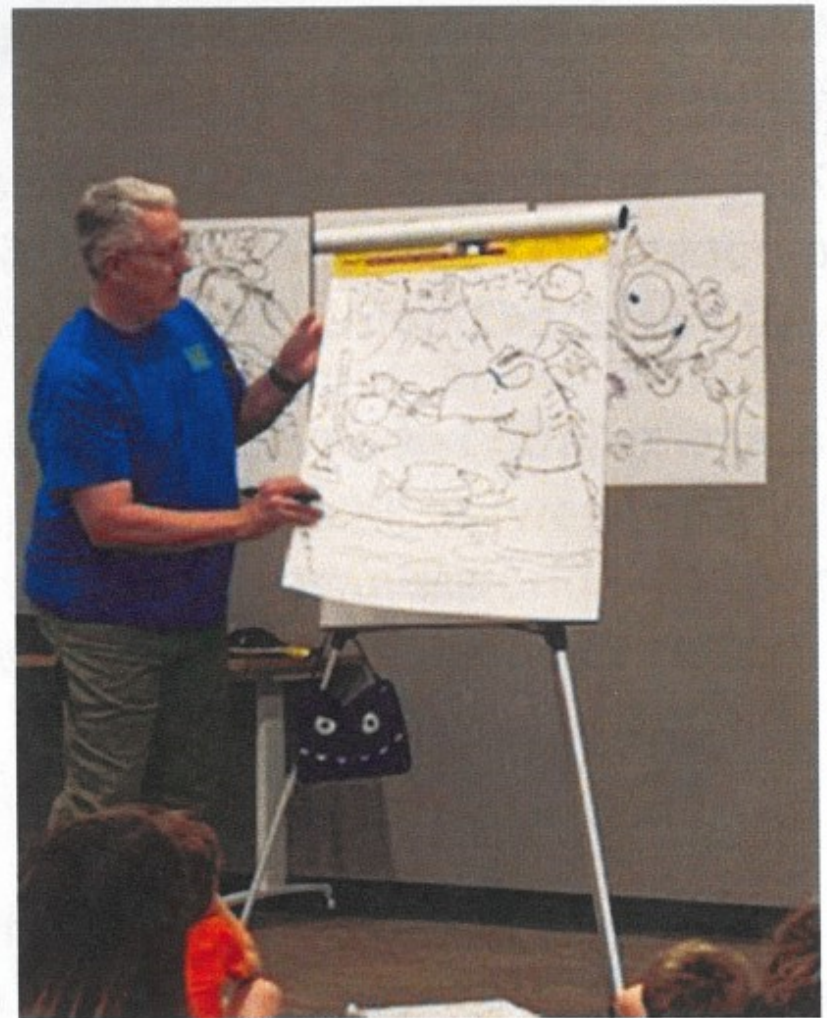
Father -daughter bonding



Dancing bubbles at Story Time



3 girls having fun



Mr. Read, the cartoonist



Spring craft





STEAM activities



Fun with the balloon lady



Building with STEAM kits



Budding engineer



Life-size Candyland





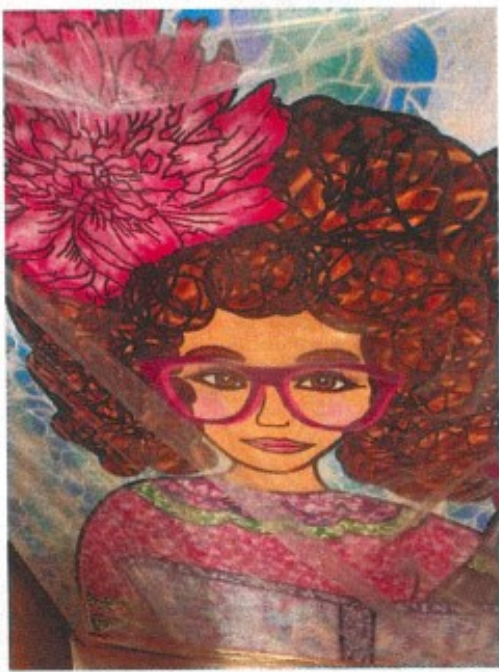
Dinosaur Experience!



Joe Plum art



Story Time



Emily Lupita art



Irynya Cherniak from Ukraine



Chalk the Walk



Community tree

Some staff



Charles Holdefer, author



Linda McCann, speaker



Beth Howard, author



Caleb Rainey, poet

Statistics at a glance:

- There are **544** public libraries in Iowa; 76% serve populations of less than 2,500. The Pleasantville Webb Shadle Library is the latest library to qualify.
- Almost 69% of all Iowans have a public library card (the most important card of all!). Knoxville has **8,782** registered library card holders. We added **471** new borrowers last year. 64% of KPL cardholders live within city limits, 31% come from Marion County towns and rural areas.
- The Knoxville Public Library is a size “E” library, serving a population ranging from 5,000 to 9,999. There are **40** such libraries in Iowa.
- The Knoxville Public Library has **13** public access computers, used **4,367** times last year. The wireless was accessed **9,171** times last year (54% increase). The website was accessed **15,176** times.
- We offer hotspots to enable fast broadband Internet to our patrons. Hotspots were checked out **174** times last year.
- Last year, the library offered **193** programs for children, teens, and adults with an attendance of **4,991 (25% increase)**. We actively participate in community events (Back to School Bash, Family Fun Fair, Trunk or Treat, Helmets and Hotdogs).
- There were **21,846** visits to the library, as well as multiple outreach services to the schools, nursing homes, and assisted living residences.
- We offer FREE e-books and audio-books through **Bridges**, a statewide consortium at low cost (8 cents per capita). There were **11,590** E-materials downloaded last year (14% increase).
- Freegal is a database to download free and legal music (5 each week). Last year, **1,095** songs were downloaded.
- Kanopy has thousands of movies patrons can stream for free. The Kanopy Kids module has thousands of movies specifically for children. **1,094** movies were watched last year (an increase of 56%).
- If we don't have it, we can get it! Interlibrary Loan remains a popular service where we can borrow items from other libraries. Last year, we borrowed **433** items from other libraries, and sent out **223** items.
- We offer free on-line educational resources 24/7: Brainfuse has job and career resources for all ages. VetNow and JobNow are aimed specifically to help job seekers and veterans. It also has Homework Help for elementary, middle school, and high school students. This is accessible through our website: www.knoxville.lib.ia.us.
- The library is open 2,704 hours a year, 52 hours a week. We are 18,280 square feet in size (a little over the average ‘E’ library size).



Our Mission Statement:

- *To provide multiple resources for recreation and lifelong learning;*
- *To foster a learning environment for children, teens, and adults;*
- *To provide access to technology for residents of Knoxville and rural Marion County.*

Library Board:

Lindsey Carlson, President
Erin McBride, Vice-President
Jan Evans
Laura Kendrick
Elly Shaw

Dave Johnson
John Mertz

213 E. Montgomery St
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
641-828-0585
www.knoxville.lib.ia.us

Hours of Operation:

<i>Monday —Thursday</i>	<i>10AM—8PM</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>10AM—5PM</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>10AM—3PM</i>

There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration—Andrew Carnegie

