



Normal Public Library: 2016 Annual Report

Highlights of 2016

- Staff conducted 887 programs with 31,604 total attendance
- 5,441 readers enrolled in summer and winter reading programs
- 696,324 circulation; 288,194 visitors; 33,957 public computer sessions
- Volunteers contributed over 3,700 hours of service
- Enhanced technology programming and instruction for patrons of all ages
- Successful Giving Tuesday campaign to fund Author and Speaker Series
- Implementation of Teen Mobile Makerspace and 3D printing programs
- Introduced circulating mobile Wi-Fi hotspots - each connecting up to 10 devices
- Began site analysis, building program and conceptual design of new library facility
- Strategic planning, including community stakeholder meeting and community survey
- Pages and Paws therapy dog reading program, Tech It Out and Open Tech Times
- Principals Read program featuring Unit 5 Principals
- Created Autism Cafe program and Back to School Night
- NPL Foundation development planning
- Two very successful used book sales and ongoing book sale
- Added convenient floor outlets at Tech Playground and at tables in Adult Services
- Completed modernization of original elevator; new east roof and improved drainage
- NPL Board and Town Council continued facility planning discussions, and completed visits to benchmark successful library facilities

What to Expect in 2017

- "Reading by Design!" Summer Reading Program begins May 31
- Conceptual designs of a new library facility on the Uptown south site
- Autism Open House and Wellness Room
- STEAM Club
- Build it Better: A LEGO Celebration on February 25
- Adventures with Geronimo and Thea Stilton from March 27-31
- Award winning children's author Candace Fleming at NPL on April 22
- New responsive website
- Completion of NPL Strategic Plan and NPL Foundation Development Plan

Children's Services

Summer Reading Program: *Read For The Win* was the theme of the 2016 Summer Reading Program. Activities and reading incentives donated by the library, the Normal Public Library Foundation and local merchants kept children and families reading all summer long! A.R.K.S. (Adults Reading Kids' Stuff) continued to be a popular component of the program, offering incentives for adults. Some activity highlights were performances by the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Misadventures in S.T.E.A.M. Book Club and Clothespin Puppets. Total enrollment for all preschoolers through sixth graders and adults participating in A.R.K.S. reached 4,027!

Partners in Reading: This program offers weekly 45-minute sessions of reading activities to students in elementary school on a one-on-one basis with a college student. The goal of this program is to enhance reading skills, foster a life-long love of reading and help children discover all that the library has to offer. This year, 453 volunteers from Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College worked with 497 elementary students. The total attendance for sessions was 4,226.

Story Hours: Children's Services offers many story hour options for children ages zero to five and their families. In 2016, 6,242 children and families enjoyed the 285 story hours presented at the library.

Additional On-Site Programming: We offered a wide variety of programs for all age groups. LEGO Club, an author visit by Suzanne Slade and Spy Week were just some of the popular programs offered. Popular character Tacky the Penguin helped us celebrate Children's Book Week with a variety of activities. Tech programs such as Coding Unplugged, LEGO WeDo Robotics and Code Ozobots continued to be extremely popular programs for schoolagers. Other highlights included: magic workshops, a magic show, and a children's operetta presented by Prairie Fire Theatre.

Off-Site Programming: In order to reach out to more people in the community, we offer off-site activities. Most of these are storytelling sessions, story hour classes, informational programs and activity tables at special events. During 2016, 39 programs were presented with a total participation of 7,024.

Programming Totals for 2016: The Children's staff planned and presented 542 programs for children and families in our community with a combined attendance of 26,124!

Discovery Room: The Discovery Room continues to be a favorite destination for children, families, play groups and tour groups visiting the library. This room features a "Crooked House," an infant/toddler "tot spot," whisper tubes, a puppet theater with an extensive puppet collection, a velcro wall and more!

Book Nook: The Book Nook remains a popular place for library programs, visiting classes and patrons looking for a fun area to enjoy a variety of activities, books, puzzles, games and time with each other.

Tech Playground: New in 2015, the Tech Playground has been an extremely popular addition! In this area, children come to collaborate, experiment, manipulate and have fun with tech toys and gadgets. The Tech Playground features iPads and fun educational apps available every day. "iSurprise" times offer opportunities to test out cool tech toys such as Osmo, Sphero Balls, Ozobots and more with staff interaction!

Community Partners: Children's Services is proud to partner with many local organizations such as Bloomington Public Library, Children's Discovery Museum, Head Start, ISU, McLean County Arts Center, Mid-State Reading Council, Miller Park Zoo, Prairie Fire Theatre, Unit 5 and the YWCA to benefit the children and families in our community. Work began with Unit 5 administration and the elementary school media specialists to strengthen partnerships and collaborations. Our goal is to increase services, resources and programs to positively impact students. A new partner this year was Operation Santa. During the month of October children and families could sign or decorate holiday cards to be sent to support our military troops. The library benefited from two Town of Normal Harmon Arts Grants this year. The first grant allowed the McLean County Arts Center to offer a variety of free art workshops at the library for families, teens and adults. With the second grant, the Prairie Fire Theatre presented a free children's operetta for library patrons.

What's New: The **Pages and Paws Therapy Dog Reading Program** gives children who are reading on their own the opportunity to practice reading aloud with a furry reading buddy. All dogs are Certified Therapy Dogs. Following the reading session, each child receives a Pages and Paws bookmark featuring a photo of their new furry friend. Unit 5 principals shared stories at the library as part of the **Principals Read** program. To meet the needs of local teachers, we now offer an **Educator Card** which allows teachers to check out material to supplement units of study. Tech programming continues to evolve and increase due to popularity and demand. Two new drop-in tech programs are **Tech It Out** for kids ages 5-12 and **Open Tech Times** for kids and teens age 8-18. In addition, **MaKey MaKey** tech invention kits, which have been popular in our programming are now available to be checked out.

Hooray for Volunteers: In 2016, volunteers completed approximately 2,507 hours of service helping with programs and collection maintenance. THANK YOU!

What's ahead in 2017: Watch for more news about our new **Wellness Room** opening soon. This room will be available to mothers requesting a private place to nurse or children accompanied by an adult in need of a calm, quiet space to re-group for a short period of time. Based on the community survey and the popularity of previous S.T.E.A.M. activities, check out our new **S.T.E.A.M. Club! Build it Better: A LEGO Celebration** will take place all day on February 25th. Thanks to the generosity of Carlson Exteriors, a special LEGO sculpture will be unveiled during the festivities at 11:00 am. **Adventures with Geronimo and Thea Stilton** will keep things hopping the week of March 27th – 31st. Hang out with these popular characters and enjoy a variety of events based on the books! **Meet Candace Fleming!** This award-winning children's author will be at the NPL on April 22, 2017. For Children's Book Week Children's Services will be hosting a **Star Wars Celebration**. May the Force be with you as you join us for Star Wars crafts and activities including a **drop-in Jedi Academy** on May 6th. Staff is starting to gear up for **Summer Reading Program 2017: Reading By Design!** Registration begins May 31st.

Teen Services

Summer Reading was a big hit, with a total of 524 teens signing up. Teens completed nearly 8,300 hours of reading. This summer's theme was Read for the Win, and among the special events offered were monthly Crafternoons, Fandemonium (a celebration of book, movie and TV show fandoms chosen by the teens), Chocolate Olympics, and a blanket fort making day.

In addition to programs held at the library, outreach programs to students in local schools as well as the Juvenile Detention Center continued, with Books and Bites held during the lunch hours at all four Unit 5 middle schools, and monthly book talks at the JDC. Visits to Normal Community High School, Normal West High School and University High School took place on a regular basis. Total attendance at all teen programs in 2016, both on and off site, was 2,898.

One great new addition to the teen area this year was our Mobile Maker Space, a cart loaded with craft and technology supplies kept in the teen area and wheeled out frequently for programs. We were able to add this to our teen services thanks to the community's generosity on Giving Tuesday 2015. New tech programs are being planned and implemented that use this Maker Space, and we are also excited to have it available to patrons for everyday use!

All teen paperback and hardcover fiction were interfiled for the first time, and all teen nonfiction books were moved to be in the same collection in the teen area. This has made browsing for teen materials much easier.

Teen Advisory Council: Twice a month, the Teen Advisory Council gets together after school for a program involving 8-10 teens each time. Programs range from book discussions to game days. Council members also help the young adult services librarian choose new books for the collection, plan upcoming teen events, and help with tasks as needed in the teen area.

Manga and Anime Club: This club continues to be very popular with younger teens, with an average of 10-15 per monthly meeting, and special events such as a Cosplay Picnic at Anderson Park in the summer, and an anime movie marathon.

Teen Maker Wednesdays will begin in 2017 and will further utilize our new Mobile Maker Space.

Teen Writers' Workshop: The teen writers' workshop meets monthly and provides an opportunity for teens to explore creative writing.

Outreach programs: Once a month a program is conducted at the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center. Each visit consists of a short game or discussion, followed by book talks featuring 8-10 interesting new books from the library, which are checked out to the JDC for two months for the teens to read. An average of 15 teens attend each visit.

Community Partners: Monthly visits are made to the Chiddix, Kingsley, Parkside and Evans Junior High Schools. Over the four lunch periods at each school, the school librarian and the young adult librarians from Bloomington and Normal public libraries do book talks while the students have

lunch. Attendance is voluntary. Regular visits are also made to Normal Community High School, Normal West High School, University High School and Bloomington Junior High School.

Adult Services

There were 230 adult events held at the Normal Public Library, including Money Smart Week events, Movie Matinees, well-attended craft classes, popular Mark Moran antique appraisals, live entertainment, book clubs, 3D printing classes, and daily assistance with technology, downloadable and streaming services. In addition, staff also welcomed about 300 visitors at our annual Model Railroad Show in November. The Winter Reading Program included 424 participants. We offered adult book club, NPL After Hours, Autism Café, seed swaps, author readings, Poetry is Normal events and more. We again welcomed the Young at Heartland theatre group who performed for over 50 in attendance. Lunchtime Yoga continued through 2016 offered weekly on Tuesday (and extended to Thursday) afternoons throughout the year with a total attendance over 600 people. The Nonprofit Marketers Meetup began in 2016 and created a unique opportunity for local nonprofit professionals to collaborate.

Services we continued and grew in 2016 included free 3D printing for all patrons, including several events to acclimate patrons to 3D design. We continued our library's podcast, Check It Out, which has already garnered over 1,700 downloads of over 20 episodes. Another very popular service added was Wi-Fi Hotspot check out, with plans to add more hotspots in 2017. We continue to offer access to computers, printing, copying, scanning, faxing, test proctoring and notary service.

Event partners in 2016 included Rhino Poetry Magazine, University of Illinois Extension, Health Alliance Medical Plans, Illinois State University PubUnit, Beer Nuts, Busey Bank, Unit 5 Schools, Bloomington Public Library, Heartland Theatre, Calvert and Metzler Memorial Home, F3E Foundation for Financial Freedom, McLean County 4-H Fair, Be Content at Home Expo, Normal Township, Walgreens, Advocate BroMenn, and Alpha Phi Omega and Phi Sigma Pi from Illinois State University, just to name a few.

Outreach: On the first and third Tuesday morning of each month, the Books on the Go program at the Normal Senior Center allowed seniors to register for a library card, check out, return, and place holds on materials, plus seek assistance on streaming content and technology. Staff provided a monthly event at the BroMenn Adult Day Services group bringing library collections, services, and events to day service clients.

Normal Public Library provided regular delivery of books and other materials to 15 homebound residents, and served more on an as-needed basis. Deposit collections were maintained at five Normal residence centers, with titles refreshed every six weeks. In August, library staff greeted the senior citizens at the Young At Heart Day at the McLean County Fair, where they handed out free paperbacks, book bags, and other items to those who stopped by the booth. In August staff also participated in Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home's Senior Expo held at the Bone Student Center.

Normal Public Library - Departmental Activity Indicators					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Partners in Reading Participation	4,036	3,547	3,623	4,004	4,226
Story Hours - Participation (Excludes Summer Story Hours)	6,844	7,519	7,136	6,077	6,242
Number of Off-Site Programs	197	154	182	164	39
Off-Site Program Participation	13,835	13,822	11,962	10,467	7,024
Tours/Educational Programs - Participation	804	547	355	468	309
Additional On-site Program Participation	2,962	2,828	2,561	4,227	4,024
Total Participation in Programming	32,804	33,578	30,728	28,960	31,604
Circulation of Library Materials	610,256	620,716	656,851	653,991	696,324
Community Room Usage - Events	603	570	418	819	1,270