

2021 in Review

Library Accomplishments:

- Celebrated our 310th finisher in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. We had 48 finishers in 2021 and 38,721 books read.
- Participated in community events, including Downtown Summer Block Party, Plaza Market, Festival of Wreaths, Wonderland of Lights, 19th Amendment Suffragette Program, Historical Walk of Cherry Street, Chamber Career Expo, 4-H Parade and Storytime, Street Fair
- Started in-home daycare storytime presentations throughout the community
- Removed barriers to information access by going fine free.
- Added Try It Kits, which offer makerspace-type activities that patrons can check out and complete at home, including a button maker, embroidery, light box, nature kit, and more.
- Offered 2 virtual and 1 physical author visits in-house and 8 virtual author visits with our local schools.
- Safely, offered free tax assistance to anyone every week during tax season when many locations were not and served 960 patrons.
- Hosted a VR kit from the State Library in October and November.
- Added a collection of yard games. Added mobile-friendly video tutorials to the library website via Niche Academy.
- Monthly Adult Programs resumed, and we added new programs including Dungeons & Dragons, Family Retro Game Night, Among Us for Teens, School age cooking basics program and resumed Southern Wells Chat and Chew book clubs.
- Add reader's advisory subscription program called Book Boxes.
- Focused on adding material to our Spanish collections.

Staff Accomplishments:

- 5 staff members received or are working toward increasing their library certification/degree and 1 staff member is working towards a Master's degree.
- The library has its 12th staff member graduate from the Wells County Leadership Academy and our 13th staff member going through Level 1.
- Numerous staff members are serving on community and professional boards including: Wells County Foundation, Parlor City Christmas, Leadership Academy and Leadership Academy Mentors, Historical Society, Genealogy Society, Bluffton NOW!, Wells County Chamber, Chamber Education Committee, Rotary and Optimists.
- Started using Niche Academy for staff training

Stats:

- Our stats are up from 2020 and some are up from 2019.
- We saw an increase of card registrations by 1.87%. Still down by 6.97% from 2019 but we did do a huge purge of unused cards in-between 2019 and 2020.
- Circulation of physical material is up by 29.96% from 2020 but still down by 12.07% from 2019.
- When you include eMaterial, circulation is up 20.04% from 2020 and only down by 8.60% from 2019.
- eAudiobooks increased circulation by 6.45% from 2020 and 24.18% from 2019, eBooks decreased circulation by 10.3% from 2020 and increased by 10.29% from 2019.
- Study room use is up by 133.45% from 2020 and up by 60.73% from 2019.
- Supervised visits are up by 734.21% from 2020 and 154.62% from 2019. These are not all "supervised" visits, but the library is being routinely used by the Bowen Center as a safe public space to work with their youth clients.
- Reference questions have increased by 45.49% from 2020 and 39.35% from 2019.
- Programming is greatly increased from 2020 but still down from 2019.