

## 2022 in Review

### Library Accomplishments:

- Celebrated our 346<sup>th</sup> finisher in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. We had 40 finishers in 2022 and 44,886 books read.
- Participated in community events, including Downtown Summer Block Party, Plaza Market, Wonderland of Lights, Historical Homes Walk, 4-H Parade and Storytime, Street Fair
- Served 3 in-home and 1 accredited daycares, 5 pre-school classrooms and 2 intense intervention classes with storytime visits.
- Offered free tax assistance to 317 patrons during tax season.
- Reached out to local realtors and created a library information flyer, to be included with Friends of the Library bags, and handed out at community title companies.
- Added the Hoopla streaming platforms.
- Started offering VR children's non-fiction interactive books.
- WCPL began partnering with Parlor City Brewery for a reoccurring trivia program.
- Indiana Room volunteers are again adding new obituaries to Portfolio, expanding the number of obituaries available through Enterprise. Steady progress has also been made on overall obituary scanning. We nearly have all obituaries scanned through 1980. The book scanner has also been placed back in service with several irreplaceable books digitized and preserved for future researchers.
- Two Oculus Quest's were purchased. Both contain a mix of games and educational applications and are very popular.
- Adult Services held a drop in multigenerational escape room.
- Added a collection of board games
- Media Services created and cataloged CDs of the historical WCRD and Barb Elliott interviews.
- Adult services worked with and assisted local authors by providing information regarding one room schools and family history. The created works being donated to the Indiana Room.
- Adult Services began the digitization of maps to be added to the WCPL website.
- Teen and Adult services departments partnered with the Bluffton Parks department for a multigenerational river clean-up program with a brief educational overview of the history of the Wabash river and creation of the river greenway.
- WCPL provided a Cyrillic keyboard for Ukrainian refugees to use at our public internet stations.
- Books in Ukrainian and Russian were added to the library's Libby app to help incoming refugee students
- Teen Zone provided Uncrustables (funded by donations from local churches) at mealtimes to assist food-insecure kids
- We refreshed our outdoor space with new landscaping, benches, charging ports and picnic tables.

**Staff Accomplishments:**

- 4 staff members received or are working toward increasing their library certification/degree.
- The library has its 13<sup>th</sup> staff member graduate from the Wells County Leadership Academy and our 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Executive Committee, Rotary and Optimists.
- Started using Niche Academy for staff training and onboarding

**Stats:**

- Our stats are up from 2021 and mostly up/close to being even with 2019.
- We purged all library cards that were expired but still our system because of fines at the beginning of the year. From March to December we saw 876 new library cards or an increase of 6%.
- Circulation of physical material is up by 9.26% from 2021 and down by just 3.92% from 2019.
- When you include eMaterial, circulation is up 17.74% from 2021 and up by 7.61% from 2019!
- eAudiobooks increased circulation by 53.54% from 2021 and 90.66% from 2019, eBooks increased circulation by 55.33% from 2021 and increased by 71.32% from 2019.
- Hoopla numbers steadily rose throughout the year starting with 177 the first month to 332 in December.
- While meeting room use is down by 76.8%, study room use is up by 38.62% from 2021. We are starting to see more and more meeting room use this year.
- Supervised visits are up by 18.77% from 2021 and 202.41% 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 16.88% from 2021 and 62.87% from 2019.
- Programming attendance would appear to be down by 25%, but this total includes virtual programming, which we are really offering anymore. The percent of increase on in-house programming is 4.67% and 2022 was a year without Children’s Book Festival, which gave 2021 an extra 1,183 people. With Children’s Book Festival out of the numbers, we increased programming attendance by 12%.
- Book-a-Librarian increased by 143% from 2021.
- Notary services increased by 13.16%
- Our patron count increased by 15.66% from 2021 and is down just 8.29% from 2019.