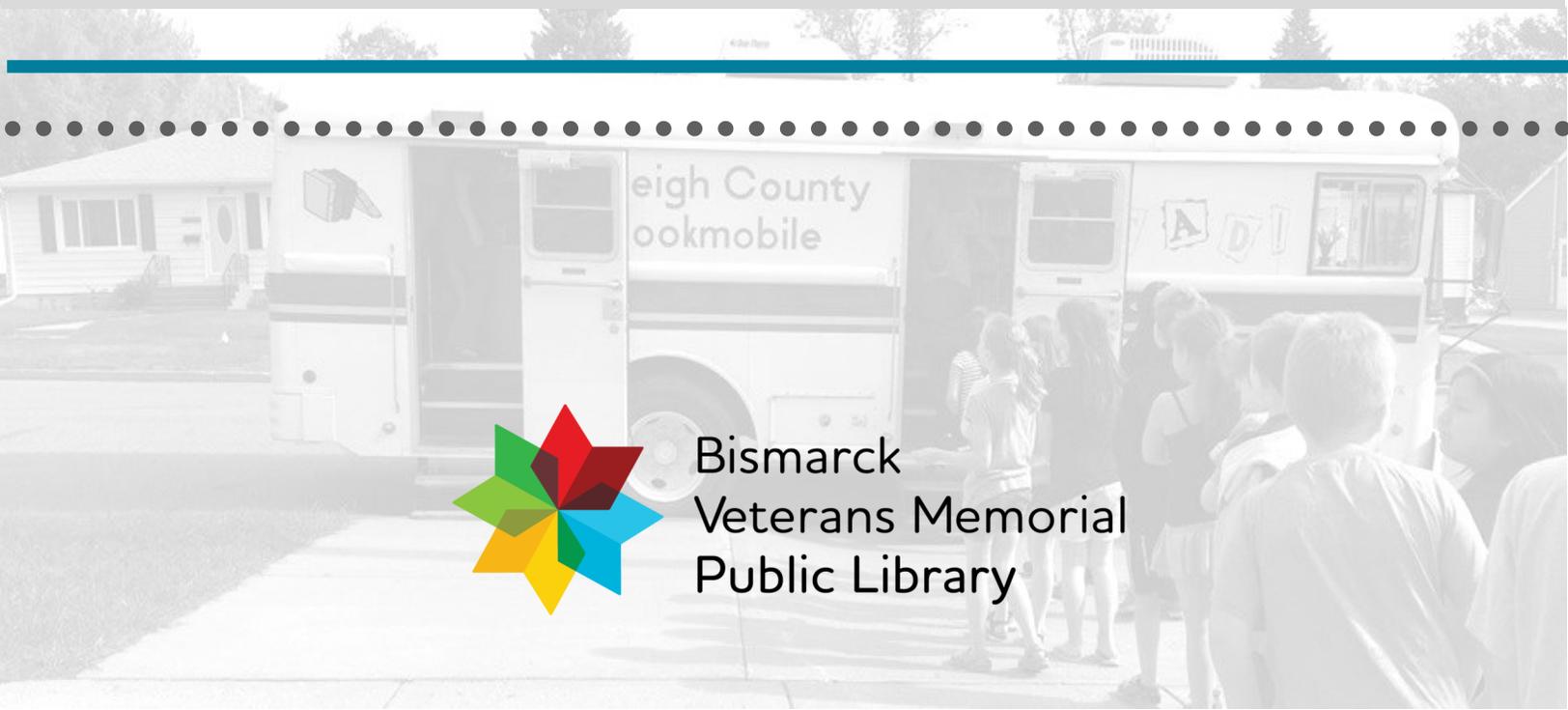


# Annual Report 2018



Bismarck  
Veterans Memorial  
Public Library



# 2018 Snapshot

During a single day at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in 2018...



**1,054**

People visited the Library & outreach services



**478**

Public computer & Wi-Fi sessions took place



**82**

People attended a children's or teen program



**1,501**

Items were checked out



**77**

Adults attended a Library program or meeting



**99**

Reference questions were answered by library staff

\*Numbers based on 357 days open per year

***"The Library is an important service that everyone in the community should have access to. Knowledge should be free to all." - Paula, library patron***

# In the News



## A New Roof for the Library

The Library spent the majority of 2018 under construction as our 30-year-old roof was replaced. The project began in April and was completed in mid-October. Though the Library continues to sport the same signature blue metal roof as the original from the 1980s, we are happy to have the building and its contents protected from the elements by our brand new high-tech replacement.



*Library Board President Michael Schaff, Library Director Christine Kujawa, and State Librarian Mary Soucie*

## Star Library Award

The North Dakota State Library awarded the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library the 2018 North Dakota Star Library Award for going above and beyond with service provided to the community. The awards were given based on circulation of collection, hours open to the public, program attendance, combined computer and Wi-Fi usage, and the percentage of North Dakota Library Coordinating Council Standards for Public Libraries met. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is the #1 ranked public library in North Dakota for hours open to the public, program attendance, public computer usage, and library card holders.

## U.S. Flag Collection Point at the Library

Jacob Southam, Boy Scout Troop 109, established Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library as a U.S. flag collection point for worn flags. Southam collected U.S. flags and conducted a flag retirement ceremony in early November for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Southam said, "People don't normally know what to do with worn flags. Sometimes they end up in closets. The ceremony will allow for retiring the flags in a correct and respectful manner." The Library was chosen as a collection point because of its long history of supporting and serving military veterans and its central location.



*Library Director Christine Kujawa and Jacob Southam*



# Collections & Checkouts

New in 2018

## Board Game Collection

The Library now has a circulating board game collection, thanks to funding from the Bismarck Library Foundation. We have a great selection of games for families and players of all ages, from classic board games like Battleship and Clue, to new favorites such as Pandemic and Yeti In My Spaghetti. The board game collection is located on the main level of the Library near the Information Desk and the teen collection. You can also find a complete listing of all the games in the collection on the Special Collections page of the Library's website.



## Library Card Redesign



The Library began issuing its newly redesigned library cards in June. The new card for adults features the Library's logo. Children who get new library cards may choose from two different designs. One card depicts a shuttle blasting off in a space scene, and the other features hot air balloons on a blue sky background. To celebrate the launch of the new cards, patrons were invited to trade in their old cards for a new one in June. Over 2,000 new cards were given out throughout the month.

## By the Numbers

256,049 Total items in the collection

29,364 New items added

46,315 Individuals with library cards

535,758 Total items checked out

148,979 Children's/Teen items checked out

63,006 Digital items checked out

26% Increase in digital item checkouts

48,507 Digital items in the collection  
(E-Books, Audiobooks, Videos, Magazines, & Comics)

470 ND State Park pass checkouts

# Library Services



## By the Numbers

- 366,336 Visits to the Library
- 35,290 Reference questions answered
- 11,498 Meeting room event attendees
- 4,774 People utilized study rooms
- 1,775 Teen visits to HQ
- 170,653 Public computer & Wi-Fi sessions
- 78,808 Library website visits
- 634,297 Library catalog searches



## New in 2018

### Bismarck-Capital City Memories



After a brief hiatus, our digital photograph collection came back online in early 2018. ***Bismarck-Capital City Memories*** is a collection of images depicting the history of the City of Bismarck from its early pioneer days through the 1990s. The collection is made available through the Library's partnership with Digital Horizons, an online treasure house of thousands of images, documents, video, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains from the late 1800s to today. The collection is accessible online at [digitalhorizonsonline.org](http://digitalhorizonsonline.org) or via the Library's website.



# Programs & Events

## 2018 Highlights

### Okee Dokee Brothers Live in Concert

We were thrilled to have the GRAMMY® Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers in Bismarck in June to perform a concert of family music with a goal to inspire children and their parents to get outside and be creative. Over 500 excited kids and adults attended this free family concert at the Belle Mehus City Auditorium, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.



### English for Everyone

Our English for Everyone classes provide English-language learners (ELLs) the opportunity to practice speaking English without fear of making mistakes, with the goal of improving conversation skills to help attendees become better workers, students, and community members. People from all over the world attend this weekly small-group class to work with an ELL instructor and community volunteers to improve their English skills.



### Crazy Horse Book Discussion

Members of the Edward Clown family, the nearest living relatives to Crazy Horse, joined author William Matson to discuss and sign their recently published book "Crazy Horse: The Lakota Warrior's Life and Legacy," based on the family's oral history.

### Bismarck Comic Con

Bismarck's second annual Comic Con was held at the Library in May. This year's event, held in partnership with the Dakotas' CW2, saw added panels with local artists and authors who sold their wares, expanded trivia competitions, the Discovery Dome, video game tournament, and more photo opportunities. The popular costume competition, photo booth, and the TARDIS were all back for year two.



# Programs & Events



## 2018 Highlights

### LEGO Holiday Ornament Make & Take

There were lines out the door of the Children's Library for our first-ever LEGO holiday ornament make and take event. LEGO bricks and instructions were provided to attendees, who created one of four holiday-themed ornaments to take home. This free family event was sponsored by the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.



### Capture the Flag NERF Battle

The Library became a NERF battle zone after hours, as three groups of teens in grades 6-12 faced off to try to capture the other teams' flags.

### Art from the Heart

This year we held two sessions of Art from the Heart, which offered a creative outlet for kids to play with paint, experiment with texture, and create their own color masterpieces. Children age 5 and under were encouraged to get messy while exploring with different art materials.

### Summer Concert Series

In conjunction with this year's music-themed summer reading program, several concert events were held at the Library throughout the summer. Performances included Celtic guitarist Jerry Barlow, The History of Blues in America featuring Joey Leone, and classical guitarist Peter Fletcher.



### The Library @ Community Events

Miss Sparkles and Colette took their story time and puppet show out on the road at a number of events and locations throughout the year, including Riverwalk, NDSU Extension's holiday event, Urban Harvest, Dakota Zoo, and Lincoln Literacy Night. In addition, our youth services staff spread the word about the Library to over 6,000 students at Bismarck Public Schools. We brought information about the Library to community gatherings and fairs, including the Multicultural Fair, Capital Pride, the YMCA's Senior Health Fair, Burleigh County Senior Center, and Gateway to Science.



# Programs & Events

## By the Numbers

- 600 Children's programs held
- 23,884 People attended children's programs
- 245 Story times held
- 9,319 People attended story time
- 669,119 Minutes read by children's summer reading program participants
- 104 Teen programs held
- 5,308 Teens attended programs
- 244 Adult programs held
- 11,264 People attended adult programs

## Our Community Partners

We are grateful to have so many wonderful partner organizations in our community, whose contributions make it possible for us to offer many additional programs, events, and services.

- AARP of North Dakota
- AID, Inc.
- Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- Bismarck Fire Dept.
- Bismarck Forestry Division
- Bismarck Garden Club
- Bismarck Global Neighbors
- Bismarck Historical Society
- Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.
- Bismarck Parks & Rec.
- Bismarck Police Dept.
- Bismarck Public Schools
- Burleigh County Senior Center
- Burleigh County Sheriff's Dept.
- Capitol Shakespeare
- Community Action
- Dakota Media Access
- Dakota West Arts Council
- Dakota Zoo
- The Dakotas' CW2
- Dungeons & Dragons Group
- Friends of the Bismarck Public Library
- Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue
- Gateway to Science
- Humanities ND
- Laughing Sun Brewing
- Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club
- Midcontinent Communications
- Missouri Slope Area United Way
- Morton Mandan Public Library
- ND Brain Injury Network
- ND Center for Independent Living
- ND Farm Bureau
- ND Game & Fish Dept.
- ND Parks & Rec. Dept.
- ND State Library
- NDSU Extension Service
- Northern Plains Dance
- Prevent Child Abuse ND
- Sanford Health
- Shiloh Christian School
- State Historical Society of ND
- Three Crowns Swedish American Assoc.
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- UND Thormodsgard Law Library
- Urban Harvest
- Wing Senior Center





## 2018 Highlights

### Mobile Library Continues Growth

The Bismarck Mobile Library ensures that residents who are not able to visit the Library in person still have access to our services. Two new stops were added in 2018, at Prairie Pointe Assisted Living and the Sierra Court Apartments, bringing the total number of stop locations per month to twenty-one.

### Little Free Libraries in Burleigh County

The Burleigh County Bookmobile placed five Little Free Libraries at locations throughout Burleigh County this year, with the purpose of ensuring that rural residents have access to reading material in between bookmobile visits. Bookmobile staff will re-stock the libraries on an ongoing basis as they travel throughout the county. Little Free Libraries are located at General Sibley Park, Wing Senior Center, Main Street in McKenzie, North Haroldson Lane in Apple Valley, and Santee Road in Lincoln.



## By the Numbers

8,994 Bookmobile visitors

7,163 Miles driven by the bookmobile

540 Bookmobile stops

49,490 Outreach items checked out

792 Mobile Library visitors

57% Increase in visits to the Mobile Library

276 Mobile Library stops

4,241 Outreach cardholders



# People

## Library Staff

- Christine Kujawa - Library Director
- Elizabeth Jacobs - Assistant Library Director
- Lynn Bryntesen - Head of Maintenance
- Troy Hamre - Interlibrary Loan Manager
- Alison Hiatt - Bookmobile Assistant
- Matt Hovland - Head of Circulation Services
- Traci Juhala - Head of Youth Services
- Bea Kaiser - Administrative Assistant
- Jana Maher - Children's Program Director
- Vern Mastel - Technology Coordinator
- Sarah Matthews - Adult Programming Coordinator
- Keli McDonald - Head of Bookmobile
- Becky Needham - Circulation Manager
- Lora Rose - Head of Technical Processing
- Laura Rysavy - Teen Programming Coordinator
- Kate Waldera - Head of Information Services



## Library Board of Directors

The Library is governed by a city-appointed five member Board of Directors. Terms are for three years with a six year limit. Major duties include hiring the Library Director, setting policy, overseeing finances and approving monthly expenses, and advocating for the Library.

The Board of Directors meets in the Library at noon on the fourth Thursday of every month. Meetings are open to the public.

## Volunteers

15 Ongoing volunteers

1,350 volunteer hours worked

\$21,000 Saved by the Library



*Volunteer appreciation event*

Michael J.B. Schaff, President

Bob Bartosh, Vice President

Pat Grantier

Joyce Hinman

Sue Sorlie

Bismarck City Commissioner Nancy Guy,  
Library Liaison

Burleigh County Commissioner Kathleen Jones,  
Library Liaison

# Foundation & Friends



## Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

The Library Foundation, Inc. was established in 1975 to support the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. Their mission is to enrich publicly-funded Library services by raising private funds to enhance collections, resources and facilities.

Jesse Sailer, President

### 2018 Foundation-Funded Projects

- Construction of a second family restroom in the Children's Library
- Additional shelving for special collections in the Missouri River Room
- New end panels for Children's Library shelving
- Three mobile device charging stations
- Additional study tables for the main level adult area
- \$5,000 in new digital audiobooks made available for checkout through Library 2 Go
- Ten family-friendly Binge Boxes

## Friends of the Bismarck Public Library

346 Friends of the Library members

\$46,390 Raised from used book sales

160 Members volunteered in 2018

\$11,335 Directly contributed to support Library programs & projects

Jennifer Bandy, President



### Funded By the Friends in 2018

- Sponsorship of Capital Area Transit's Read & Ride Bus
- Okee Dokee Brothers family concert
- Bismarck Comic Con event sponsorship
- Songs & Stories of the American West concert
- Additions to the Binge Box Collection
- Holiday LEGO ornament make & take event
- Temporary parking during roof construction



Bismarck  
Veterans Memorial  
Public Library

515 N 5th St  
Bismarck, ND 58501

701-355-1480

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

[www.bismarcklibrary.org](http://www.bismarcklibrary.org)

[www.facebook.com/bismarcklibrary](https://www.facebook.com/bismarcklibrary)