



Bismarck  
Veterans Memorial  
Public Library

# 2016 Annual Report

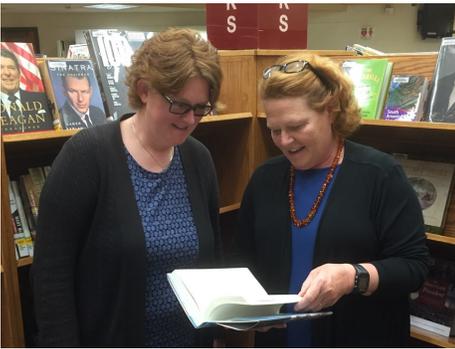


*Offering information, ideas and personal enrichment to all*

## HELPING PEOPLE SUCCEED

With over 385,000 visits per year, the Library is one of the busiest facilities in the city. Open seven days a week, 52 weeks per year, we strive to provide resources and assistance to help the people of our community succeed.

The Library offers a diverse, up-to-date collection of 247,020 books, audiobooks, movies, music, video games, art prints, and much more, which circulated 523,167 times in 2016. In addition to the items on our shelves, we also provide an ever



*Senator Heitkamp stopped by to show her support for the Library - with library director Christine Kujawa*

growing collection of digital e-books and audiobooks. Our digital collection grew by 75% in the past year, from 20,992 items in 2015, to 36,850 in 2016. As the digital collection continued to grow, so did the number of people using it. Digital item checkouts totaled 36,899 in 2016, a 21% increase over the previous year.

Again in 2016, we were ranked the number one library in the state for computer use, with a total of 267,108 sessions logged. Our public computer stations and Wi-Fi throughout the facility provide individuals with access to

online resources and materials so they can connect with family and friends, create résumés and apply for jobs, and thrive in our increasingly online society. Our friendly, experienced staff provide professional assistance to help connect people with the resources and services they need. We answered nearly 37,000 reference questions in 2016, which helped people succeed in life, school, and their individual pursuits of knowledge and recreation.

One of our biggest accomplishments of 2016 was the launch of our newly updated website at [www.bismarcklibrary.org](http://www.bismarcklibrary.org). With its reorganized content and simplified navigation, our website serves as a user-friendly portal for the wide range of resources and services the Library provides. The site also features a new, clean look featuring our new logo. Whether you see four open books, people with outstretched, welcoming arms, a pinwheel blowing in the North Dakota breeze, the capital city star on the map, or something else, we hope that this new logo will stand as a symbol of the Library and all of the valuable services and programs we offer to the people of Bismarck and Burleigh County.



## 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

Visits to the library  
385,681

Hours open  
5,772

Residents with library  
cards  
45,770

Items checked out  
523,167

Public computer &  
Wi-Fi sessions  
267,108

Items in the Library's  
collection  
247,020

Individuals utilizing  
meeting rooms  
14,965

Reference questions  
answered  
36,924

Digital items checked  
out  
36,899

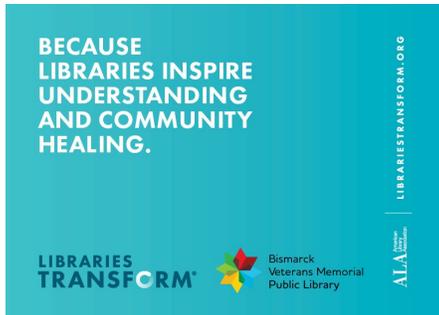


*“The librarians here are always so helpful and seem genuinely interested in helping people succeed.” - Vincent Keener, library patron*

*Vincent Keener is holding his Bachelor's Degree diploma. He used the Library's computers for homework and research, and study rooms for reading and studying.*



*United Way's Day of Caring volunteers were a great help to the Library.*



*ND State Penitentiary librarian picking up donated books for incarcerated individuals*

## CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library serves as a hub of our growing community, both as a physical space for gathering and as a partner in providing programs and services that connect individuals and foster a sense of community amongst the residents of Bismarck and Burleigh County.

- Our meeting rooms offer a neutral space for public discourse and civic engagement. In 2016, they were utilized 614 times by community groups, whose meetings and events were attended by a total of 14,695 people.
- In partnership with Bismarck Global Neighbors, we held a panel discussion with New Americans in our community to discuss the many obstacles and hopes that resettled refugees face upon arrival in the United States.
- We held weekly conversation groups, where English language learners could gather to practice speaking English with others.
- The Library was a host site for the Great Plains Food Bank's Kid's Summer Lunch Program, where eligible kids were served nutritious lunches three days a week from June through August.
- In partnership with the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People and numerous other community organizations, the Library was again the host site for Project Service Connect, which provided free services such as meals, hair cuts, and health information to people experiencing homelessness.
- We shared donated books with the Burleigh County Detention Center and the North Dakota State Penitentiary, which provided incarcerated individuals with the opportunity to learn and gain new skills needed for successful employment and reintegration into society.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library employs a total of 59 people, 16 full time and 43 part time. Our staff members work together to make the Library a vital part of our community and to make a difference in the lives of our patrons.



*Head of Reference Services Kate Waldera celebrated her 30th year at the Library— with Mayor Mike Seminary.*



*Circulation Associate Sheldon Steckler received the Shining Star award from the City of Bismarck.*



*Adult Programming Librarian Sarah Matthews was honored as one of Bismarck's "20 Under 40."*

## ENRICHING LIVES

### Adult Programs

The Library held 179 events for adults in 2016, with a total of 9,681 people in attendance. This attendance number amounts to an impressive increase of 96% from 2015. We continue to provide a wide range of personal enrichment opportunities, free of charge, for adults of all ages. Some of the highlights of our adult programming this year include:

- Performances by world-class musicians, such as the Smithsonian Institution's Travelling Museum of Music and classical guitarist Peter Fletcher
- Free computer and online research classes taught by our expert reference staff on topics such as genealogy, social media, and computer basics
- 20 sessions of Job Club, a free job search and résumé writing class, made possible through a City of Bismarck Community Development Block Grant
- Author readings and discussions with local authors, including Terri Finneman, and North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode



*Smithsonian's Traveling Museum of Music performers Bob & Sheila Everhart*



*North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode*

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***“The Library offers endless possibilities and adventures to those living on a shoe-string budget.” - Molly W., library patron***

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### Teen Programs

Creating a dedicated space and increasing programming opportunities for teens was a major focus of the Library in 2016. Our very first teen programming coordinator joined our staff in April, and thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., construction of our new teen center began in June. Completed in December, the new space, named Teen Headquarters, offers middle and high school students a safe, welcoming space of their own, where they can study, create and display art, explore new technologies, and have fun playing games and gathering with friends. The dedicated students in the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) were very involved in designing and decorating the space, and their contributions to the project helped make the space their own.



*Teen Headquarters before, during, and after construction*

We also began offering a number of new ongoing programs for teens this year. Forty events were held for teens in 2016 with a total attendance of 299, which is an increase in attendance of 82% over the previous year. Our programs for teens included: Otaku Club, where students gather to celebrate and share their love of manga and anime; table top gaming; video game tournaments; and our 5th annual Mini Golf in the Library event, which raised funds to support Teen Headquarters construction.

We are excited about the future and further development of programs and services for area teens. We are grateful to the community, generous donors, and the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. for their support of our state-of-the-art new space where teens can expand their minds and explore their interests.

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***“As a homeschooling family, the Bismarck Public Library is one of our greatest, free inexhaustible resources.” - Krista S., library patron***

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## Children’s Programs

Our children’s library is always buzzing with activity, as families visit to enjoy our fantastic selection of books and materials for children of all ages, and to attend programs that help build a love of reading and encourage learning and discovery. 403 children’s programs were held in 2016, with a total attendance of 24,221. Children’s activities are centered around our weekly story times. The 242 story time sessions held in 2016 were attended by a total of 10,806 people, an average of 44 per session. In addition to our always popular story times, 2016 also saw the introduction of Little Songbirds, a new weekly program for babies and toddlers. Presented by a local music therapist, Little Songbirds focuses on movement, dance, instrument play, and singing. We continued to offer our other popular children’s programs, including Lego Club, B.A.R.K. (Bismarck Animals Reading with Kids), Sensory Story Time, and Miss Sparkles Kids’ Club.



*Story time with Miss Sparkles and her puppet friends*



*Lego Star Wars build off creations*



*Patrons showed their love for their library cards during Library Card Signup Month.*

This year’s summer reading program, themed “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” had 312 participants who read a total of 10,999 hours throughout the months of June and July. The highlights of the summer’s activities included:

- An appearance by magician Jeff Quinn, who graciously added a second performance to accommodate the 281 people who attended
- Puppet shows and story time outreach at Dakota Zoo, Urban Harvest, and Riverwalk
- A special Spanish language story time
- A Lego Star Wars build off , with participants’ creations judged by the local chapter of the Mandalorian Mercs

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***“Books fill my imagination and give me facts. I love books and it’s like I enter a dream when I enter the Library!” - Katja D., library patron***

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## BURLEIGH COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

The Burleigh County Bookmobile made a total of 748 stops at 77 different locations throughout the County in 2016. The dedicated staff welcome students and citizens onto the library on wheels as they travel to rural schools, towns, assisted living centers, and other locations, delivering the joy of reading to all they encounter. Some of the Bookmobile's highlights for the year include:

- The addition to the collection of thirty new learning tablets called Launchpads, which are for the exclusive use of students at rural schools
- Nearly 900 students from seven Burleigh County elementary schools touring the Bookmobile and enjoying a special story time with Miss Sparkles in May
- A visit in October to Papa's Pumpkin Patch for a special story time featuring the book *Every Pumpkin is Perfect* by Ann Krzmarzick
- The addition of 55 new e-books for the Senior Citizen Nook Book Club
- Welcoming approximately 2,000 trick-or-treaters onto the Bookmobile during Dakota Zoo's 4th annual Zoo Boo event



Check outs: 50,171

Cardholders: 4,202

Individual Visits: 12,779

Hours Open: 2,080

Generator Hours: 699

Items in the collection: 21,279

## BISMARCK MOBILE LIBRARY

While the Library strives to provide quality service in our first-class facility, there are unfortunately individuals living in Bismarck who are not physically able to get to the Library on their own. While our Bookmobile concentrates the majority of its time in rural areas of the County, there is also a need to provide library service to these individuals within the city of Bismarck.

Thanks to the generosity of Kupper Chevrolet, the Library began outreach service in Bismarck in late 2016 with the introduction of our new Mobile Library. This vehicle sponsorship will make it possible for the Library to continue outreach services to: assisted living centers, which will ensure personal enrichment opportunities to the older adults in our community; preschools, which will ensure that the youth in our community have reading opportunities, and the importance of literacy will be promoted at an early age; and rural Burleigh County, as this new service within the city will result in opportunities for increasing Bookmobile services in the rural areas of the County.



*City Commissioner Nancy Guy cutting the ribbon at the Mobile Library grand opening in November*

We extend additional thanks to Under Wraps Graphics for designing and applying the vehicle graphics at no charge, and the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library, who will be providing ongoing funding for fuel and auto insurance costs. The Library is grateful for the community support it has received in starting this much needed service. It is a testament to the overwhelming support of our local businesses and citizens for the Library and the services we provide for the Bismarck community.

## FOUNDATION & FRIENDS

### Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

In 2016, the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. successfully raised \$409,139.80 for a new teen center. These funds not only allowed for constructing the space, but we were also able to purchase furnishings and technology, and will have some funding available for future teen programming. The Foundation also received several grants from local businesses: \$1,000 from Target and \$2,500 from Kroll's Bismarck Marathon to use toward our 2017 summer reading program expenses; \$3,000 from the Leach Foundation for future summer reading program events; \$2,500 from Ross Dress for Less for adult programming expenses; and \$1,000 unrestricted from Scheel's. The Foundation also funded several purchases for the Library including: a large mounted touch screen to display our events calendar; several Great Books courses on CD; and a stand-up mobile device charger for the adult area.

#### Richard Weber, President



*Teens cutting the ribbon at the Headquarters grand opening in December*



*Receiving a \$2,500 grant from Ross Dress for Less*



*Receiving a \$1,000 grant from Scheels*

### Friends of the Bismarck Public Library

The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library are committed to increasing public awareness and use of the Library through cultural, educational, and social activities, and to raise funds to supplement and enhance library programs and services. The Friends' twice-yearly used book sales were a great success again this year, with \$21,265 raised from the spring sale, and \$23,062 from the fall sale. The Friends contributed a total of \$23,761 to Library programs, services, and building projects in 2016. Projects funded by the Friends included the Library plaza renovation, appearances by musical performers Peter Fletcher and the Smithsonian's Traveling Museum of Music, the children's summer reading program, and event promotion. In addition, the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library contributed \$40,000 to the Library Foundation Inc.'s Teen Headquarters project.

#### Jennifer Bandy, President



*FOL volunteers at the Ice Cream Social*



*FOL members enjoying the book sale*



*A book sale shopper checking out her treasures*

## ADMINISTRATION

Christine Kujawa, Director

Elizabeth Jacobs,  
Assistant Director

Charlotte Strong,  
Administrative Assistant

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

Lynn Bryntesen, Maintenance

Matt Hovland, Circulation

Traci Juhala, Youth Services

Vern Mastel,  
Technology Coordinator

Sarah Matthews,  
Adult Programming

Keli McDonald, Bookmobile

Lora Rose, Technical Processing

Kate Waldera, Reference

## 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.

Joyce Hinman, President

Pat Grantier, Vice President

Bob Bartosh

Michael Fladeland

Michael J.B. Schaff



*Photo credit: Mike Lalonde, 2016*

## CONNECT WITH US

### Library Hours

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

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

Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### Phone

701-355-1480

### Library Website

Check out our events calendar, headlines, and find out all about the Library and our services.

<http://www.bismarcklibrary.org>

### Ask-A-Librarian

Contact us by email any time by filling out the form under the Ask-A-Librarian link on our homepage.

### Library Connections Newsletter

To receive email notification of new issues, email us at

[bpnews@bismarcklibrary.org](mailto:bpnews@bismarcklibrary.org). View the current issue and past issue archive online any time at <http://bit.ly/1Uc2sit>.



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