



Bismarck
Veterans Memorial
Public Library

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



YOU BELONG HERE

Opening a world of possibilities and discovery



The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library transforms our community by opening a world of possibilities for all ages and backgrounds through the power of literacy, lifelong learning, innovative programming, and space for citizens to meet and engage. The library is for everyone, and you belong here!

2023 At a Glance



New & Improved in 2023



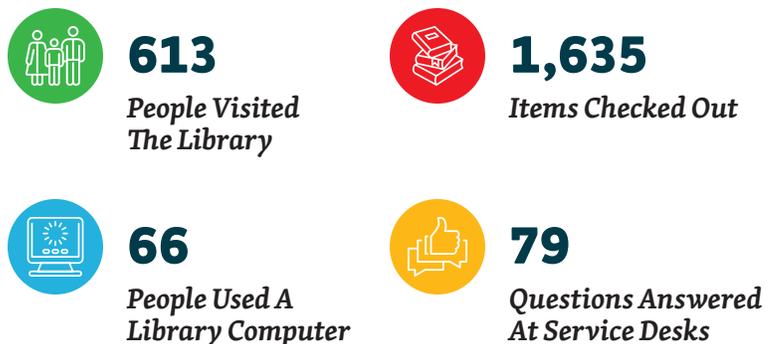
Main Floor
Refreshed with fun & modern paint colors

Comfort
Energy-efficient boilers

Parking Lots
Updated LED light fixtures

Grounds
Fresh & inviting landscaping

An Average Day in the Library in 2023



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO RESOURCES

Empowering success with free technology and expert guidance



The library is our community's gateway to information and resources vital to helping citizens learn, grow, and thrive in our ever-changing world. We provide free technology, research tools, and expert assistance from our highly skilled librarians and staff, to help people achieve their goals, enrich their daily lives, and connect with critical resources.

2023 Statistics

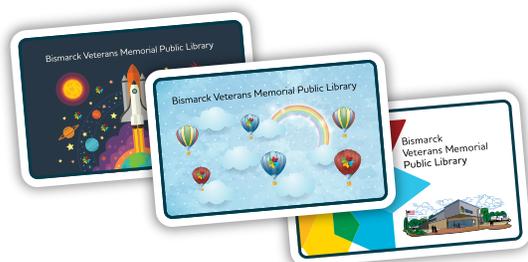
- 
52
 Public Computers
- 
23,033
 Public Computer Sessions
- 
65,565
 Public Wi-Fi Sessions **UP 16%**
- 
16,875
 Research Database Searches
- 
693,911
 Library Catalog Uses **UP 7%**
- 
133,789
 BismarckLibrary.org Visits
- 
27,564
 Reference Questions Answered
- 
1,381
 Documents Notarized for the Public



Featured Program



Staff from Job Service ND joined us monthly to provide information on training programs and to help patrons with unemployment insurance, job seeking, Veterans' services, and more.



Most Borrowed Items of 2023

Physical Collection

- 
 North Dakota State Park Pass
- 
 Guinness World Records
- 
 Top Gun: Maverick DVD
- 
 Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- 
 Spare by Prince Harry

Digital Collection

- 
 Verity (e-book) by Colleen Hoover
- 
 It Starts With Us (e-book) by Colleen Hoover
- 
 Spare (audio) by Prince Harry
- 
 I'm Glad My Mom Died (audio) by Jennette McCurdy
- 
 All Good People Here (audio) by Ashley Flowers

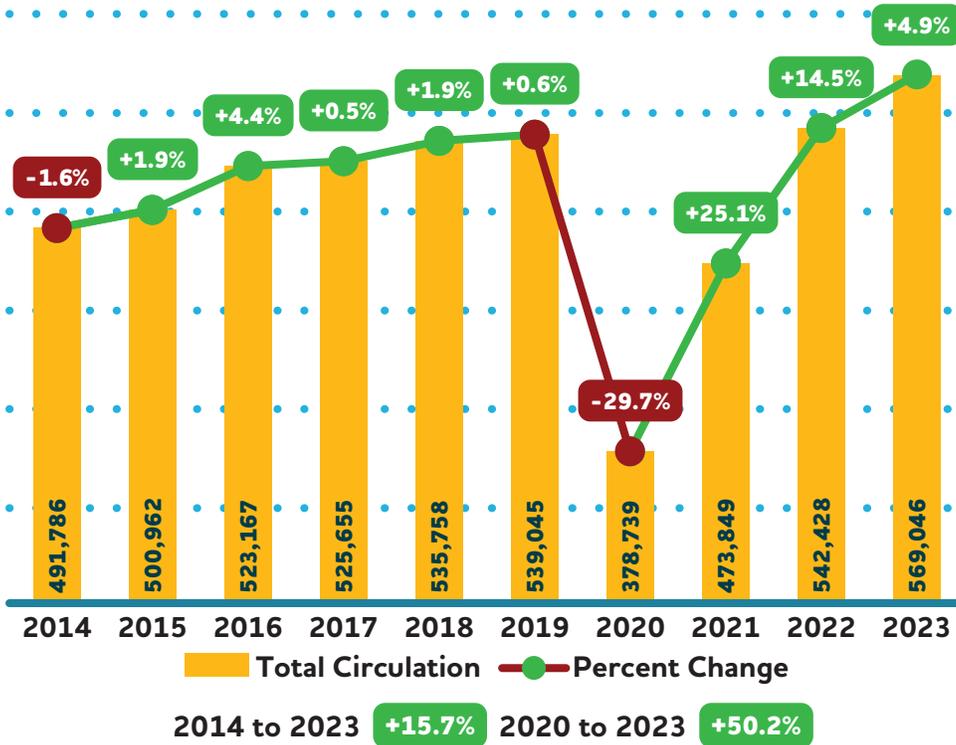
ENGAGING READERS

Our community reads! And watches, listens, streams, and plays games!



The library's first-class collection provides a cost-effective way for people of all ages to learn something new, experience other worlds through stories, expand their horizons, and just have fun! From books, movies, magazines, and board games, to e-books and digital audiobooks on the go, the library's collection has something for everyone. And this year our cardholders borrowed more items from the library than any year since 2008!

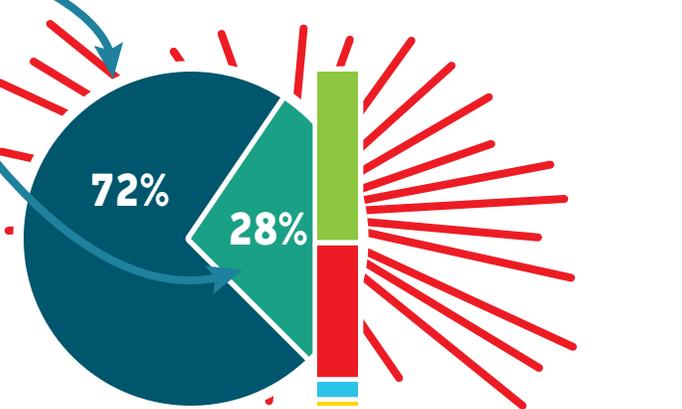
Ten-Year Library Circulation Activity



2023 Library Circulation Activity

- 1,772,682** Total Items in Library Collection
- 19,466** New Items Added to the Collection
- 569,046** Total Items Borrowed
- 409,739** Physical Collection Items Borrowed
- 159,307** Digital Collection Items Borrowed

Audiobooks	82,156
E-books	64,889
Magazines	9,939
Other	2,323



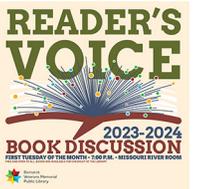
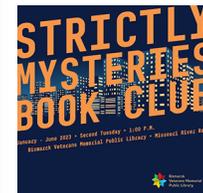
Program Highlights



Story Times
Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers



B.A.R.K.
Bismarck Animals Reading with Kids



Book Clubs



Reading Challenges

327 Participants, All Ages
336,767 Reading Minutes Logged

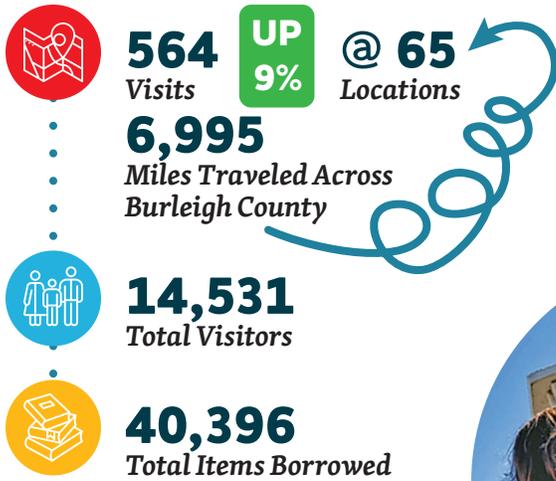
REACHING OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Bringing the library into our community



The library's presence radiates far past its walls, directly engaging with the community. Our dedicated teams attend public events, march in parades, and staff exhibit tables, actively bringing the library experience to the people. We ensure everyone can access our collections through the Burleigh County Library Bookmobile and the Mobile Library. Our numerous Little Free Libraries dot the rural community, offering literary gems around every corner.

Burleigh County Library



Mobile Library



ENCOURAGING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Providing opportunities to support the health and wellness of our community



From free equipment that inspires people to get outside and be active to class sessions and events and community spaces, the library offers something for everyone to encourage healthy eating, mental well-being, and overall personal wellness.

Program Highlights

- Bike to Books (BBPH)
- Get Growing Seed Giveaway (BBPH & NDSU Extension)
- Infant Massage Class (NDSU Extension)
- Yoga for Youth
- Pet Therapy Hangout
- Cardio Drumming (BBPH)
- Health Education Series (Natural Grocers)
- “Move It or Lose It” Adult Mobility Class (Northern Plains Dance)
- Family Mini Golf (University of Mary)
- Bismarck Community Table



New Labyrinth

Since ancient times, people have walked through labyrinths as a form of meditation, a path of healing and wholeness, or a symbolic journey through life. Citizens can now experience the meditative effects of the labyrinth on the library’s north lawn, thanks to private donors through the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.



FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS

Encouraging artistic expression and cultural engagement



The library supports creativity and cultural enrichment by offering programs, resources, and spaces to inspire and educate aspiring artists. The library also provides local artists a platform to engage with the public and showcase their work in a space where it can be seen and enjoyed by all.

Program Highlights

- Story time with Grammy Award-winning artist, author, and educator Mister G
- Art performance with local artist Ali LaRock
- Teen HQ Crafternoons and Maker Mondays
- 12 Days of Craft Kits
- Macrame, Zentangle, Henna Tattoo, and Painting Classes taught by local artists and craftspeople
- Craft kits for all ages
- Monthly LEGO Club



Beginning Macrame Workshop



Story Time with Mister G



Henna Tattoo Workshop

New Public Art in 2023



Blue Lady: Sweetheart of the Rodeo - The new visual centerpiece of our main floor, this original piece by North Dakota artist Walter Piehl was commissioned by the library and funded by Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. and library board member Sue Sorlie.

6th Street Window Art - These windows feature 12 original artworks created by local artist Crystal Tretbar and two additional digital art pieces by library Public Information Specialist Kevin R. Tengesdal.

Exterior Sculpture - Designed by our graphic designer, Kevin R. Tengesdal, this eye-catching piece on the south side of the library facing Avenue A features a creative interpretation of our logo's star.

INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNERS

Learning, growth, and personal enrichment for all ages



Families Around the World

Ballroom Dance

2023 Program Statistics

Program Highlights



826
Total Programs
and Events Held



39,764
People Attended

- Families Around the World
- Ballroom Dance Basics series
- Teen Car Care 101
- Chess Club for Kids
- Beginning Computer & Genealogy Classes
- Hygge Hangout
- International Observe the Moon Night
- Author visits



Hygge Hangout

Summer Reading Program

“All Together Now”



234
Participants
of All Ages



246,612
Total Reading
Minutes Logged



INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNERS

2023 Programs & Events



WORKING TOGETHER

Dedicated teamwork fuels our dynamic community hub



It takes the cooperation of a dedicated team to make our library a dynamic hub of learning, activity, and connection for the Bismarck and Burleigh County community. Our library staff, board of directors, supporting organizations—**Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.** and **Friends of the Bismarck Public Library**—and our community partners work together to make it all possible.

2023 Library Leadership Team



**Staff & Citizen
Chief Morale Officer
Sky M. Kujawa**

- Christine Kujawa**
Library Director
- Elizabeth Jacobs**
Assistant Library Director
- Jennie Archer**
*Youth Services
Program Coordinator-Teen*
- Lynn Bryntesen**
Building and Grounds Manager
- Matthew Engel**
Technical Services Associate II
- Troy Hamre**
Adult Services Librarian
- Alison Hiatt**
Head of Technical Services
- Matt Hovland**
Head of Circulation Services
- Traci Juhala**
Head of Youth Services
- Bea Kaiser**
Administrative Office Manager
- Beth Schatz Kaylor**
*Library Foundation
Executive Director*
- MacAllistar Kemmer**
*Adult Services
Program Coordinator*
- Jana Maher**
*Youth Services
Program Coordinator-Children*
- Sarah Matthews**
Head of Adult Services
- KeliAnn McDonald**
Head of Burleigh County Library
- Mariah Ralston**
*Burleigh County Library
Associate II*
- Chris Remme**
IT Manager
- Kevin R. Tengesdal**
Public Information Specialist
- Hannah Vanorny**
Circulation Services Manager

**2023 North Dakota
Star Library and
2022 Future-Focused
Library Awards**



**2023 Champion of
Capital Pride Award**



2023 Library Board of Directors



- Dianna Kindseth**, *President*
- Mike Fladeland**, *Vice President*
- Justin Hughes**
- Mike LaLonde**
- Sue Sorlie**

Did You Know?

The board establishes the mission and vision for the library, determines policies implemented to govern the library, hires and evaluates the Library Director, advocates for the library, and oversees library finances.

WORKING TOGETHER

Foundation, Friends, and Partners help grow our library



Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

 **\$155,793**
Grants, gifts and donations distributed to the library

 **322**
Individual donors

 **41**
Supporting businesses, organizations and foundations

Major Projects Funded:

- E-book access for thousands of community members
- Fresh paint to brighten the main floor of the library
- Performers and free craft kits for the Children's Library
- Yoga classes for teens
- New artwork for library spaces

Friends of the Bismarck Public Library

 **\$55,202**
Contributed to library programs and projects

 **\$43,585**
Raised from semi-annual used book sales

 **329**
Total Members

Major Projects Funded:

- Main Floor repainting project
- Children's Story Room audiovisual system upgrade
- 6th Street window art
- \$6,870 to fund library programs for all ages

FUN FACT!

Top three busiest days at the library in 2023?
Events sponsored by the Friends!

1. Librarypalooza: Thu., Aug. 17
1,916 Visitors
2. Fall Used Book Sale: Thu., Oct. 15
1,745 Visitors
3. Spring Used Book Sale: Thu., Mar. 2
1,651 Visitors



Community Partners



AARP of North Dakota
American Red Cross
Arts Midwest
Bis-Man Area
Space Association
Bismarck-Burleigh
Public Health
Bismarck Historical
Society

Bismarck Parks & Rec
Bismarck Public Schools
Bismarck State College
Cedric Theel Toyota
Dakota Media Access
Dakota Zoo
Humanities ND
Job Service ND

Natural Grocers
North Dakota
Council on the Arts
North Dakota's
Gateway to Science
North Dakota
Human Family
North Dakota
Information Technology

North Dakota
State Library
NDSU Extension
Northern Plains Dance
Prairie Public
Broadcasting
Tom & Frances Leach
Foundation
University of Mary



Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library



CONTACT US

515 North Fifth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 355-1480
www.bismarcklibrary.org



HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday-Saturday
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

