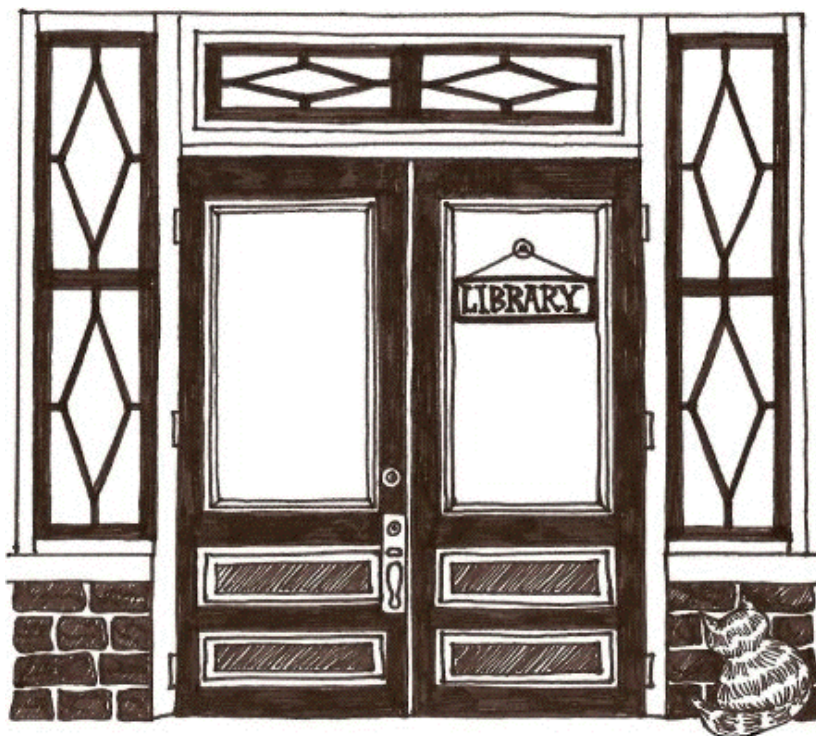


Benzonia Public
Library
FY 2017
Annual Report



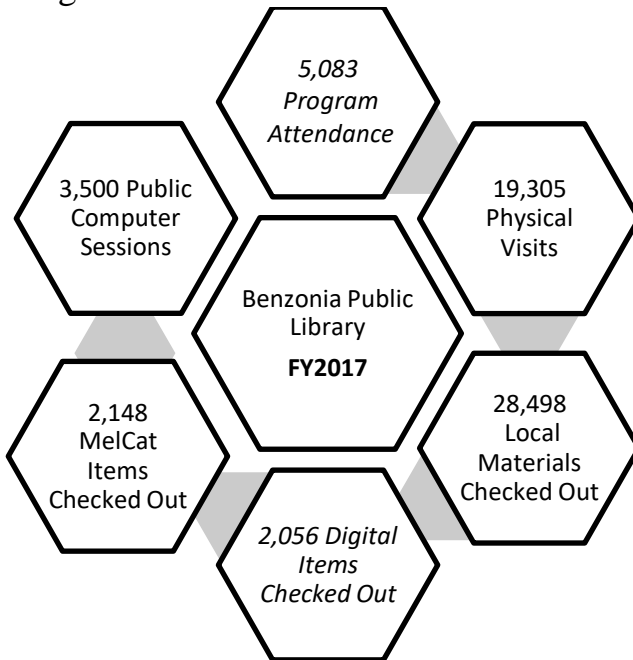
Benzonia Public Library FY 2017 Annual Report

July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

Mission Statement:

Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



**FY2017 was another exciting year at
Benzonia Public Library!**

More Records Set

Benzonia Public Library had another record-breaking year.

Program attendance had another major increase: 36%! Mills Community House, the library's landlord, generously provided needed space for programs with large attendance.

Circulation for all types of materials increased more than 6%. This included a 33% increase in circulation of audio-visual materials (DVDs and audio CDs) and a 31% increase in circulation of children's materials. 366 new library cards were issued. BPL has Fiction, Non-Fiction, Large Print, Michigan Room, and Classics books. The collection of DVDs increased 56% largely due to patron donations.

The electronic sign increased library visibility and attendance.

OverDrive digital service provides eBooks and audiobooks to download. Friends of Benzonia Public Library fund this service, and library staff at 45 northern lower Michigan libraries select the titles included in the Up North Digital Collection.



MeLCat Inter-Library Loan

MeLCat continues to be popular. The service provided through the Library of Michigan allows BPL Library Card holders to borrow books and audio-visual materials from hundreds of libraries throughout the state. It is very much valued by patrons who gain access to materials not owned locally -- from scholarly tomes to a favorite author's books in large print format.

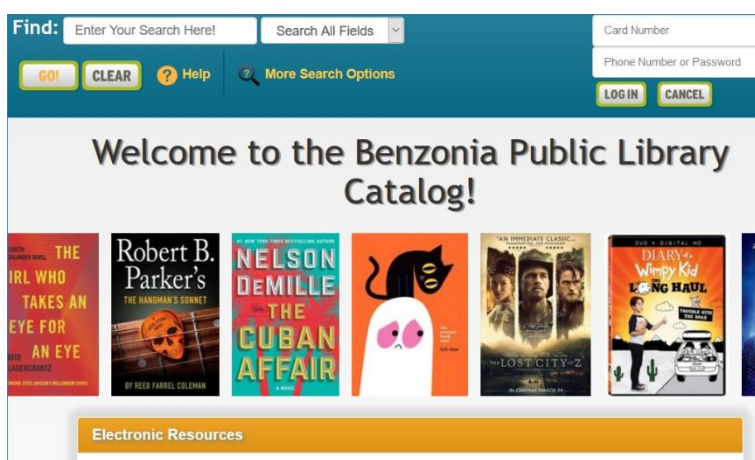


Apollo Catalog and Circulation System

BPL has a new system with significant upgrades over the previous system. Everything in the collection, including OverDrive eBooks, is shown in the library catalog. Apollo won the 2016 and 2017 Modern Library Awards “product of the year” due to its functionality, value, and customer service.

Patrons appreciate choosing text, email, or phone notifications when reserved books are ready. They also like the text or email reminders when items are due in 3 days. Their borrowed MeLCat items show in their patron record.

Staff finds the system more intuitive and useful. For instance, book spine labels can be generated from the cataloging records. Reports are more reliable.



Wi-Fi Services

Besides public computers in the Library, the library provides 24/7 wireless service enabling residents and visitors to access the Internet with their own laptops or smart devices.

Renovations

Renovations in the Children's Room have received rave reviews. The mural by Glenn Wolff and the "trees" and window bench by Jimmy McLaren bring delight to the eyes. Children are enjoying the Imagination Station activities & materials (partially funded by a grant from Benzie County Community Chest to Friends of Benzonia Public Library.)

The staff room received much needed upgrades including wall cabinets and insulation. The mini-split air conditioning units bring more comfort to all rooms of the library.

All renovations are funded with donations.



Services to Children

The 2017 Summer Reading Program had prizes donated by local businesses and Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

This year BPL followed the national theme of Build a Better World. Each child who registered received a free bag that included a pencil, bookmarks, stickers, a doorknob hanger, coloring pages, SRP program brochure, and reading logs. The weekly hilarious puppet shows and craft activities were once again a big hit.

For Reading Awareness Month, Benzonia Public Library teamed up with Betsie Valley District Library and Benzie Central athletes for a fun program that encouraged reading. Thank you to Mills Community House for donating space for the big event.

During the rest of the year, story time, craft programs, and Guild of Makers have brought in kids to enjoy their creativity. And, there was a fantastic Holiday Party!

BPL also works in partnership with local elementary schools.

Programming

Craft programs

This year many popular programs returned and new programs were added. The "Repurposeful Librarians" offered button trees, collage classes, container gardening, and craft of the month kits. Families had Make & Take workshops in October (Tricks & Treats!) December (Holiday Party) & March (Kids Fun Day).

New fun this year included presentations about Bonnie & Clyde and Lizzie Borden, a Cardboard Challenge, and a Maker Day.

Off the Page & Great Benzie Read

Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah collaborated in sponsoring visits by authors who talked about their writing and their inspiration. Great Benzie Read brought together all 4 Benzie libraries for book discussions.

Local Support

The Property Tax Millage from Benzonia Township is split equally to support Darcy Library of Beulah and Benzonia Public Library. Since the original 2011 millage passed, Benzonia Public Library extended its morning hours, increased programs for children and adults, expanded the young adult collection, and increased collaborative partnerships in the community. Using Penal Fines to help support public libraries is unique to Michigan. Benzonia Public Library's share in FY2017 (for 11 months) was \$13,745.54 based on contracts with townships: 1/2 of Benzonia Township, 1/2 of Homestead Township, all of Joyfield Township, and a third of Lake Township.

Homestead, Joyfield, Lake, and Blaine Townships make additional financial contributions for which the library is grateful.

Donations

Individuals also make monetary donations to the Library. Charitable contributions to governmental units such as this Library are tax-deductible if made for a public purpose (section 170(c)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code). Hill Top Soda Shoppe donated ice cream products for a library fundraiser to benefit youth services.

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

There is an active 501(c)(3) Friends organization which helps to support the library in many ways, including raising funds for special library needs. In FY 2017, the Friends provided over \$13,000 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading presenters and supplies, Imagination Station STEM products, newsletter printing, craft supplies, Baby Play Time costs, OverDrive, and the chair-and-a-half in the children's room.

The Friends also fund and publish a fun and informative bi-monthly newsletter which is available in the library. Those choosing to join the mailing list receive the newsletters via email.

Website

The website showcases library information and activities. Check it out at www.benzonialibrary.org. The website is maintained by volunteers to keep you updated and entertained. The website had 23,076 unique users and 99,847 "page views" in FY 2017.

Library Board

Library Board members are: Helen Dewey, Diana Heller, Shaun Johnson, Paula Lake, Roxane Miner, and Paul Sadows.



Benzonia Public Library

is open

to serve the public

Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Facebook page: Benzonia Public Library

Web page: www.benzonialibrary.org