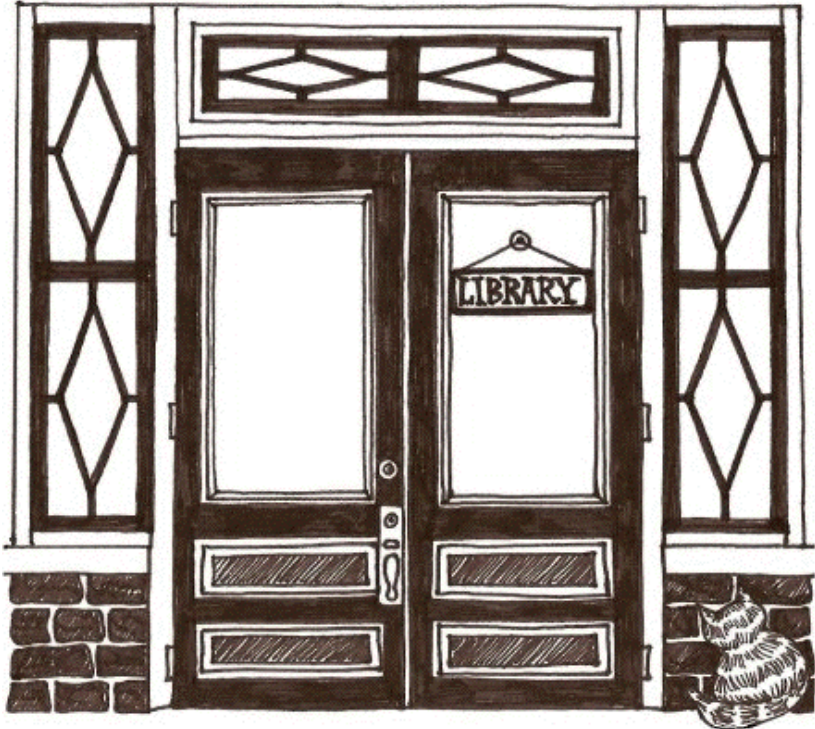


Benzonia Public
Library
FY 2016
Annual Report



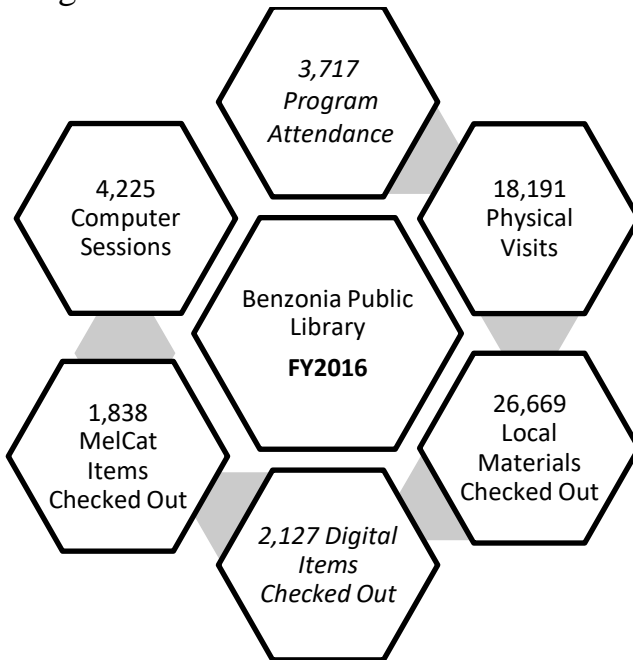
Benzonia Public Library FY 2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016

Mission Statement:

Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



**FY2016 was another exciting year at
Benzonia Public Library!**

Records set

Benzonia Public Library had a record-breaking year.

Program attendance was up 50% as Director Amanda McLaren spearheaded bringing more adults and children to the library for crafts, summer reading, and informative programs. Mills Community House, the library's landlord, generously provided needed space for programs with large attendance.

Circulation of all types of materials increased 11%. This included a 40% increase in circulation of audio-visual materials (DVDs and audio CDs) and a 16% increase in circulation of children's materials. 285 new library cards were issued.

Use of the **OverDrive digital service** more than doubled as more users registered to use the service and checked out more materials. eBooks are the most popular checkouts, but audiobooks are also enjoyed by some. Friends of Benzonia Public Library fund this service, and library staff at over 40 northern lower Michigan libraries select the titles included in the Up North Digital Collection.



MeLCat Inter-Library Loan

MeLCat continued to be popular. The service provided through the Library of Michigan allows Benzonia 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.



Still more DVDs

The collection of DVDs increased 25%, and patrons continue to stream in to borrow them for one-week checkouts. The library purchases some and thanks patrons who have donated their gently used DVDs. Including Audio Books, the circulation of AV materials continued to increase to 7,531 in FY2016.



Books



Yes, physical books are still popular and are always selected with the patrons in mind! Trying new directions does not mean abandoning the old. Classics are getting more attention now that they are shelved in the main hallway to the elevator.

Renovations

Visitors have expressed their pleasure with the interior upgrades done in FY2015 including new shelving, brighter walls, the electric misting fireplace, and the renovated and more easily accessible bathroom.

An antique glass-front bookcase holds books from the Benzonia Academy, which operated here from 1900 to 1918.



Renovation of the Children's Room and Staff Room are being planned. All renovations are funded with donations.

Small and Rural Library Conference

Including Director Amanda McLaren, 2 staff members, 2 Board members, and 4 Friends members attended this biennial Michigan conference to network and learn information helpful to our library.

Wi-Fi Services

Besides public computers in the Library, the library provides wireless service enabling residents and visitors to access the Internet with their own laptops or smart devices from inside, on the porch, or in the parking lot. With two wireless routers enabling the wireless signal to reach farther, there are several (unsecured) wireless networks to choose from.



Services to Children

The 2016 Summer Reading Program has the Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah teamed up again to present paid performers. Each library has its own registration and prizes for summer readers.

Benzonia Public Library is using a special Summer Reading theme, **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), as the basis for weekly hilarious puppet shows and craft activities.

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 LEGO Saturdays have brought in kids to enjoy their creativity. And, there was a fantastic Holiday Party!

Early Literacy Station

Younger children are enjoying a safe computer learning experience using the Early Literacy Station (ELS) from AWE. New games were loaded in July.



Programming

Craft programs

Our staff “repurposeful librarians” and volunteers offered craft programs for adults, children, and families with the theme of “Re-purpose, Re-cycle, Re-use.” Adults created “altered books,” salt scrubs, confetti collages, and lamps using old books as bases. Families had Make & Take craft workshops in October, December (Holiday Party) & March (Kids Fun Day). Supplies were provided for kids to create a Craft of the Month at the library.

The Orphan Train in Michigan was the first program to use the new Assistive Listening Devices acquired with grants from the Grand Traverse Band and Mid-Michigan Library Cooperative.

Off the Page

Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah collaborated in sponsoring visits by authors who talked about their writing and their inspiration.

Local Support

The 2016 Property Tax Millage renewal 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 FY2016 was \$18,802 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 2016, the Friends provided over \$8,000 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading presenters and supplies, newsletter printing, craft supplies, Baby Play Time costs, archival supplies for preserving the Benzonia Academy and other old photographs, and OverDrive.

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 created in March 2015 showcases library information and activities. Pages range from library history, services, activities, and youth programs to new items with titles, photos, and links to our circulation catalog. The Useful Links page is also very popular. Check it out at www.benzonialibrary.org. The website is maintained by volunteers to keep you updated and entertained. The website had 72,115 page views in FY 2016.

Library Board

Currently serving 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