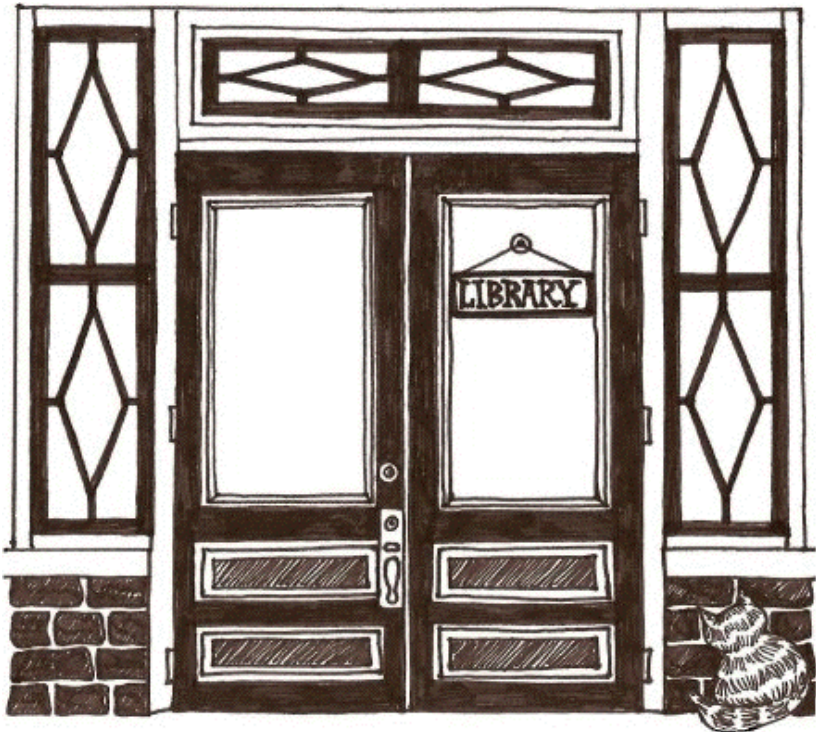


Benzonia Public
Library
FY 2018
Annual Report



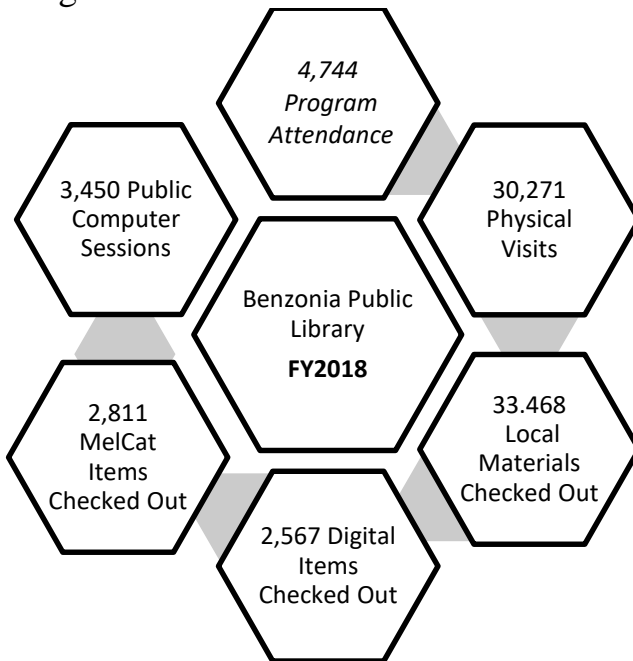
Benzonia Public Library FY 2018 Annual Report

July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018

Mission Statement:

Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



**FY2018 was another busy year at
Benzonia Public Library!**

More Records Set

Benzonia Public Library had another record-breaking year with many more library visits.

Circulation for all types of materials increased, and this included a 33% increase in circulation of audio books for adults and still another increase in circulation of children's materials (10%). There was a 25% increase in OverDrive circulation. 390 new library cards were issued. In physical materials, BPL has Fiction, Non-Fiction, Large Print, Michigan Room, and Classics books.

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. Library staff at 72 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 – such as mysteries in a series, a favorite author's books in large print format, scholarly medical books, or still more DVDs.



Apollo Catalog and Circulation System

BPL is enjoying the new Apollo catalog 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” and 2015 and 2018 “Platinum Award” 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 intuitive and useful. Reports are reliable. Technical support for the catalog is always available, and this means a lot in a small library.

And now BPL has a Kids’ Catalog, too!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Benzonia Public Library Kids' Catalog. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Find: Enter Your Search Here!" and a dropdown menu set to "Stories (Fiction)". To the right of the search bar are two buttons: "GO!" and "CLEAR". Below the search bar is a home icon. The main heading reads "Welcome to the Benzonia Public Library Kids' Catalog!". Below the heading is a grid of 12 category icons, each with a corresponding label: Adventure (a book with a character), Alphabet (two children with letters), Ancient Egypt (a pyramid), Ballerinas (two ballerinas), Bears (a brown bear), Bedtime (a child with a nightlight), BIO (a green book), Birthdays (a birthday cake), Boys (a boy), Caldecott (a gold medal), Canada (a Canadian flag), and Cats (a black cat).



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 still getting raves

BPL patrons were able to enjoy the renovations done in previous years. 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.

The mini-split air conditioning units brought more comfort to all rooms of the library.

Services to Children



The 2018 Summer Reading Program had prizes donated by local businesses and Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

This year BPL followed the national theme of Libraries Rock. The always hilarious puppet lab excited children’s interest at 6 Summer Reading Programs: Sounds of Nature, Science of Sound, Music Around the World, Words Rock, Libraries Rock, and Benzonia Rocks.

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

The "Repurposeful Librarians" and Guest Volunteers offered Color Explosion coasters, collage classes, container gardening, Gifts in a Jar, Food Demos, and craft of the month kits. Families had Kids Fun Day (March), Maker Fest (August), Costume Creation Lab (October), and the Holiday Party (December).

Presentations

Benzonia native Ron Robotham about his book *From the Ashes*; Mark Twain; *Trails & Treasures*; Civil War; *Mystic Michigan*; Couples in History; Print Making; eBay; Social Media; & Breast Cancer. Self Defense; Identity Theft Prevention; & Cyber Security were co-sponsored by Honor Bank.

Michigan Notable Book Tour & Great Benzie Read

Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah collaborated in bringing Michigan Notable book author Daniel Wolff (*Grown-Up Anger*) to the Mills Community House. Great Benzie Read brought together all 4 Benzie libraries for book discussions.

Teaming up with University of Michigan

Benzonia Public Library and the Benzonia community are fortunate to have U of M Clinical Associate Professor Kristin Fontichiaro using our library and our community as a laboratory for her graduate students. We had many STEM programs where local children do Maker activities guided by the U of M team.

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. Benzonia Public Library's share of Penal Fines in FY2018 was \$16,692 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).

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 2018, the Friends provided over \$10,000 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading supplies and rewards, Imagination Station STEM products, books and DVDs, staff training, newsletter printing, craft supplies, OverDrive, public printer, and contracted tech support.

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. Daily log-ons totaled 30,536 in FY2018.

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