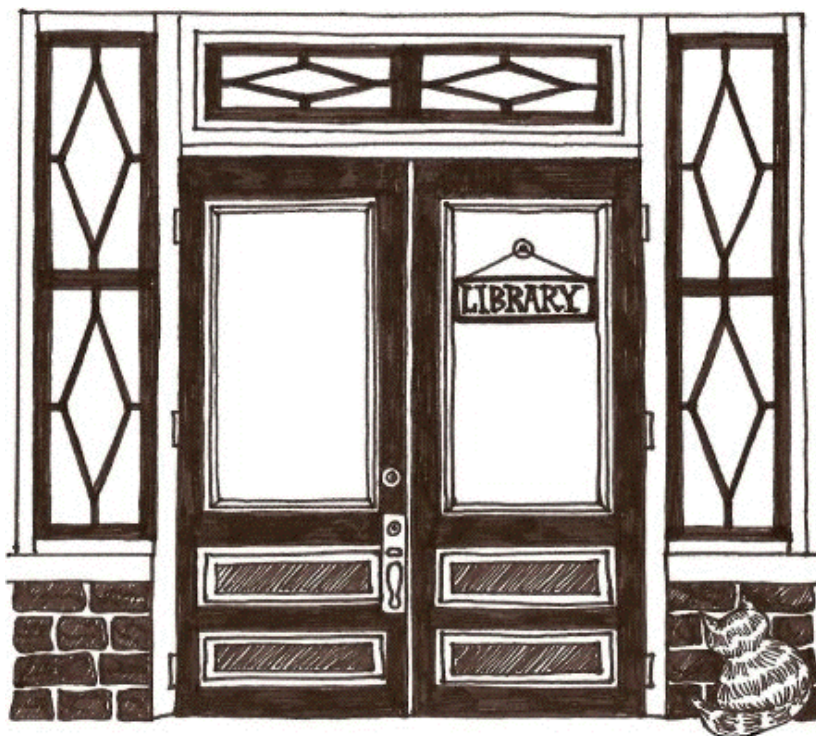


Benzonia Public  
Library  
FY 2014  
Annual Report



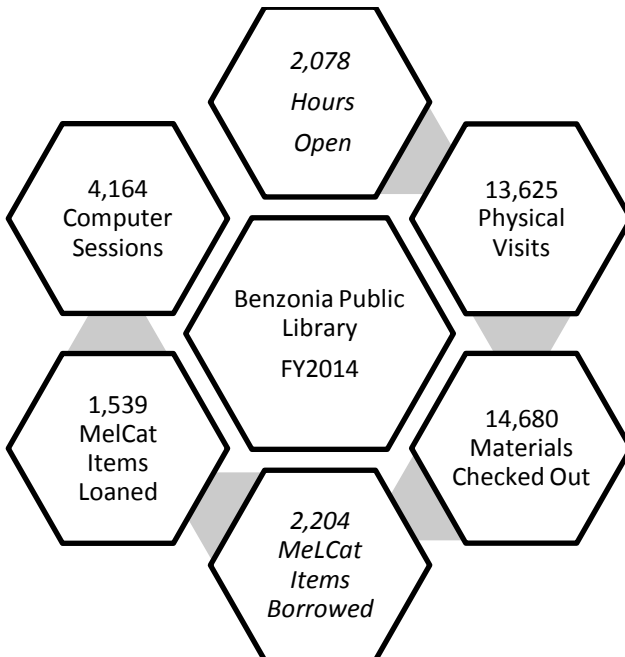
# Benzonia Public Library FY 2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014

## **Mission Statement:**

**Preserving yesterday, enriching today,  
inspiring tomorrow in our community**

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



**2014 was an exciting year at Benzonia Pubic Library!**

### **New Director – Amanda McLaren**

The library hired a new raised-in-Benzie-County Library Director brimming with ideas for increased youth services, more DVDs to loan, and interaction with local organizations such as the Crystal Lake Community Business Association.

### **Renovation**

Upgrading of the library’s interior started late in FY 2014 to coincide with the improvements to the exterior and grounds of the historic building by landlord Mills Community House. The Library and the Mills shared the costs of refurbishing the walls of the Fiction and Non-Fiction rooms, and the library installed new shelving there and in the Catton Room. The Library continues to update the interior and shelving in FY 2015. All renovations are funded with private donations.

### **OverDrive eBooks**

Benzonia Public Library joined the Up North consortium of over 30 libraries offering electronic access to eBooks, audio books, music, and streaming video.



## Services to Children

The 2013 Summer Reading Program included a reading challenge and programs offered cooperatively by 3 Benzie County libraries.



The 2014 Summer Reading Program was jointly presented by Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah. Local businesses donated prizes for reading and had activity booths at the Grand Finale. Story times with science demonstrations and puppet shows were held at the Library for an enthusiastic audience of children (and their caregivers). Wings of Wonder brought a large audience of children and adults. Thank you to Benzonia Township for letting the libraries use the Township Park.

During the rest of the year, craft programs, some held on the porch, have brought in kids to enjoy their creativity.

## Early Literacy Station

Younger children are enjoying a safe computer learning experience using the Early Literacy Station (ELS) from AWE. The all-in-one touchscreen computer designed specifically for children ages 2-8 features more than 70 educational software programs (with hundreds of activities) spanning all seven curricular areas. There are lots of games for children to play as they learn.



## MeLCat Inter-Library Loan

This program 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.



## Meeting Quality Standards

Benzonia Public Library has met (since their inception in 2004) standards set by the Library of Michigan to ensure that libraries stay on top of quality service. That is recognized by its QSAC (Quality Service Audit Checklist) Essential Level Certification. The 2014 list of QSAC certified public libraries shows that only 46 out of 390 public libraries in the state have met this goal.



## Programming

### Craft programs

Our staff “repurposeful librarians” offered craft programs for adults, children, and families with the theme of “Re-purpose, Re-cycle, Re-use.” Lots of fun was had making snowflakes and flowers, fabric baskets, “despicable” characters, and many other crafts.



## **Off the Page**

Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah collaborated in sponsoring author visits in the Off the Page series.

## **Other Services**

Besides public computers in the Library, we provide wireless service enabling residents and visitors to access the Internet with their own laptops or smart devices. Sitting on the porch or in a car in the parking lot to access the Internet wirelessly is also popular.



The library hosts a book club. Literacy tutors meet their clients at the Library.

## **Local Support**

The Property Tax Millage from Benzonia Township is split equally to support Darcy Library of Beulah and Benzonia Public Library. Since the millage passed, the Library has extended its morning hours (and is now open at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday), upgraded computers, added high speed Internet access, and increased the Large Print, audio book, and DVD collections while continuing to purchase popular books.

Using Penal Fines to help support public libraries is unique to Michigan. The Benzonia Public Library's share of penal fines is based on its contracts with townships: 1/2 of Benzonia Township, 1/2 of Homestead Township, all of Joyfield Township, and a third of Lake Township.

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

Individuals also made monetary donations to the Library. Charitable contributions to governmental units such as this Library are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code if made for a public purpose.

### **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 2014, the Friends provided close to \$3,000 in funding for such diverse needs as presenting Wings of Wonder and buying tote bags for the Summer Reading Program, buying a new library welcome flag, newsletter printing, craft supplies, and sharing the cost of the Early Learning Station. The Friends are also funding the first two years of the OverDrive digital service.

### **Library Board**

Currently serving Library Board members are Shaun Johnson, Helen Dewey, Paula Lake, Roxane Miner, Mary Peters, 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](http://www.benzonialibrary.org)