

Discover Connect Learn

2019 Annual Report



Drake Community Library
930 Park Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
www.grinnell.lib.ia.us

Mission

Empowering the community through responsive services and programs, Drake Community Library will help all patrons access information, exchange ideas, and engage in lifelong learning and cultural enrichment.

~approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2017

2018/2019 Overview

Support for literacy in all of its amazing forms was evident at Drake Community Library this past year. Both “tried and true” methods and programs were utilized alongside new ideas to bring more opportunities for increased literacy to everyone. Early literacy, digital literacy, information literacy, and artistic literacy are all forms of literacy that make our lives better socially, economically, esthetically, and just for the fun of it!

Summer Slide Isn't Playground Equipment

Students who lack access to books lose an average of two to three months of skill level over the summer. Through participation in the Grinnell Education Partnership, the Library has been an AmeriCorps host site for the past four years. This has allowed us to assist the Campaign for Third Grade Level Reading with leadership and resources to minimize summer reading loss. This has meant improved reading scores for our third graders from 80% reading at grade level in 2016 to 88% reading at grade level in 2018. Also significant is the fact that our third graders on free and reduced lunch program assistance are reading at grade level in higher percentages: from 63% in 2016 to 79% in 2018.

Learning Starts Before Kindergarten

DCL offers our story times and special programming nearly every week of the year. 255 programs were available to children in FY19. These programs are tailored to stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Early literacy skills are thoughtfully incorporated into every program in creative and fun ways. Pre-school class visits and children with their parents and caregivers made for 6,375 attendees at programs designed for children during FY19.

Bridging the Digital Divide

More than a quarter of U.S. households don't have a computer with internet access. Iowa's rural areas remain lacking in access to high speed broadband internet. The public computers at DCL are engaged with an average of 1,189 user sessions per month. DCL librarians provide assistance with internet navigation and use of online resources, helping people improve their digital and information literacy skills.

Libraries Inspire

Art inspires contemplation, causing us to ask questions and explore new ideas. Library Trustees approved a Public Art policy in 2017 which established an art advisory committee. Three permanent works of art were added to the library environment through the work of this committee and funding from the Donald Puls estate gift. “Prairie Song” by Michelle Gutlove utilizes hand-made glass and light to create a beautiful display of shapes and colors in two hanging sculptures. “Strip Cropping II”, a painting by Thomas Agran, and “Tidepools I & II”, material art by Sayuri Sasaki Hemann, were added in 2018. We are also inspired by Cornelia Clarke (1884-1936), a Grinnellian recognized for her nature photography. Three of her images hang behind the library's main desk.

Facility Management, FY19

Just like home ownership, keeping up with facility maintenance is an ongoing affair. The Library received a spruce up in the form of interior painting in heavily used spaces while carpet cleaning occurred throughout the building. Lighting fixtures were switched over to utilize LED bulbs wherever possible. Emergency lighting still requires occasional ballast replacement. Repair to one of the roof drains was required after it developed a leak, causing minor damage to an interior column in the children’s wing. And of course, we all remember the “polar vortex” of 2019 – the cost of snow removal in FY19 increased proportionally. FY19 also included a re-grouting and caulking of exterior masonry joints. This work extended into FY20 due to problems with the original vendor. Library gift funds paid for the remedial tuckpointing work.

Library gift funds were also accessed for several library enhancements: a new seating area and books for the early literacy section in memory of Michael Cavanagh; a cantilever umbrella system for the south terrace; and the beautiful addition of permanent artwork for the enjoyment of all.

Population Served (2010 census)

Grinnell Residents	9,218
Poweshiek County Rural	5338 (by contract)
Kellogg.....	599 (by contract)
Malcom.....	286 (by contract)
Oakland Acres	156 (by contract)
Searsboro.....	148 (by contract)

How We Stack Up

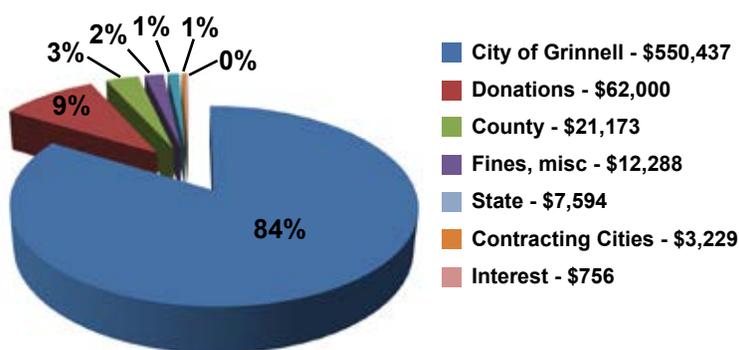
11,644 individuals hold library cards at DCL resulting in an average of 6,428 library visits per month. The numbers below give you a statistical glimpse of our library users in FY2019.

	FY2019	FY2018	FY2017
Total Circulation	94,147	96,349	99,916
Books, Magazines	73,510	77,969	81,917
Audio, Video	7,104	7,161	8,741
eResource Downloads	13,533	11,219	9,258
Computer Use			
Computer Sessions	14,266	15,551	18,183
<i>Average 305 distinct users monthly + 115 guest users monthly.</i>			
Meeting Room Use			
Total Events	1,457	1,434	961
Total Attendance	19,784	21,917	17,487
<i>Adult Senior Education provided by GRMC and the CEC is highly valued by the community.</i>			
Programming			
Library Events Offered	318	278	279
Library Program Attendance	7,787	7,702	6,772

Volunteers

An average of 18 generous individuals provide an average of 120 hours of volunteer service every month.

Library Income



Library Expenditures

