

Discover Connect Learn

2020 Annual Report



Drake Community Library
930 Park Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
www.drakelibrary.org

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

2019/2020 Overview

FY20 has been an exciting year with a pandemic thrown in for good measure. July 2019 seems a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. However, many positive outcomes were achieved at Drake Community Library, both before and after the onset of Coronavirus conditions in March 2020.

Because Access Equals Opportunity

After researching the benefits of eliminating fines for overdue materials, the Library Trustees made the decision to become a fine-free library when the Coronavirus arrived in March and have since made this a permanent policy. Based on the experience of libraries across the country, studies indicate that even modest penalties can deter people from registering for a library card because of the risk of incurring fines. A fines-free DCL allows for equitable services and opportunities for everyone.

Because “Eureka” moments happen here

DCL convened a community dialogue to discuss the issue of housing insecurity in Poweshiek County. Three teams were formed to work on solutions regarding transportation, funding, and resource mapping. These efforts resulted in increased awareness of local concerns, establishment of the Housing Assistance Fund at the Ahrens Foundation, and ongoing county-wide collaboration.

In November, DCL collaborated with CultureALL, to bring the Open Book concept to Grinnell. Five individuals became “human books” sharing a defining moment in their lives in one-on-one conversations. This event is one to repeat in the future, as we strive to gain a better understanding of our community and our world.

As part of a Smithsonian Museums on Main Street pilot project, Grinnell College and DCL worked with nearly 100 community individuals, businesses, and organizations to produce a wonderful local history exhibit entitled Grinnell Works showcasing past and present businesses and the people behind them. The exhibit opened in early March 2020.

Because Students Who Read During the Summer, End Up On the Honor Roll in the Fall

The library’s participation with the Grinnell Education Partnership (GEP) continues into its 5th year as a host site. Four AmeriCorps members added value to afterschool literacy activities in coordination with LINK as well as summer outreach activities. Summer members provided literacy activities and free books weekly at Central Park, Farmer’s Market, Grinnell Mutual Aquatic Center and other GEP host sites. Virtual storytimes were created and offered starting in June due to library closures caused by COVID-19.

The GEP was invited to the annual meeting of the Anchor Institution Task Force in New York City. The library, along with our partners, presented a session on the formation and functions of GEP, the positive achievements in student reading scores and the importance of our mutual collaboration.

Of course, reading is important all year! Baskets of books are delivered monthly to in-home daycare providers and Head Start. Area youth benefit from an afterschool code club, book displays, and teen programming provided by Grinnell College work study students.





Because Learning Happens 24/7

A Grinnell College mini-grant provided funding to extend the Library's wireless internet signal. The signal now reaches the front entrance patio and surrounding parking areas. This was especially important during April and May when public access to the library facility was prohibited due to Coronavirus restrictions. 1,302 outdoor wireless sessions occurred during this two-month time period. April also produced a need for COVID-19 related information. Government and social services, alongside many community-based resources were highlighted on the Library website. Telephone inquiries were fielded. These services remain in place and will continue post-pandemic.

Facility Management, FY20

The building's exterior received a thorough cleaning to remove surface pollutants and biological plant growth from the stonework. Dispensing with the practice of periodic burning, the prairie received a haircut in the Spring. The grounds responded with more native prairie flowers adding color to the landscape. The American and State of Iowa flags are now proudly flying from a 20-foot pole at the entrance to the parking lot.

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) |

Keep Calm and Read On

Due to library closure mid-March thru May and the limitations of curbside delivery from June thru mid-August, library statistics have suffered. However, DCL cardholders have access to an excellent array of digital resources courtesy of Friends of Drake Community Library. This has proven to be a lifesaver during the pandemic. Usage of digital books, films, and informational databases increased an average of 30% when compared to "normal" times. 10,446 individuals hold library cards at DCL for an average of 6,311 library visits per month prior to the Coronavirus library closures. The numbers below give you a statistical glimpse of library usage throughout FY2020.

| | FY2020 | FY2019 | FY2018 |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Total Circulation | 82,750 | 94,147 | 96,349 |
| Books, Magazines | 58,976 | 73,510 | 77,969 |
| Audio, Video | 5,106 | 7,104 | 7,161 |
| eResource Downloads | 18,668 | 13,533 | 11,219 |
| Computer Use | | | |
| Computer Sessions | 9,026 | 14,266 | 15,551 |
| Wireless Sessions | 8,753 | (Newly captured statistic.) | |
| Meeting Room Use | | | |
| Total Events | 1,031 | 1,457 | 1,434 |
| Total Attendance | 13,092 | 19,784 | 21,917 |

Adult Senior Education provided by GRMC-Unity Point Health and the Community Education Council is highly valued by the community.

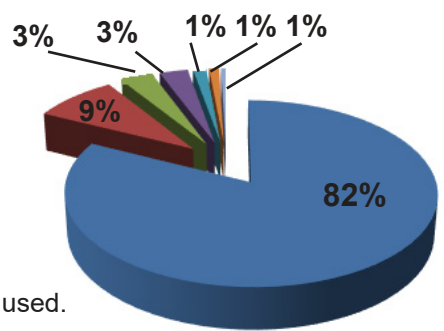
| Programming | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Library Events Offered | 285 | 318 | 278 |
| Library Program Attendance | 5,574 | 7,787 | 7,702 |

Volunteers

An average of 21 individuals generously provided about 126 hours of volunteer service on a monthly basis pre-COVID-19.

Library Income

- City of Grinnell - \$543,279
- Gifts, Grants & Interest - \$57,055
- County - \$21,952
- Friends of DCL - \$19,149
- Fines, fees, misc. - \$8,918
- State - \$6,677
- Contracting Cities- \$3,180



Note: Gift income includes carryover used.

Library Expenditures

- Salaries and Training - \$383,344
- Building & Equipment - \$137,698
- Collections and Databases - \$57,208
- Computer Systems & Hardware- \$56,683
- Programming - \$11,359
- Supplies - \$14,018

