



A Message from the Director

In 2015, we continued to fulfill the role of community gathering **place** for residents of the High Plains Library District. We also functioned as a community **platform**, showing up in many shapes and forms at workshops, planning sessions, community events, storytimes and schools – all with the purpose of helping, providing and enriching the lives of residents.

It was our skilled and friendly **people** who brought the library to the various doorsteps of the community. The library's role as **people, place** and **platform** made for an exciting year of collaboration, engagement and activity.

As our county grows, you showed us that your appetite for library services is growing as well. You came to us for information, entertainment and inspiration for your life. You encountered us in our lively facilities, as well as in places you may not expect us to be in – senior centers, neighborhoods, parks, community centers, workplaces and classrooms.

We are *your* library. Thank you for celebrating this year's accomplishments with us.



FINANCIALS 2015

WHERE THE \$ GOES

Materials & Services | \$12,474,277

Books, audio books, videos, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers, online databases, computer and technical services, new technology equipment, library programs, special acquisitions, facility maintenance and operations, contracted services and minor equipment.

Salaries & Benefits | \$8,741,825

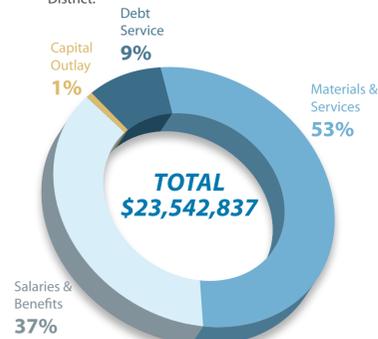
Health, dental, life and disability insurance, retirement fund, and staff development programs.

Capital Outlay | \$234,973

Equipment or furniture costing more than \$5000.

Debt Service | \$2,091,762

Payment for Certificates of Participation which financed capital construction in the District.



WHERE THE \$ COMES FROM

Local Property Tax | \$26,882,088

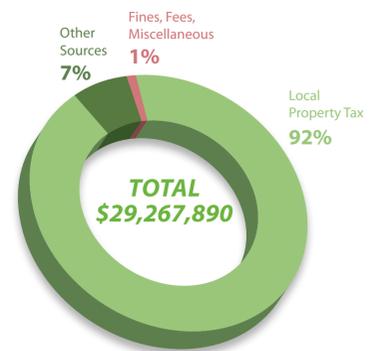
Paid by local property owners within the High Plains Library District

Other Local Sources | \$2,007,269

Specific ownership tax (a portion of fees paid for vehicles, boats, etc., and license tags), interest on investments, contracts, contributions in kind, donations, and grants.

Fines, Fees, Misc | \$378,533

Money received from library fines, fees to replace materials.



Carbon Valley Regional Library - Centennial Park Library - Eaton Public Library - Erie Community Library - Farr Regional Library - Fort Lupton Public and School Library - Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library - Hudson Public Library - Kersey Library - Lincoln Park Library - Northern Plains Public Library - Outreach - Platteville Public Library - Riverside Library & Cultural Center

2015 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



AARP Tax Aide

For the second year HPLD partnered with AARP to provide free tax service for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and over. By providing space and technology support the AARP IRS Certified volunteers were able to assist more than 800 people with tax returns.



UNC Library Collaboration

Working closely with the University of Northern Colorado Library staff we began a partnership that makes it easier for students and faculty to not only get a library card for the High Plains system, but to receive and return materials on campus. "HPLD @UNC" launched in November of 2015 and has resulted in dozens of new users and one-on-one conversations featuring library services.



Village of Readers: An Evening with LeVar Burton

The beloved host of *Reading Rainbow* came to Greeley and sparked a conversation with nearly 300 people about the opportunities we have before us to revolutionize how we educate our children. Burton's presentation was an inspiring reminder that we are all change-makers and we must work together to create a community where children feel empowered and supported to reach their dreams.



Lucha Libre

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month in October we welcomed a Mexican Wrestling Troupe to the Riverside Library and Cultural Center. The free event created an experience that had more than 300 people on the edge of their seats. Full of tradition, the event delivered a night of high-flying action, thrills, falls, victories and defeats from the modern day gladiators. The epic battle of good vs. evil played out through modern Mexican folk art in a traditional match between the Tecnicos (the heroes) and the Rudos.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1BBK)

A new initiative designed to support parents of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. 1BBK helps create a solid foundation for children to be ready for school while fostering a love of reading and learning at home. 1BBK gives parents a tool to help them be their child's first and best teacher.



Carbon Valley Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Host

The Carbon Valley Regional Library hosted the Chamber's monthly networking event in August. Chamber members gathered on the library's covered patio for an ice cream social featuring an appetizer bar with "mocktails" and a live concert. Library staff offered tours of the building and shared information about all of the wonderful resources the library offers for businesses, including databases for market research, print and online news sources, business and technology classes, wireless internet access and both physical and virtual meeting spaces.



Place of Discovery (POD)

The POD, at Centennial Park Library, is a unique and creative way for HPLD to offer something unexpected to library patrons. This fun space gives patrons a place to create, learn and discover new things. The POD offers access to equipment—3D printer, green screen, music production equipment, lightbox, CriCut, SparkFun and Inventor's Kits—and the knowledge to learn how to use it. Since the opening of the POD, we've held programs on 3D modeling, electrical circuits, screen printing, podcasting and digital music.



Let's Put Erie on the Map

As a part of local economic development efforts, Erie Community Library sits on the Town of Erie Mayor's Economic Development Task Force. In an effort to contribute to Erie's economic growth, Librarian Steph Myers, along with Erie's Economic Development Coordinator and another task force member, presented multiple workshops. They helped business owners create their Google for Business accounts and personalized their business listings in an effort to optimize Google search results for their business.



Adult Education Collection

HPLD constantly studies the demographics of its borrowers and the population in its service areas. Ever eager to meet the needs of all potential patrons, staff ask themselves, "What do library services look like for our immigrant and refugee taxpayers who may or may not speak English? What do these adults want and need from their public library?" Research revealed that the district needed to upgrade its literacy and adult education collection. Working collaboratively, our Collection Resources and Outreach Departments worked to select and purchase—with grant funds—\$30,000 worth of print and electronic literacy materials designed to help adult students in their efforts to learn English, earn their GED, become citizens, prepare for new careers or improve their basic literacy skills. We also bought instructional items for teachers and volunteers to use in their Adult Basic Education classes. Cataloged and displayed in a way to make it easier for adult students to find and use these new resources, we know this collection will help adults achieve their literacy and educational goals.

2015 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



Book A Librarian

The Book a Librarian (BAL) service provides an opportunity for patrons to get one-on-one help with technology. Usually, a BAL appointment involves some hands-on demonstration of tasks, such as navigating a tablet, downloading free eBooks from the library or using Windows 10. Across the District, HPLD staff do more than 400 BAL appointments each year. It is one of our most popular services for adults, and the service where we spend the most time face-to-face with adult patrons. In addition to tech help, patrons can also make an appointment to get reading advice, advanced genealogy help or assistance with searching for grants.



Language Literacy

Working with Aims Community College, HPLD expanded its English Language Literacy instruction. The two new classes, each with 10 students, are being offered at Riverside Library and Cultural Center in Evans. Each class meets twice a week to help non-native speakers learn the English language. In addition, the library is offering supplemental programming—bilingual healthy cooking classes, Spanish storytime and Intercambio where both English and Spanish new language learners get together once a week to improve their language skills. Participants speak half the time in English and half in Spanish.



WeldCast

An oral history project similar to the idea of StoryCorps. We interview Weld County residents, capturing unique stories about themselves, history, or their personal passions. The session is recorded and then added to our catalog creating a custom Weld County oral history.



No More Fines

Eliminating barriers and making it easier for people to borrow our items is important to offering the best library service possible. In June 2015 we chose to eliminate fines on all materials except DVDs/Blu-rays. We hope this demonstrates our commitment to our patrons, and minimizes unnecessary stress on parents of young children who have borrowed materials and forget to bring them back. While there is no late fee, we do still charge for items that don't get returned. We are happy to report that items are still getting returned within a week of the due date, money neutral and more children's materials are getting checked out. Patrons are delighted with the change and staff are happier too because they no longer have to tell patrons they have fines or can't borrow items.

2015 PATRON HIGHLIGHTS

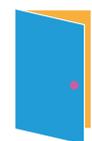
DISTRICT POPULATION SERVED 251,308



ANNUAL CIRCULATION 2,781,499



ANNUAL VISITS 1,670,862



MOST POPULAR AUTHORS
ADULT: STEPHEN KING
TEEN: RICK RIORDAN
CHILDREN: DR. SEUSS

CARDHOLDERS 110,898



EBOOKS IN CIRCULATION 24,499



UNIQUE VISITORS TO LIBRARY WEBSITE 193,846



COMPUTER SESSIONS 379,912



PROGRAMS & ATTENDEES
PROGRAMS - 5,547
ATTENDEES - 103,187

