



WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Where People & Possibilities Meet



Storytime Garden

2015-2016 Annual Report

A word from the Director



It's all about "connections."

When learning that I work in a public library, new people I meet in the course of my daily life will often tell me a story from their childhood about how much they loved the library and what it meant to them growing up. Sometimes they will talk about a difficult time in their life, a job loss, divorce, a serious illness or a death of a child or spouse and how they found a lifeline by going to the library. A common response from people who reconnect with their library is how amazed they are by what the public library has to offer and what it provides the community in **this age of "connection" that is the 21st Century.**

Washington County Free Library keeps our citizens connected to their government, educational opportunities, training, the world beyond their window, and most importantly to each other.

More and more, government at all levels is migrating to e-government applications as its primary citizen interaction conduit while assuming that, somehow, our citizens have access to computers and connectivity. Filing taxes, applying for Medicare, renewing a passport, paying a myriad number of licensing fees all can now be done online – that is if you have on-line access. In order to have the ability to meet and interact with government, agencies have learned to refer the individual to us here at the library for both assistance and Internet access.

Washington County residents, on their own initiative, have discovered that their library has both the required technology and people trained in how to access it. It should also be noted that even with computer and Internet connections, many still come to the library requiring the expertise of our instructors in helping to navigate and understand the information to be found on government web sites.

Our community's most important asset, our children, discover their first connections to a love of reading here at the library. Our STEM classes introduce our preschoolers to math and science. Our classes throughout the school year and into the summer months offer a variety of fun educational learning opportunities. Close to 20,000 children attended one or more of the 2,488 educational classes offered throughout our system this year.

Our classes on technology, financial literacy, resume writing, on-line job searching and **retirement planning provide quality information and skills to make our citizens' lives better** and more productive.

Our lectures, book clubs, meet the author events, writing contests, films and discussion group opportunities enrich the lives of Washington County residents and provide the most important **"connection" of all** – the connection we have with our community, our family, our friends and each other.

It has been a busy year.

Mary C. Baykan

Director



Your library by the numbers

Citizen Usage

Registered borrowers: 89,051
 Adult: 65,497
 Juvenile: 17,850
 Young Adult: 5,704
 Western MD Room visits: 3,103
 Special meeting room use: 3,858
 Fletcher Branch: 2,545
 Community Branches: 1,313

Reference Assistance

Reference Questions: 119,442
 * **Children's questions: 12,108**
 * **Reader's advisory: 491**
 * Genealogy questions: 2,334
 * Computer assist questions: 10,377
 * Healthcare questions: 6,129

AskUsNow questions: 249
 Directional questions: 15,400

Total questions: 135,091

Questions/day: 370

Our Citizens Borrowed

Materials:

Adult: 368,851
 Children: 232,225
 Young Adult: 29,039
 Games: 3,186
 Audiobooks: 43,691
 Music: 8,530
 DVDs: 248,505
 Miscellaneous: 562
 In-house usage: 74,960



Digital:

Ebook downloads: 48,938
 Freegal Music: 11,175 (partial year)
 Zinio Magazines Downloads: 3,476
 Online book club: 8,090

Total borrowed: 1,081,228

Interlibrary Loans

Books loaned: 23,125
 Books borrowed: 12,464
 Inter-library loan searches: 38,551

On the Web

⇒ Page views:

Website visits: 991,394
 Website (Mobile): 66,814
 Polaris (Catalog): 1,482,690
 Polaris (Mobile): 595,022

⇒ Unique page views:

Website: 653,972
 Website (Mobile): 52,542
 Polaris (Catalog): 1,077,671
 Polaris (Mobile): 381,418

Unique visitors: 672,085

Average visit duration: 3:09 minutes

Database Usage

⇒ Database Searches: 884,873

Use of Public Computers

⇒ Number of sessions: 161,380

⇒ Service hours provided: 143,938

Print Collection Statistics

Materials Added to collection: 25,307

Total materials in collection: 304,864

Audio-Visual Collection

Items added: 6,160

Total items in collection: 35,868

Online Collection Statistics

Items available to download: 68,043

Total databases available: 84

Program/Class Attendance

⇒ **Total Programs/Classes: 2,488**

Adult: 415; Children's: 1,278

Family: 134; Teen: 380; STEM: 281

⇒ **Total Attendance: 41,624**

Adult: 15,483; Children's: 19,971

Young Adult: 6,170

* Summer Reading Club: Adult: 443

Children: 1,465

Teens: 497

*STEM class attendance: 2,536

Libraries are gathering, meeting, and collaborating spaces



Teen Crafternoon Project



Paper Crafting

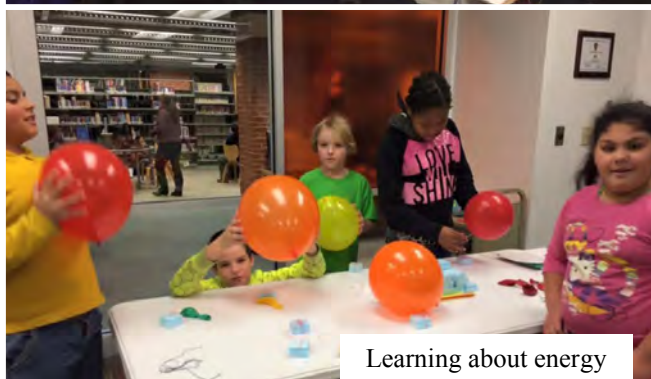


Star Wars Science Night

Makerspaces, STEAM classes and creative workshops provide an open environment for the expression of creativity and innovation while continuing to support our traditional educational role. **These activities, programs and classes align perfectly with the library's role in our neighborhood and educational settings.** And the opportunity to inspire learners and creators of all ages is astounding.



Coding Class



Learning about energy



Paper Crafting

The more contact children have with books, the better readers they become

Reading skills are the building blocks of future success. Our infant and pre-school story-times build on these skills and help prepare children for their school years. STEM related classes help children develop the necessary math and technical skills needed to meet the challenges of the future. Whether enjoying a concert, a movie, a workshop or one of our many educational classes youngsters are developing and reinforcing the ability to think creatively, critically and innovatively.

Your library offers a variety of activities every day that make learning to read fun. Nearly 20,000 children attended one or more of the 2,488 educational classes at Washington County Library branches this year.

- ⇒ Stories by Starlight
- ⇒ Summer Reading Club
- ⇒ Books for Babies
- ⇒ Infant and Tiny Tot Story-times
- ⇒ Toddler Time
- ⇒ Pre-school Story-time
- ⇒ A Peep into Science Classes for ages 3-5
- ⇒ Pre-school Crafts
- ⇒ Kids Discover Science Classes
- ⇒ Minecraft Mondays
- ⇒ 3D Printer Workshops
- ⇒ Coding Classes
- ⇒ STEM Classes
- ⇒ LEGO Challenges
- ⇒ Homeschool Happenings
- ⇒ Battle of the Books
- ⇒ Homeschool Book Club



Summer Reading Club - A school's out favorite!



"For finishing the summer reading program ...each [child] got Oriole tickets, Sun tickets, free bowling passes, and mini golf passes!... What great gifts and they also got the best gift of all - the summer reading program!"
Thanks to the library!.. from a Facebook fan

Community partnerships support the library's mission to strengthen our community



Washington County Public Schools and Maryland Humanities Council National History Day



Kidzfest at the Valley Mall



Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Golden Legacy Exhibit Family Day Storytelling with Mr. Jeff



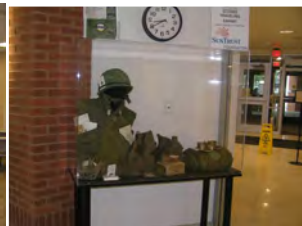
Bester students visit Storyteller Debra Mims at Fletcher



Reading Day author Fred Bowen visits Salem Avenue and Bester Elementary Schools



Mary K. Bowman Community Foundation Fund supports the Newspaper Indexing Project



Fletcher hosted the Maryland Public Television Vietnam Veteran's Exhibit honoring Veterans



WCPS hosts annual WCFL Battle of the Books Finals Competition WCPS



The library provides high-quality levels of information and instruction across a wide variety of platforms to individuals of all ages and levels of need

Washington County Free Library offers a wide variety of free classes, workshops and clinics that help prepare our community for the changing nature of technology and its impact on our society. Our customers have free access to a diverse selection of life-skills classes as well as workshops that boost creative skills. In addition to interactive classes and workshops, the library maintains a wide selection of print materials aimed at self-directed learning.

More than 15,000 adults attended programs at our library this year. Some of the events they enjoyed included:

- ⇒ Computer Classes
- ⇒ World War I Commemorative Lecture Series
- ⇒ Noteworthy Sundays Concert Series
- ⇒ **Let's Talk Music Lecture Series**
- ⇒ Make-n-Take Workshops: Crafting for Adults
- ⇒ Financial Literacy Classes
- ⇒ Retirement Planning Classes
- ⇒ McCauley Historical Lecture Series
- ⇒ Book Clubs
- ⇒ Meet the Author Events
- ⇒ Technology Classes
 - Researching Family History Online
 - Best Apps for Work & Business
 - Emerging Telephone Technologies
 - Social Media 101
- ⇒ Poetry & Short Story Writing Contest
- ⇒ Monday Afternoon Job Clinics

“Borrowing from the Library gives me a chance to open my literary horizons without too much fuss. Love my local Library and all the things it has to offer!” ...from a Facebook follower.



Superheroes converge on Fletcher Library in Hagerstown for Comic Con 2015

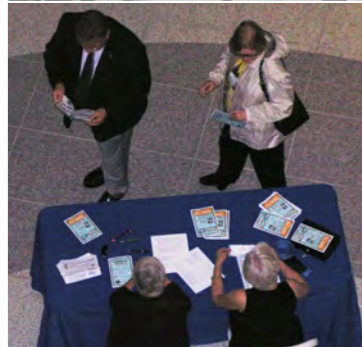


Washington County Free Library's Comic Con 2015 was the place to be on Saturday, August 8. Superheroes could be found chatting with their fans in every nook and cranny at the Fletcher Library in downtown Hagerstown. Over 150 of our favorite superheroes made the Fletcher their base of operation for the day as they visited with the nearly 6,000 people who **passed through the Fletcher's doors during event hours.**

The day included a workshop on the Art of Cosplay and another one on drawing superhero characters, a vendor area where devotees could buy everything superhero, and a costume contest. Superhero devotees created over 60 pieces of art in the Fan Art Room and others enjoyed video games in the Gaming Room.



Celebrating the Fletcher Branch's 2nd anniversary and raising funds for educational and cultural programming

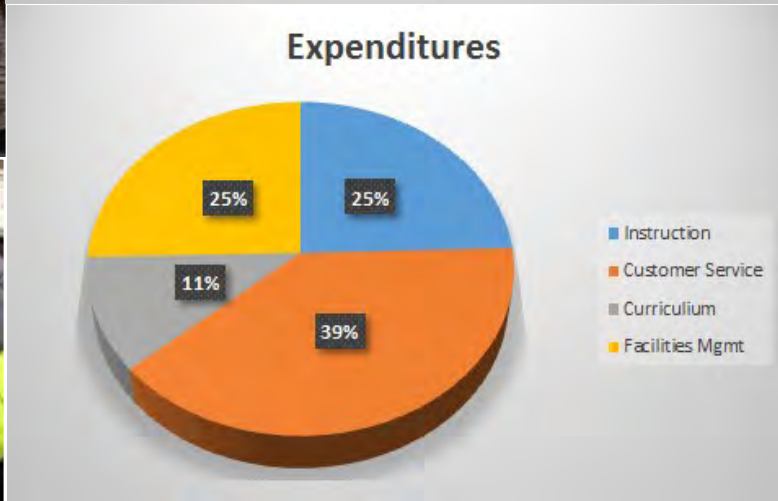
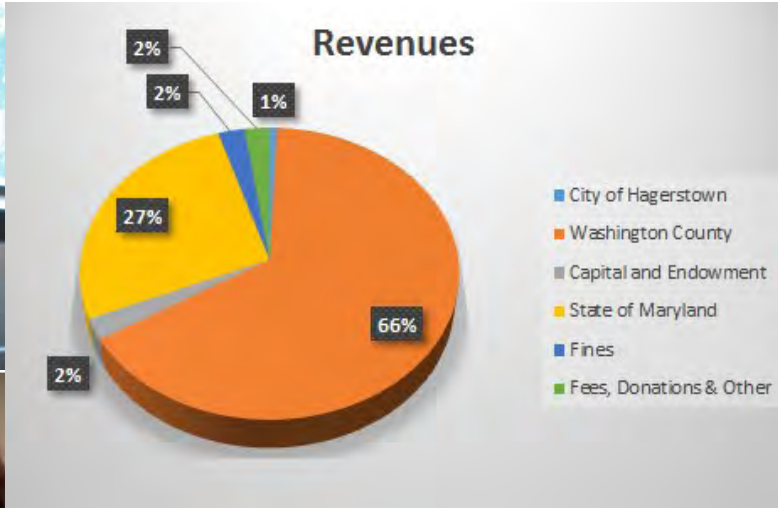


More than just books and banks of computers, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine through our educational and cultural programs.

Paint Party Fundraiser



Statistics



ESTIMATED VALUE OF SERVICES

Quantity	Service	Retail Value	Value
23,125	Interlibrary Loan	\$ 25.00	\$ 578,125.00
1,081,228	Materials Borrowed	\$ 22.00	\$ 23,787,016.00
135,091	Customer Queries Answered	\$ 7.00	\$ 945,637.00
809	Public & Staff Training Sessions	\$ 100.00	\$ 80,900.00
41,624	Classes and Cultural Programs	\$ 15.00	\$ 624,360.00
884,873	Database Searches	\$ 6.83	\$ 6,043,682.59
2488	Study Room Usage	\$ 50.00	\$ 124,400.00
607	Hosting Community Meetings	\$ 220.00	\$ 133,540.00
		Total-----	\$ 32,317,660.59

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the many individuals in our community who have volunteered their time and talents to help with and provide special programs for our library system. We appreciate and thank you.

The Library also wishes to thank the many community organizations that provide support for our special programs and activities throughout the year.

- ◆ After Five Productions
- ◆ American Association of University Women
- ◆ American Library Association
- ◆ Artway Alliance
- ◆ Authentic Community Theater
- ◆ Ballet and All That Jazz
- ◆ Baltimore Orioles
- ◆ Barbara Ingram School for the Arts
- ◆ Bill & Melinda Gates
- ◆ Bob Evans Restaurant
- ◆ Broad Axe
- ◆ Chick-fil-A
- ◆ Citizens for Maryland Libraries
- ◆ City Ballet School
- ◆ City of Hagerstown
- ◆ College Savings Plans of Maryland
- ◆ Community Foundation of Washington County
- ◆ Dairy Queen
- ◆ **Denny's Restaurant**
- ◆ Desert Rose Café
- ◆ Discovery Station
- ◆ Embroiders Guild of America
- ◆ Family Recreation Center
- ◆ FirstBook, Inc.
- ◆ Fit in Boonsboro
- ◆ Fletcher Foundation
- ◆ Flowering Heart Yoga
- ◆ Frederick Keys Baseball Team
- ◆ Friends of the Washington County Free Library
- ◆ Gamestop
- ◆ Gatekeepers
- ◆ **Geppi's Entertainment Museum**
- ◆ Glaxo Smith Kline Science in the Summer
- ◆ Hagerstown Community College
- ◆ Hagerstown Suns
- ◆ Hagerstown/Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Hagerstown/Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- ◆ Hancock Area Photo Club
- ◆ Hancock Arts Council
- ◆ **Hardee's**
- ◆ Herald-Mail Media
- ◆ HMTV6
- ◆ HotShot 2 StarPower, LLC
- ◆ Humane Society of Washington County
- ◆ John Hershey Family Fund
- ◆ Judy Center
- ◆ Leitersburg Cinemas
- ◆ Main Line Broadcasting—Wild 96.7
- ◆ Mary K. Bowman Fund for Historical & Fine Arts
- ◆ Maryland Chapter Wrestling
- ◆ Maryland Humanities Council
- ◆ Maryland State Department of Education
- ◆ Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Maryland Science Center
- ◆ Maryland Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Maryland Theatre
- ◆ Master Gardeners of Washington County
- ◆ NASA
- ◆ National Park Service
- ◆ Nifty Thrifty Lady
- ◆ Nora Roberts Family Foundation
- ◆ **Nutter's Ice Cream**
- ◆ Penguin/Random House
- ◆ Priority Partners
- ◆ Reach
- ◆ Rotary Club of Hagerstown Charitable Foundation, Inc
- ◆ 2nd and Charles
- ◆ Sheetz
- ◆ Sky Zone Trampoline Park
- ◆ Smithsburg Historical Society
- ◆ South Mountain State Battlefield
- ◆ Sprint (Wesel Blvd)
- ◆ Star Theater
- ◆ State of Maryland
- ◆ Sweet Frog
- ◆ Target
- ◆ Town of Smithsburg
- ◆ Tri-State Astronomers
- ◆ **Turner's Dual Lanes**
- ◆ Unified Community Connections
- ◆ University of Maryland Extension Office, 4-H
- ◆ Valley Mall
- ◆ Washington County Arts Council
- ◆ Washington County Board of County Commissioners
- ◆ Washington County Department of Solid Waste and Watershed Programs
- ◆ Washington County Public Schools
- ◆ Western Maryland Crime Lab
- ◆ Western Maryland Regional Library
- ◆ **What's NXT**
- ◆ WJEJ Radio 1240



Our Mission:
The Washington County Free Library engages and strengthens our community by bringing people, information and ideas together.



Alice Virginia & David W. Fletcher Branch Library, Hagerstown



Boonsboro Free Branch Library



Clear Spring Leonard P. Snyder Branch Library



Hancock Branch Library



Keedysville Branch Library



Sharpsburg Branch Library



Smithsburg Branch Library



Williamsport Memorial Branch Library



Bookmobile

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