



A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS...

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**POTTAWATOMIE
WABAUNSEE**
REGIONAL LIBRARY



POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY

POTTWAB.ORG

305 N. 5TH ST. . ST. MARYS. KS 66535

785-437-2778

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, April 14, 2023

The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library is unique, operating as it does as the only two county library in Kansas. The Library is organized as one entity, but manages eight library locations in the rural communities of Alma, Eskridge, Onaga, St. Marys, Alta Vista, Harveyville, Olsburg, and Westmoreland. PWRL's legal service area spans the two counties and covers a total of 1612 square miles.

Resource sharing stands at the heart of the Library. By pooling all the resources at a central location, and then equally sharing them across the whole system, the library can ensure that everyone benefits. Patrons at the Branches enjoy the same services, and can get access to the same resources, as the patrons at the smallest locations. The goal is always to provide the best possible library services to all of the residents of the two counties, and our library staff and board remain dedicated to this effort.

PWRL Library staff, Board, and Friends faced many challenges in 2022. It was a tough year, but we are looking forward to 2023 with hope for better times to come. At the top of the year staff invested much time and energy working on the roll out of the new Internet Connected Equipment Program. This initiative was made possible through funding received from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). This funding allowed the Library to purchase 100 internet ready Chromebook laptops and 100 internet hotspots.

The Library applied for, and received, multiple grant awards to pay for the new equipment, provide for storage, security, and to acquire new digital content for the devices. Staff configured the machines, worked with the board to implement new policy, and trained staff at all locations as the equipment was deployed. The sum result of all of that activity and effort was the creation of a circulating collection of new devices. All locations of the Library can now use these resources to share digital content and mobile high speed internet services with members of our small, rural communities who would otherwise lack the ability to secure reliable access to the digital world.

Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library submitted a follow-up application to the ECF in May 2022. The Library asked for funding to purchase another 100 Chromebooks, and support to pay for an additional year of high speed data for the Internet hotspots already in circulation. In December 2022 the Library was notified that PWRL's application to purchase 100 new Chromebooks was approved. Those machines have been purchased, configured, and are now ready and available for patron use.

PWRL followed the new Internet Connected Equipment Program release by jumping right into a busy Summer Reading / Summer Food Program during the months of June, July, and August. Library staff hosted over 15,000 patrons who attended special programs and events over the course of the summer. PWRL, with the help of some amazing volunteers, also served almost 20,000 meals to children (0-18) in Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties through our weekly grab & go Summer Food Program held in conjunction with Summer Reading at the eight PWRL Library locations in the two counties.

At the end of July disaster struck at our PWRL Alma Branch location. The sheetrock ceiling collapsed causing significant damage and we were forced to vacate the building. Library staff from all PWRL locations worked with volunteers in extremely difficult conditions to box the 20,000+ materials collection. We then had to move the entire contents of the building to offsite storage for, what turned out to be, a three month hiatus.

In the interim, staff developed a partnership with the Wabaunsee County Historical Society and Museum which agreed to share some space so that the library could continue to provide services to the Alma Community. Once the contractors had repaired the damage to the building, staff and volunteers again moved the 20,000+ books, shelving, furnishings, and everything else back into the restored building. Along the way new equipment and furniture had to be purchased and installed, and the wiring and computer network had to be replaced. Staff also had to handle insurance claims and grant applications to cover the cost of these upgrades.

In August baby Josephine, the first child for our Onaga Branch Librarian, arrived. Two new people were hired to join the staff and trained to fill the service gap at the PWRL Onaga Branch Library. At the same time a problem with the plumbing was discovered at that location. The sidewalk in front of the library eventually had to be dug up to fix the problem. In the meantime the Library had no running water and no toilet. Thankfully, the café owner next door allowed staff to share her bathroom. Another instance in which the maintenance of local friendships proved to be very important!

Another challenge presented itself at the end of August when PWRL's long time bookkeeper resigned from her job at the St. Marys Headquarters Library and the Saturday position she filled at the PWRL Harveyville Mini Library. This change required the Director to take on all the payroll and accounting duties that are required by the person holding this position. The timing of this transition added to the overall stress experienced by our Library staff during this time.

This transition was followed, immediately, by another administrative challenge at the St. Marys Headquarters. A request to reconsider and withdraw a book from the collection was made by a patron at that location. This, unfortunately, led to a related conflict during which the St. Marys City Commission questioned the library's management and discussed the possibility of declining to renew the lease for the building housing the PWRL St. Marys Headquarters Library.

Though hurt by the controversy and implications involved, Library staff continued to manage day to day operations at the Library. In addition to the normal duties staff members handled calls from people inquiring about the situation, worked to gather support and understanding in the community, spoke with a wide range of media outlets, and saw the conflict at the Library reported on the front pages of newspapers and on television stations. After a number of contentious public meetings, highlighted by expressions of support by local residents and library friends around the state, the St. Marys Commission voted to renew the lease for the building housing the PWRL Headquarters Library for another year. It falls to all of us, now, to learn from this experience and work together during the coming year to heal whatever misunderstandings remain.

Having weathered those storms the Library moved toward the hope of a fresh new year, but not before having to deal with the fall out created by a burst water pipe at our PWRL Eskridge Branch Library. 10,000 gallons of water pumped into the Library on the day after Christmas, covering the carpeting, and almost reaching the front door. Library staff, again, rallied to clean up the mess and get the Library back in shape to serve the public.

Despite the many challenges we faced, the Library and our staff survived. I am very proud of the work done by our staff, the Board, and all of the Library supporters and friends who came to our defense and aid. Together we were able to work things out and hold the Library together for another day. The assistance PWRL received from patrons, local residents, library supporters, and those in the library world was invaluable. Consultants from the North Central Library System, the Kansas State Library, and American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom were tremendously supportive during this difficult year. Our patrons were engaged throughout the process and many were willing to step in, volunteer, and contribute at every stage of the process.

Members of our communities provided sweat equity, testimonials, cookies, and restroom facilities, as the needs of the moment required. We aim now to build on the foundations we have forged to help us to keep moving forward. We pray for peace and time to reflect on all that we have learned over the past difficult year. We remain committed to doing everything in our power to continue to provide the best possible Library Service to all of the residents served by the Library in the two counties.

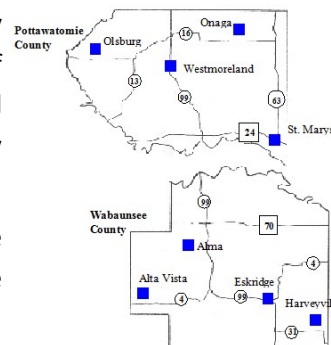
In the meantime, we sincerely hope to see you all very soon @ the Library :-)

Judith Cremer,
Director



POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library began as a demonstration project conducted by the Kansas Traveling Libraries Commission, a division of the Kansas State Library headquartered in Topeka. The project ended on November 6, 1962, when the voters of Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties approved the establishment of the first Regional Library in Kansas by a 2 to 1 margin. The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library is today the only two-county Regional Library in Kansas.



The St. Marys Branch Library became the headquarters for the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library, and the existing library in Onaga was established as a Branch in 1962. The Alma Branch Library was added in 1963, and the Eskridge Branch was added in 1967.

PWRL originally operated a bookmobile that stopped at many of the rural communities in both counties. The Bookmobile service declined over time, and finally ceased operation in 1995. The Board determined that a new means to provide Library service to the rural areas was needed. As a result, three Mini Libraries were established through local partnerships as Library service outlets in Harveyville, Olsburg, and Westmoreland in 1981. A fourth Mini Library was opened at Alta Vista in 1996.

Mini Libraries are access points for Library service. Their purpose is to provide residents in more remote areas of the two counties with direct Library service on a regular weekly schedule. Full sections of materials at Mini locations are rotated each month from PWRL’s shared collection so that a fresh and balanced selection is always available. Patrons can also make individual requests to borrow other materials at any time.

PWRL strives to provide free and open access to information, and to deliver the best possible library services to the residents of Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties. The Library is committed to maintaining the libraries in the rural communities of Alma, Alta Vista, Eskridge, Harveyville, Olsburg, Onaga, St. Marys and Westmoreland with this purpose in mind.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEGAL SERVICE AREA

The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library is established under K.S.A. 12-1231 et seq. The Library is supported by a mill levy on the two counties, excluding Wamego and the part of Manhattan in Pottawatomie County. The division of the budget is based on the certified population and valuation in each county, per K.S.A. 12-1234(b)

Legal Service Area		
Pottawatomie County	820 square miles	
Wabaunsee County	792 square miles	
2022 Legal Service Population - From the KS Office of the Director of the Budget for prep. of 2022 Budgets		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District)	20,930
	Wabaunsee County	6,966
	Total in PWRL Service Area	<u>27,896</u>
2022 Tangible Valuation - From County Clerks Offices as of June 09, 2021		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District, excluded Wamego & Manhattan)	\$646,509,255.00
	Wabaunsee County	\$ 105,274,450.00
Total valuation for PWRL Service Area		<u>\$751,783,705.00</u>

BOARD MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

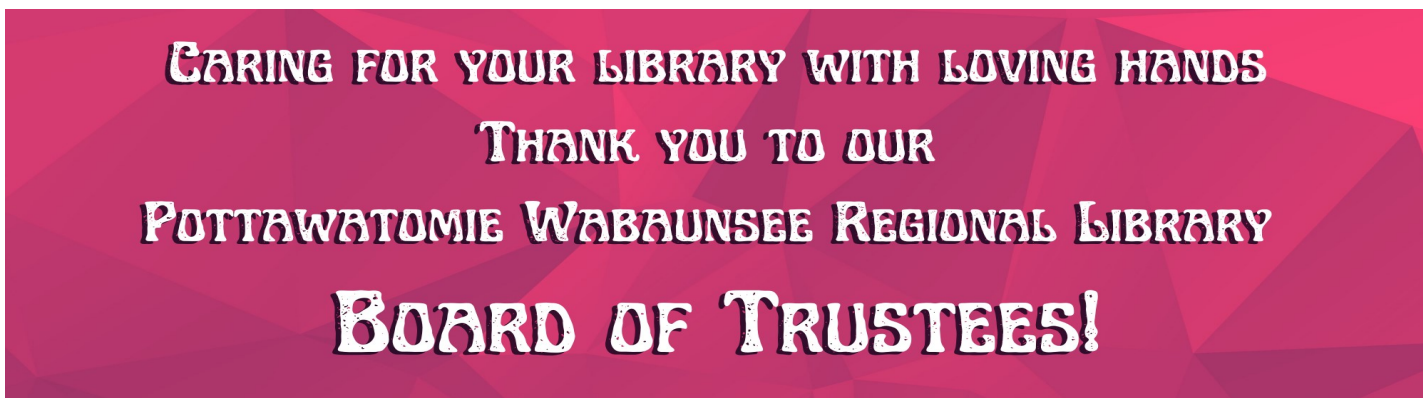
Position 1	Joan Johnson Olsburg, 66520	May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2026
Position 2 Vice -Chair	Alice Hinck Eskridge, 66423	May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2026
Position 3 Chair	Pam Bales Alma, 66401	May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2020 May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2024
Position 4	Alicia Matson Onaga, 66521	May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2023
Position 5 Secretary	Peggy Adams Maple Hill, 66507	May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2025
Position 6 Treasurer	Paulette Simecka St. Marys, 66536	Dec. 7, 2015 - April 30, 2016 (Un-expired term) May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2020 May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2024

2022- Ex-Officio Members

Joel Fager, Chair Wabaunsee County Commission Alma, KS 66401	Pat Weixelman, Vice-Chair Pottawatomie County Commission Westmoreland, KS 66549
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The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Board of Trustees, as specified by Kansas State Statutes, is composed of eight members. The Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee County Commissions each appoint three members to serve on the Library Board. The County Commission Chairman from each county is also charged with appointing a member of the Commission to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board.

Library Board members can serve a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms. The regular monthly meeting of the Library Board is generally held on the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Marys Headquarters Library.





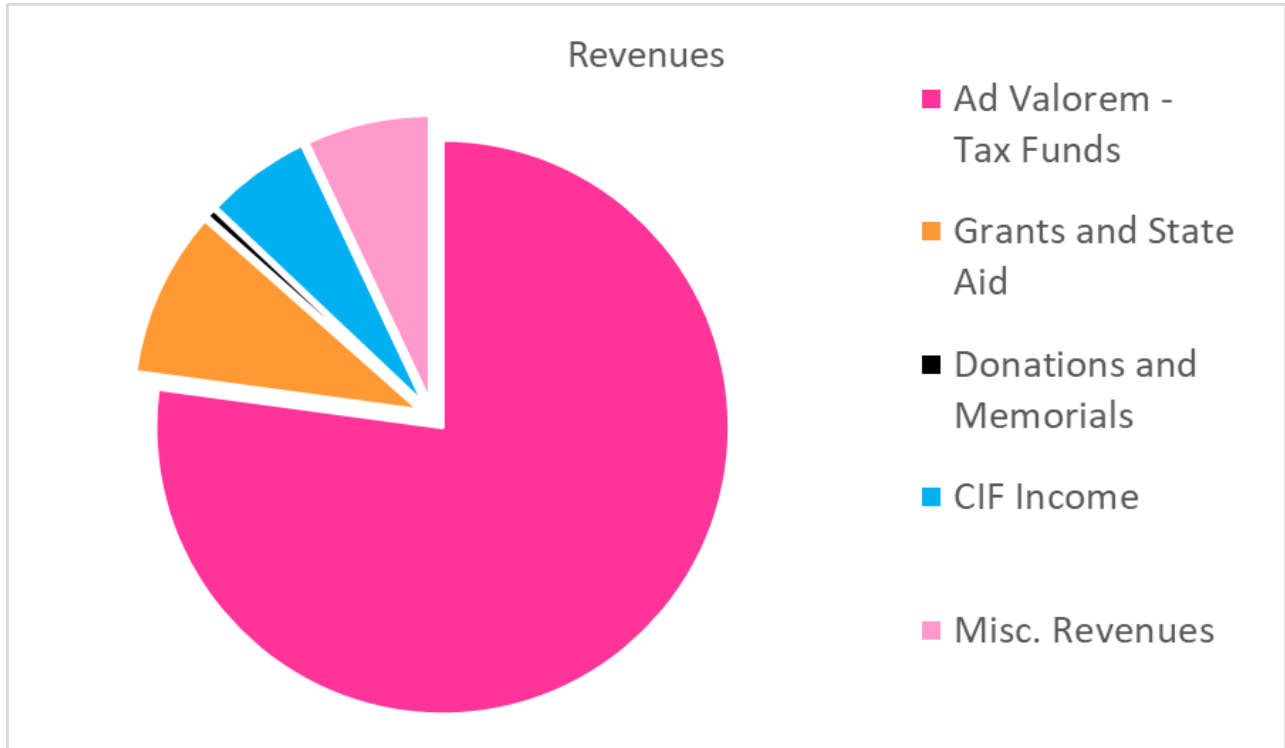
FINANCIAL REPORT



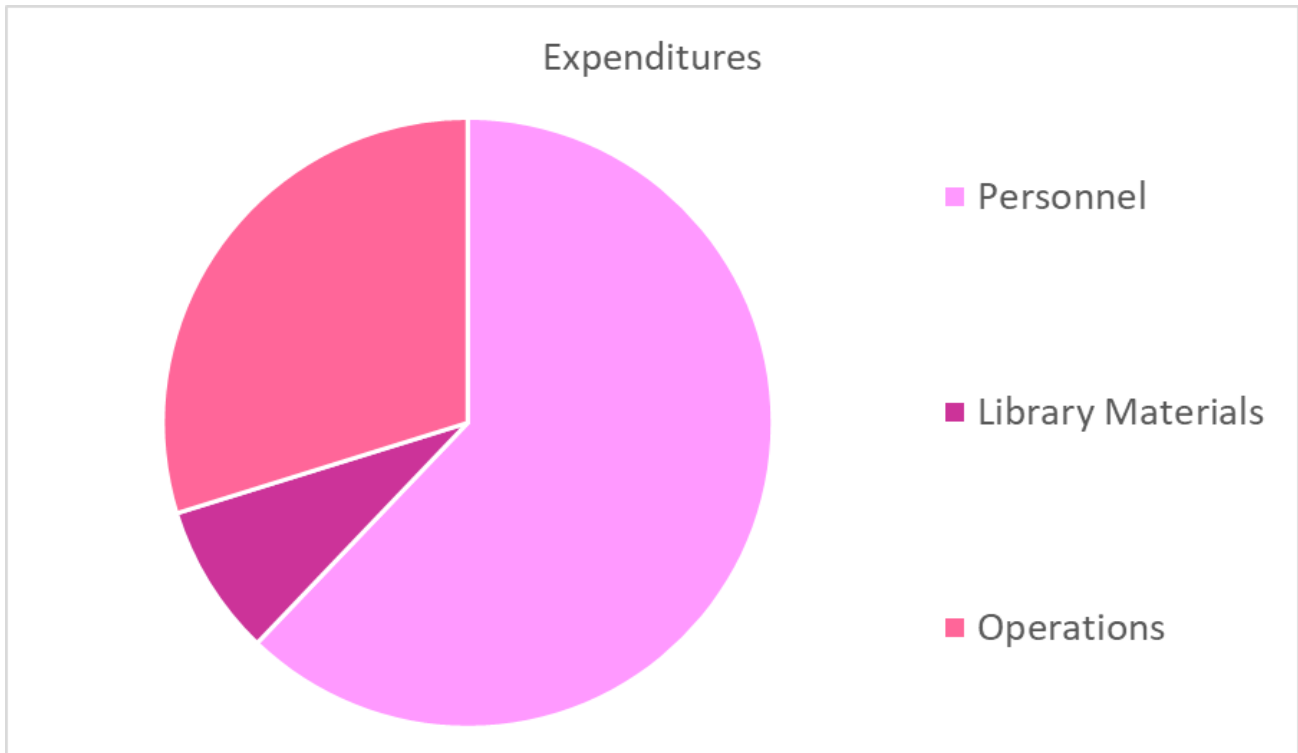
<u>Revenues 2022</u>		
The apportionment of Ad Valorem taxes collected to fund the PWRL Budget is based on the certified population and valuation in Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties, per K.S.A. 12-1234(b)		
PT Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund		\$495,693
WB Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund		\$121,340
<u>Grants & Emergency Connectivity Funding (ECF)</u>		\$75,094
<u>Approved 2022</u> \$ 7704.83 - State Grants-in-Aid <u>\$ 227.40 - KSL Notable Bk (LSTA)</u> \$7932.23- rec'd 2022	<u>Approved 2021</u> \$37,011.60 - ECF (Chromebooks) - 02/22 \$ 8,000.00 - ECF (Hotspots) - 02/22 \$11,000.00 - ECF (Hotspot data) 02/22; 11/22 <u>\$11,150.00 - WB CO. ARPA - 02/2022</u> \$ 56,011.60 - rec'd 2022;	<u>Approved 2022 - Pending 12/31/2022</u> \$9,701.04 - WB Co SEED Grant - Alma - 03/23 \$40,000.00 - ECF, 3rd Window (Chromebooks) - 3/23
Donations and Memorials		\$4,204
CIF Income Includes Previous FY Budget Transfers, E-Rate , Interest	<u>Erate Approved 2022</u> \$3,942.20 - E-Rate Category two Discount -07/22 <u>\$6,129.79 - E-Rate Category one Reimb.-08/22</u>	\$47,467
Miscellaneous Revenues: Includes Book Sales & Interest <u>Insurance Claims - Alma - 2022: \$54,523.80 - 10/22</u>		<u>\$56,153</u>
<u>Total Revenue</u>		<u>\$799,951</u>
<u>Expenditures 2022</u>		
Personnel (Salaries & Employee Benefits Fund)		\$425,872
<u>Library Materials</u> \$15,000.00 - General Fund Budget for Library Materials \$ 7,463.28 - Additional from the General Fund Budget \$30,000.00 - Capital Improvement Fund Transfer \$ 304.83 - State-Aid for Books / Notable Bk Grant (LSTA)	\$ 2,000.00 - State-Aid Funding - HOOPLA eLibrary \$ 468.89 - Online Databases	\$55,237
Operations Includes: Rent, utilities, supplies, equip., etc.		<u>\$204,177</u>
<u>Total Expenditures</u>		<u>\$685,286</u>

RETURN ON INVESTMENT!

REVENUES 2022 \$799,951



EXPENDITURES 2022 \$685,286



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

MATERIALS AND SERVICES PROVIDED	NUMBER PROVIDED	COST PER ITEM OR SERVICE	VALUE OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES
Adult Books Borrowed	31,357	\$25.00	\$783,925
Children & Teen Books Borrowed	31,993	\$25.00	\$799,825
Audio Books & Music CD's Borrowed	129	\$25.00	\$3,225
Interlibrary Loan Requests Sent & Received	3,611	\$25.00	\$90,275
E-Books / Audio Books Downloaded	8,559	\$15.00	\$128,385
Magazines Borrowed - Print - 495 Magazine Borrowed - Digital - 2,118	2,613	\$5.00	\$13,065
Videos Borrowed	7,021	\$14.00	\$98,294
Special Material Requests Handled and Sent	29,585	\$25.00	\$739,625
Number of meals served to children (0-18) during the Summer Food Program	19,788	\$5.00	\$98,940
Attendance at Adult Programs	2,058	\$8.00	\$16,464
Attendance at Teen & Children Programs	21,002	\$6.00	\$126,012
Computer & Wireless Internet Use	64,209	\$12.00	\$770,508
Patron Reference Questions	30,233	\$10.00	\$302,330
Total Value	192,657		\$3,970,873

**YOU CAN
FIND VALUE**

IN:

-TIME

-FREE WIFI

-TECH SUPPORT

-BOOK

RECOMMENDATIONS

-FAMILY FRIENDLY

-CREATIVITY

-STORYTIMES

-E-BOOKS

**-SUMMER FOOD
PROGRAM**

-CAKE PANS

-VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES

**AND SO MUCH
MORE!!!**

"A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT, AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND; HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION."

CATLIN MORAN

WOW!



What Value!



POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY
(EIGHT LOCATIONS IN POTTAWATOMIE & WABAUNSEE COUNTIES)

Pay to the

ORDER of Pottawatomie Wabunsee Regional Library Patrons

\$3,970,873.00

Three Million, Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Three & no/100 -DOLLARS

In 2022 PWRL patrons used.....31,357 adult books with a value of \$783,925 if purchased individually
31,993 young adult & children's books with a value of \$799,825 if purchased individually
8,688 regular and digital audiobooks & eBooks with a value of \$131,610
3,611 interlibrary loan items with a value of \$90,275 if purchased individually
2,613 regular & digital magazines with an average value of \$13,065
7,021 videos with a value of \$98,294 if purchased individually
2,058 people attended adult programs & 21,002 attended children/teen programs for a value of \$142,476
19,788 meals were served to children (0-18) during the summer food program valued at \$98,940
 Patrons completed64,209 computer sessions with an average value of \$770,508
 Staff handled29,585 special requests for materials with a value of \$739,625
 Patrons Asked30,233 reference questions for an average value of \$302,330



Aunt Lu, Director

For: Value Check - for Library Materials & Services - 2022

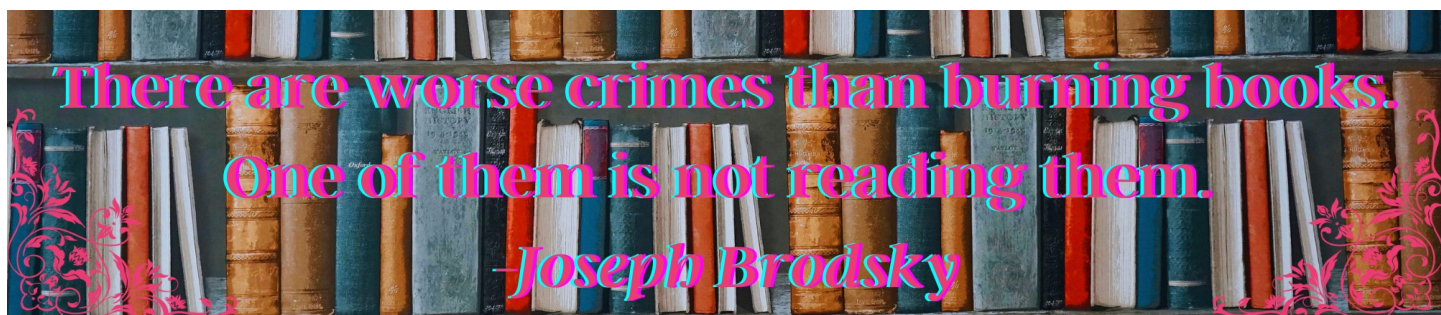
Calculations above based on the following cost values

- (Books, Audios, Requests, ILL) = \$25; Magazines = \$5
- E-Books = \$15 ; Movies = \$14; Computer Time = \$12
- Reference Questions = \$10 ; Adult programs = \$8
- Children/Teen Programs = \$6

Library Expenditures in 2022 = \$685,286
Value of Materials & Services to Community = \$3,970,873

PWRL LIBRARY MATERIALS

	2017	2021	2022
Adult Books	28,334	30,180	29,385
Large Print	10,464	10,678	10,573
Young Adult Books	3,532	4,134	4,218
Children's Books	25,349	29,236	29,060
Rotating Books (NCKL)	6,018	5,431	6,041
Audio Books & Music CD's	1,944	1,914	1,133
Videos	3,671	5,650	10,071
Newspaper Subscriptions (does not include digital access)	22	22	21
Magazine Issues	7,729	7,722	7,342
Microfilm	536	547	545
Digital Audiobooks, Video & E-Books - Sunflower eLibrary & Hoopla	24,766	1,167,412	1,072,843
Digital Audiobooks & E-Books - Statewide Collection	114,201	380,142	418,340
Local Digital Magazine Subscriptions	0	196	196
Total Library Materials	226,556	1,643,264	1,589,768



TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS BORROWED

	2017	2021	2022
Adult Books	18,853	16,089	31,357
Children's Books	27,042	21,647	28,056
Young Adult Books	3,064	2,834	3,937
Audio Books & Music CD's	994	104	129
Periodicals	1,077	338	495
Videos	8,262	5,088	7,021
Digital E-Books / Digital Audiobooks	0	8,157	8,559
Chromebooks & Hotspots	—	—	536
Total Borrowed	59,292	54,257	74,627

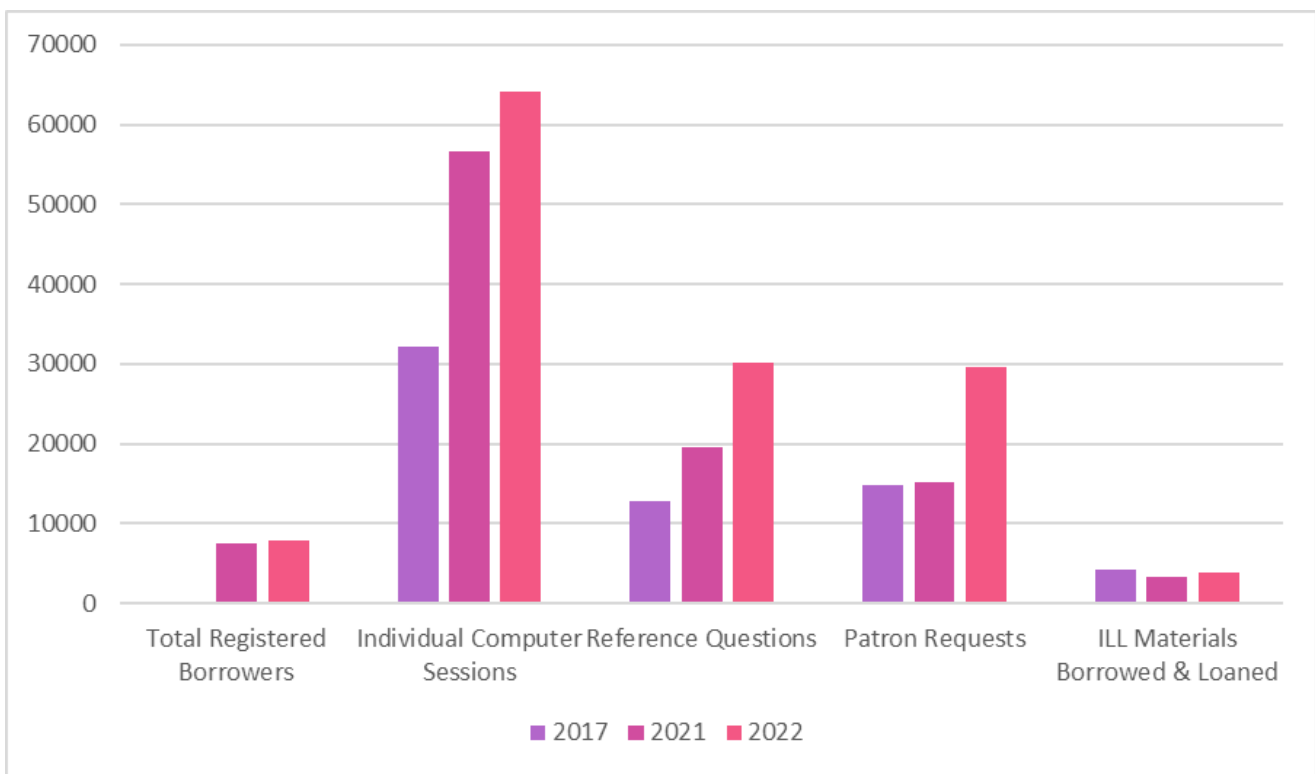
PATRON VISITS IN 2022

Location	Total Hours 2017	Patrons 2017	Total Hours 2021	Patrons 2021	Total Hours 2022	Patrons 2022
Alma	1,664	7,800	1,632	4,992	1,184	6,214
Eskridge	1,690	6,032	1,690	2,860	1,690	4,347
Onaga	1,742	4,316	1,742	4,004	1,742	6,383
St. Marys	2,574	25,376	2,574	13,676	2,574	16,235
Alta Vista	416	1,021	416	936	416	3,910
Harveyville	390	606	390	520	390	2,423
Olsburg	364	1,398	364	312	468	873
Westmoreland	806	1,334	806	1,352	806	2,353
TOTAL	9,646	47,883	9,614	28,652	9,270	42,738



Other Statistics—2022

	2017	2021	2022
Total Registered Borrowers	6,600	7,475	7,806
Individual Public Computer Sessions (wired & wireless)	32,162	56,708	64,209
Reference Questions Answered	12,848	19,479	30,233
Patron Requests Handled & Sent by Staff	14,742	15,238	29,585
Interlibrary Loan Requests Sent	2,347	1,561	2,146
Interlibrary Loan Requests Received	1,882	1,721	1,726



WE LOVE OUR LIBRARY!





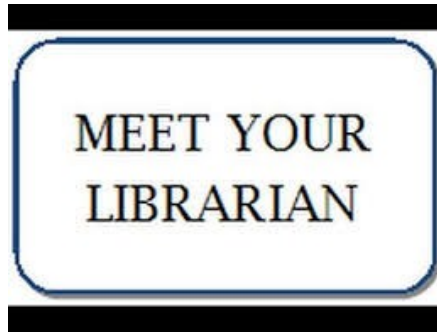
Summer Reading

Oceans of Possibilities!

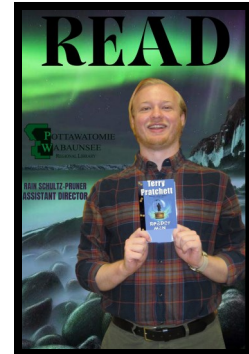
	2017	2021	2022
Number Registered for the Annual Summer Reading Program	540	612	430
Number of Books Read during SRP	7,551	7,540	8,269
Number of Meals Served to Children 0-18 during the Summer Food Program	0	20,414	19,788
Total Number of Children's Programs (0-11)	329	437	470
Total Number of Teen Programs (12-18)	9	19	18
Number of Adult Programs (18+)	28	21	15
Total Number of Children Attending Programs (0-11)	6,068	9,489	9,425
Total Number of Teens Attending Programs (12-18)	828	1,695	1,648
Total Number of Adults Attending Programs (18+)	1,118	2,080	3,937



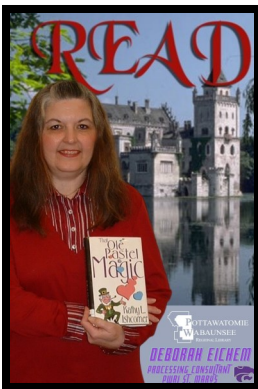
Director (+)
Judith Cremer



Assistant Director (+)
Rain Schultz-Pruner



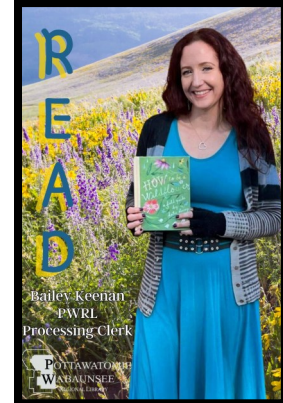
Processing Consultant (+)
Deborah Eichem



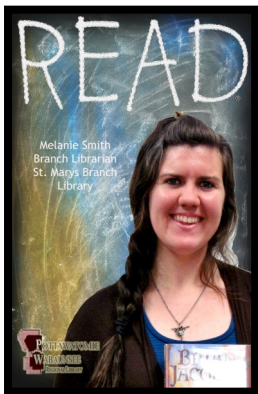
Collection Manager (+)
Colette Goldade



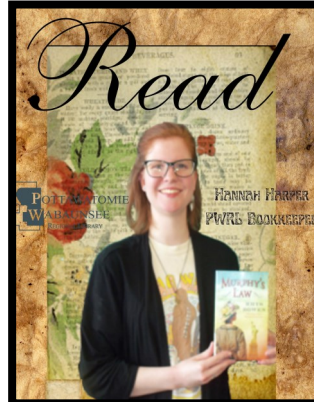
Processing Clerk (+)
Bailey Keenan



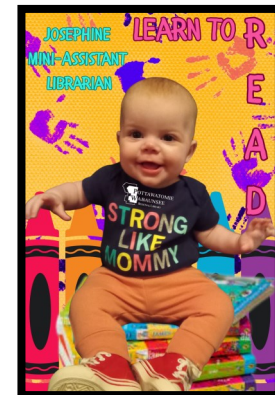
St. Marys Br. Librarian (+)
Melanie Smith



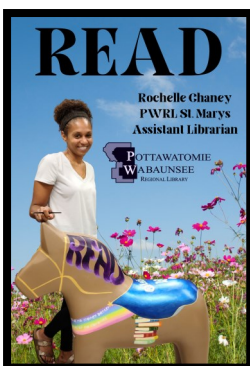
Secretary/Bookkeeper
Hannah Harper



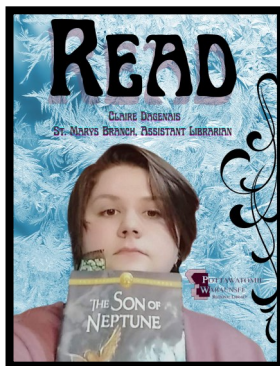
Mini Assistant Librarian
Josephine



St. Marys Assistant
Rochelle Chaney



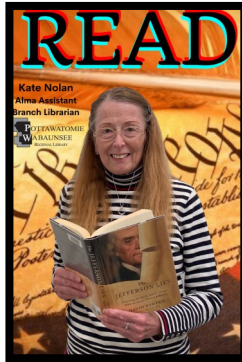
St. Marys Assistant
Claire Dagenais



Alma Branch Librarian
Lori Beth Terrell



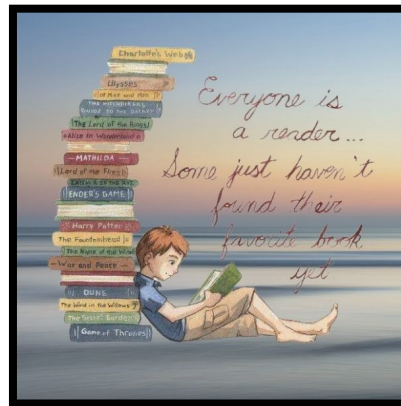
Alma Assistant
Kate Nolan



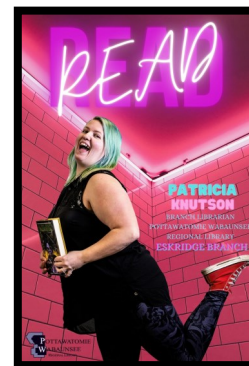
Alma Substitute
LaNelle Oney



Alma Substitute
Julia Anderson



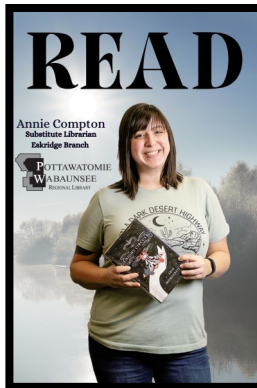
Eskridge Branch Librarian
Patty Knutson



Eskridge Assistant
Judy Morton



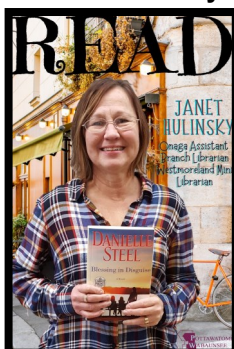
Eskridge Substitute
Annie Compton



Onaga Branch Librarian
Jordan Abitz



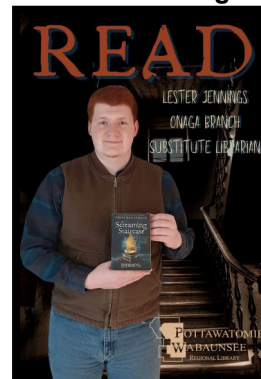
Onaga Assistant /
Westmoreland Substitute (+)
Janet Hulinsky



Onaga Substitute
Emma Schreiber



Onaga Substitute
Lester Jennings





Mini Librarian
 (Alta Vista, Harveyville Olsburg,
 Westmoreland(+)
Shelby Curry



Alta Vista Substitute
Christine Jenkins



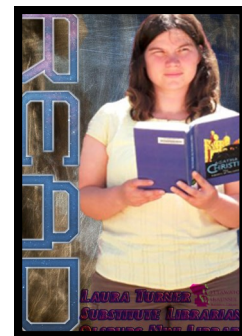
Harveyville Assistant
Kim Davis



Olsburg Substitute (+)
Becky Avery



Olsburg Substitute
 Westmoreland Substitute (+)
Laura Turner



(+) Indicates staff has responsibility for working or completing tasks at more than one PWRL location.



**SHOW A LITTLE LOVE
 TO THE LIBRARIANS IN YOUR LIFE!**

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Books

Adult, young adult, and children's books are available for checkout at all locations including large print formats. Materials from any location may be easily requested and borrowed by patrons at any other location. Items are delivered for patron use through a regular weekly route that runs between all PWRL locations.

Audio Books

Audiobooks on CD and in digital formats, both fiction and non-fiction, are available at all locations.

Magazines and Newspapers

Approximately 100 different print periodical subscriptions are regularly received. 196 digital Flipster magazine subscriptions were added at the end of the year.



Videos

The library has a collection of popular movies on DVD available for check-out. PWRL offers digital access to multiple formats including ebook, audiobook, movie, tv, music & graphic novels through our new Hoopla digital service.



Digital Services

Patrons may borrow e-Books and Digital Audio Books through PWRL's subscriptions to Overdrives Sunflower eLibrary, Hoopla Digital, and Flipster Digital Magazine Service. Library staff can also assist patrons with checking out digital audiobooks and e-books from the State Library of Kansas Statewide collection. A subscription to the Flipster digital magazine service was added in 2020. In 2021 PWRL invested federal grant funds to purchase subscriptions to almost 200 current magazines in digital format that were made available for free download through Flipster in 2022.

Reference

Trained staff members are ready to help citizen resolve problems. If the answer to a question is not readily available, Library staff will assist patrons with research, or refer them to other experts, to find an answer.

Interlibrary Loan

PWRL can get materials for local patrons from other libraries in Kansas through a statewide borrowing network. Items are quickly delivered for patron use by a statewide courier service.

Story Time

A story time for toddlers and pre-schoolers is held at each Branch location every week from September through April. Mini locations also conduct storytimes during their scheduled service hours. During the pandemic PWRL has offered virtual storytimes through the Zoom online meeting software.

Summer Reading Program

During the summer months the library conducts an eight week Summer Reading Program (SRP) offering many special programming opportunities, especially for younger readers, to help encourage and sustain lifelong reading habits. PWRL also partners with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas to provide a Summer Food Program in conjunction with our Summer Reading Program. In 2022 PWRL again secured grant funds to support an online reading challenge using the Beanstack online reading software to add virtual signup and online tracking to our regular Summer Reading Program. 19,788 meals were served to children (0-18) in Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties through the PWRL Summer Food Program in 2022.

Newspaper On Microfilm / Digital Newspapers / Local History

PWRL owns microfilm copies of all newspapers published in our legal service area. PWRL also has birth, death, and marriage indexes for many of the newspapers. Patrons can use the microfilm at each Branch Location. The Kansas State Historical Society, in partnership with Newspapers.com, has also digitized many historical newspapers and Library staff can assist patrons with getting free access to this database through the KSHS web portal.

Copier & Fax Machine

Each PWRL location has printers, copy machine, and a fax machine available for the public's use. Copies can be made for a small fee.


Computer, Internet, & Wireless Access

Each PWRL location has computers with Internet access and Wireless networks available free for the public to use. PWRL added 100 chromebooks and 100 Internet hotspots with unlimited high speed data to the circulating collection in 2022. Patrons with a need for internet connected equipment can now borrow it from the Library. PWRL also installed exterior wireless access points at all eight PWRL locations to provide a stronger wireless signal for patrons using the service from outside the Library. Library networks remain open for patron use 24x7. Patrons logged 62,628 computer sessions through PWRL's wired and wireless networks in 2022.

NCKL - North Central Kansas Library System

PWRL contracts with the North Central Kansas Library System (NCKL) to provide residents with additional services. NCKL provides a bi-monthly rotating collection of popular new books to each branch location for patrons to check out. Training for library staff, consulting, and technology support services are also made available to the library through NCKL. Residents of Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties, under PWRL's reciprocal borrowing agreement, may obtain a borrowers card without cost and use it at the Manhattan Public Library, or any other NCKL member library.

Locations and Current Service Hours

HEAD QUARTERS 	St. Marys Headquarters Library	M, T, F	8:30-5:00
	306 N. 5th	Wednesday	8:30-6:00
	St. Marys, KS 66536	Thursday	8:30-7:00
	(785) 437-2778	Saturday	9:00-1:00
	illpowab@gmail.com		
	pwrlldr@gmail.com		
BRANCHES 	Alma Branch Library	M, T, F	9:00-12:15; 12:45-5:00
	115 W. 3rd, P.O. Box 420	Wednesday	9:00-12:15; 12:45-7:00
	Alma, KS 66401		powabalm@gmail.com
	(785) 765-3647		
	Eskridge Branch Library	M, W	8:30-12:30; 1:00-6:00
	115 S. Main, P.O. Box 87	Tuesday	8:30-12:30; 1:00-5:00
	Eskridge, KS 66423	Friday	9:00-12:30; 1:00-4:00
	(785) 449-2296		powabesk@gmail.com
	Onaga Branch Library	Monday	9:00-12:30; 1:00-7:00
	313 Leonard, P.O. Box 310	Wednesday	9:00-12:30; 1:00-6:30
	Onaga, KS 66521	Tue, Friday	9:00-12:30; 1:00-5:00
	(785) 889-4531		powabona@gmail.com

MINI LIBRARIES 	Alta Vista Mini Library		Harveyville Mini Library
	310 Center, Alta Vista, KS		128 W. Oak, Harveyville, KS
	(785) 499-5542		(785) 589-2414
	powabav@gmail.com		powabhv@gmail.com
	Wednesday 10:00-11:30; 12:00-6:30		Tuesday: 10:00-12:00; 12:30-3:00
			Saturday: 9:00-12:00
	Olsburg Mini Library		Westmoreland Mini Library
	318 N. 2nd, Olsburg, KS		315 Main, Westmoreland, KS
	(785) 468-3347		(785) 457-2841
	powabols@gmail.com		powabwst@gmail.com
	Thursday: 10-12; 12:30-3:30; 5:30-7:30		Monday: 10-1; 1:30-6:00 Thursday 4:00-7:00 Saturday 9:00-2:00

Mail is not received at Mini locations. All correspondence, both physical & electronic, should be sent to the St. Marys. Library.