2024 ANNUAL REPORT

POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY
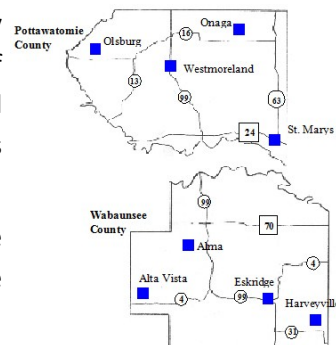
POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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 continues today as 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. Complete 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 with this purpose in mind to maintaining the libraries in the rural communities of Alma, Alta Vista, Eskridge, Harveyville, Olsburg, Onaga, St. Marys and Westmoreland.

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**	
2023 Legal Service Population - From the KS Office of the Director of the Budget for prep. of 2024 Budgets		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District)	21,530
	Wabaunsee County	7,057
	Total in PWRL Service Area	**28,587**
2024 Tangible Valuation - From the office of the County Clerks by July 1, 2024		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District, excluded Wamego & Manhattan)	$651,956,687.00
	Wabaunsee County	$ 120,110,848.00
Total valuation for PWRL Service Area		**$772,067,535.00**

BOARD MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

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.

INCOME & EXPENSES

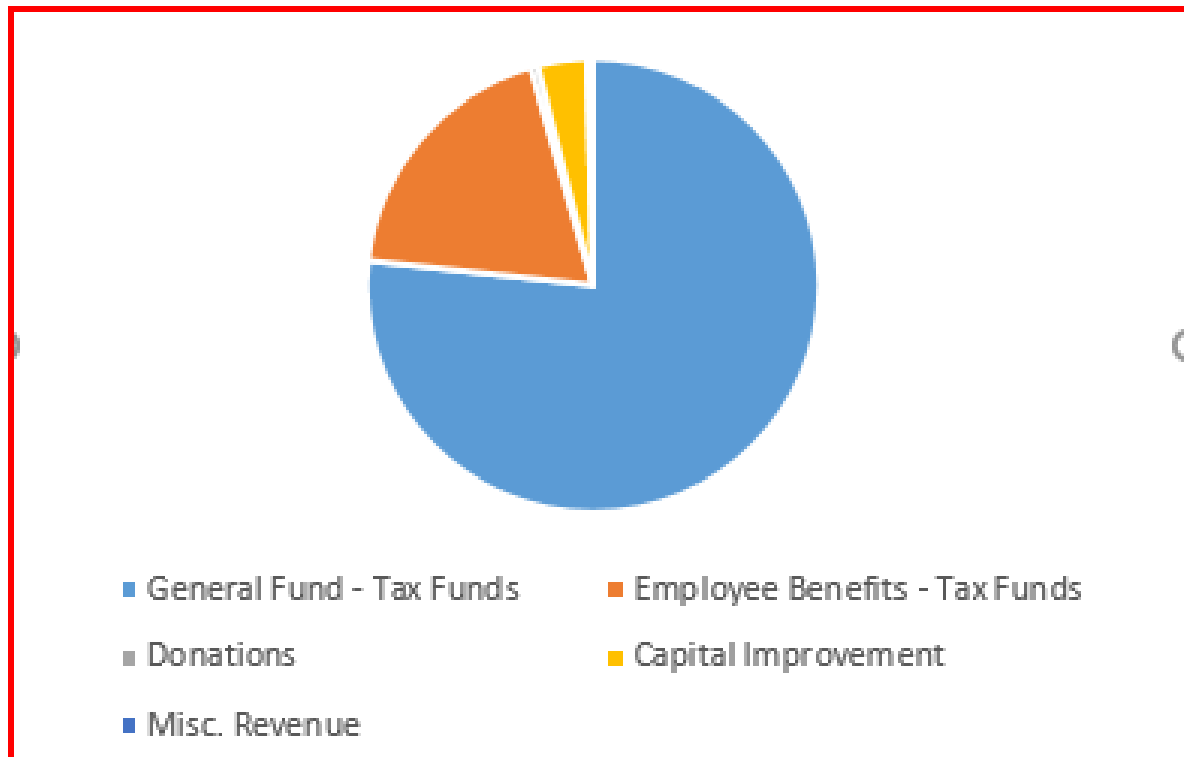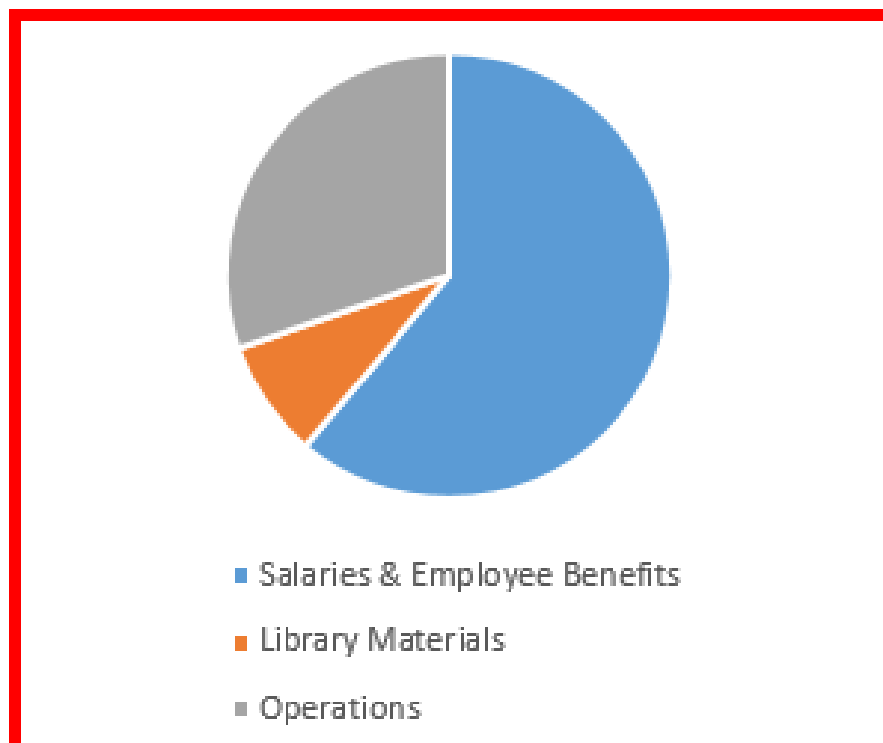|	
Revenues 2024	
The apportionment of Ad Valorem taxes collected to fund the PWRL Budget is based on the certified population and valuation in Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties, per K.S.A. 12-1234(b)	
PT Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund	$568,517
WB Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund	$139,330
GRANTS **Received 2020 - $8,699.00** $ 7,599 - State Grants-in-Aid $ 1,100 - Jere Miller Trust **Received 2021 - $50,452** $ 7,555 - State Grant-in-Aid $ 289 KSL Notable Book $ 25,000 - KSL ARPA $ 11,708 - Humanities KS $ 5,000 - KLA Health $ 900 - Jere Miller Trust **Received 2022 - $76,294** $ 7,705 - State Grants-in-Aid $ 227 - KSL Notable Book Grant $ 56,012 - ECF (Chromebooks/Hotspots) $ 11,150 - WB Co ARPA $ 1,200 - Jere Miller Trust **Received 2023 - $70,619** $ 7,865 - State Grants-in-Aid $ 254 - KSL Notable Book $ 11,000 - ECF (Hotspot Data) $ 9,701 - WB Co SEED Grant $ 40,000 - ECF (Chromebooks) pd directly to vendor $ 1,799 - Jere Miller Trust **Received 2024 - $23,187** $ 7,972 - State Grants-in-Aid $ 1,000 - ECF (Hotspot Data) $ 5,000 - KSHS Preservation Grant $ 6,500 - Jere Miller Digitization Grant $ 2,370 - KCAIC Artist Program Grant $ 345 - KSL Notable Book **Total Grant Funding: 2020 - 2024** **$ 229,251**	$23,187
Donations and Memorials	$3,782 Note: Does not include $7,507 local support for rent / utilities at mini locations
CIF Income Includes Previous FY Budget Transfers, E-Rate , Interest **E-rate Reimbursement Funding Received 2023** $17,602 - E-Rate Category 2 - Network Upgrades $7,606 - E-Rate Category 1 - Internet Reimbursement	$25,975
Miscellaneous Revenues: Includes Book Sales, Interest on accounts, Payments & Reimbursements	$3,254
Total Revenue	**$764,045**
Expenditures 2023	
Personnel (Salaries & Employee Benefits Fund) Salaries—$402,063 Employee Benefits - $67,981	$470,044
Library Materials $ 48,628 - Print Books (Includes $30,000 Transfer from Capital Improvement) $ 2,632 - Periodical Subscriptions $ 3,115 - DVDs $ 11,469 - eBooks / Digital Audio Books, other electronic materials Hoopla, Overdrive, Ancestry, Newspapers.com (Includes State Aid / Miscellaneous Revenue Funds)	$65,844
Operations Includes: Rent, utilities, supplies, equip., in the general fund budget Grants, Donations, CIF, and Misc. expenses also included here	**$233,010**
Total Expenditures	**$768,898**

REVENUES 2024 $764,045

- General Fund – Tax Funds
- Employee Benefits – Tax Funds
- Donations
- Capital Improvement
- Misc. Revenue

EXPENDITURES 2024 $768,898

- Salaries & Employee Benefits
- Library Materials
- Operations

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

MATERIALS AND SERVICES PROVIDED	NUMBER PROVIDED	COST PER ITEM OR SERVICE	VALUE OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES
Adult Books Borrowed	34,733	$25.00	$868,325.00
Children & Teen Books Borrowed	50,752	$25.00	$1,268,800.00
Audio Books & Music CD's Borrowed	2,587	$25.00	$64,675.00
Interlibrary Loan Requests Sent & Received	7,330	$25.00	$183,250.00
E-Books / Digital Audiobooks borrowed	12,912	$15.00	$193,680.00
Magazines Borrowed - Print - **605** Magazine Borrowed - Digital - **460**	1,125	$5.00	$5,625.00
Videos Borrowed	14,332	$14.00	$200,648.00
Equipment - Chromebooks & Internet hotspots borrowed	1,154	$40.00	$46,160.00
Special Material Requests Handled and Sent	21,716	$25.00	$542,900.00
Number of meals served to children (0-18) during the Summer Food Program (service not allowed @ SM)	4,476	$5.00	$22,380.00
Attendance at Adult Programs	4,274	$8.00	$34,192.00
Attendance at Teen & Children Programs	12,595	$6.00	$75,570.00
Computer & Wireless Internet Use	153,811	$27.00	$4,152,897.00
Patron Reference Questions	8,026	$10.00	$80,260.00
Total Value			$7,739,362.00

Be The Difference

POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY

(EIGHT LOCATIONS IN POTTAWATOMIE & WABAUNSEE COUNTIES)

Pay to the
ORDER of Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Patrons _____

$7,739,362.00

Seven Million, Seven Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Four & no/100 DOLLARS

In 2024 PWRL patrons used...............34,733 adult books with a value of $868,325 if purchased individually

...........50,752 young adult & children's books with a value of $1,268,800 if purchased individually

...............15,499 regular and digital audiobooks & eBooks with a value of $258,355

.............7,330 interlibrary loan items with a value of $183,250 if purchased individually

............1,125 regular & digital magazines with an average value of $5,625

...............14,332 videos with a value of $200,648 if purchased

............1,154 chromebooks & Internet hotspots with an average loan value of $46,160

...........4,274 Adults & 12,595 children & teen attended Library programs for a value of $109,762

............4,476 meals were served to children (0-18) during the summer food program valued at $22,380

...............153,811 computer sessions with a value of $4,152,897

Patrons connected to ....21,716 special requests for materials with a value of $542,900

Staff handled..............8,026 reference questions for an average value of $80,260

Patrons Asked..............

_____Ajit W_____, Director

Calculations above based on the following cost values

(Books, Audios, Requests, ILL) = $25; Magazines = $5; E-Books =$15

E-Books = $15 ; Movies = $14; Computer Time = $27; Questions=$10

Adult programs = $8;   Children/Teen Programs = $6 ; Equip = $40

For: Value Check - for Library Materials & Services - 2024 _____

Library Expenditures in 2024 = $768,898

Value of Materials & Services to Community = $7,739,362

PAID IN FULL

POTTAWATOMIE WABAUNSEE REGIONAL LIBRARY

PWRL LIBRARY MATERIALS

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adult Books	30,180	29,385	29,053	29,574
Large Print	10,678	10,573	11,008	10,684
Young Adult Books	4,134	4,218	4,229	4,268
Children's Books	29,236	29,060	29,475	29,818
Rotating Books (NCKL)	5,431	6,041	6,041	7,056
Audio Books & Music CD's	1,914	1,133	854	1,399
Videos	5,650	10,071	6,110	5,913
Newspaper Subscriptions onsite	22	21	21	22
Magazine Issues	7,722	7,342	8,718	6,170
Microfilm	547	545	545	547
eBooks, Digital Audiobooks, Video - Sunflower eLibrary & Hoopla	1,167,412	1,072,843	1,650,170	2,060,788
Digital Audiobooks & E-Books -	380,142	418,340	435,304	448,329
Local Digital Magazine Subscriptions	196	196	55	37
Total Library Materials	**1,643,264**	**1,589,768**	**2,181,583**	**2,604,605**

MURAL, PWRL ST. MARYS HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY   BY STAFF ARTIST: ROCHELLE CHANEY

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS BORROWED

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adult Books	16,089	31,357	38,148	34,733
Children's Books	21,647	28,056	50,023	43,623
Young Adult Books	2,834	3,937	6,957	7,129
Audio Books & Music CD's	104	129	1,628	2,587
Periodicals (Print & Digital)	338	495	1,065	1,125
Videos	5,088	7,021	12,518	14,332
Digital E-Books / Digital Audiobooks	8,157	8,559	10,994	12,912
Chromebooks & Hotspots	—	**536**	1,169	1,154
Total Borrowed	**54,257**	**80,090**	**122,502**	**117,595**

PATRON VISITS IN 2024

Location	Total Hours 2021	Patrons 2021	Total Hours 2023	Patrons 2023	Total Hours 2024	Patrons 2024
Alma	1,632	4,992	1,664	5,784	1,664	5,409
Eskridge	1,690	2,860	1,690	4,236	1,690	3,249
Onaga	1,742	4,004	1,742	6,064	1,742	5,065
St. Marys	2,574	13,676	2,574	17,870	2,574	16,193
Alta Vista	416	936	416	986	416	766
Harveyville	390	520	390	691	390	585
Olsburg	364	312	364	552	364	364
Westmoreland	806	1,352	806	986	806	879
TOTAL	**9,614**	**28,652**	**9,646**	**37,169**	**9,646**	**32,510**

PROGRAMS

DRONE PROGRAM AT THE PWRL HARVEYVILLE MINI LIBRARY

BERLIN WALL EXHIBIT AT THE PWRL ST. MARYS HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY

SUMMER READING CRAFTS AT THE PWRL ESKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

Other Statistics—2024
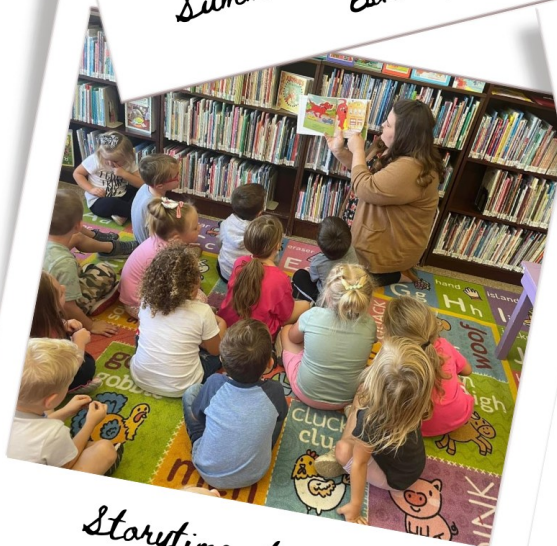
	2021	2023	2024
Total Registered Borrowers	7,475	8,122	8,207
Individual Public Computer Sessions (wired & wireless)	56,708	141,817	153,811
Reference Questions Answered	19,479	13,399	8,026
Patron Requests Handled & Sent by Staff	15,238	24,906	21,716
Interlibrary Loan Requests - Borrowing	1,561	1,793	4,282
Interlibrary Loan Requests - Lending	1,721	2,376	3,048

Summer Reading Program at Eskridge

Special Play Cafe Storytime at St. Marys

Storytime at Onaga!

Alma Storytime Stars!

Smokey the Bear at the PWRL Onaga Branch library

Storytime Crafts at Alma

|	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number Registered for the Annual Summer Reading Program	612	430	458	496
Number of Books Reported Read during SRP	7,540	8,269	6,626	5,048
Number of Meals Served to Children 0-18 during the Summer Food Program	20,414	19,788	7,510	4,476
Total Number of Children's Programs (0-11)	437	470	481	429
Total Number of Teen Programs (12-18)	19	18	9	21
Number of Adult Programs (18+)	21	15	22	49
Total Number of Children Attending Programs (0-11)	9,489	9,425	10,415	10,966
Total Number of Teens Attending Programs (12-18)	1,695	1,648	1,234	1,629
Total Number of Adults Attending Programs (18+)	2,080	3,937	3,076	4,274

"To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads."
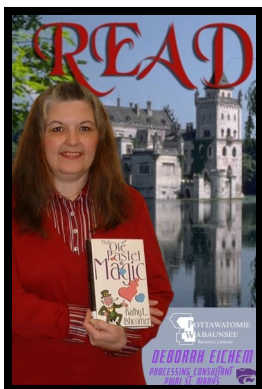
Library Staff As of March 01, 2025

MEET YOUR LIBRARIAN

Director (+)
Judith Cremer
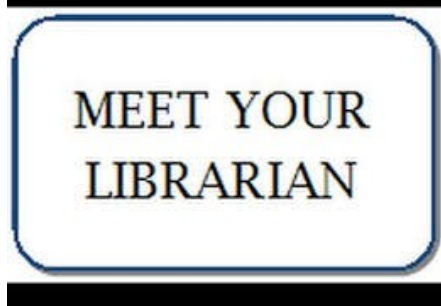
Assistant Director (+)
Ashley Araiza
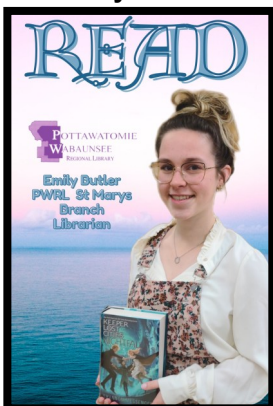
Processing Consultant (+)
Deborah Eichem

Collection Manager (+)
Colette Goldade

Processing Clerk (+)
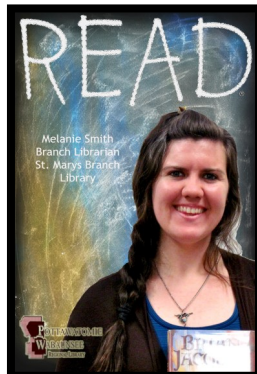**Roberta Summers**

St. Marys Br. Librarian (+)
Emily Butler

Secretary/Bookkeeper
Genevieve Hagenmaier

We are here for you

SUPPORT OUR Library
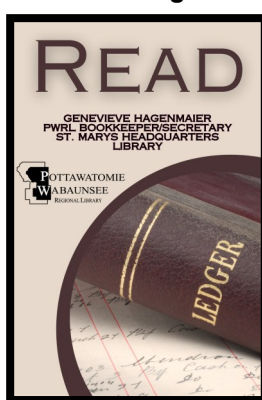
St. Marys Assistant
Rochelle Chaney
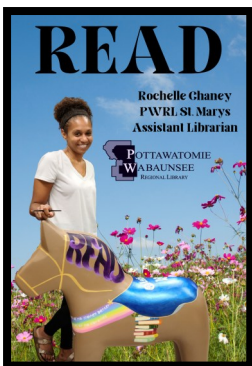
St. Marys Assistant
Melanie Smith

"Books may well be THE ONLY true magic."
— Alice Hoffman
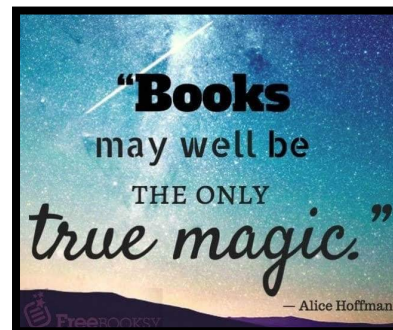
Alma Branch Librarian
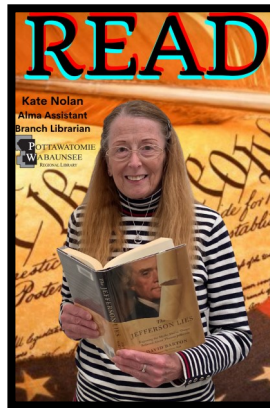**Lori Beth Terrell**

Alma Assistant
Debra Osif

Alma Substitute
LaNelle Oney

Alma Substitute
Julia Anderson

Alma Substituite
Kate Nolan
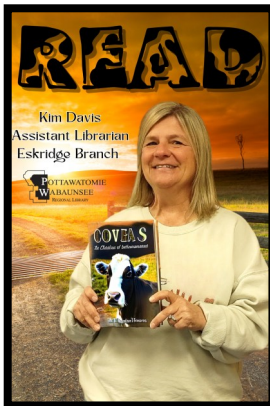
Eskridge Branch Librarian
Patty Knutson

Eskridge Assistant
Kim Davis

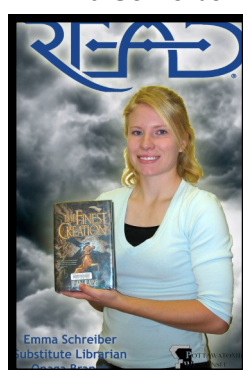Eskridge Substitute
Jeannie Bennett

Onaga Branch Librarian
Jordan Abitz

Westmoreland Substitute
Rebecca Wahl

Onaga Substitute
Emma Schreiber

Onaga Substitute
Lester Jennings

(+) Indicates staff has responsibility for working or completing tasks at more than one PWRL location.   13
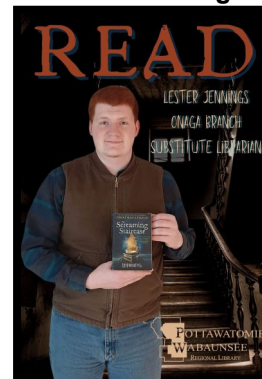
Mini Librarian
(Alta Vista, Harveyville,
Olsburg, Westmoreland(+)
Shelby Curry

Alta Vista Substitute
Christine Jenkins
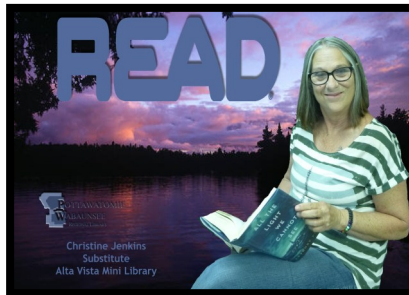
Olsburg Substitute
Westmoreland Substitute (+)
Laura Turner

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

"BAD LIBRARIES BUILD COLLECTIONS

GOOD LIBRARIES BUILD SERVICES,

GREAT LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES."

R. DAVID LANKES

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Books
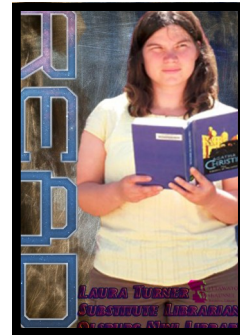All types of books, both fiction and nonfiction, are available at all PWRL locations in regular and large print for children, teens, and adults.

Magazines and Newspapers
Approximately 40 print subscriptions are available for patron use. Patrons can also read digital magazines using the library's Hoopla magazine service. Many more full text magazines can be accessed through the Statewide Digital database collection. Use your PWRL Library Card or Kansas State Library eCard to login to these services.

Videos
Each PWRL location has a popular entertainment DVD collection available for check-out.

Digital e-books & Audiobooks
The library provides patrons access to digital e-books & audiobooks through subscriptions to Hoopla and Overdrive's SunflowereLibrary. Use your PWRL library card to login and get started reading or listening!

Reference
A Library Staff member is ready to help patrons find the information they need. Library Staff will use reference material to find answers, if they can't locate the information they will refer the patron to outside resources that can help.

Interlibrary Loan
PWRL can borrow materials for local patrons from other Kansas libraries through a statewide borrowing network. PWRL also participates in a statewide courier that quickly picks up and delivers high demand materials in the shortest time possible to and from libraries statewide.

Early Literacy Classes
All PWRL library locations provide regular storytime sessions with learning and craft activities for preschoolers aged three to five.

Summer Reading Program
During June & July the annual Summer Reading Program is conducted to help keep younger readers and their families reading over the Summer months. PWRL also manages a free summer food program for children and their caregivers during this time to feed bodies as well as minds!

Newspaper On Microfilm / Digital Newspapers / Local History
Most Kansas Newspapers through 1924 have been digitized by the Kansas State Historical Society and are available digitally. Microfilm is the only option to access many local newspapers after 1924. PWRL owns microfilm copies of all the published local newspapers. The Library also has indexes searchable by family name to help narrow the search.

Copier & Fax Machine
Each PWRL location has printers, scanners, copiers, and fax machines available to the public, charging only a small fee for copies & faxes.

Public Computers, Internet, & Wireless Access
Each PWRL location has computers, chromebooks, Internet hotspots, and high speed wireless internet available free for the public's use. The free wireless internet connection is now open 24/7 for public use both inside & outside the library buildings.

NCKL - North Central Kansas Library System
The Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library contracts with the North Central Kansas Libraries System (NCKL) to provide the best possible library services to all the residents of our two counties. This contract allows residents from the PWRL service area to obtain borrowing cards and other patron services without cost from any other NCKL member library. The NCKL contract also pays for the NCKL staff to bring 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.

Talking Books
This free federal library program is available to all residents who have physical limitations that prevent them from reading printed materials. Talking Books participants receive a digital player plus all the books and magazines they wish to borrow in a digital format free for their use. Information about Talking Books can be found online at: https://library.ks.gov/talking-books

Kansas Library eCard
The *Kansas Library eCard* provides Kansas residents free access to all the many statewide databases and online digital services, including the access to large collections of eBooks and digital audio books.

Locations and Current Service Hours

HEAD	St. Marys Headquarters Library	M, T, F	8:30-5:00
QUARTERS	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
		Branch Librarian	illpowab@gmail.com
		Director	pwrldr@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	Branch Librarian	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	Branch Librarian	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	Branch Librarian	powabona@gmail.com

MINI	Alta Vista Mini Library		Harveyville Mini Library	
LIBRARIES	310 Center, Alta Vista, KS 66834		128 W. Oak, Harveyville, KS 66431	
	(785) 499-5542		(785) 589-2414	
	Wednesday 10:00-11:30; 12:00-6:30		**Mini Librarian: powabhv@gmail.com**	
	Mini Librarian: powabav@gmail.com		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 66520		315 Main, Westmoreland, KS 66549	
	(785) 468-3347		(785) 457-2841	
	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	
	Mini Librarian: powabols@gmail.com		**Mini Librarian: powabwst@gmail.com**	