

2025

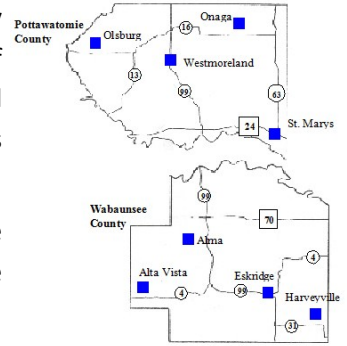
ANNUAL LIBRARY REPORT



POTTWAB.ORG

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	
2025 Legal Service Population - From the KS Office of the Director of the Budget for prep. of 2026 Budgets		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District)	21,987
	Wabaunsee County	7,112
	Total in PWRL Service Area	<u>29,099</u>
2024 Tangible Valuation - From the office of the County Clerks by July 1, 2025		
	Pottawatomie County (Within Library District, excluded Wamego & Manhattan)	\$713,624,501.00
	Wabaunsee County	\$ 126,524,071.00
Total valuation for PWRL Service Area		<u>\$840,148,572.00</u>

BOARD MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

Position 1 Treasurer	Joan Johnson Olsburg, 66520	May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2026
Position 2 Chair	Alice Hinck Eskridge, 66423	May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2026
Position 3	Lela Riley Alma, 66401	May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2028
Position 4 Vice-Chair	Alicia Matson Onaga, 66521	May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2023 May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2027
Position 5 Secretary	Peggy Adams Maple Hill, 66507	May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2025 May 1, 2025—April 30, 2029
Position 6	Bill Flannigan St. Marys, 66536	May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2028

2025 - Ex-Officio Members

Jim MacGregor Wabaunsee County Commission Alma, KS 66401	Terry Force Pottawatomie County Commission Westmoreland, KS 66549
---	--

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.



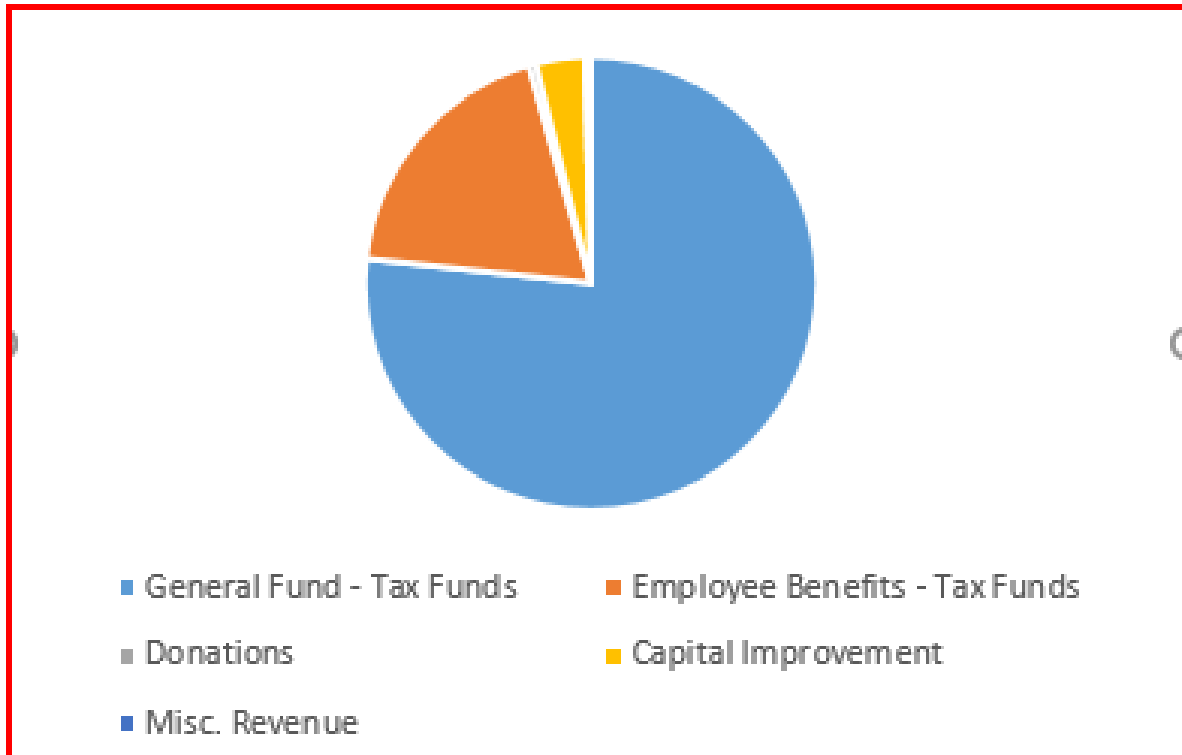


INCOME & EXPENSES

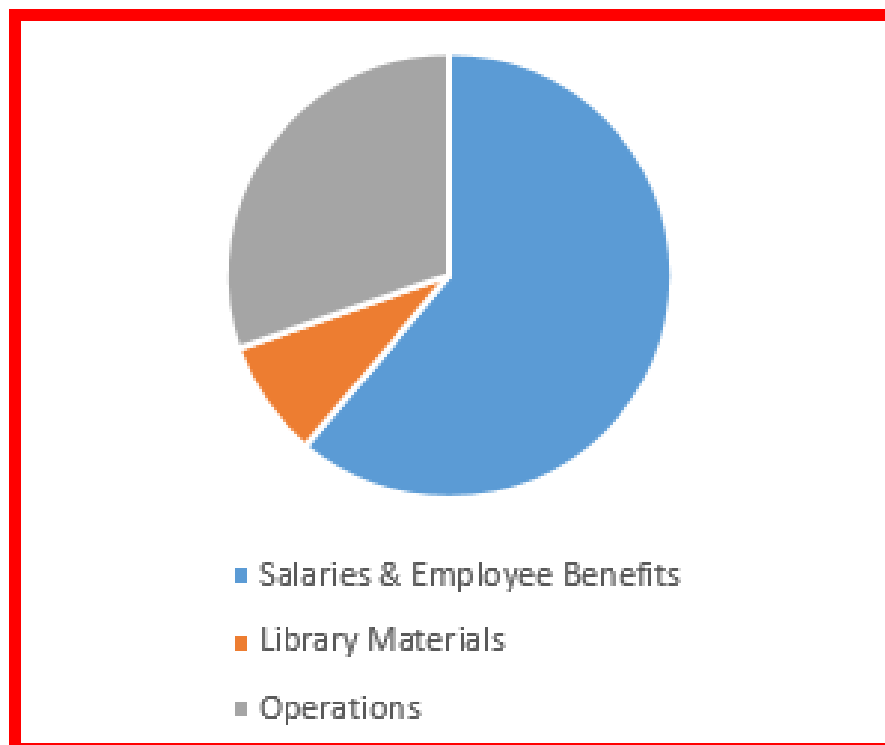


<u>Revenues 2025</u>		
The apportionment of Ad Valorem taxes collected to fund the PWRL Budget is based on the certified population and valuation in Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties, per K.S.A. 12-1234(b)		
PT Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund		\$598,886
WB Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Includes General Fund & Employee Benefit Fund		\$140,303
<u>GRANTS</u>	Received 2022 - \$76,294	Received 2024 - \$23,187
Received 2020 - \$8,699.00	\$ 7,705 - State Grants-in-Aid	\$ 7,972 - State Grants-in-Aid
\$ 7,599 - State Grants-in-Aid	\$ 227 - KSL Notable Book Grant	\$ 1,000 - ECF (Hotspot Data)
\$ 1,100 - Jere Miller Trust	\$ 56,012 - ECF (Chromebooks/Hotspots)	\$ 5,000 - KSHS Preservation Grant
Received 2021 - \$50,452	\$ 11,150 - WB Co ARPA	\$ 6,500 - Jere Miller Digitization Grant
\$ 7,555 - State Grant-in-Aid	\$ 1,200 - Jere Miller Trust	\$ 2,370 - KCAIC Artist Program Grant
\$ 289 KSL Notable Book		\$ 345 - KSL Notable Book
\$ 25,000 - KSL ARPA	Received 2023 - \$70,619	
\$ 11,708 - Humanities KS	\$ 7,865 - State Grants-in-Aid	Received 2025 - \$13,636
\$ 5,000 - KLA Health	\$ 254 - KSL Notable Book	\$10,923 - State Grants-in-Aid
\$ 900 - Jere Miller Trust	\$ 11,000 - ECF (Hotspot Data)	\$1,745 - Jere Miller Grant
	\$ 9,701 - WB Co SEED Grant	\$ 268 - Notable Book Grant
	\$ 40,000 - ECF (Chromebooks) pd to vendor	\$ 700 - Continuing Education Grants
	\$ 1,799 - Jere Miller Trust	
		Total Grant Funding: \$ 242,887
Donations and Memorials Note: Does not include \$7,771 local support for rent / utilities at mini locations		\$2,731
CIF Income Includes Budget Transfers, E-Rate, Interest	E-rate Reimbursement Funding Received 2025 <u>\$7,466 - E-Rate Category 1 - Internet Reimbursement</u>	\$8,370
Miscellaneous Revenues: Includes Book Sales, Interest on accounts, Payments & Reimbursements		\$10,559
<u>Total Revenue</u>		<u>\$774,485</u>
<u>Expenditures 2025</u>		
Personnel (Salaries & Employee Benefits Fund)	Salaries—\$433,884 Employee Benefits - \$75,094	\$508,978
<u>Library Materials -</u> (Includes \$30,000 Transfer from Capital Improvement)		\$45,902
\$ 30,667 - Print Books	\$ 8,992 - eBooks / Digital Audio Books, other electronic materials Hoopla, Overdrive, Ancestry, Newspapers.com	
\$ 3,825 - Periodical Subscriptions	(Includes State Aid / Miscellaneous Revenue Funds)	
\$ 2,418 - DVDs		
Operations Includes: Rent, utilities, supplies, equip., in the general fund budget Grants, Donations, CIF, and Misc. expenses also included here		<u>\$190,854</u>
<u>Total Expenditures</u>		<u>\$745,734</u>

REVENUES 2025 \$774,485



EXPENDITURES 2025 \$745,734



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

MATERIALS AND SERVICES PROVIDED	NUMBER PROVIDED	COST PER ITEM OR SERVICE	VALUE OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES
Adult Books Borrowed	38,253	\$25.00	\$956,325.00
Children & Teen Books Borrowed	60,797	\$25.00	\$1,519,925.00
Audio Books & Music CD's Borrowed	1,719	\$25.00	\$42,975.00
Interlibrary Loan Requests Sent & Received	4,487	\$25.00	\$112,175.00
E-Books / Digital Audiobooks borrowed	13,071	\$15.00	\$196,065.00
Magazines Borrowed - Print	332	\$5.00	\$1,660.00
Videos Borrowed	11,201	\$14.00	\$156,814.00
Equipment - Chromebooks & Internet hotspots borrowed	291	\$40.00	\$11,640.00
Special Material Requests Handled and Sent	21,433	\$25.00	\$535,825.00
Number of meals served to children (0-18) during the Summer Food Program (service not allowed @ SM)	4,721	\$5.00	\$23,605.00
Adult Program Attendance	6,095	\$8.00	\$48,760.00
Children & Teens Program Attendance	13,479	\$6.00	\$80,874.00
Computer & Wireless Internet Use	156,307	\$27.00	\$4,220,289.00
Patron Reference Questions	10,297	\$10.00	\$102,970.00
Total Value			\$8,009,902.00





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

Pay to the

ORDER of Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Patrons

\$8,009,902.00

Eight Million, Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Two & no/100 DOLLARS

In 2025 PWRL patrons used.....38,253 adult books with a value of \$956,325 if purchased individually
60,797 young adult & children's books with a value of \$1,519,925 if purchased individually
14,790 regular and digital audiobooks & eBooks with a value of \$239,040
4,487 interlibrary loan items with a value of \$112,175 if purchased individually
332 regular magazines with an average value of \$1,660
11,201 videos with a value of \$156,814 if purchased individually
291 chromebooks & Internet hotspots with an average loan value of \$11,640
6,095 Adults & 13,479 children & teen attended Library programs for a value of \$129,634
4,721 meals were served to children (0-18) during the summer food program valued at \$23,605
 Patrons connected to156,307 computer sessions with a value of \$4,220,289
 Staff handled.....21,433 special requests for materials with a value of \$535,825
 Patrons Asked.....10,297 reference questions for an average value of \$102,970



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

Aunt W, Director

Calculations above based on the following cost values

Library Expenditures in 2025 = \$807,832

Value of Materials & Services to Community = \$8,009,902

(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

PWRL LIBRARY MATERIALS

	2023	2024	2025
Adult Books	29,053	29,574	27,720
Large Print	11,008	10,684	10,567
Young Adult Books	4,229	4,268	4,372
Children's Books	29,475	29,818	28,687
Rotating Books (NCKL)	6,041	7,056	6,720
Audio Books & Music CD's	854	1,399	804
Videos	6,110	5,913	5,710
Newspaper Subscriptions onsite	21	22	22
Magazine Issues	8,718	6,170	5,901
Microfilm	545	547	547
eBooks, Digital Audiobooks, Video - Sunflower eLibrary & Hoopla	1,650,170	2,060,788	2,086,110
Digital Audiobooks & E-Books - Statewide Collection	435,304	448,329	600,000
Local Digital Magazine Subscriptions	55	37	0
Total Library Materials	2,181,583	2,604,605	2,777,160

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



TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS BORROWED

	2023	2024	2025
Adult Books	38,148	34,733	38,253
Children's Books	50,023	43,623	52,608
Young Adult Books	6,957	7,129	8,189
Audio Books & Music CD's	1,628	2,587	1,719
Periodicals (Print & Digital)	1,065	1,125	332
Videos	12,518	14,332	11,201
Digital E-Books / Digital Audiobooks	10,994	12,912	13,071
Chromebooks & Hotspots	1,169	1,154	291
Total Borrowed	122,502	117,595	125,664

PATRON VISITS IN 2025

Location	Total Hours 2023	Patrons 2023	Total Hours 2024	Patrons 2024	Total Hours 2025	Patrons 2025
Alma	1,664	5,784	1,664	5,409	1,664	5,086
Eskridge	1,690	4,236	1,690	3,249	1,690	3,148
Onaga	1,742	6,064	1,742	5,065	1,742	5,284
St. Marys	2,574	17,870	2,574	16,193	2,574	24,475
Alta Vista	416	986	416	766	416	695
Harveyville	390	691	390	585	390	552
Olsburg	364	552	364	364	364	413
Westmoreland	806	986	806	879	806	699
TOTAL	9,646	37,169	9,646	32,510	9,646	40,352

PROGRAMS



SUMMER READING
CRAFTS AT THE PWRL
ALMA BRANCH LIBRARY

STORYTIME AT THE PWRL
ST. MARYS HEADQUARTERS



COTTON CANDY AT THE PWRL
ALTA VISTA MINI LIBRARY

Other Statistics—2025

	2023	2024	2025
Total Registered Borrowers	8,122	8,207	8,480
Individual Public Computer Sessions (wired & wireless)	141,817	153,811	156,307
Reference Questions Answered	13,399	8,026	10,297
Patron Requests Handled & Sent by Staff	24,906	21,716	21,433
Interlibrary Loan Requests - Borrowing	1,793	4,282	2,048
Interlibrary Loan Requests - Lending	2,376	3,048	1,314



Holiday Decorating at Eskridge



Summer Reading Program at St. Marys



Math Club at Onaga!



Special Storytime at Alma



Program at DWRL Onaga Branch library



Storytime Fun at St. Marys

	2023	2024	2025
Number Registered for the Annual Summer Reading Program	458	496	641
Number of Books Reported Read during SRP	6,626	5,048	10,296
Number of Meals Served to Children 0-18 during the Summer Food Program	7,510	4,476	4,721
Total Number of Children's Programs (0-11)	481	429	450
Total Number of Teen Programs (12-18)	9	21	60
Number of Adult Programs (18+)	22	49	81
Total Number of Children Attending Programs (0-11)	10,415	10,966	10,905
Total Number of Teens Attending Programs (12-18)	1,234	1,629	2,574
Total Number of Adults Attending Programs (18+)	3,076	4,274	6,095

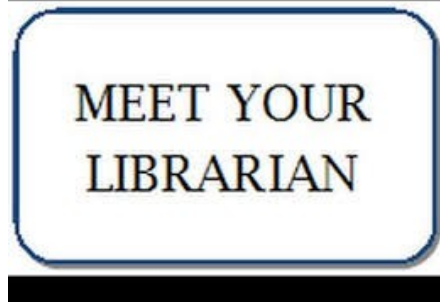


"To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads."

Director (+)
Judith Cremer



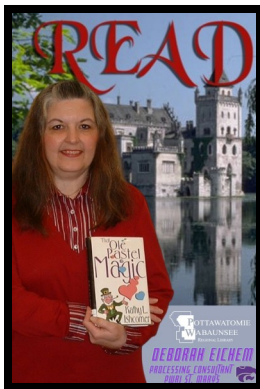
Library Staff As of March 01, 2026



Assistant Director (+)



Processing Consultant (+)
Deborah Eichem



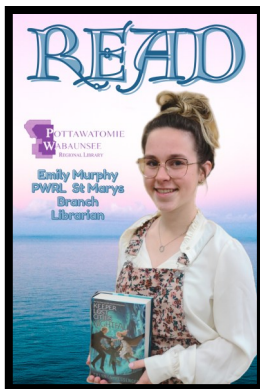
Collection Manager (+)
Colette Goldade



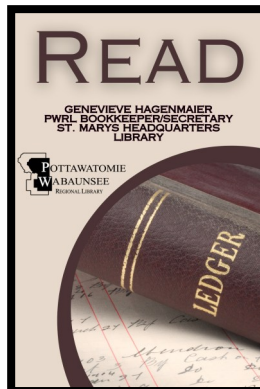
Processing Clerk (+)
Roberta Summers



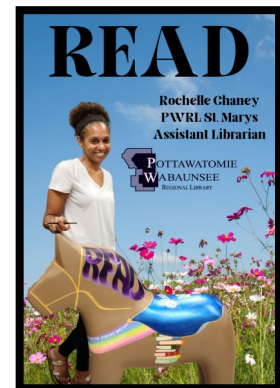
St. Marys Br. Librarian (+)
Emily Murphy



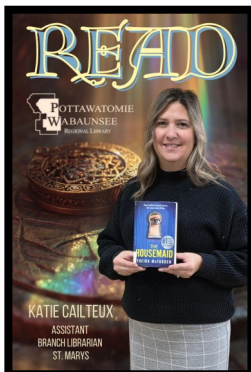
Secretary/Bookkeeper
Genevieve Hagenmaier



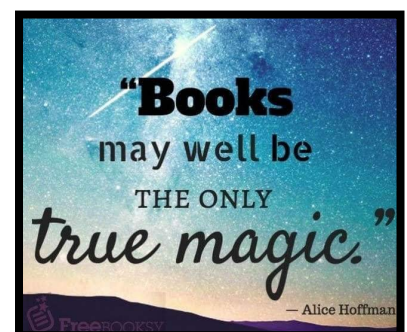
St. Marys Assistant
Rochelle Chaney



St. Marys Assistant
Katie Cailteux



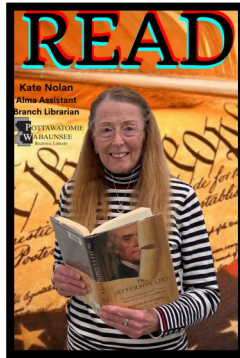
St. Marys Substitute
M. J. Rutledge



Alma Branch Librarian
Lori Beth Terrell



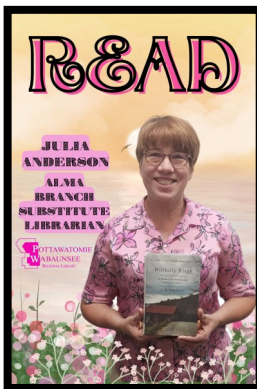
Alma Assistant
Kate Nolan



Alma Substitute
LaNelle Oney



Alma Substitute
Julia Anderson



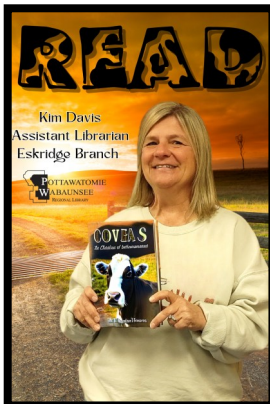
Alma Substitute
Debra Osif



Eskridge Branch Librarian
Patty Knutson



Eskridge Assistant
Kim Davis



Eskridge Substitute
Susan Bozarth



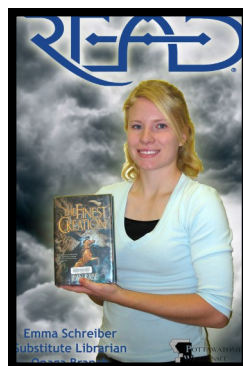
Onaga Branch Librarian
Jordan Abitz



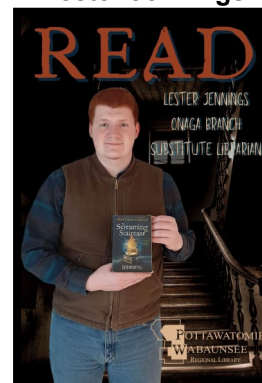
Westmoreland Substitute
Sandra Wahl



Onaga Substitute
Emma Schreiber



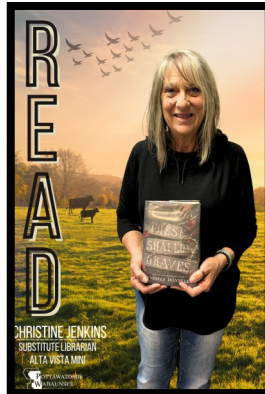
Onaga Substitute
Lester Jennings



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 SunflowerLibrary. 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 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
		Branch Librarian	illpowab@gmail.com
		Director	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	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 LIBRARIES 	Alta Vista Mini Library		Harveyville Mini Library
	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
	Mini Librarian: powabols@gmail.com		Saturday 9:00-2:00
		Mini Librarian: powabwst@gmail.com	