



ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2016



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a year 2016 has been! We celebrated the opening of the newly remodeled Youth Department in January. Children of all ages are enjoying the new space with its bright colors, open play area, and reorganized materials. In February, we held a special after-hours ticketed event for those 21 years and older. *Beer, Bacon and Books* put a new twist on an author presentation, where craft beer aficionado Randy Mosher spoke to attendees while they enjoyed beer tastings paired with bacon appetizers.

The community joined us for our annual STEAM Fair in March, which included a variety of hands-on activities and the popular Chemistry Magic Show. Over 900 attendees visited GEPL for the Fair that day. In April and May, *Cable No More* classes offered participants instruction on the various ways to eliminate your cable bill and still enjoy televised entertainment.

Summer was extremely busy for us! From May through August, we partnered with DuPage Habitat for Humanity for *Read to Build*, the library's summer reading program. We challenged those in high school and older to read 4,500 books, and pre-readers through middle schoolers to read for 70,000 hours. Because participants not only met but exceeded these goals, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation each donated \$1,000 to a local Habitat project. In conjunction with our building-themed summer reading program, the second floor was transformed last summer with a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit: "Patios, Pools, & the Invention of the American Backyard."

We partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank once again and acted as a Summer Lunch site. The Food Bank provided boxed lunches at no charge to the library and staff distributed these lunches to those 18 and under who may not otherwise have had lunch that day. Over 1,400 meals were served, which is an increase of over 300 meals from last summer. In June, we introduced a new gadget called an Oculus Rift. These goggles, combined with a high-powered computer, offer an outstanding virtual reality experience. If you have not yet had an opportunity, please schedule a time to try this new technology.

In September, we partnered with ten other local public libraries to bring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout to the area for a moderated conversation about her recent books. And in October, we offered a series

of Community Conversations. These conversations were a chance for residents to come together and discuss what they love about Glen Ellyn, as well as what they might like to see improved. We also held a Latin American-themed series of programs to learn more about this region and its culture.

We wrapped up the year with our annual Holiday Walk, which offered holiday-themed entertainment, crafts and treats before the Chamber of Commerce's tree lighting ceremony. This year we saw an increase in attendance, with 675 people enjoying our Holiday Walk festivities.

And finally, valuable insight was gleaned through a library-wide survey regarding technology use and the types of programs and services members would like to have at the library. Over 600 library users reported how often and for what reasons they used library computers or their own devices to access library resources. Also, throughout 2016, 950 library members took part in over 80 individual surveys to rate the quality of our programs and to offer suggestions for future events.

So, what's in store for 2017?

- U. S. Passports: You may now apply for your passport at GEPL
- Strategic Plan: A new strategic plan was approved and is available at gepl.org/strategic-plan
- Website: Redesigned for easier browsing from mobile and tablet devices
- Earth Day: Village-wide celebration on April 22
- Summer Reading: GEPL will partner with Supplies 4 Success
- The Jungle Book Ball: The Library Foundation's inaugural special event to be held in November

These are just a few of the things we have planned for this year. Watch for the next quarterly mailing of *The Guide* in May, read our Sunday e-newsletter *Bookmark It!*, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. There is *so much more than books* happening at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

- Dawn Bussey, Library Director

A COMMUNITY PILLAR

For over 100 years, the Glen Ellyn Public Library has strived to provide the highest level of programming, services and materials to the Glen Ellyn community. With a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and friendly staff, the library continually works to build relationships within the community.

SERVICE FOR ALL

Youth

Since the completion of the Youth Department remodel, circulation has increased by three percent, in part due to the recategorization of the Picture Book collection which allows children to search for books by topic. Picture Book circulation has averaged an increase of ten percent since the change. The Youth Department also introduced a new item for checkout this year: PlayPacks. PlayPacks are small backpacks that contain one or two toys centered on a specific concept or theme and are designed to promote early literacy. Since they were unveiled in mid-October, our collection of 15 PlayPacks have circulated over 120 times.

This year's summer reading program, *Read to Build*, encouraged children to read in support of DuPage Habitat for Humanity. Children read over 82,511 hours, which was 118% of the original goal of 70,000 hours.

Our staff continue to offer innovative programming and friendly reference services to the community of Glen Ellyn.

Middle School

2016 was an eventful year of recreation for middle school services. We asked middle schoolers to suggest names for the new room designed and created exclusively for them in the Youth Department. The winning suggestion was "The Middle." The opening of The Middle began with a kick-off week of daily activities, allowing middle school students to see all the new opportunities available to them at the library. The Middle has been an incredibly appealing space. Incoming sixth graders had been vying for their time in the room and were officially welcomed with great fanfare with a pizza party in the beginning of the summer.

With a new room came new programming formats, moving more towards spontaneous and casual attendance-based programs, such as *Crafternoons*, rather than registration only programs. Middle schoolers explored the library's new technology at the *Robotic Petting Zoo* program, opening doors to potential new interests and hobbies. The first "middle school class" of Bus to Books inspired a new opportunity to provide age-appropriate activities to this older group. A change to the high school vs. middle school summer reading challenge format allowed us to do an end-of-the-summer carnival, featuring our high school and middle school librarians, and a few local school teachers, in a dunk tank. It was a great day to congratulate our summer readers with a splash!

High School

2016 was a year of outreach and relationship building for teen services. Visits to different local high school classes and clubs allowed us to get to know new teens and to learn more about what they are looking for from their library. Hosting visits to the library for a variety of classes and organizations that serve teens with disabilities gave us a chance to make an impact with that community. Last summer, 25 volunteers used their creative skills to promote books and library services; some even joined the ranks of our Teen Leadership Council to continue working with us during the school year.

We continued regular programs like *Homework Café*, which expanded to twice a week in response to popular demand, and *Late Night Study*. The second year of our Teen Scene Art Contest saw an increase in submissions over the previous year and a successful reception. Stop by the library any weekday after school and you'll see that our focus on outreach and quality programming has allowed the library to become a space that local teens value, and where teens know they are valued.

Adult

During 2016, the Adult Department worked to maintain relationships with over 70 local book groups by obtaining books, preparing reading guides, and suggesting book titles. We made virtual reality experiences available to the public for the first time this year with the purchase of an Oculus Rift and PlayStation VR. We intend to showcase these experiences at a variety of events and programs in 2017.

New to the Adult Department in 2016 is an online subscription service aiding seniors in their search for health insurance to supplement Medicare. This service, called *Medigap Buyer's Guide and Premium Calculator*, is available 24/7 from our website by visiting gepl.org/OnlineResearchTools. As always, we love answering questions and helping our members find the next great book, movie, ebook or audiobook. Whether it is a tax form, train schedule or passport you need, ask us at the 2nd floor Information desk!

Circulation

The Circulation Department continues to be a busy place! This past year, 610,656 items were checked out at the library. Members checked out 165,905 of these items at our self-check stations. One of the more popular items was our book bags,

which can be checked out and then returned with your items. Our book bags circulated 10,500 times last year!

Besides checking items in and out, Circulation also processes hold requests. Of the 65,806 hold requests we retrieved for members:

36,181 items came from the Glen Ellyn Public Library
 23,934 items came from the LINC shared consortium
 5,109 items came from other libraries in Illinois
 582 items came from libraries around the country

We also sent 28,606 of our items to other libraries, prepared 2,189 items for our Home Delivery members, and fulfilled 7,604 requests for items by Glen Ellyn schools.

Materials Processing

The Materials Processing Department processed and added 17,047 new items to the Glen Ellyn Public Library's collection. The department also removed 21,675 damaged, outdated and non-circulating items. Overall the collection includes:

- Books = 132,911 items
- Magazines = 7,787 volumes
- eBooks = 172,650 titles
- eMagazines = 111 titles

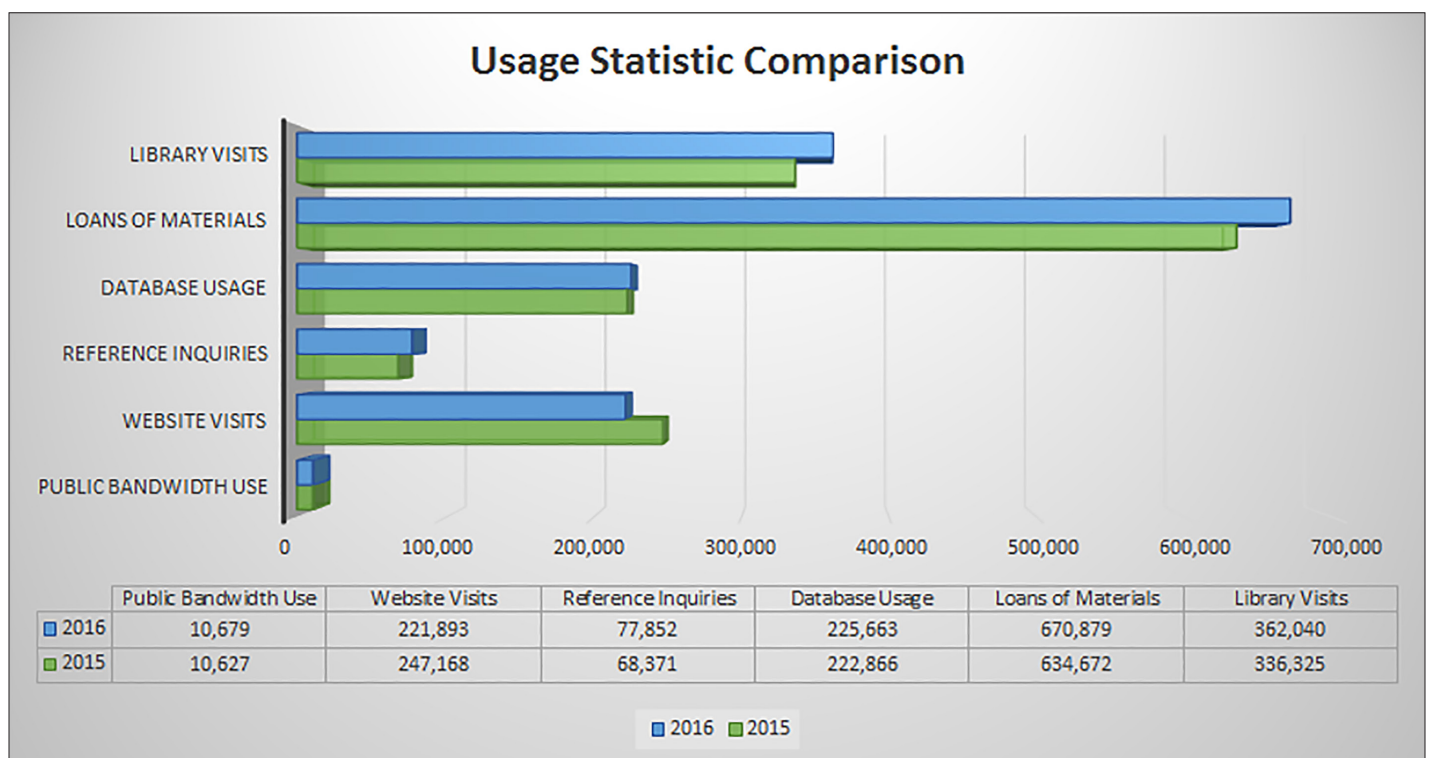
- Audio Recordings = 16,100 volumes
- eAudiobooks = 42,152 titles
- DVDs = 10,204 volumes
- eVideos = 22,175 titles
- eMusic = 281,146 titles

Information Technology

IT staff worked diligently to resolve problems and issues, while also performing necessary upgrades. In 2016, IT resolved over 900 issues relating to member and staff use of technology throughout the library. In addition to handling user issues, here are a few of the top projects the IT Department completed:

- Migrated GEPL from LINC email to Office 365 email and Outlook
- Added PCI compliant credit card readers to print stations and self-check machines
- Added several new layers of ransomware protection to library computers and networks
- Installed new camera video server to store 90 days of recordings
- Started Wowway fiber installation project
- Replaced Sonicwall security appliance

GLEN ELLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY USAGE NUMBERS FOR FY 2016



GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Glen Ellyn Public Library received \$36,007.00 in grant funding and \$50,328.00 in monetary gifts for the fiscal year of 2016.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

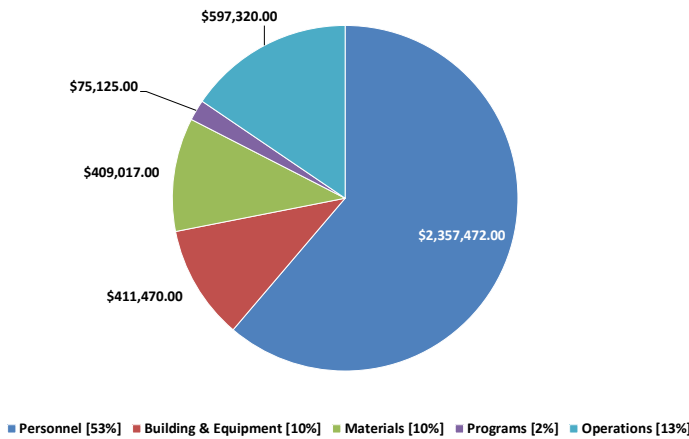
As always, the library will strive to continue its track record of providing exceptional service and materials, as well as exciting programs to all members of the Glen Ellyn community. We kick off 2017 with a spirited after-hours author event, *Whiskey and Words*. Our fourth annual STEAM Fair will return in March with a variety of experiments, demonstrations and presentations from a diverse field of exhibitors. April sees *Some Kind of Courage* author Dan Gemeinhart visit the library and in May, we will host *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* author Sherri Duskey Rinker. This summer the library’s philanthropic summer reading program returns as we partner with local charitable organization Supplies 4 Success. Keep up-to-date with all the programs and services available at the library by visiting gepl.org.

HAVE A SUGGESTION?

We would love to hear from you! Please email Library Director Dawn Bussey at dawnbussey@gepl.org or place your comment in one of the comment boxes located throughout the library.

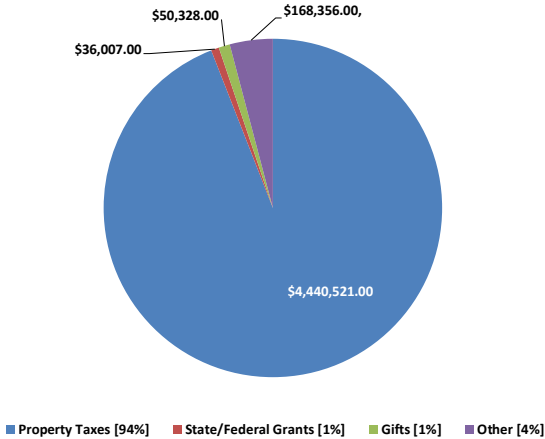
EXPENDITURES

January 2016 - December 2016



REVENUES

January 2016 - December 2016



Glen Ellyn Public Library
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