



Annual Report 2017

The *Brown County Public Library* is dedicated to supporting quality of life in Brown County. In 2017, the library demonstrated this commitment to community by:

- Leading and engaging in activities with **Adams Brown Community Action Program, Brown County Fair, Brown County Genealogical & Historical Society, Georgetown Courthouse Square Association, The Literacy Council of Clermont and Brown Counties, the Chamber of Commerce,** and many local businesses
- Partnering with **Union Township Public Library** to provide **computer and digital literacy training** to patrons through a federal grant. The Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) program assists patrons, job seekers, residents of care centers, and anyone wanting to overcome barriers, keep current, or increase their comfort with the various technologies of today's world.
- Integrating the "40 Developmental Assets," in conjunction with **Brown County Educational Services Center** and local school districts. The 40 Assets are characteristics required by individuals to thrive and be positively contributing citizens in their communities. The Library integrates the Assets into its operations, resources, programming, and services in an effort to **help Brown County develop healthy, caring, and responsible citizens.**
- Developing a website for the **Brown County Law Library**, as part of a grant to **make the court system more navigable for county residents**, to help with self-representation and growth in understanding, and to make resources more readily available for all.

TRUSTEES

Barbara Virost
President

Kathleen Johnson
Vice President

Mark C. Miller
Secretary

M. Kathryn Greene

Harold Showalter

Tracy Varner

Karen Wakefield

ADMINISTRATION

Lynn Harden
Executive Director

Vivian Armour
Fiscal Officer

In 2017, BCPL demonstrated its investment in Brown County and concern for its citizens by:

- Partnering with **Children's Hunger Alliance, ABCAP**, and other community organizations to provide 577 meals, along with fun activities, for children attending our Summer Feeding Program.
- Actively participating in educational pursuits, including: open houses, proctoring exams for distance learning students, promoting literacy initiatives, supporting financial literacy education, and leading book clubs.
- Delivering library resources and services outside library walls to combat the significant transportation barriers faced by county residents. Clients include preschools and daycares, **Head Start** centers, housing developments such as **Ashley Grove Apartments** and **Fair Park Apartments**, and care centers such as **Locust Ridge Nursing Home, Northern Brown Senior Center, Ohio Veterans Home**, and **Villa Georgetown**.
- Improving staff understanding of mental health first aid practices, the facts and effects of opioid use and human trafficking, and honing library emergency plans for disasters such as fire, flood, tornado, hazardous materials spills, bomb threats, and acts of violence – all to reduce the possibility of injury or damage, and ensure a safe, and pleasant environment for all of our patrons.

The Mission of the *Brown County Public Library* is to
Educate Inform Enlighten Entertain

2017 STATISTICS

Statistical reports are required by federal and state agencies, support budgeting and planning activities, and confirm the many benefits that libraries provide to their communities. How effective is the BCPL at saving our communities money? The Ohio Library Council's (OLC) Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator puts dollar values on the services libraries provide:

MATERIALS BORROWED

Type of Material	Number of Items	Savings to Patrons
Books & Periodicals	179,089	\$1,731,039
Movies on DVD/VHS	143,533	\$430,599
eBooks/Audiobooks	20,146	\$273,324
Books on CD/Playaways	15,287	\$160,055
Music CD/Cassette	10,965	\$109,540

SERVICES PROVIDED

Type of Service	Number of Uses	Savings to Patrons
Reference Materials	348,514	\$1,824,648
Computer Uses	48,137	\$1,415,228
Reference Questions	58,812	\$294,060
Research Databases	7,819	\$78,190
Meeting Room Uses	1,148	\$57,400

2017 STATISTICS

The library is no longer a place of hushed self-study with minimal interaction. It is a source of vibrant interconnection, where people relate to one another, the community, and the world around them through print and electronic information, on- and off-site programs, and other events. In 2017, connections were made through:

- **190** hours per week of library branch service, with 24/7 online access to materials and accounts
- **484** hours of free computer training to individuals and groups
- **1,140** uses of meeting rooms
- **37,211** uses of Wi-Fi by patrons' personal devices
- **48,137** hours of computer use by patrons on 60 library computers
- **142,744** visits made to the library

BCPL gives people of all ages the opportunity to participate in activities that many could not afford, organize, or access on their own. In 2017, the BCPL held:

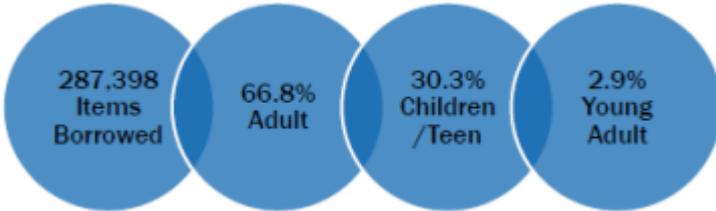
- **146** Young Adult Programs – attended by **1,600**
- **438** Adult Programs – attended by **7,214**
- **710** Children/Family Programs – attended by **29,103**

Your library helps citizens learn, grow, and strengthen our community!

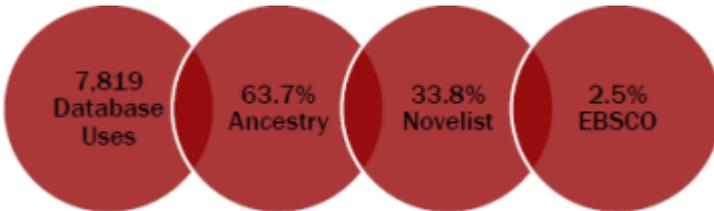
HOW THE LIBRARY IS USED

In the **9,880** hours that library branches are open each year (and through 24/7 online access), the library provides extensive opportunities to **educate, inform, enlighten, and entertain.**

- People use the library to stay **INFORMED** by reading books and articles in print, or electronic versions.



- People are **ENLIGHTENED** by research made available through electronic databases such as Ancestry.com, Novelist, and EBSCO, which help people explore the past and discover today's newest ideas.

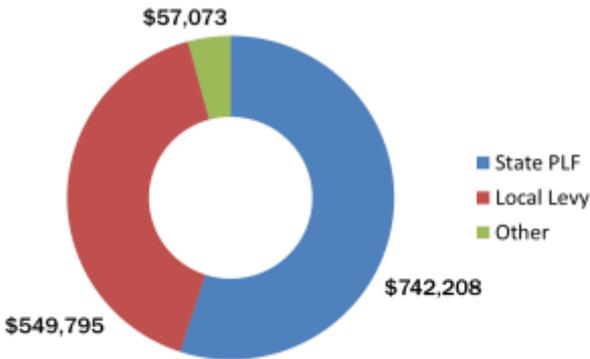


- People are **ENTERTAINED** by current and best-selling movies, magazines, and novels. Downloadable versions are perfect for our mobile lifestyles.



2017 REVENUE

Brown County Public Library's primary funding sources are Ohio's Public Library Fund (PLF), and 72% of a 1-mill local levy. In 2017, 55% of funding from all sources came from the PLF, 40% from the levy, and 5% from all other sources.



Having two main sources of funding provides the Library with significant financial stability.

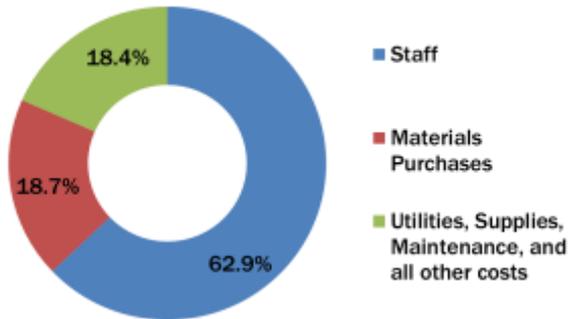
The BCPL takes its stewardship of public funds seriously. In addition to continuous review of purchasing sources to balance “buying local” with optimum pricing options, the Library supplements its funding with eRate reimbursements (Internet costs), and by using the services of a collection agency to recover lost items and unpaid fines .

The BCPL also seeks grant funding. In 2017, over \$14,000 was received from private donors to fund special projects. In addition, the BCPL received a Guiding Ohio Online grant for a third year, valued at over \$25,000. This grant funded a full-time AmeriCorps worker to assist library staff with teaching digital literacy skills to Brown County residents. The BCPL's continued partnership with the Brown County Law Library also generates additional revenue for the public library.

2017 EXPENDITURES

How does *The BCPL* spend its funds? State standards for public libraries in Ohio currently recommend that 60% of operating funds be spent on staff, 20% on materials purchases, and the remaining 20% on all other areas. Current expenditure levels reflect the Library's customer-focused mission, and the significant investment in human resources that is required to carry out that mission.

Data show that the public most uses library services that require staff interaction: circulation of total materials has risen, computer use continues to increase, and program attendance is growing. Technology, such as eBooks and other downloadables, continue to be heavily used; job searches and filing of government forms demand more computer and Internet access and, often, assistance in navigating websites; while larger enrollment in online classes requires local proctoring of computer-based exams.



A WISE INVESTMENT

BCPL continues to meet the expectations of Brown Countians by providing print and electronic resources, access to technology, and educational and informational experiences that citizens require, all in a cost-effective manner. The *Brown County Public Library* returns **\$7.58** of value for each **\$1** it receives in funding.



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