



Annual Report 2018

In 2018, the *Brown County Public Library* demonstrated its commitment to the residents of Brown County by:

- **Educating** patrons about computers and technology. In partnership with Union Township Public Library and supported by a federal grant, libraries helped people improve digital literacy skills, so they are able to thrive in the online environment.
- **Informing** and developing healthy, caring, and responsible citizens. In conjunction with the Brown County Educational Services Center and local school districts, the 40 Developmental Assets are used as an integral part of the library's work with children and young adults.
- **Ensuring** a safe and welcoming environment. The library's physical facilities and usage policies are monitored and maintained to assure equitable access for all who come into contact with the library.
- **Enlightening** library staff. Training on mental health and disability awareness, on the social and information needs of various demographic groups, and on other relevant topics, makes it possible for staff to provide excellent customer service.
- Focusing on **early literacy**. Ohio Ready to Ready training from the Ohio Library Council and State Library of Ohio helps staff to educate our families about the important role that early childhood literacy plays in assuring successful adult outcomes.
- Providing **entertaining** activities for all ages. Whether you like trivia or crafting, princess parties or escape rooms, or touch-a-truck or movie matinees, the library has free and fun options for leisure pursuits.

TRUSTEES

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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

How does the Brown County Public Library invest in its community?

- With your library card, you can now watch great movies, listen to your favorite songs, and read bestsellers with **Hoopla!** 24/7 access to Hoopla and other electronic resources is available as part of your regular library account. Don't have a library card? Sign up online for an Electronic Resources Account (eLibrary card).
- Educators can now take advantage of our **auto-renewal** feature, which extends the time they may have materials to support their teaching needs.
- Staff continue to **support students of all ages** as they: participate in school open houses, proctor exams for distance learning students, promote literacy initiatives (such as the Right to Read Parade at Mt. Orab Schools, and Math/Reading Incentive Day at Georgetown Schools), coordinate financial literacy classes for adults, and lead book clubs.
- Library events and activities **encourage individual growth**: authors and artists share their crafts; local experts introduce beekeeping, gardening, and other activities to the public; visits by museums, observatories, and aquariums remind us of the mysteries around us; and informal gatherings help build community.
- **We bring the library to you!** Free delivery of resources and services to preschools and daycares, Head Start centers, housing developments, and care centers (such as nursing homes), are offered so that those who experience limited mobility or transportation barriers may benefit from the library.
- The library remains an **active member of the community** through its regular involvement with events, businesses and organizations, such as: Adams Brown Community Action Program, the Brown County Chamber of Commerce, the Brown County Educational Services Center and local schools, the Brown County Fair, the Brown County Genealogical & Historical Society, the Brown County Law Library, the Clermont Brown Literacy Council, the Coalition for a Drug Free Brown County, National Night Out, and the Ohio Veterans Home.

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

Thank you for supporting us in our efforts!

2018 STATISTICS

Brown Countians use the library to satisfy general curiosity and specific needs by exploring, brainstorming, and accessing information. In 2018, discoveries were made through:

- **190** hours per week of library branch service, with 24/7 online access to materials and accounts
- **230** hours of free computer training to individuals and groups
- **1,137** uses of meeting rooms
- **27,221** hours of computer use of library computers
- **53,709** uses of Wi-Fi by patrons' personal devices
- **132,652** visits made to the library

The library presents learning activities for all ages, providing opportunities that for many, might otherwise be out of reach. In 2018, the BCPL held:

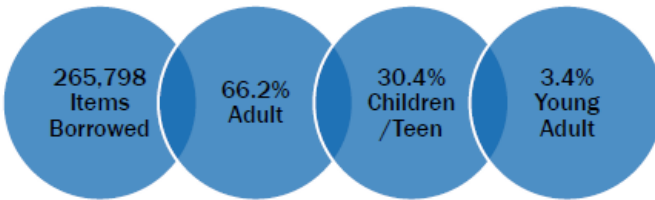
- **146** Young Adult Programs – attended by **1,553**
- **406** Adult Programs – attended by **6,201**
- **739** Children/Family Programs – attended by **26,556**

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

HOW THE LIBRARY IS USED

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

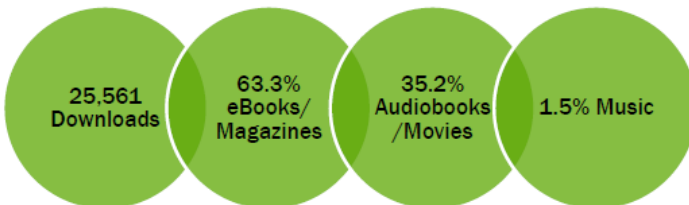
- People remain **EDUCATED and INFORMED** by using the library to read new and favorite books and articles in print or electronic versions.



- People are **ENLIGHTENED** through searches in electronic resources such as EBSCO, Ancestry.com, Lexis Nexis—a database that is shared with the Brown County Law Library—and a variety of other data sources.



- People are **ENTERTAINED** by best-selling movies, magazines, novels, and their most-loved tunes though Hoopla and the Ohio Digital Library. Downloadable versions allow patrons to sneak moments of relaxation within their hectic schedules.



2018 RETURN ON INVESTMENT

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.

And these statistics show that the BCPL actually saves our communities money! The Ohio Library Council's Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator puts dollar values on the services libraries provide:

MATERIALS BORROWED

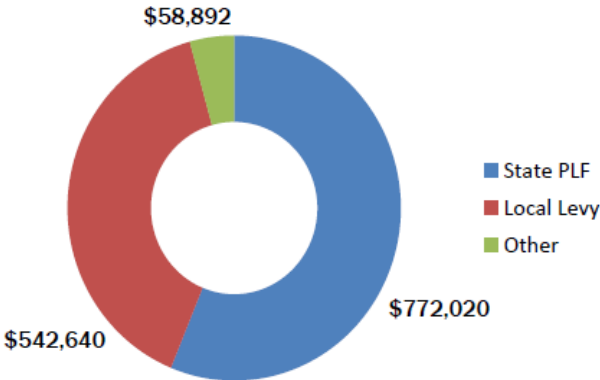
Type of Material	Number of Items	Savings to Patrons
Books & Periodicals	178,263	\$1,720,942
Movies on DVD/Blu-Ray	135,250	\$405,750
eBooks/Audiobooks	24,131	\$347,754
Books on CD/PlayAways	13,050	\$136,634
Music CD/Cassette	7,354	\$36,733
Movies Streamed	813	\$3,252
Magazine/Music Downloads	617	\$1,573

SERVICES PROVIDED

Type of Service	Number of Uses	Savings to Patrons
Reference Materials	338,476	\$1,768,655
Computer Uses	27,221	\$800,297
WiFi Use	53,709	\$268,545
Reference Questions	50,128	\$250,640
Research Databases	3,628	\$36,280
Meeting Room Uses	1,137	\$56,850

2018 REVENUE

Brown County Public Library's funding comes primarily from the State of Ohio's Public Library Fund (PLF), and from 72% of a 1-mill local levy. In 2018, 56% of all general funding came from the PLF, 40% from the levy, and 4% from other sources.



Having two primary sources of funding gives the Library financial stability. We are grateful for the support these funds provide, and for the people who make the sources available—the state legislature and Brown County citizens.

The Library supplements its funding in several ways. Reimbursements from the federal eRate program reduce Internet costs by 80%, and using the services of a collection agency helps to retrieve lost items and unpaid fines.

In 2018, the Brown County Public Library was awarded over \$23,000 in federal grant money. These Institute of Museum and Library Services funds supported the fourth year of Guiding Ohio Online, a program which provides technology training to Brown County residents for expanding digital literacy skills.

The library also received over \$18,000 in private donations for special projects. The private donations support a variety of library needs, from children's programs and author visits, to specialty furniture and painting classes for adults.

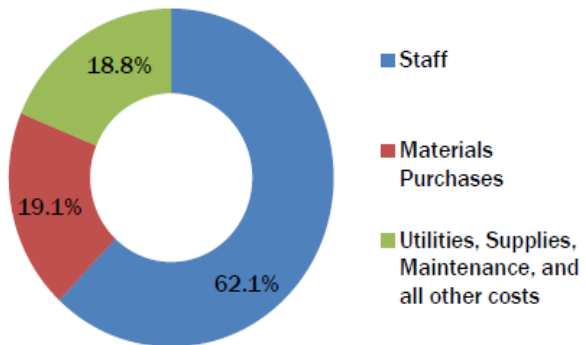
The BCPL's continued partnership with the Brown County Law Library also generates additional revenue for the public library.

2018 EXPENDITURES

BCPL spends well and wisely. In this service-intensive industry, the greatest percentage of operating funds is spent on staffing costs. The target for materials purchases is 20% (based upon state standards), and the remaining funds support all other costs. The Library's expenditure levels reflect its goal of maintaining quality materials and well-trained staff to serve the varying needs of the community. BCPL remains customer-focused and invested in supporting the quality of life of Brown County citizens.

The 2018 expenditures reflect the Library's commitment to providing the highest quality of both physical and human resources to meet patrons' information needs. Slightly more than 60% of the budget was spent on human resources, and just under the target of 20% of the budget was spent on materials costs, during the year. State averages for materials expenditures hover around 14%, falling well below BCPL's expenditures levels for patron materials.

Why is the library's budget so "human-resources-heavy?" Staff provide assistance with computers and other technology as more people use these resources. Library programs and programmers are also heavily used. Caregivers rely upon youth specialists to help their children succeed, and educators depend upon local library staff to provide materials and other support, as local schools do away with their own library collections and personnel.



Despite the rising cost of materials and services, BCPL continues to show a **high return on investment** of **\$6.45** for each **\$1** it receives in funding.



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