



CONNECT. ENRICH. INSPIRE.



2014 Annual Report

*The mission of the
Grand Forks Public Library
is to
connect the community,
enrich the mind,
and
inspire the imagination.*

FAST FACTS:

**In 2014, the Grand Forks
Public Library:**

- ❖ Welcomed 249,122 people
- ❖ Circulated 736,538 items
- ❖ Had 253,115 web page visitors
- ❖ Loaned out 23,989 e-books and 3,606 e-magazines
- ❖ Answered 31,751 reference questions
- ❖ Provided 2,650 items to other libraries via interlibrary loan
- ❖ Enabled 88,111 people to use our computers
- ❖ Brought 1,383 books to area nursing homes
- ❖ Utilized 1,476 volunteer hours



A Message from the Library Board

2014 in Review

Another successful year for the Grand Forks Public Library is in the books, so to speak.

Facilities questions notwithstanding, GFPL continued to expand our services to the community and see increases in usage generally. For example, our Reference Department alone answered 31,751 patron questions and coordinated numerous events, including a presentation by a Holocaust Survivor that brought in over 350 attendees alone. This comes as no surprise as overall program attendance was up in 2014, in keeping with our increased number of programs and events for children, teens, and adults.

We also made significant improvements to our Information Technology Department, including upgrading our Wi-Fi service, computer lab technologies, and receiving a grant for the purchase of a 3D printer.

Upstairs, our Children's Department continued to grow too, seeing the expansion of our Lego League program, the founding of a weekly *preschool* story time event, and increased outreach into the Grand Forks Public Schools. Furthermore, our 2014 Summer Reading Program broke records, seeing nearly 900 children registering.

Outside our doors, Library staff continued growing community partnerships, initiating or solidifying our relationships with the Dakota Science Center, UND Athletics and Engineering Departments, the Greater Grand Forks Robotics Club, the New American community, GGF Young Professionals, and St. Joseph's Food Pantry and Social Care, to name a few.

In terms of facilities maintenance, several major repair projects became necessary in 2014 including replacing the entire building's lighting grid, performing multiple HVAC repairs, and addressing some considerable plumbing matters. Such repairs didn't even touch the most dated and deficient air conditioning, roofing, and elevator systems that remain. These types of piecemeal solutions will, in time, continue to drain the library of any budget it has dedicated to capital maintenance while keeping the library mired in the past.

This much we know at the start of 2015:

- A 2009 Needs Assessment developed by a national Library Consulting Firm recommended GFPL pursue a new building

project rather than try to expand the existing facility.

- A 2012 Architectural Appraisal of the current GFPL estimated remodel and expansion costs would be nearly 70% of the cost of a new building in Grand Forks County.
- In 2013, an 18-member, all-volunteer Library Working Group concluded, after receiving input from over 800 Grand Forks citizens, that "A new facility is the most cost effective, flexible solution to meet the future needs of a growing Grand Forks Region."
- Finally, over 100 people participating in a series of GFPL Foundation Focus Groups in early 2015 voiced overwhelming support for investing in a new GFPL in a new location.

So it is that the Library Board feels the evidence is compelling not only that something major must be done to stem the tide of bad money being spent after good in this highly trafficked space, but that Grand Forks is willing and ready to support a new Library building project.

Here's to hoping 2015 is the year that the future Grand Forks Public Library comes into focus.

On behalf of the Library Board,

Brian James Schill

2014 LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Fawn Behrens-Smith

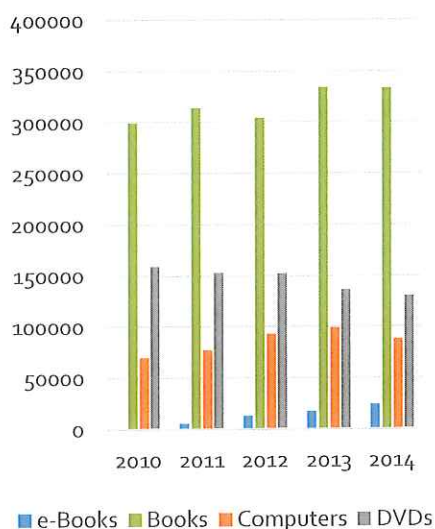
Corey Mock

Brian Schill

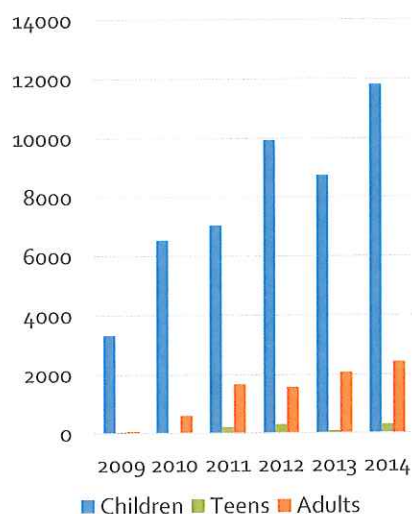
Marie Strinden

Bret Weber

USAGE COMPARISONS



EVENT ATTENDANCE COMPARISONS



FAST FACTS

58%

of community members have a GFPL library card.

88%

of community residents believe libraries are a good investment



That's What We're All About!

The Core Values of the Grand Forks Public Library are:

- Providing customer-focused service excellence
- Encouraging a love of reading and lifelong learning
- Acting with integrity, respect and kindness
- Developing connections between people, community, ideas and inspiration

Customer-focused

Our library customers form the focus of everything we do at GFPL. We endeavor to be responsive, flexible, and innovative as the needs of our customers evolve. Each Library staff member is committed to ensuring that everyone who visits the library leaves feeling enriched and inspired.

Literacy

Encouraging a love of reading and lifelong learning are key to GFPL's mission. Literacy in both reading and technology are essential to the success of our community members, regardless of age.

For our youngest residents, the library offers story times, STEAM events, and other programs throughout the year. As you can see in the "Event Attendance Comparison" diagram in the left column, attendance at events for children has nearly quadrupled in the past 6 years. This is due primarily to the innovative programs created by our Children's Librarian Aaron Stefanich as well as from his collaboration with Dr. Laura Munki from the Children's Science Center.

Another way GFPL encourages literacy is through our Summer Reading Program. It

has been well-documented that keeping school-aged children reading throughout the summer helps prevent the "summer slide" in reading ability and comprehension. The 2014 Summer Reading program helped ensure that over 850 children had a more successful transition back to school in the fall.

Integrity, Respect & Kindness

Many people consider the public library to be one of the "great equalizers" of our society. It is where all people are welcome, whether rich or poor, young or old, highly educated or not. The staff at GFPL pride themselves on treating everyone with kindness and respect, as well as tact and discretion. They help people find answers to life's questions, big and small.

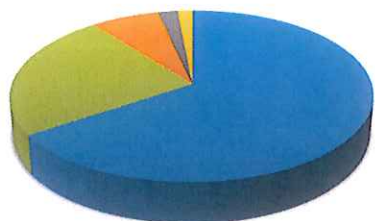
Collaboration

GFPL is all about connections, whether it's with people, the community, ideas, or inspiration. The community collaborations that the Library is involved with continues to grow as GFPL continues to be a more active member of the Grand Forks community. The following is just a partial list of the groups GFPL collaborates with on a regular basis:

- The Children's Science Center
- UND Athletics Department
- UND Engineering Department
- St Joseph's Free Summer Lunch Program
- Lutheran Social Services' New Americans Program
- The Lake Agassiz Reading Council
- All area elementary schools
- The Grand Forks School for the Blind
- The Humane Society
- Grand Forks County Historical Society
- Minnkota Genealogical Society
- Many more!

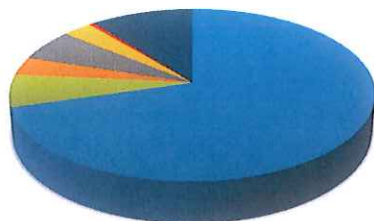
2014 Budget in Review

2014 Revenues



■ City of Grand Forks	\$1,531,749
■ Grand Forks County	\$555,298
■ Other Governmental	\$162,048
■ Fees & Fines	\$47,749
■ Int., Grants, Donations	\$35,169

2014 Expenditures



■ Wages/Benefits	\$1,545,272
■ Supplies/Operating	\$133,671
■ Utilities	\$74,432
■ Contracts/Services	\$131,406
■ Bldgs, Grnds & Equip	\$63,250
■ Capital Expenses	\$11,269
■ Books, DVDs, etc	\$229,132

SLIGHT MILL REDUCTION IN 2015

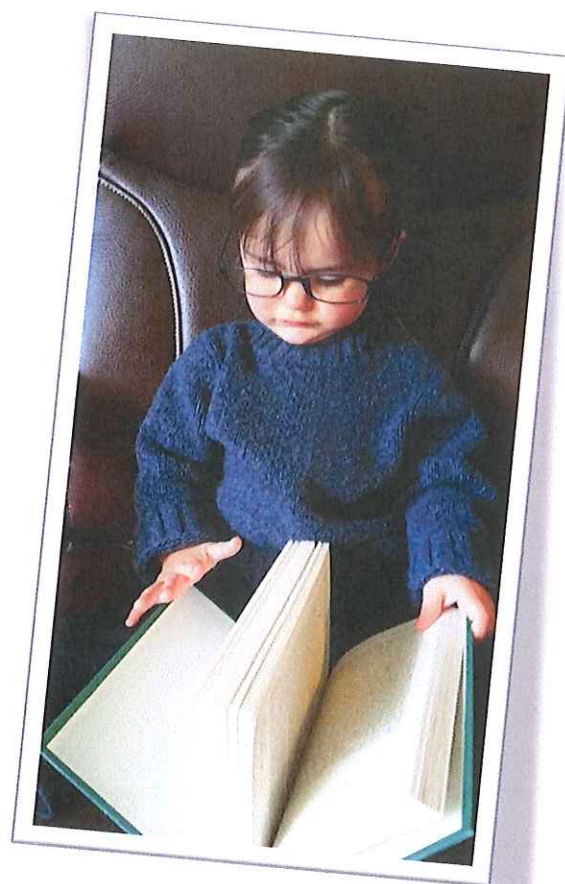
As a part of a city-wide effort to moderate property tax levels for area residents, the Grand Forks Public Library will experience a mill decrease in 2015, bringing the City of Grand Forks' levy designated for the library to 9.12 mills, down from 9.58 mills previously. Fortunately, because of the increased value of a mill, the library's budget still saw a slight increase in City revenue.

This type of reduction was experienced across City departments and the Grand Forks Public Library was no exception.

Return on Investment

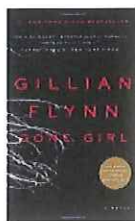
Your tax investment in the Grand Forks Public Library provides an excellent return on investment, beyond improved quality of life, smarter citizens and a more connected community.

- In 2014, the Grand Forks Public Library saved community members **\$11,048,070** by loaning books, DVDs, CDs, and other items worth an average of \$15 per item borrowed.
- In 2014, the Library saved community members **\$413,925** by enabling them to download books, music, and magazines valued at an average of \$15 per download.
- In 2014, the Library saved community members **\$116,296** by offering story times, science and technology events, author events and other library events, as compared to an \$8 movie ticket.
- In 2014, the Library saved community members **\$795,139** by providing computers with Internet access for the public. Kinko's charges \$12 per hour for this service.
- In 2014, the Library saved community members **\$222,257** by answering reference and research questions valued at an average of \$7 per question.
- In 2014, the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County provided **\$2,332,015** in Library funding and the residents received the equivalent of **\$12,595,687** in Library services.
- For every \$1 spent on the Grand Forks Public Library, our community received a minimum of **\$5.40** in return.
- **Library Return on Investment: 540%**



MOST POPULAR DOWNLOADS OF 2014:**Library2Go Books:**

**Gone Girl by
Gillian Flynn**

**Library2Go Audiobooks:**

**Pandemonium by
Lauren Oliver**

**Zinio Magazines:**

US Weekly

**Freeding Books:**

**Twelve Years a
Slave by
Solomon Northrup**

**Freegal Music:**

**All About That
Bass by Meghan
Trainor**

**Freegal Movies:**

**Charlotte's
Web**



Usage of the Grand Forks Public Library is continuously expanding and evolving. With the advent of the Internet, Library usage of all types has increased.

As one would expect, use of technology has continued to increase. During the past year, 88,111 used the library computers to access the internet and to work on projects. In addition, library staff members offered numerous computer training sessions, from troubleshooting your computer to searching your family tree.

For those new to e-reading, the Library offers 20 Nooks stocked with bestselling e-books available for 3-week checkout. We also have technology 'Petty Zoo' events where library visitors can explore iPads, iPods, MP3 players, and more.

For community members who have their own devices, we provide access to a wide variety of e-resources, some of which are spotlighted to the left of this column. All that is needed to access these materials from anywhere you might be is your library card.

It's important to note that while usage of our downloadable materials continues to increase, books are checked out more than ever. Easy online item requests (holds) at www.gflibrary.com may be one of the reasons books are more accessible than ever.

More than books and other library materials, libraries are about people and the connections we all make. Public libraries are often a child's first group literacy experience, where they learn to sit and listen, to play with a group, and maybe even make their first friend.

In addition, older children have numerous learning and playing opportunities, particularly with our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs and events. One of our most popular is our LEGO robotics teams, which have been offered at the library for the past four years.

The Library also offers lifelong learning opportunities for adults such as our book clubs, writers' group, and various speaker events such as the Civil War Re-enactment Group presentation and the Paranormal Studies presentation this past year.

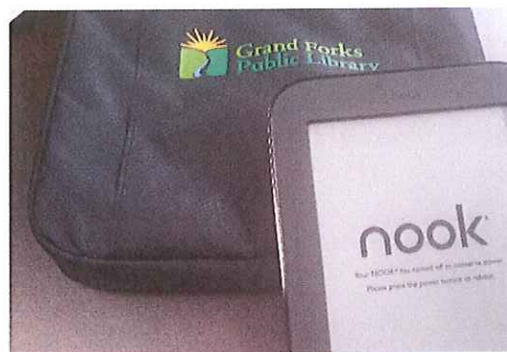
As you can see from this report, there is truly something for everyone at the Grand Forks Public Library. Please stop by soon and check it out!

2014 HIGHLIGHTS**LEGO Robotics Competitions**

The Grand Forks Public Library was the first public library in the state to have a Lego Robotics team and now, in our fourth year of competition, the library supports 8 teams of 10 students each.

**Holocaust Survivor Discussion**

Over 350 people crowded into the Library to hear from Holocaust survivor Marion Blumethal Lazan in April. Marion recounted her experiences as a child prisoner at a Nazi prison camp and read from her book "Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story."

**Nook Checkouts**

GFPL has 20 Nooks available for check-out for up to 3 weeks at a time. In addition, GFPL has a wide variety of devices that can be tried out at one of our 'Technology Petting Zoo' events at the library.

Visit the Grand Forks Public Library Soon!

2110 Library Circle
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-772-8116

Monday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm



www.GFLibrary.com



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www.pinterest.com/gflibrary



*A library
is a
joyful place
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roams free,
and life
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actively
enriched.*

~
*John K.
Hutchens*

2014
Annual
Report

[Addressee]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]