

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the Grand Forks Public Library is to

connect the community,

enrich the mind,

and

inspire the imagination.



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(Board President)

A Note from the Library Board

The Grand Forks Public Library is busier than ever.

While the timing of a future library project and its physical location are still undetermined, the library staff are continuing to focus on providing our community and the surrounding region great service, interesting and informative programs, and opportunities for patrons of all ages to have some fun.

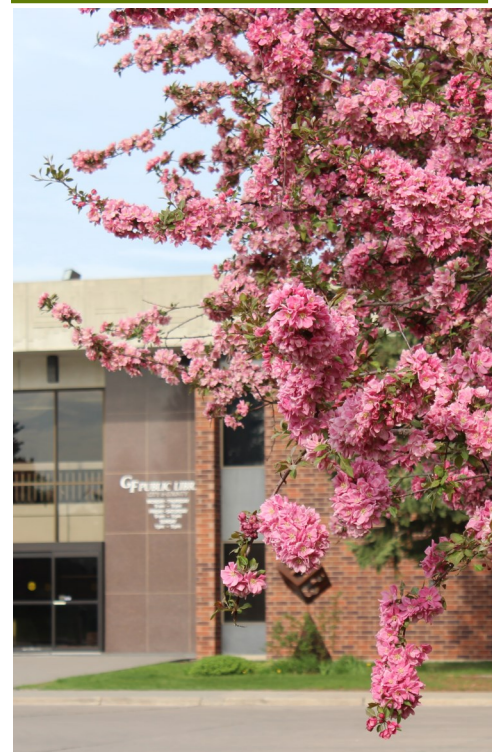
Our library, like most others, has seen an increase in the number of electronic media resources available to our members from within the library and from their homes via our website. Even as this grows, book usage and demand for new books continues to remain strong. It shows that as a community we love to learn and we value all of the things our library has to offer.

Libraries are changing and are no longer places of silence. Areas of increased noise and activity are being embraced as maker spaces are added to give patrons opportunities to actively do and create things. It has been shown that both children and adults experience the benefits these types of spaces have to offer.

Our library is filled with something for everyone to enjoy. We invite you to visit and find what you can do with the assistance of your public library.

Sincerely,

The Grand Forks Public Library Board



Connecting Military Families via Skype

Tucked away in the Library's quiet and private Grand Forks Room is a laptop dedicated to connecting military service members with their families back home. This laptop is wired to the internet and has free video conferencing software called Skype downloaded onto it.

Skype allows people from across the world—or across the street—to talk face-to-face live, for as long as they'd like, about whatever they like. If you can't be there in person, it's the next best thing!

This resource is provided through a grant from the North Dakota State Library.



Connecting the Community...

An important part of the Grand Forks Public Library's mission is to connect the community. We connect area residents to information, to entertainment, to new ideas, and so much more. The GFPL connects people to...

To each other...

The **Northern Ink Writers' Group** meets at the Grand Forks Public Library twice each month to enable local writers to support and encourage each other, offer constructive criticism and share creative energy. They meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and welcome new members at any time.

To the region...

Each year, the Library partners with the Grand Forks Police Department as they offer free **Child ID Cards**. The cards are for parental use and feature the child's name, a current photo, and information about any medical conditions the child may have. Authorities hope the cards can help in an emergency situation.

To the world...

The Library celebrates **World Culture Day** each year and invites members of the community to experience cultures from across the world as presented by our neighbors who are new to this country. It's a chance to learn, increase understanding, and connect with each other.





Summer Reading Program Kick-Off 2016

Ready for K

One of the most important things Grand Forks Public Library does is to help prepare preschool children for kindergarten and to teach them to be lifelong learners.

Through story time activities, children learn to listen quietly in a group setting, to follow directions as they sing or work on crafts, and to play well with others. Children might even make their first friend at the library's story time events!

Bringing children to the public library events, in addition to reading to them at home, is the key to a successful transition to kindergarten and beyond!

Enriching Minds...

Libraries have a long history of enriching minds and for the Grand Forks Public Library that history extends back to 1892 when a group of women established the first public library in the community. The library continues to enrich minds in many ways.

Through professional research assistance

Reference librarians are one of the library's greatest assets. They are professionally-trained researchers who can help you find any information you might need, from local laws regarding starting a business to information about food and drink in Medieval England. No question is too big or too small!

Through library presentations and events

Events like the monthly **Science Café** will introduce attendees to new topics and ideas in an entertaining way. The Science Café is a learning environment for adults involving the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM professionals will share their career, research, and expertise in a 30 - 45 minute presentation followed by questions and discussion on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Feed your mind with Science Café!

Through drop-in technology help

If you need help with technology, from e-mailing a resume to downloading an e-book, the library offers drop-in computer help every Wednesday at 10:00 AM. In addition, the library occasionally offers a **technology "petting zoo"** where library visitors can explore tech trends like 3-D printing, virtual reality, and robotics.



EXHIBITS

The Library has been awarded numerous traveling exhibits from national organizations, including *"Maize: Mysteries of an Amazing Grain"* which came from the Paleontological Research Institute in 2016.

READ Dogs

Learning to read can be an intimidating prospect so the Reading Educational Assistance Dogs (READ) program provides opportunities for young readers to experience the support and encouragement of a professionally-trained READ dog.

Studies show that reading to a dog creates a relaxed, non-threatening environment and is shown to boost confidence and self-esteem in reluctant readers.

The READ dogs are at library the second Sunday of every month. Each child reads to the dog for fifteen minutes so registration is recommended.



Inspiring the Imagination!

From science and genealogy to books and movies, the Grand Forks Public Library ignites imagination in community members of all ages.

FIRST LEGO™ League

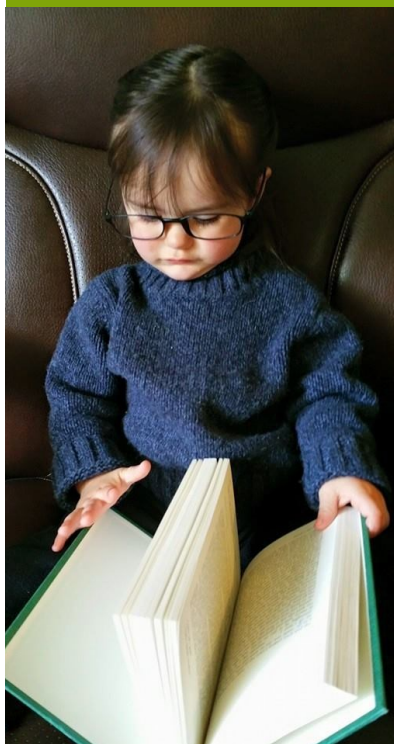
Students aged 9 to 14 are invited to join one of the library's LEGO leagues, which meet from September through early February. This free program encourages tomorrow's innovators to work together to build, test, and program an automated robot to solve a set of missions and then participate in a regional competition.

Kids in the Kitchen

Led by volunteer Noelle Myers, this monthly event teaches kids from kindergarten through 6th grade how to make healthy snacks and treats that taste good and are good for them. They also have a lot of fun!

Monthly Free Family Movie

On the third Saturday of each month, the library offers a free family movie, complete with freshly-popped popcorn. Showings are at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Recent features included Storks, Sing, and Moana.





Friends' Mission

The Friends
of the
Grand Forks Public Library
is a volunteer advocacy group
working to increase community
awareness, involvement, and
support for
library services,
programs,
facilities and needs.



A Great Library Needs Great Friends!

2016 was a great time to be a Friend of the Library! We had record breaking book sales, an increase in personal memberships and our tried and true activities remained popular. We also worked several new activities into the mix. An inaugural year of business membership and our first ever craft sale were both rousing successes. We in particular want to thank those businesses who helped us support the library and its programs.

Our fundraising activities allowed us to increase our financial support to the library. Most notably by assisting in funding both the Adult and Children's Reading Programs, FIRST Lego League team registrations, and purchasing books for the Children's Department. We also continued our collaborative Backpack Project with the Community Violence Intervention Center to provide children in their shelter with backpacks, a new book and school supplies provided by the Grand Forks community.

We'd like to invite you to be part of this exciting time with the Friends. You can become an active member by volunteering at book sales, off site events or other programs. Or you can help by providing financial support with a small membership fee. Ask for a membership form when you're next in the library or sign up online at the library's website.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. – Helen Keller



By the Numbers...

Revenue	2016	2015
City of Grand Forks	\$1,690,911.46	\$1,576,597.15
Grand Forks County	533,837.97	591,123.00
State Aid/ ntergovernmental	155,836.29	163,006.69
Grants	1,777.55	9,392.50
Library Fees/Services	49,347.71	47,934.53
Donations/Interest/	18,916.61	18,703.11
Total	\$2,450,627.59	\$2,406,856.98
Expenditures		
Wages& Salaries	\$1,281,170.96	\$1,250,665.08
Benefits	513,292.03	475,555.09
Supplies	61,513.40	68,879.14
Utilities	67,959.24	78,648.81
Services & Contracts	152,911.95	124,574.43
Building Maintenance	56,538.48	59,865.15
Operating Expenses	70,350.61	74,827.83
Books and Periodicals	224,200.21	220,796.57
Capital Expenditures	7,355.27	18,595.46
Other	6,519.15	7,885.10
Total	\$2,441,811.30	\$2,380,292.66

Library Usage In 2016



59%

OF ALL THE RESIDENTS OF
GRAND FORKS COUNTY HAVE
LIBRARY CARDS

9.58

ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT
PER CAPITA FOR EVERY MAN,
WOMAN, AND CHILD IN
GRAND FORKS COUNTY



**NEARLY 250,000
PEOPLE CAME
TO THE LIBRARY
IN 2016**

THE GRAND FORKS PUBLIC
LIBRARY OFFERED 760
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO
17,537
ADULTS, TEENS, AND CHILDREN



THE MOST POPULAR TITLES CHECKED OUT
FROM THE LIBRARY



BOOK



MAGAZINE



MOVIE

The Library Is On Your Phone!

Has your airplane been delayed? Are you snowed in at home? Wide awake at 2:00 AM? Sometimes you just need the library to come to you!

All you need is the Grand Forks Public Library's website (www.gflibrary.com), your Library card and a computer, tablet or smartphone with internet access to be able to ...

Get live one-on-one homework help

TutorND offers FREE online tutoring and academic resources for North Dakota residents. Students (K-College) and adults can get help from professional tutors in major subjects like math, science, social studies, English, or writing. Tutors are available online from Sunday through Thursday, 3 PM - 10 PM Central Time.

Listen to a bestseller

Library2Go is the Library's free version of OverDrive, which lets you borrow thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and more from their digital collection. This includes new releases, bestsellers, biographies, kids books, and much more. Check them out for 3 weeks and they automatically return themselves so there are no late fees!

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Learn a new language

Pronunciator is a fun and free way to learn any of 80 languages with self-directed lessons, live teachers, movies, music, and more. Pronunciator also has ESL training for speakers of 50 non-English languages.

Access these free resources at gflibrary.com!



Contact Us

Give us a call or visit us online for more information about our services and resources!

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