

Village Library of Cooperstown 2016 Annual Report Summary

2016 was one of the most significant years in the history of the Cooperstown Library. It goes beyond the usual high rate of patron visits, circulation, and library programs. 2016 was the year that we had a major facelift and changed the look of the library forever.

Thanks to the successful application for a New York State Construction grant we were able to completely redesign the west wing of the library. The wall that separated the children's room from the Nancy Dunn Room was removed and created one large open space to better accommodate our patrons. Working with the support of the Village of Cooperstown and the Friends of the Village Library we managed to install a new wood floor in the hallway, add new shelving and carpeting to the west wing, and install attractive new lighting that created a more welcoming ambiance to the library as a whole. By adding new permanent shelving to the rim of the west wing and conducting a massive weeding of obsolete books, we were able to provide more room for patrons to study, read, socialize, use their laptop, or conduct a meeting. The redesign also allows us to host programs that are not in a confined space.

We celebrated the grand opening of the new west wing with an open house on Sunday, November 6th. The event was extremely well attended as it attracted approximately 200 people from the community. The reviews from those in attendance were extremely positive. The main explanation to people who were confused by the new shelving arrangement for books is that we are a work in progress. We have much to do in 2017 to finish the renovation and everything will be in a logical and convenient place when all is said and done. Patience is always required when a construction project is taking place.

Circulation was down a bit in 2016 but that can be explained by the construction project. The west wing of the library was closed for several weeks while the construction was going on. Most children's, YA titles, books on cd, and large print books were not available during that time. The circulation of adult fiction remained steady and adult non-fiction was down slightly from 2015. Any drop can once again be attributed to restricted library usage. Circulation of e-books and downloadable audios was similar to last year and interlibrary loans were up significantly probably due to the limited availability of locally-owned titles.

We had another successful year of adult, children's, and family programs. "Nights at the Round Table" has begun to diversify and bring in non-authors who have something of value to contribute. The FOVL Sunday programs continue to be very popular as they hosted such local luminaries as Jane Clark, Baseball Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson, and Bill Harman of the Biological Field Station. "Dave's Pick Flicks" is still finding its niche but often brings in good-sized audiences. Children's programs continue to be impressive thanks to youth services librarian, Martha Sharer. In addition to the weekly story-time hour on Wednesday mornings, Martha organizes several Saturday family programs throughout the year, the NYS summer reading program, and the summer evening family programs which draw huge crowds for traditional favorites such as "Dan the Snake Man" and the K-9 Unit of the state police.

2017 holds much promise as we focus on continuing our renovation project, developing young adult programs, and providing newer and more proficient computers for our patrons. The "new-look" library

is trying its best to mix tradition with modern technology to provide our patrons with the best of both worlds. Our goal of becoming a community hub for all ages is within reach.