



2022 Annual Report

William B. Ogden Free Library



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Walton Community,

It is an empowering exercise to stop and reflect upon the past. Sometimes when we are in the thick of service, we can get bogged down, only seeing what remains on the to-do-list and wondering if the resources and energies we are expending are making a difference. By taking the time to review and look back, we can tangibly see just how much progress has been made and how much further we have advanced toward our goals.

As I look back upon the past year, I do so with gratefulness for a competent and creative staff and for committed and active board members. Together we make a great team. We are a team that is unified behind our mission; to enrich the literary and cultural lives of our community members and to preserve the structural integrity of our gorgeous historic building. It is a joy to lead at this library. Each person contributes toward making my job easier and toward making the library the awesome public resource that it is.

I am thankful for the members of this community. This is your library and it thrills me to see you using and enjoying it. As you look through this year's report I hope you too will be encouraged. In all areas, from circulation of materials to program attendance, we have seen a significant increase over last year's statistics.

We have enjoyed some great times together during this past year. I thank you for all the ways that you have interacted with and supported the library. Thanks for telling your friends and neighbors about our programs and for bringing your kids and teens to our events. Thanks for your material recommendations, sharing about your passions and interests and for your monetary donations. Thanks for participating in our monthly challenges and interacting with our displays. The staff and I love knowing that our efforts are enjoyed and appreciated.

Heather Johnson, Director

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Throughout the country, libraries have been faced with the challenge to provide services and resources to the public at their normal frequency and quality despite the rising cost to do so. The William B. Ogden Free Library has been no exception. This year the Board of Trustees has been committed to taking an in-depth look at the library's finances and to ensuring its sustainability for the future. We have begun by updating our book keeping system and by developing policies that address financial controls and the management of funds. The Board is very proud of our director and the staff for the quality programming they provide to the community within the budget set by the board.

This year the board has also been committed to the development of its membership through training opportunities and through adopting formal recruitment guidelines. We currently have three vacancies. We would welcome community members interested in volunteering in this capacity to fill out and submit a Board Member Recruitment Questionnaire found on the library's website or by visiting the library circulation desk.

~Robbie-Jean Rice, President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robbie-Jean Rice
President

Mary Doig
Vice President

Thomas Austin
Finance Officer

Kathleen Harby
Secretary

Jessica Backus -Foster
Natalie Cramer
Rachel James
Vicki O'Brien
Three Vacant Seats

BY THE NUMBERS



8,558
VISITORS TO THE
LIBRARY

This is a 29% increase over 2021



1,191
REGISTERED
BORROWERS

This means that 36% of the population in our service area has a library card.

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

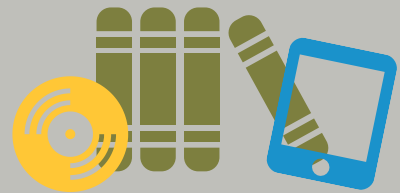
17,134

Our circulation of materials was up 35% over 2021.

- *Children's Books alone saw a 44% increase in circulation over last year! The relocation of our children's collection in 2021 has had a positive effect on the use of these materials.*

LIBRARY COLLECTION

The library has a total collection of **23,442** items. This year there were **2,351** new items added.



INTERLIBRARY LOAN

4,370

Materials Borrowed

1,476

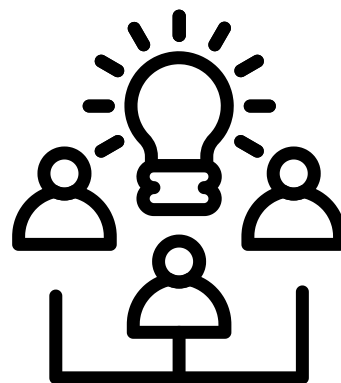
Materials Loaned

As a member of the Four County Library System, we have access to the materials from the other 41 libraries in the system.

In addition, if a desired item is not available, we are able to search and request items from outside our system through the Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). This year we received items for our patrons from libraries as far away as Indiana!

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Attendance increased 31% over 2021



285

Total Programs Offered

2,969

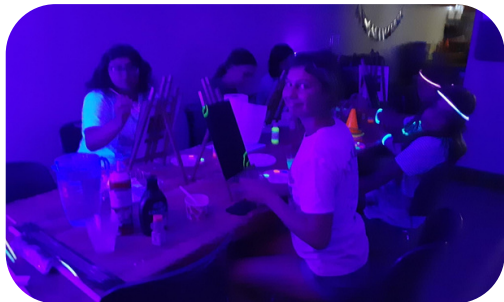
Program Attendance

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our annual **jig-saw puzzle competition** has quickly become a community favorite. This year, eight teams of four gathered on the lower level of the library to be the first to complete the same 500-piece puzzle. "The Milkmaids" held their title while beating their team record, completing the puzzle in 1 hour, 3minutes, and 42 seconds. Three of the teams were repeat participants, but for some teams, it was the first time they had been inside the library! Five of the eight teams finished the puzzle in the two hours allotted for the event.



We offered a six week summer reading incentive, "**Oceans of Possibilities**," for all ages. Our staff went all out with decorating the library. Our numbers remained consistent with our pre-school and elementary ages. For the first time, we had teens participating in the reading incentive through an ongoing battleship game and a grand-prize drawing for the "pirate's booty." Our lower level was glowing and overflowing with participants during our final event, a bioluminescent glow-party, complete with glow-in-the-dark games, and crafts!



It was encouraging to see so many teens excited to be in the library. We are thankful for the O'Connor Foundation and to Assemblyman Angelino, who helped fund a portion of these activities.

DISPLAYS

Each month, throughout the year, library staff create interactive displays for the community. One of our favorites asked patrons the question, "**Why did you come to the library today?**" Patrons were encouraged to write their answers on papers leaves, and to fasten the leaves to a board. The answers were as varied as the patrons coming through our doors and were a very real reminder to staff and board members of the many ways the library meets the needs of our community members.

Some of the reasons given for visiting the library included:

- "To enjoy some quiet time and read some magazines!"
- "To return a book and get a cool bookmark. Thank you!"
- "To meet up with friends and knit. :)"
- "Came in for a new library card today!"
- "To browse, take out some books, & set up my hoopla account :)"
- "I came to the library today to use the wonderful computers and printer. I'd be lost if these services were not available."

Patrons contributed to our **2nd Annual Tiny Art Show**. Twenty-six people submitted their original art on 3x5 canvas. Pieces were on display on the main level of the library for the month of February. Such a great way to add color to the winter months!



ATTIC TREASURES

Library staff discovered newspapers from the 1898 New York Herald in the library's attic.

We reached out to the librarians at the Library of Congress to ask them to investigate whether these editions were in their collections. Librarians confirmed that these editions were missing and they were eager to have them for digitization preservation. Specific instructions were provided on how to package these fragile materials for safe delivery.

The following email confirmation was received regarding their safe delivery to the Library of Congress.

"I know you received confirmation of delivery, but wanted you to know that I have picked up the newspapers that you sent. They arrived safely. Great reads too! "

Thank you for finding them and contacting us about them."

Georgia M. Higley

Head, Physical Collections Services Section

Serial & Government Publications Division, MS 4760

Library of Congress

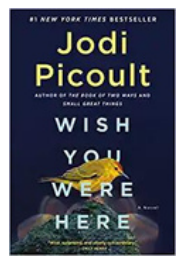


PARTNERSHIPS

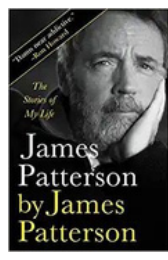
We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations that partnered with us this year to provide free, engaging programs, learning opportunities, and services to the Walton Community. We are fortunate to work with so many quality organizations and people willing to volunteer their time, talents, and expertise.

- Cancer Services Program-Central Region
- Cornel Cooperative Extension
- Ellen Adams
- Girl Scouts
- Margaret DiBenedetto
- Mel Steinbrecher
- Music on the Delaware
- Office of the Aging
- Robbie-Jean Rice
- Santa & Mrs. Claus
- "Satch" Cranston
- Townsend Elementary School
- The Mustard Seed
- Transition Catskills
- Walton Chamber of Commerce
- W.I.D.E.
- Walton Cemetery Association
- Walton First Friday's

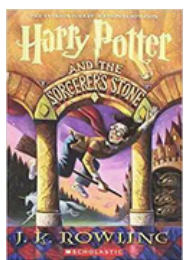
TOP CHECKOUTS



ADULT FICTION



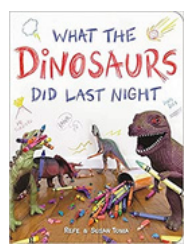
ADULT NON-FICTION



JUV FICTION



YA FICTION



PICTUREBOOK



DVD

OTHER SERVICES

Hoopla

This streaming service, available for free with your library card, allows five check-outs per month. Enjoy movies, TV shows, audio books, music and more.

Historic Newspapers

We added editions to our archives this year. Search our historic newspapers from 1856-1976 in the comfort of your home at <https://ogden.advantage-preservation.com/> Years 1977-2018 are only available while inside the library.

Geocache

Testimonial: "Thanks for the cache, I found it after digging around, and also signed up for a library card. Thank you!!!!"

Libby App

Access our digital library 24/7 to download eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines at home to your iPod, smartphone, or computer with your library card. Our friendly staff would be happy to help you set up this service on your device.

Little Free Libraries

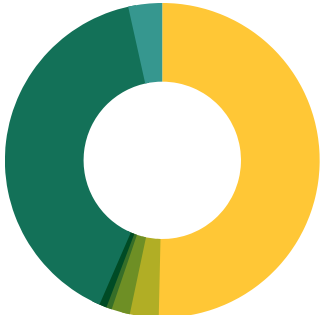
Take a book, leave a book. This is a great way to share reading material with other members of the community. Library staff update these weekly. You can find them at The Walton Big M, Dollar General, The Gardiner Plaza Laundromat, and The Delaware Street Village Laundromat

Public Computers & Wi-Fi

We have five public computers, and WIFI access with your own device. This year we added two external access points. This has increased the reach of our signal and allows patrons to use our Wi-Fi while parked in their vehicle in front of the library on both Gardiner Place and North Street.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INCOME



- Local Public Funds
- Budgeted Grants
- Donations
- LLSA
- Other
- Endowment Transfer
- Special Grants

EXPENSES



- Salaries
- Benefits
- Facilities
- Library Materials
- Library Services
- Administration
- Special Grant Projects