



Annual Report

2024





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About the Library

For 140 years, the Indianola Public Library has a proud tradition of serving the community by connecting residents to information and to each other so they can learn, enjoy, and thrive.

Mission

We open doors for curious minds.

Vision

IPL anticipates, innovates, and inspires.

Anticipates: We will foster trust and communication to identify the needs, wants, and aspirations of our community.

Innovates: We will experiment and push expectations with programs and services designed for the people we serve.

Inspires: We will encourage discovery, stimulate growth, and cultivate meaningful experiences and relationships.



Library Collections

Collections

The library strives to provide a diverse collection for all ages. In addition to books, the library offers games, puzzles, DVDs, video games, audio books, family history materials, ebooks, digital magazines, streaming videos, and a variety of objects in the Library of Things.

1,042

IPL Bridges book users

Digital Offerings

The library's digital collection includes books, audiobooks, and magazines through the state-wide consortium Bridges. In FY24, 1,024 IPL patrons checked out digital items, making the library the 11th biggest user of Bridges in the state of Iowa (502 participating libraries).

Although the demand for digital books continues to rise, the library's ability to increase the collection is limited by the high cost and other publisher constraints.

Streaming Videos

The library has more than 33,000 movies, documentaries, and children's educational shows, available through Kanopy streaming



In FY24 patrons downloaded 2,202 videos - a 53% increase over FY23.

200,407

Number of items

153,874

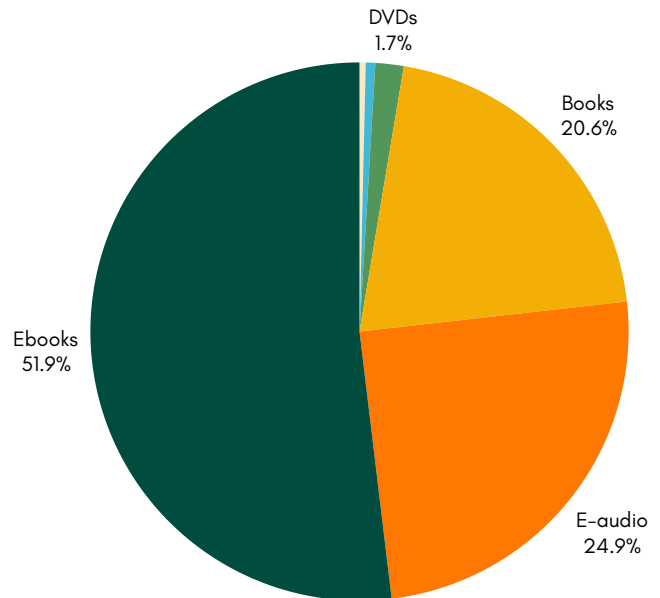
digital items

46,533

physical items

Collection Size

The library's collection included 200,047 items in FY-24. Due to space constraints, this is an ever-shifting collection in which less popular collections make room for more in-demand collections.



Special Collections

The library's special collections include games, puzzles, and Library of Things. Of this group, children's games and puzzles were the most popular with mobile hotspots topping the list of most checked-out Library of Things items.



Library Use

Library Use

For the second consecutive year, library circulation and use has reached record levels, making FY24 the busiest year in the library's 140-year history.

82,474

Door count

The number of people entering the library in FY24 was 82,474. June was the busiest month with a door count of 11,313.

188,621

Items borrowed

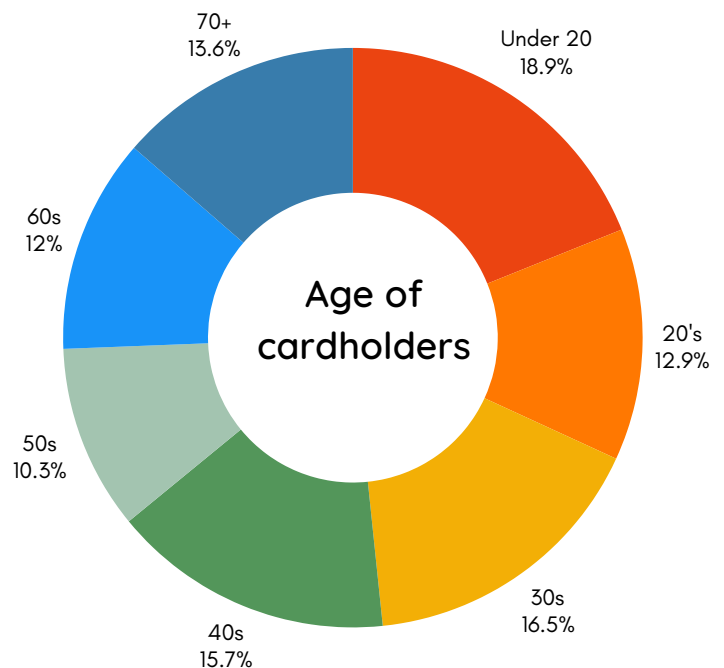


Record Circulation

The library had the **highest circulation in its 140 year history** in FY24 with a record 188,621 checkouts. This was a 9% increase over FY23, which held the previous record.

Popularity

Although digital materials make up the largest number of items in library's collection, patrons prefer physical items. Physical items such as books account for 75% of checkouts.



8,619

Library Card Holders

The library has 8,619 active card holders. Almost half (48%) are under 40.

Residents of the city of Indianola hold 68% of library cards, rural Warren County 22%, other Warren County cities, 7%, and other lowans 3%.



Books

and other physical items

Ebooks

and other digital items

Library Services

ASK US!

4,004

Reference questions
answered

Services Offered

The library offers many free services to patrons, including test proctoring, research assistance, and computer help.

Reference Questions

Library staff answer questions, provide research help, and assist patrons using the computers. On average, librarians answered 11 reference questions every day in FY24.

Community Partnerships

The library actively engages with community groups to bring services to residents, such as a diaper collection box for The Short Years and a food pantry refrigerator in the lobby in partnership with Helping Hand. A grant for Theisen's provides items for the "I Have a Need" pantry in the teen area, stocked with free hygiene products, such as deodorant and toothpaste.

12,339

Computer Sessions

8,436

wireless sessions

3,900

computer sessions

Public Computers

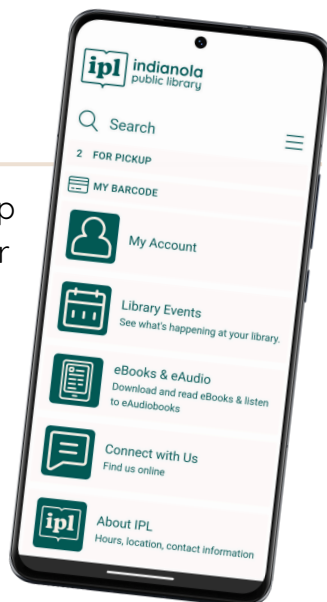
Patrons used 8,436 wireless sessions on personal devices along with 3,900 sessions using the library's six public computers. The library also offers printing, scanning, and faxing for the public.

39,393

Website Hits

The library's mobile app continues to be popular with 3,298 unique users and 29,971 page views. The most popular feature of the app was the events calendar.

The library's website also sees sizable online traffic with 39,393 hits in FY24.



1,428

Books Delivered

Home Delivery

Library volunteers made over 100 home visits with 1,428 books to Indianola residents who are homebound as part of the library's long-running Home Delivery Service.

Local History Research

The library's resources include access to Indianola newspapers from 1850-present and a variety of local history research resources.

Free Test Proctoring

The library offers free test proctoring for students.



Library Programs

Programs Offered

The library offers programs for all ages, including storytimes, teen hangouts, and escape rooms for adults.

Library Programs

The library held 562 programs in FY-24 with a **record attendance of 18,106**.

In addition to programs held in the library building, the library reaches out to the community, holding programs in every Indianola elementary school, along with the middle school, high school, local private schools, and community preschools.

18,106

Program Attendance

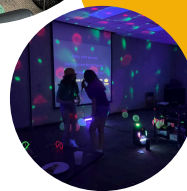
Library programs continue to be popular with a record attendance in FY-24 - a 15% increase over FY-23. Programs for children and families are the most popular, comprising 84% of all attendance.

Adventure Passes

Indianola Residents checked out 310 free family passes to the Blank Park Zoo, Science Center, Children's Museum, and Botanical Gardens through the library's Adventure Pass program.

Book Walk

The library lawn features a year-round book walk. In FY-24, 23 stories were featured on the book walk.



Subscription Boxes

In one of the more unique services offered, librarians create personalized subscription boxes based on patrons' preferences. In FY24, 833 individual subscription boxes were created for patrons.

Seed Library

The Seed Library has more than 175 different types of fruit, flower, and vegetable seeds available for free. Patrons can donate seeds back to the Seed Library at harvest.



Library Building



Library Building

Built in 1984, the library building is 11,250 sq. feet. It is a one-story building with one program/meeting room and a partial basement. Its defining feature is a skylight that divides the building to create an atrium.



The building is open seven days a week for a total of 64 hours each week.

Open **7**
days a week

Expanded Hours

Beginning June 2024, the library expanded its hours to open one hour early each day Monday - Saturday. This change allowed the library to double its storytime offerings.

Building Expenses

Janitorial Services	\$20,355
Utilities	\$18,232
Routine Maintenance	\$17,103
Insurance	\$12,416
Repairs	\$3,284
Landscaping and Lawn Care...	\$2,180

Total: \$73,570