



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY



April 17, 2023

2022

A new vote of confidence in BDL!

Two years on, one would hope that pandemic worries would have been behind us by 2022, but they were very much still a concern at the start of the year. Many of BDL's programs throughout the year were once again held outdoors out of an abundance of caution. Thankfully, by the end of the year the worst of the pandemic seemed behind us and our attendance and usage numbers continued to climb.

Like many organizations in 2022, one major challenge the library faced was staffing shortages. Due to retirements and life events, BDL lost eight team members over the year, some who had been with the library for decades. Filling so many positions in such a small timeframe, and then training the new staff, was definitely a challenge for the library in the midst of everything that goes on in a typical year.



Little Free Library

We continued to make progress in our Strategic Plan completion by sponsoring, along with the Bronson Jr./Sr. High School, the installation of a **Little Free Library** at Discount Foods in Bronson. We also launched our brand new **Library by Mail** service, offer homebound

individuals a new way to use their library.

The biggest news for the library in 2022 came in August with the renewal of our 8-year millage by a good margin. With funding secure for another 8 years, BDL looks forward to continuing to provide great service, materials, and programs.

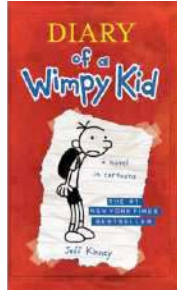


THE MOST POPULAR

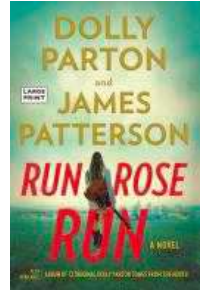
BDL's most checked-out items represent a wide variety of interests.



Most popular overall
(344 checkouts)



Most popular kid's book
(130 checkouts)



Most popular adult fiction
(51 checkouts)



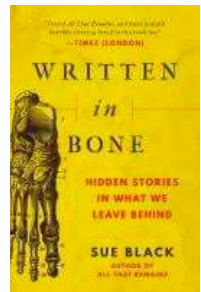
Most popular "library of things" item (293 checkouts)



Most popular young adult book
(40 checkouts)



Most popular movie
(59 checkouts)



Most popular non-fiction
(76 checkouts)

MOBILE

Coming Soon to

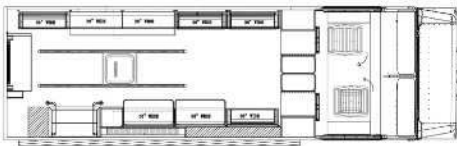
In 2018, as part of our Strategic Planning process, BDL held community meetings to learn from our users just what were their priorities for the library.

One theme that was strongly expressed in these conversations was the importance of getting the library outside its walls and into the community more, and to provide library users with wide-ranging and convenient access to materials and services.



*Branch Co. Library
Bookmobile in 1946*

What better way to do this than to bring back bookmobile service to Branch County! Not seen in the area since the 1960s, BDL's upcoming mobile library will be a place where books are just the beginning! The vehicle was ordered in 2022 with construction and delivery expected in the 3rd quarter of 2023.



This 26-foot vehicle will bring a full library experience in a mobile, climate-controlled package.

We are planning for regular routes that takes us to underserved parts of the county, places where there is not a nearby BDL branch, as well as stops at schools, assisted living centers, community festivals, and more.

LIBRARY

a Road Near You!

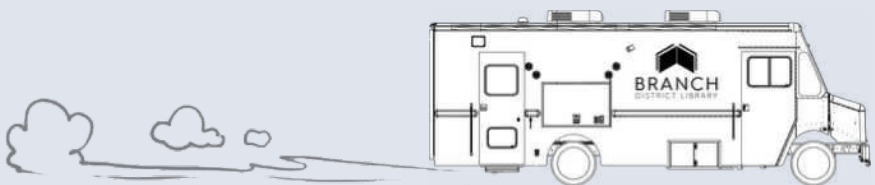
The BDL Mobile Library will offer many of the things that our guests have come to expect from their library:

- Books and magazines for all ages
- Movies and audio-books
- WiFi, computers, and printing services
- Reference services
- Entertaining and informative programs



*Interior Rendering of the BDL
Mobile Library*

The exact timeline of the launch of our mobile library won't be known until we take delivery, but once we launch you'll be seeing the smiling faces of our helpful library staff in more places than ever before around Branch County!



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS



After big renovation projects at other branches the last few years, it was time for the Coldwater Branch to see some work.

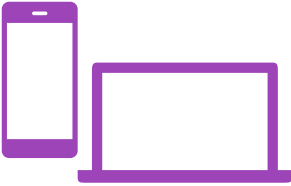
Not fully re-painted for decades, the exterior of the Coldwater Branch got a complete makeover, from top to bottom.

Repairs were made as needed to the exterior and the entire building was painted. The end result was just what we'd hoped for!



BY THE

How operations

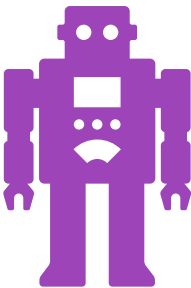


1,348,408 digital items
available for checkout.



105,999 in-person visits
to the library.

↑ **48%**



1,507 programs were put on for
all ages, mostly in-person, and
also included monthly take-
home kits. **19,550** people at-
tended.

↑ **22%**



31,554 uses of digital resources—
electronic books, audiobooks, MeL
databases, and BDL services like
Mango Languages and Tutor.com.

NUMBERS

s looked in 2022



108,050 physical items on our shelves.



Free Wifi use:

364,501 total 1-hour sessions.

↑ **25%**



It's not always about Google...we answered **21,537** reference questions for our patrons.

↑ **16%**

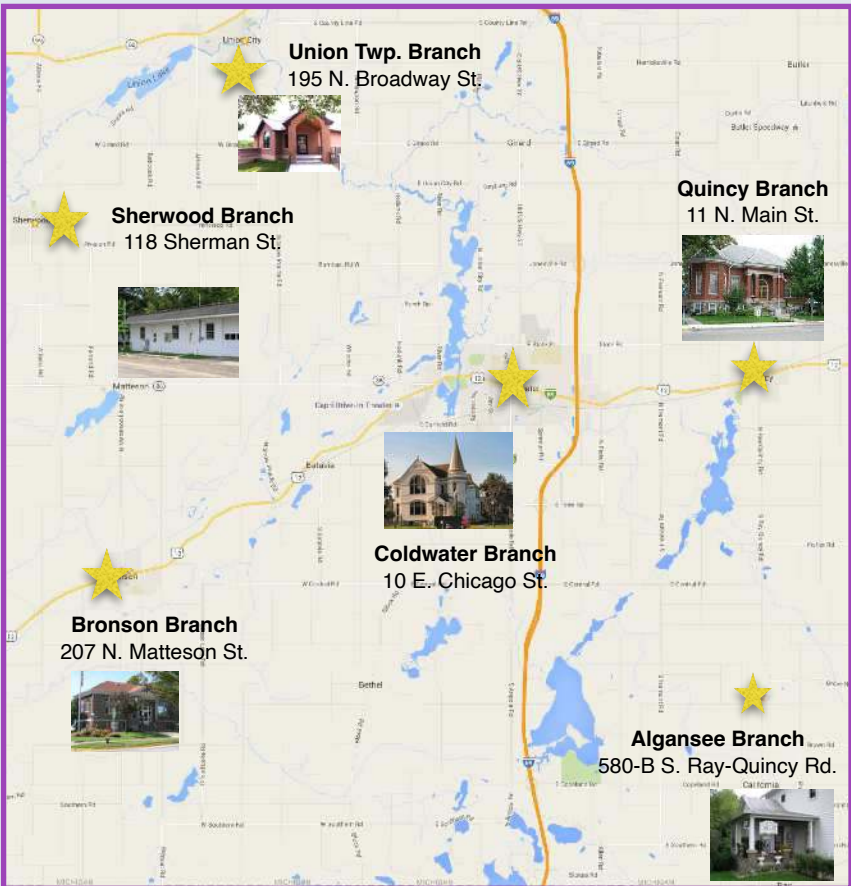


We circulated physical books, movies, and more **111,083** times—saving our patrons **\$1,617,109** if they had bought all these items.

↑ **19%**

YOUR HOMETOWN LIBRARY

You're never more than a few minutes away from your library.



MISSION / VISION

Our **mission** is to provide the people of our communities with library collections and services to meet their educational, informational, and recreational needs.

Our **vision** is to provide vibrant resources and inclusive spaces for people to thrive through innovation, education, and entertainment.

CORE VALUES



We are **Forward-Thinking**



We are **Involved**



We are **Trustworthy**



We are **Community-Focused**

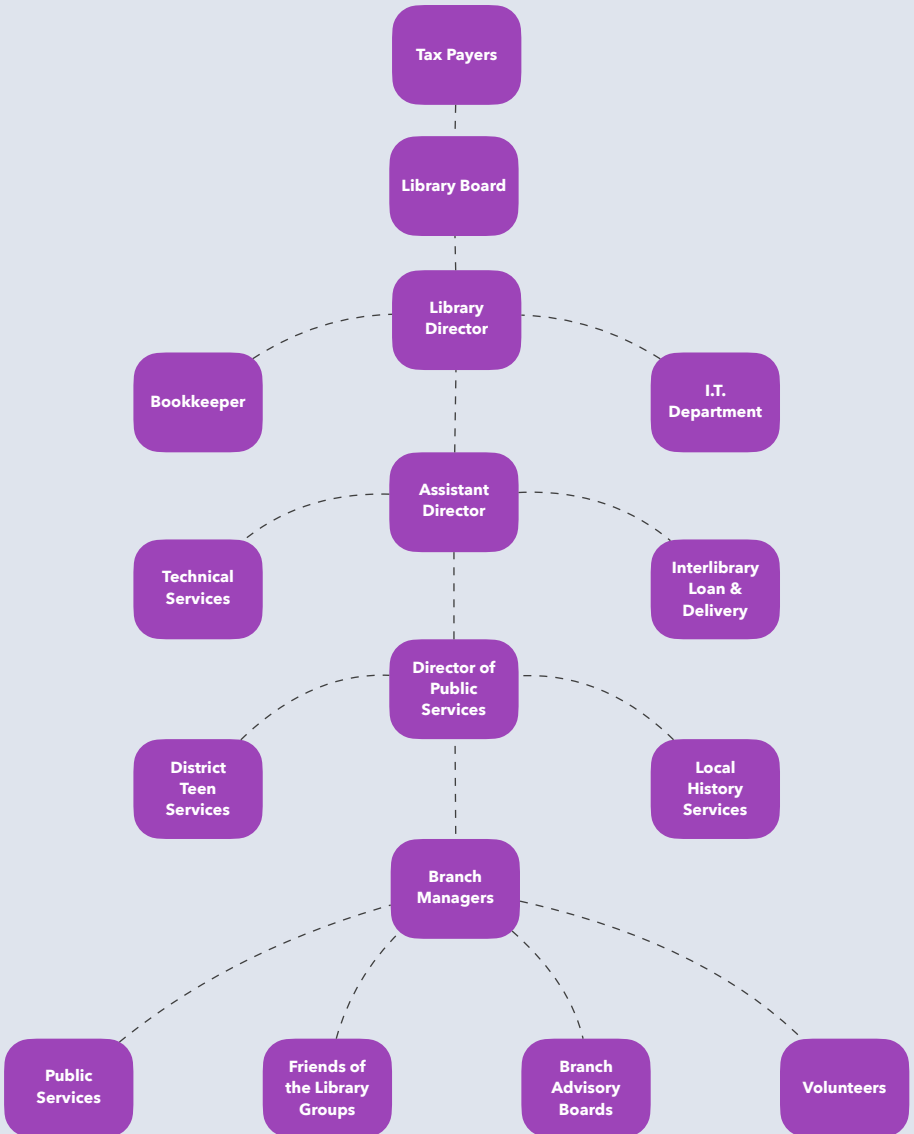


We provide **High-Quality and Diverse Programs**



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

It all starts with YOU!



BDL LEADERSHIP

Oversight of BDL is provided by a Board of Trustees, representing all the communities of Branch County. Monthly Board meetings are always open to the public.

Trustees of the BDL Board as of December 2022

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>▶ President
Benjamin Jewell
Representing the
City of Coldwater</p> | <p>▶ Vice President
Susan Smith
Representing
Quincy Twp.</p> | <p>▶ Secretary
Kimberly Langworthy
Representing the
County-at-Large</p> |
| <p>▶ Susan Brooks
Representing the
County-at-Large</p> | <p>▶ Robert Hostetler
Representing the
City of Coldwater</p> | <p>▶ Joseph Lynch
Representing
Union Twp.</p> |
| | <p>▶ Karen Smith
Representing
Bronson Twp.</p> | |

BDL Management Team as of December 2022

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>▶ Library Director
John Rucker</p> | <p>▶ Assistant Director
Kimberly Feltner</p> | <p>▶ Director of Public
Services
Jessica Tefft</p> |
|--|---|---|

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

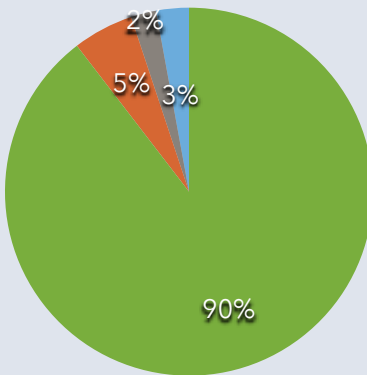
2022 Operating Revenue

Taxes	\$1,839,157
Penal Fines	\$109,425
State Aid	\$45,666
All Other Sources	\$58,972
Total	\$2,053,220

The average household in Branch County in 2022 paid about **\$74 per year** in library taxes.



2022 Operating Revenue



- Taxes
- Penal Fines
- State Aid
- All Other Sources

Unassigned Fund Balance

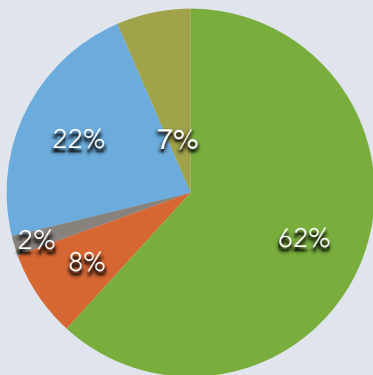
2021 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,304,832
2022 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,327,668

OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

2022 Operating Expenditures	
Personnel	\$1,369,479
Materials	\$170,870
Programming	\$38,290
Facilities	\$493,804
All Other Library Expenditures	\$144,637
Total	\$2,217,080

The average household in 2022 got about **\$252** of value from library materials and services.

2022 Operating Expenditures



- Personnel (Salaries, benefits, training, etc.)
- Materials
- Programming
- Facilities
- All Other Library Expenditures



BDL Administrative Offices

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