



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

BRANCH DISTRICT 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**



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 2023

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

BDL Management Team as of December 2023

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| ▶ Director
John Rucker | ▶ Assistant Director
Kimberly Feltner | ▶ Director of Public
Services
Jessica Tefft |
|----------------------------------|---|---|

THE MOST POPULAR

BDL's most checked-out items

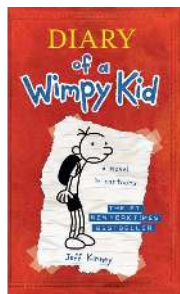
With over 150,000 checkouts last year, many thousands of items are checked out only a small number of times. These are the highly popular items that stand out in that list. For the third year in a row, *People Magazine* is the most popular item overall, and for the third year, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is the most popular kid's book.

Colleen Hoover's *Verity* was the most popular fiction title, with Hoover's other books taking 6 of the top 10 most popular fiction books at BDL last year.

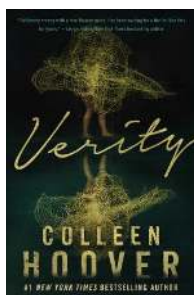
Digital is clearly the preference for BDL users: downloadable audiobooks were checked out 15 times more than CD audiobooks in 2023!



Most popular overall:
People
(368 checkouts)



Kid's book:
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
(154 checkouts)



Adult Fiction:
Verity
(69 checkouts)



Adult Non-Fiction:
Spare
(45 checkouts)



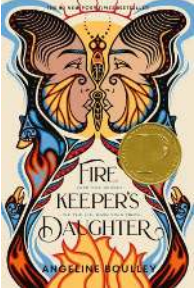
Audiobook:
Just the Nicest Couple
(52 checkouts)



Movie:
Top Gun: Maverick
(48 checkouts)

ITEMS OF 2023

represent a wide variety of interests.



Young Adult fiction:
Fire Keeper's Daughter
(46 checkouts)



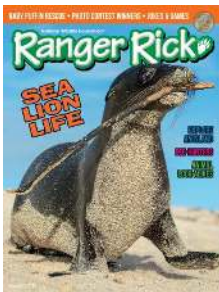
Graphic Novel/Comic:
Archie
(136 checkouts)



Digital Magazine:
The New Yorker
(42 checkouts)



Most popular Library of Things item:
WiFi Hotpot
(292 checkouts)



Kid's Magazine:
Ranger Rick
(23 checkouts)



Kid's Audiobook:
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
(52 checkouts)



Picture Book:
The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!
(28 checkouts)

STORYWALK®

Thanks to generous support from the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater, the Kiwanis Children's Fund, Branch County Great Start Collaborative, Apex Clean Energy, and the City of Coldwater, BDL launched a StoryWalk® in September in Heritage Park. Designed to engage and delight people of all ages and languages, the library will present several stories each year for many years to come. The response to this project was so great that additional StoryWalk® installations are now in development at other locations around Branch County.





LIBRARY ○

Why buy when

Entertainment



Crafts
Game

Tools



Science



F THINGS

you can borrow?

&
ES



Started a number of years ago, 2023 was the year that BDL majorly increased our Library of Things offerings. And items from that new collection got used 614 times last year!

The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional materials including gadgets, tools, games, electronics, and more – all available to check out for free with a library card.

Need something for a one-time project or want to try before you buy? Explore the collection and discover your next new Thing to borrow!

Check items out with any valid library card from Branch District Library, though some items may be limited to adults, 18 and up.

Items are available for 2 weeks, with an option to renew for another 2 weeks.

Baking



PROGRAMS & EVENTS





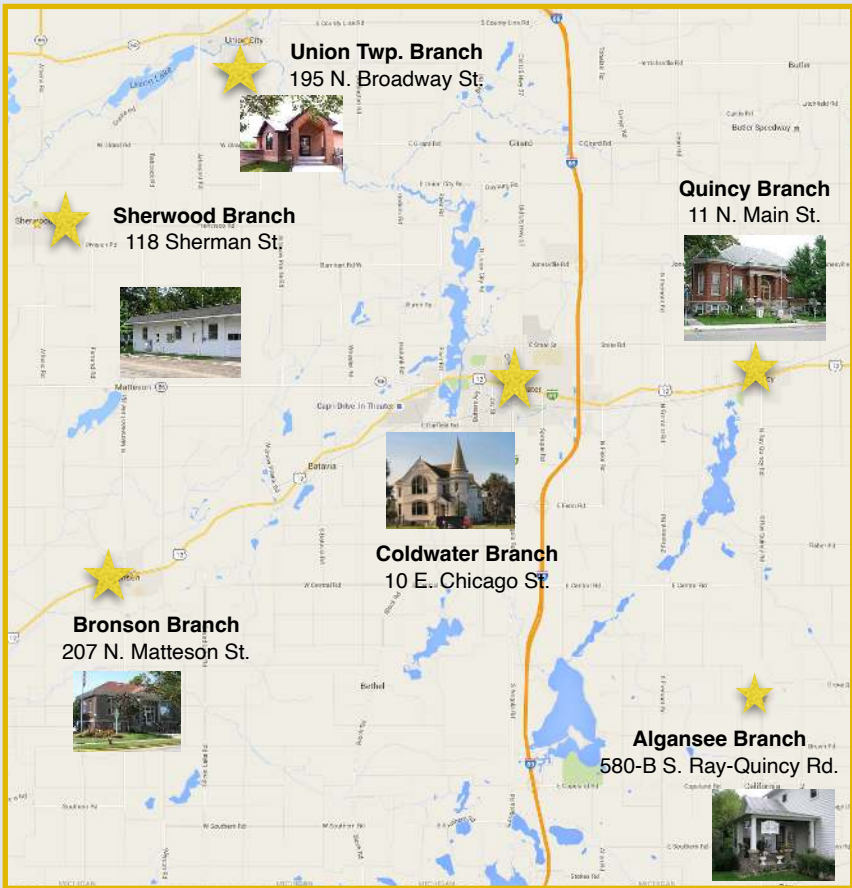
FOAM PARTY

A wet and wild—and clean—way to celebrate the end of the 2023 Summer Reading Program!

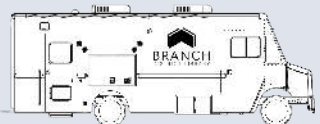


YOUR HOMETOWN LIBRARY

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



Bookmobile
planned for 2024!



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Bronson



Privacy Booth

Quincy



New Water Fountain



New Carpeting and Interior Painting



Exterior Painting and Porch Improvements
(Courtesy Village of Sherwood)

Sherwood



Interior Painting



Accessible West Entrance

Coldwater



*Charger for Upcoming Bookmobile
(Diesel vehicle has a battery instead of
a generator for interior electrical.)*



Server Room Air Conditioner

BY THE NUMBERS

1,556,871

Digital items available
for checkout.

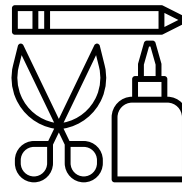


141,973

In-person visits to the library.

2,620

Programs were put on for all ages.



24,581

People attended programs.

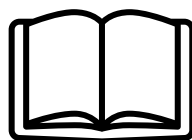
31,554

Uses of digital resources-electronic books,
audiobooks, MeL databases, and BDL services
like Mango languages and Tutor.com



107,340

Physical items on our shelves.

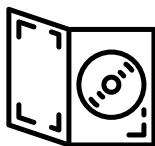


458,794

Total 1-hour session of free WiFi use.

30,265

Reference questions answered.



117,226

The amount of times we circulated physical books, movies and more.

\$1,762,804

Estimated amount guests saved by using library materials and services.



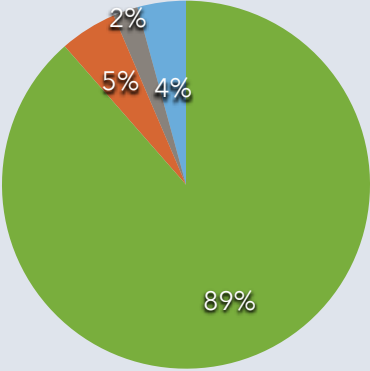
OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

2023 Operating Revenue	
Taxes	\$1,915,202
Penal Fines	\$108,639
State Aid	\$47,118
All Other Sources	\$92,100
Total	\$2,163,059

*The average residential household in Branch County in 2023 paid about **\$83 per year** in library taxes.*



2023 Operating Revenue



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

Unassigned Fund Balance	
2022 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,327,668
2023 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,287,018

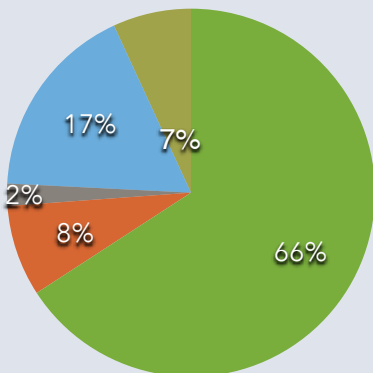
OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

2023 Operating Expenditures	
Personnel	\$1,390,194
Materials	\$169,192
Programming	\$41,236
Facilities	\$365,953
All Other Library Expenditures	\$145,237
Total	\$2,111,812

The average household in 2023 got about **\$289** of value from library materials and services.



2023 Operating Expenditures



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



BDL Administrative Offices

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