



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

**BRANCH DISTRICT
LIBRARY**



2017

A Year in Review.

2017 was a fantastic year at the Branch District Library!

Digital services to use in the library or on our patrons' own devices were a big focus, and people really loved them. We were especially excited to offer **hoopla**, with its deep catalog of music, movies, books, and more.

BDL was one of the first public libraries in Michigan to go **fine-free** in 2017. In addition, we forgave all past overdue fines for all our patrons.

At BDL we believe in **removing barriers** to library service wherever possible, and removing financial barriers will help many more people take advantage of library services.

BDL added free fax and notary public services to our offerings. We rolled out the ability to print from your own mobile devices to library printers at all branches.

In 2017 BDL increased our focus on teens by creating a new Teen Services department and hiring **Jessica Tefft** as Teen Services Librarian. As a result, BDL offered more teen programming than ever before and attendance across the district increased dramatically over 2016.

Improvements were made to our branches in Bronson, Union Twp., Quincy, and we renovated our main branch in Coldwater to include a dedicated **Teen Space** for the first time.

Long overdue, BDL undertook a **Strategic Planning** process in 2017. With input from our community through in-person meetings, interviews, and surveys, the

Library has charted a positive plan for continued improvement over the coming years.

Read on in this report to get a closer look at all of these amazing successes.



STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

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**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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.

Board Members as of December 2017

- ▶ **President**
Benjamin Jewell
Representing the City of Coldwater
- ▶ **Vice President**
Susan Smith
Representing Quincy Twp.
- ▶ **Secretary**
Martha Watson
Representing the County-at-Large
- ▶ Margaret Clemens
Representing Bronson Twp.
- ▶ Daniel Gordon
Representing the City of Coldwater
- ▶ Dolores Huffman
Representing the County-at-Large
- ▶ Marilyn Johnson
Representing Union Twp.
- ▶ Linda Lyshol, Library Director



LEADERSHIP TEAM

The team that leads the way in support of
BDL policies and the Strategic Plan.



Linda Lyshol
Library Director



John Rucker
Asst. Director /
Director of Technology



Kimberly Feltner
Director of Public
Services



Jessica Tefft
Teen Services
Librarian



Antonia Dauster
Financial Manager



Laura Sachjen
Technical Services
Manager



Gina Horn
Executive Assistant

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

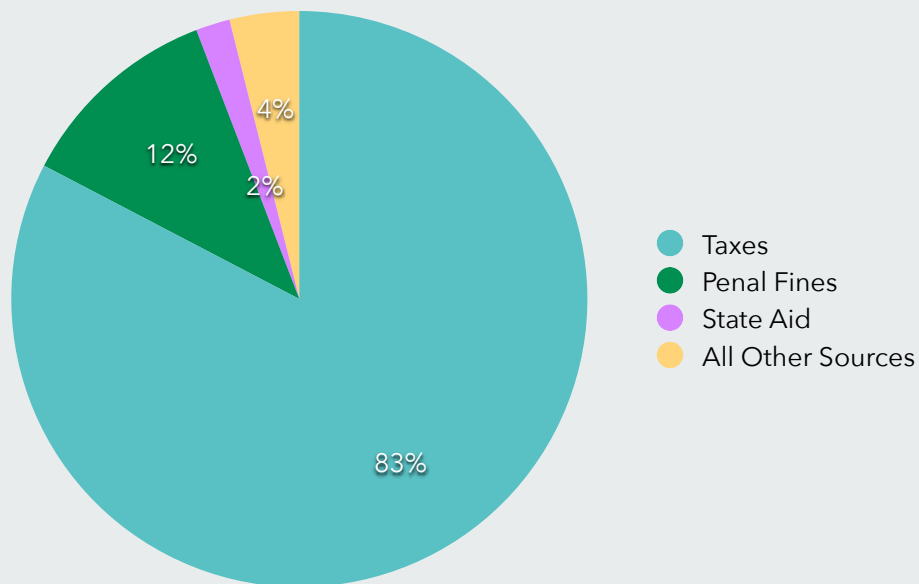
2017 Operating Revenue

Taxes	\$1,322,442
Penal Fines	\$184,242
State Aid	\$30,680
All Other Sources	\$62,477
Total	\$1,599,841

*The average household in Branch County pays about **\$82 per year** for library services.*



2017 Operating Revenue



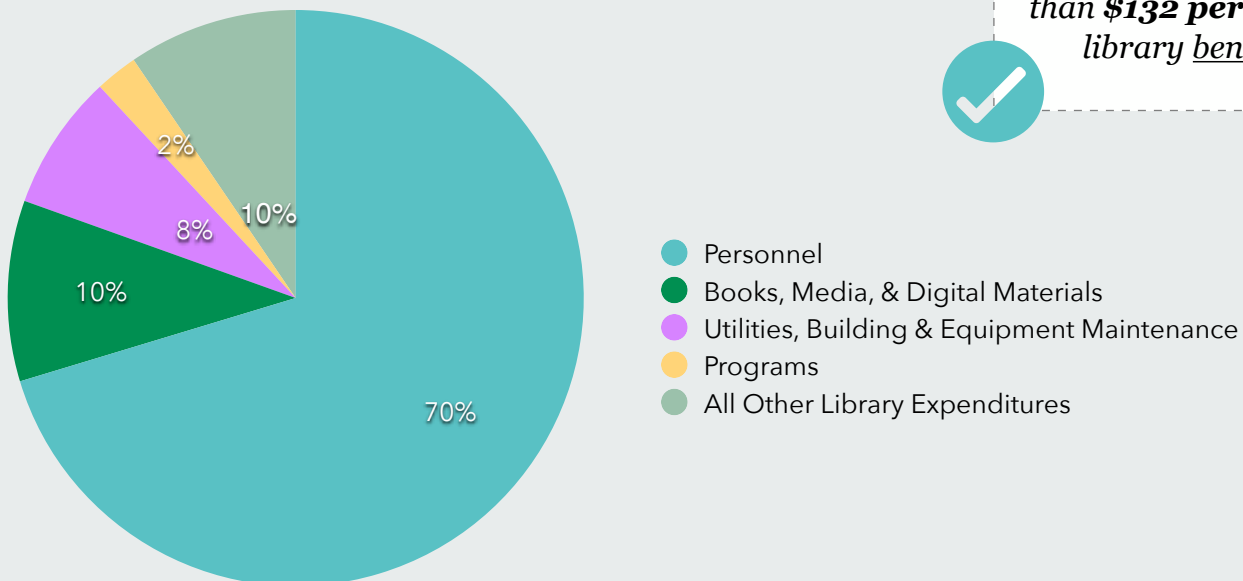
Undesignated Fund Balance

2016 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,098,693
2017 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,080,333

OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

2017 Operating Expenditures	
Salaries, Benefits, etc.	\$1,183,294
Books, Media, and Digital Materials	\$170,710
Utilities, Building & Equipment Maintenance	\$128,434
Programs	\$40,124
All Other Library Expenditures	\$160,019
Total	\$1,682,581 *

2017 Operating Expenditures



*The average household in Branch County gets more than **\$132 per year** in library benefits.*



* The Undesignated Fund Balance was used to cover the difference of expenditures over revenues.

BY THE NUMBERS

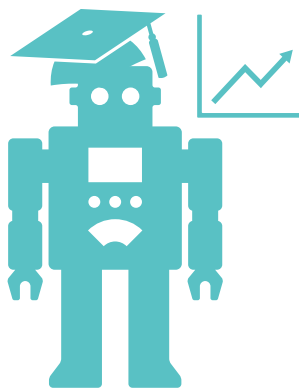
In 2017...



... we forgave
\$174,202 in
overdue fines.



... **193,922** visits
were made to
the library.



... **1,288** programs
were put on for kids,
teens, and adults.
24,935 people
attended.



... we circulated **157,623**
physical books, movies, and
more, saving our patrons
\$2,135,671 if they had bought
all these items.

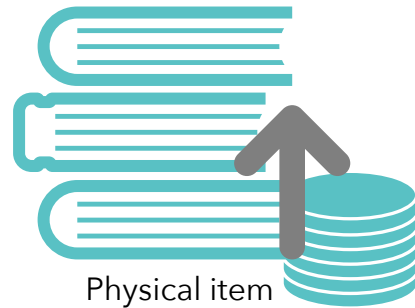
BDL TRENDS

2017 compared to 2016.



Free Wifi use **up 4%**

425,714 total
1-hour sessions



Physical item
checkouts
up 2%

157,623 total
circulations



Teen program
attendance **up 276%**

3,797 total
teen attendees

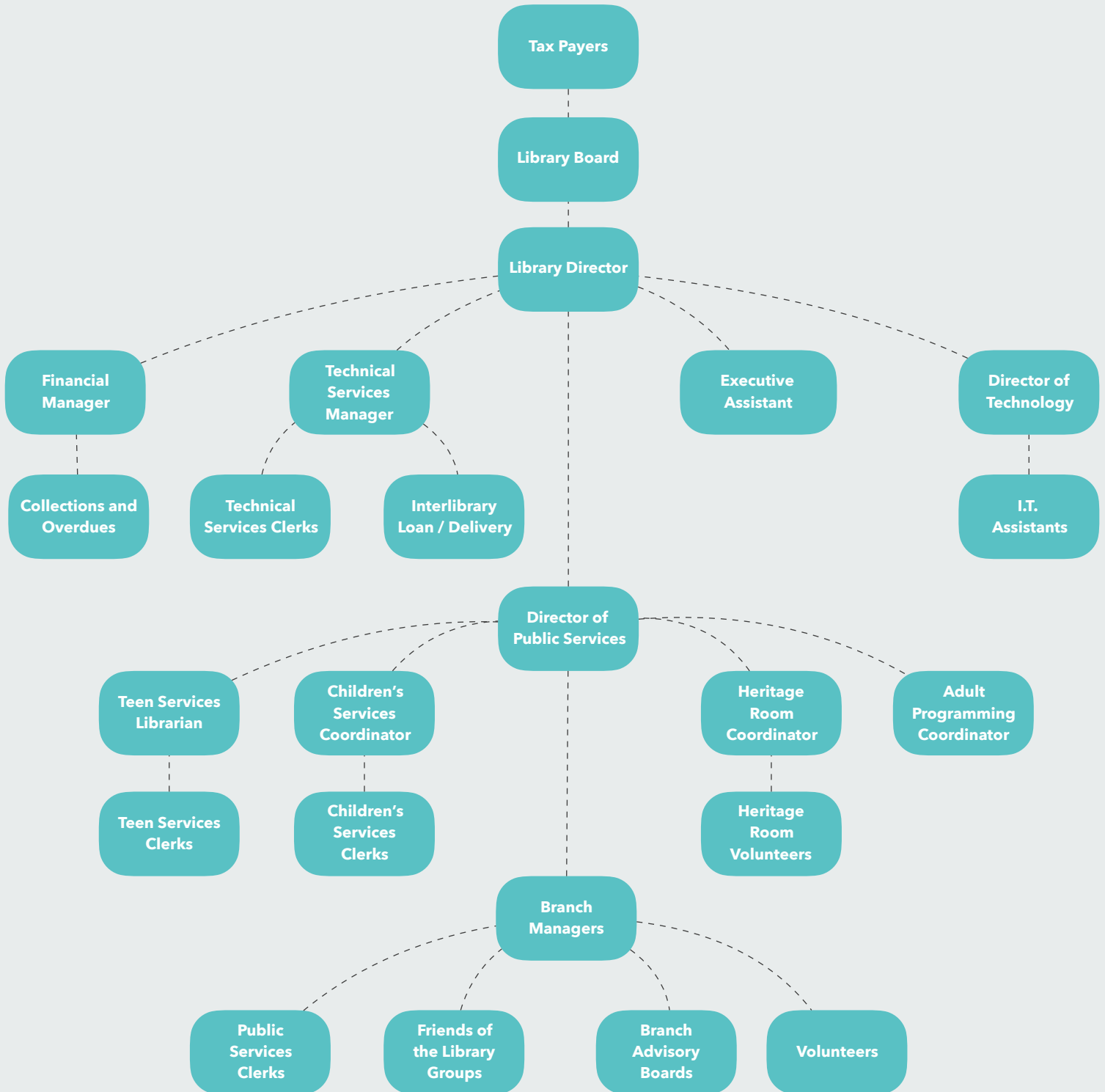


Reference questions
answered
up 14%

20,990 total
questions answered

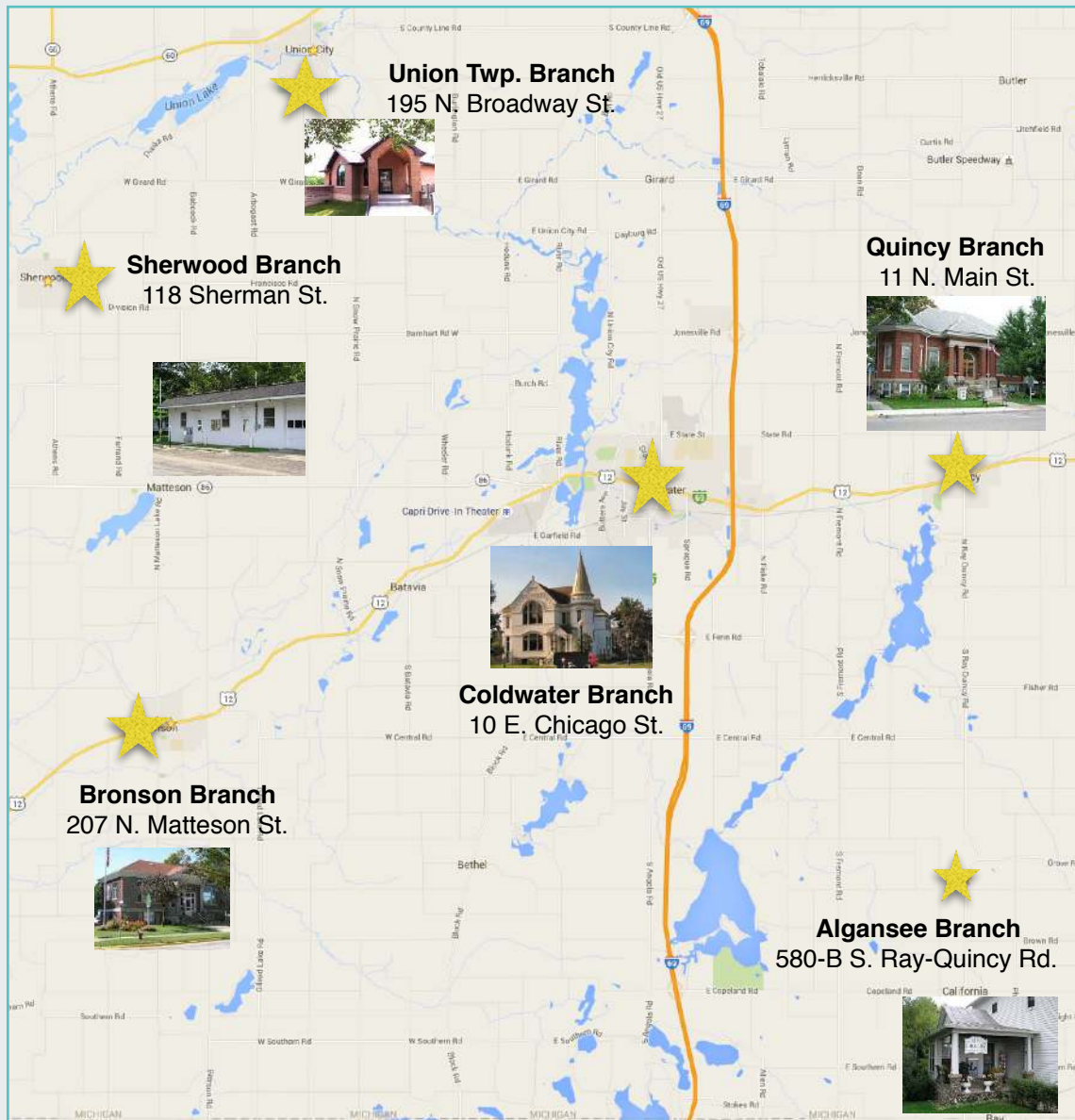
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

It all starts with YOU!



YOUR HOMETOWN LIBRARY

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



COLDWATER BRANCH TEEN SPACE

A bright new space for teens to learn, have fun, or just hang out.

BDL saw a need to create an area for teens, with access to computers, safe hangout and homework space, a spot for programs, and more room for Young Adult materials.

We worked closely with teens on the design, and with help from a grant from the Branch County Community Foundation the **Teen Space** was opened in July 2017.



Before...

“The community needed a space for us to go that was fun, safe, and accessible. BDL gave us that.” - Victoria



... and after!

“Thanks for letting us eat, be loud, and have fun!” - Tiana

A LOOK AROUND THE DISTRICT

With 6 library branches, there is something for everyone.



Whether it is checking out books or attending a program, lots of things are happening at the library. Because of **your support**, BDL is able to offer our popular Summer Reading Program, craft classes, educational programs, and special family days like Take Your Child to the Library.

With 6 Library Branches, there is something for everyone!

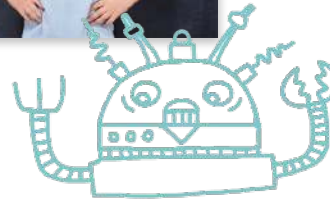
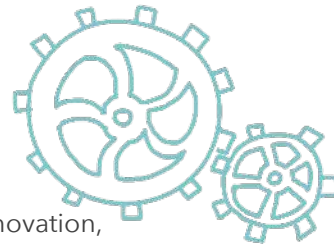


MORE THAN BOOKS

At your libraries, we are so much more than just books.
Check out these new great collections added in 2017.

STEAM Kits

Our Bronson and Union Twp. Branches added kits to help teach important and fundamental Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math skills. From steam trains to snap circuits, children will use these kits to gain experience with innovation, imagination, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.



Seed Saver Exchange

In March, the Coldwater Branch introduced the Seed Saver Exchange. Library users are able to check out seeds, and are encouraged to bring back some of their own seeds after harvest.



FABULOUS STAFF

BDL's staff are dedicated to providing a high quality of service to residents of Branch County.



BDL staff are excited and ready for our 2017 Summer Reading Program: **Build a Better World**.

Renee Hardy (Quincy Branch) celebrated 30 years with BDL in 2017. She enjoys working with the public and seeing people excited about coming to the library.





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