



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY



March 21, 2022

2021

Safely moving back toward normal.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic continued to complicate life for many, compared to the previous year 2021 was a time of trying to get back to normal. We continued working on removing barriers for our patrons to access library services, we added new services, and we worked on increasing our efficiency.

In the works for years, the **Library1 Card** program finally launched, providing area K-12 students with a risk-free library card.

Partially funded by a Federal grant, BDL began loaning cellular **WiFi hotspots** to provide Internet access.

As a way to help the most economically vulnerable in our service area as the pandemic continued on, the BDL Board **forgave all patron bills** due to the library for lost or damaged materials. This write-off of more than \$40,000 in debts was offset by lower spending in other categories due to pandemic slowdowns.

In a huge effort by all library staff, the entire collection of over 100,000

items on our shelves was outfitted with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. **RFID** allows for speedier checkouts, the possibility of self-checkout in the future, and the ability to easily locate missing items in the library by using a short-range radio “wand” along our shelves.



With pandemic restrictions lessened, and much of our programming outdoors, more than 4 times as many children participated in our **Summer Reading Program (SRP)** than the year before, and participation from all the other age groups also increased.

In August, BDL celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a new logo, open house events, and an exhibit that traveled to all our branches.

To build upon our past efforts in children’s services, the BDL Board created a new full-time Children’s Services Coordinator position, which was filled by the end of the year.

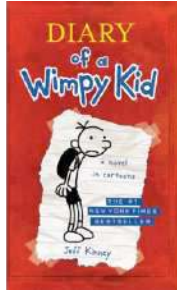
Here’s to the next 30 years!

THE MOST POPULAR

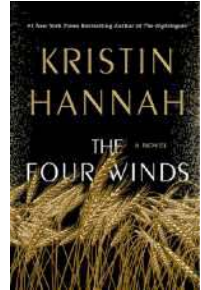
BDL's most checked-out items represent a wide variety of interests.



Most popular overall
(396 checkouts)



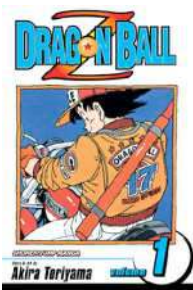
Most popular kid's book
(153 checkouts)



Most popular adult fiction
(63 checkouts)



Most popular "library of things" item (304 checkouts)



Most popular young adult book
(61 checkouts)



Most popular movie
(40 checkouts)



Most popular non-fiction
(16 checkouts)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BDL'S 1ST 30 YEARS

BDL formed from the Branch Co. and Coldwater libraries.

1991

Outgrowing the library, BDL turns over its ISP service to the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities, which provides excellent local Internet service to this day.

1995

BDL computerizes its catalog and becomes an Internet Service Provider for Branch County.

1998

2000

An elevator is added to the Quincy Branch.

BDL deploys free public WiFi for our patrons.

2004

BDL begins loaning digital materials, and the Bronson Branch gets an elevator.

2010

BDL partners with Alganssee Twp. to bring Internet access to the area.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BDL'S 1ST 30 YEARS

Grand opening of the
Lucille E. Dearth Union
Twp. Branch Library.

2011

BDL's 2nd millage
passes, opening up
new possibilities.
Thanks Branch County!

2013

Bronson Branch media
center opens.

BDL goes fine-free
and creates Teen
Space and a new position
to serve teens
across the District.

2014

2015

With the 2nd Millage
passed, BDL is able to
add more hours,
books, programs,
computers, and services!

2017

BDL begins loaning
Internet hotspots and
creates a new position
to serve children
across the District. The
Library1 card program
provides access to
students.

2020

2021

The COVID-19 Pandemic happens, and brings a focus on digital materials and programming and re-opening safely to the public. Our digital collection of Branch County yearbooks is released.

PROGRAMS

Covid kept groups small, but we still had a blast!



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to Joy Wood and family, new carpeting was installed at the Alganssee Branch.



The Coldwater Branch Meeting Room got a fresh coat of paint, capping off a donation in memory of former BDL Director Phyllis Rosenberg by Marv and Laurie Rosenberg.

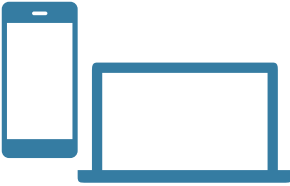


Improvements were made at the Bronson Branch, including carpeting, painting, and more. This was a partnership between BDL and the Friends of the Library.



BY THE NUMBERS

2021

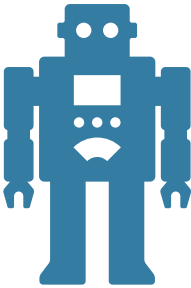


858,840 digital items available for checkout.



76,553 in-person visits to the library.

↑ 21%



1,636 programs were put on for all ages, mostly in-person, and also included monthly take-home kits. **16,029** people attended.

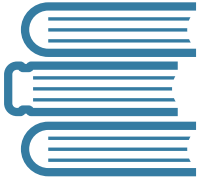


36,284 uses of digital resources—electronic books, audiobooks, MeL databases, and BDL services like Mango Languages and Creativebug.

↑ 4%

BY THE NUMBERS

2021



104,980 physical items on our shelves.



Free Wifi use:

290,877 total 1-hour sessions.



It's not always about Google...we answered **18,521** reference questions for our patrons.

↑ 50%

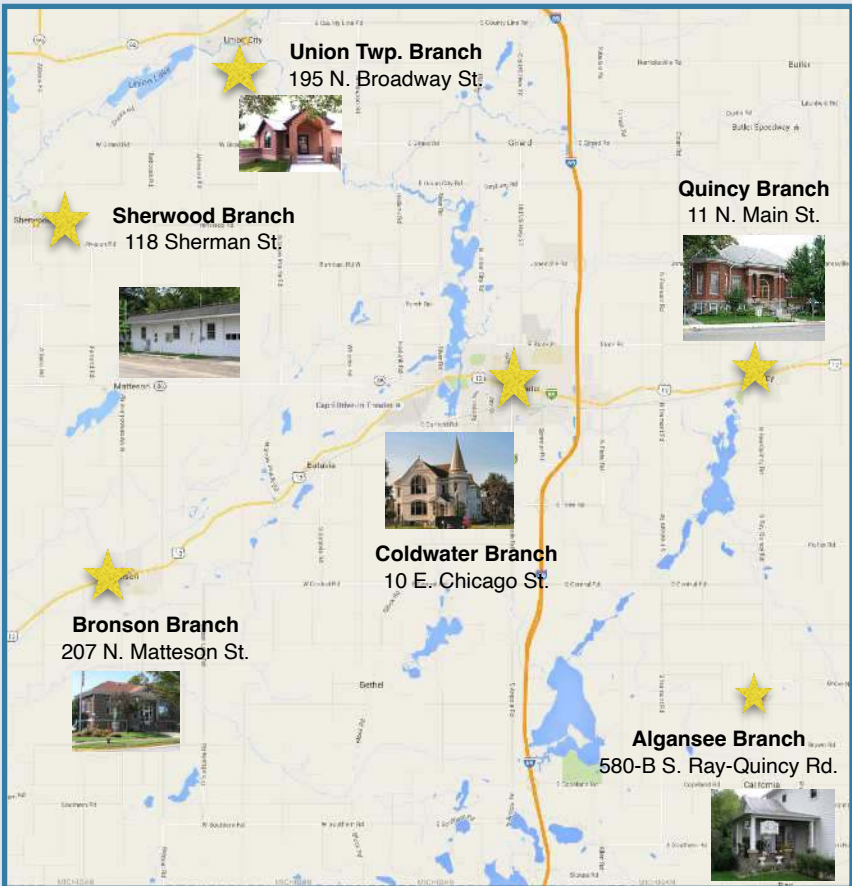


We circulated physical books, movies, and more **93,647** times—saving our patrons **\$1,048,841** if they had bought all these items.

↑ 26%

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**

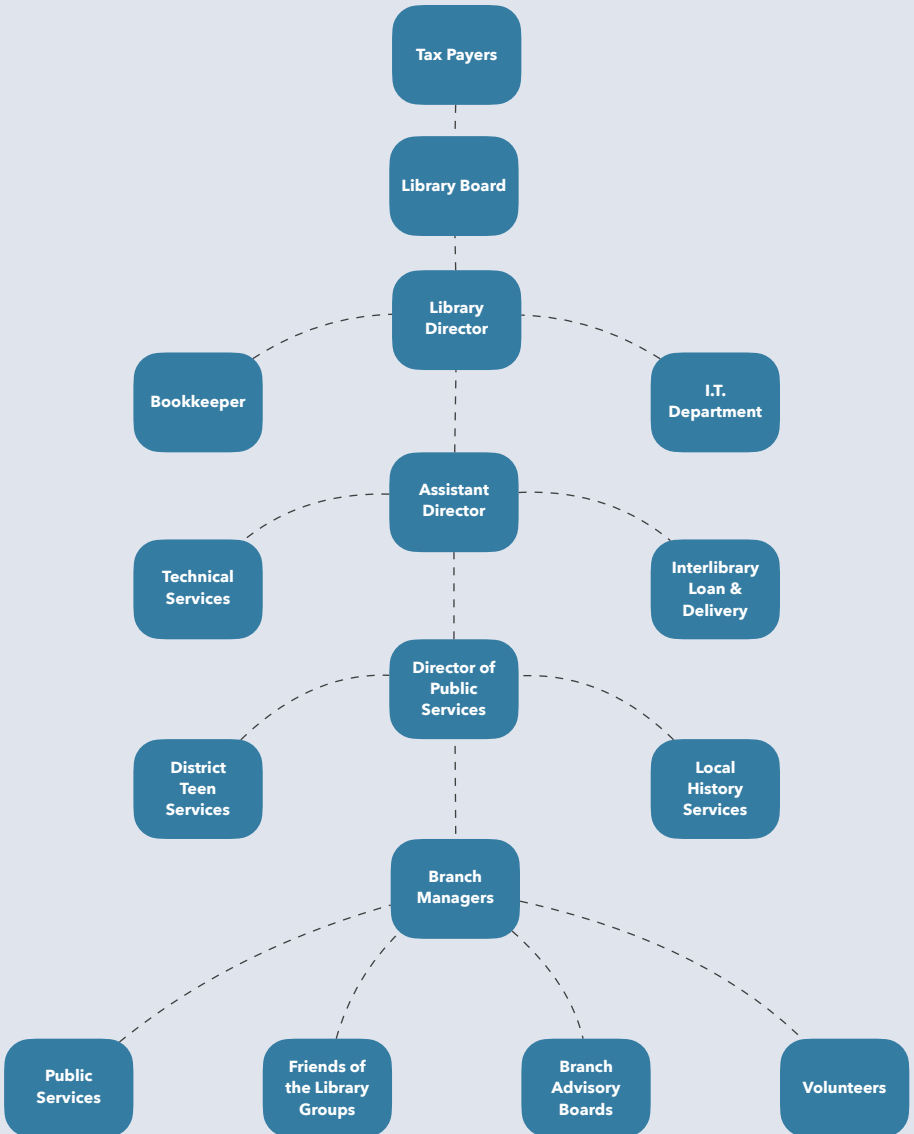


We provide **High-Quality and Diverse Programs**



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 2021

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ President
Benjamin Jewell
Representing the
City of Coldwater | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vice President
Susan Smith
Representing
Quincy Twp. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Secretary
Martha Watson
Representing the
City of Coldwater |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Susan Brooks
Representing the
County-at-Large | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kimberly Langworthy
Representing the
City of Coldwater | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Karen Smith
Representing
Bronson Twp. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ [Vacant]
Representing
Union Twp. | |

BDL Management Team as of December 2021

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Library Director
John Rucker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Assistant Director
Kimberly Feltner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Director of Public Services
Jessica Tefft |
|---|--|--|

OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

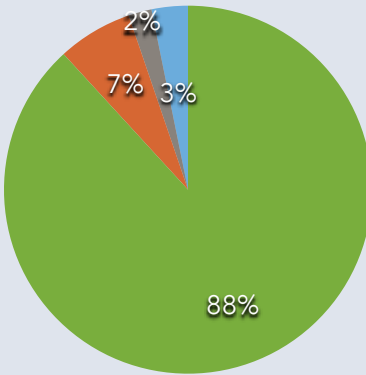
2021 Operating Revenue

Taxes	\$1,759,254
Penal Fines	\$131,493
State Aid	\$40,728
All Other Sources	\$63,590
Total	\$1,995,065

The average household in Branch County in 2021 paid about **\$69 per year** in library taxes.



2021 Operating Revenue



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

Unassigned Fund Balance

2020 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,119,957
2021 Year End Fund Balance	\$1,304,832

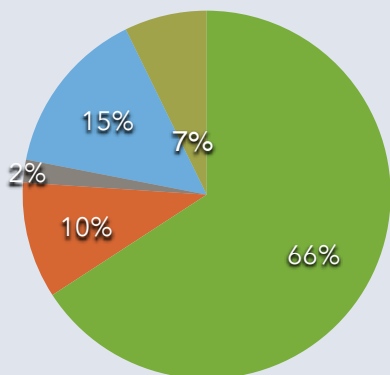
OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

2021 Operating Expenditures

Personnel	\$1,231,596
Materials	\$191,363
Programming	\$37,655
Facilities	\$274,990
All Other Library Expenditures	\$135,610
Total	\$1,871,214

The average household in 2021 got about **\$145** of value from library materials and services.

2021 Operating Expenditures



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



BRANCH
DISTRICT LIBRARY

BDL Administrative Offices

10 E. Chicago St.
Coldwater MI 49036

Phone: 517-278-2341

Fax: 517-278-2342

info@BranchDistrictLibrary.org

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org