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.

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.

A new vote of confidence in BDL!
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)
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.

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 under-served 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.
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

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

Not fully repainted 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!
1,348,408 digital items available for checkout.

105,999 in-person visits to the library.

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

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

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/stats
NUMBERS

What looked in 2022

108,050 physical items on our shelves.

Free Wifi use:

364,501 total 1-hour sessions.

19%
www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/stats

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.

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/branches
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**
It all starts with YOU!

- Tax Payers
- Library Board
- Library Director
  - Assistant Director
    - Technical Services
    - Director of Public Services
      - District Teen Services
      - Branch Managers
        - Public Services
        - Friends of the Library Groups
        - Branch Advisory Boards
        - Volunteers
      - I.T. Department
        - Interlibrary Loan & Delivery
        - Local History Services
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

- **President**
  Benjamin Jewell
  Representing the City of Coldwater

- **Vice President**
  Susan Smith
  Representing Quincy Twp.

- **Secretary**
  Kimberly Langworthy
  Representing the County-at-Large

- **Vice President**
  Susan Brooks
  Representing the County-at-Large

- **Vice President**
  Robert Hostetler
  Representing the City of Coldwater

- **Vice President**
  Karen Smith
  Representing Bronson Twp.

- **Vice President**
  Joseph Lynch
  Representing Union Twp.

BDL Management Team as of December 2022

- **Library Director**
  John Rucker

- **Assistant Director**
  Kimberly Feltner

- **Director of Public Services**
  Jessica Tefft

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/library_board
OPERATING BUDGET REVENUE

2022 Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$1,839,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>$109,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$45,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Sources</td>
<td>$58,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,053,220</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Unassigned Fund Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year End Fund Balance</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$1,304,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$1,327,668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The average household in 2022 got about $252 of value from library materials and services.
BDL Administrative Offices

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Coldwater MI 49036

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www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org