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**
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

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

- **Secretary**
  Karen Smith
  Representing Bronson Twp.

- **Director**
  John Rucker

- **Assistant Director**
  Kimberly Feltner

- **Director of Public Services**
  Jessica Tefft
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!
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)
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.
Why buy when you can borrow?

Entertainment
Crafts & Games
Tools
Science

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/things
S tarted 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.

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/things
FOAM PARTY

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

Over 1000 attendees!
YOUR HOMETOWN LIBRARY

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

Coldwater Branch
10 E. Chicago St.

Algansee Branch
580-B S. Ray-Quincy Rd.

Quincy Branch
11 N. Main St.

Sherwood Branch
118 Sherman St.

Bronson Branch
207 N. Matteson St.

Union Twp. Branch
195 N. Broadway St.

Bookmobile planned for 2024!

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/branches
FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Bronson
- Privacy Booth

Quincy
- New Water Fountain

Sherwood
- Exterior Painting and Porch Improvements (Courtesy Village of Sherwood)
- New Carpeting and Interior Painting

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/branches
Interior Painting

Accessible West Entrance

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

Server Room Air Conditioner

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/branches
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 Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023 Operating Revenue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$1,915,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>$108,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$47,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Sources</td>
<td>$92,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,163,059</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023 Operating Revenue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Sources</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unassigned Fund Balance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year End Fund Balance</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$1,327,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>$1,287,018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

### 2023 Operating Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$1,390,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>$169,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>$41,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>$365,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Library Expenditures</td>
<td>$145,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,111,812</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### 2023 Operating Expenditures Pie Chart

- **66%**: Personnel (Salaries, benefits, training, etc.)
- **2%**: Materials
- **8%**: Programming
- **17%**: Facilities
- **7%**: All Other Library Expenditures

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/audits