Mary Jo Torgeson
Library Director

I am truly humbled by the meaningful ways our community invests in the Anchorage Public Library. Thanks to you, the Library is a trusted community hub for learning, creativity and innovation.

Thanks to you, the Library is a key strand in the social safety net, providing an important lifeline to jobs, educational opportunities, civic engagement and community services.

Thanks to you, despite earthquakes and fiscal uncertainty, we are able to continue our mission of connecting people to education, information, and community.

In 2018 people visited the Library 748,395 times.

Connecting People To Education and Information

The Library’s Community Resource Coordinator is a grant-funded pilot project that provides outreach, information, and assistance services for patrons at the Loussac and Mountain View libraries, especially those experiencing vulnerabilities. A collaboration between the Anchorage Health Department and the Anchorage Public Library, the project began in September 2018.

One-on-one meetings with patrons experiencing vulnerabilities

Through the Alaska Fellows program, the Library hosted a Business Services Coordinator to promote library resources for business owners, entrepreneurs and nonprofits. The Fellow also worked with eight other Alaska libraries on the “Libraries Mean Business” project to promote Lynda.com to patrons and the business community.

The UAF Cooperative Extension Service - Anchorage Outreach Center moved in to the 4th floor of the Loussac Library. CES offers classes and free information on agriculture, 4-H, lawn and garden, pest control, health and wellness and so much more! Their popular “Science at the Library” program focuses on STEM concepts for youth.
Keeping Connections Through the 7.1 Earthquake

After the earthquake, APL re-opened as quickly as possible to support our community, providing information and connection. Mountain View Neighborhood Library re-opened a day after the quake, while the hardest hit Chugiak-Eagle River Library was closed for 21 days as staff and volunteers worked to re-shelve, repair and clean the library.

Connecting Community Through Stories

The Library provided storytimes across library locations and in the community. The addition of Yup’ik String, Dinosaur, Drag, Super Hero, Books on the Bus, Spanish Bilingual, Yupik Bilingual, Sensory Adaptive, ASL Interpreted, and Princess Stotorytimes showed Anchorage’s diverse community that there’s a place in the Library for everyone.

422,760 Database Uses
1.2 Million Items Loaned (Books DVDs, Laptops, iPads)
106,647 WiFi Users
299,460 Digital Downloads
78,883 Reference Questions
642 Storytimes were attended by 20,000 children
Muldoon Library's Youth Service Librarian, Kristin Nevin provides monthly outreach opportunities to the RurAL Cap Child Development Center and neighborhood elementary school Nunaka Valley.

At RurAL Cap, Kristin leads children age 19 months to 5 years in Early Literacy Practice through storytime. At Nunaka Valley, she hosts a Sensory Storytime for ages 3-5 that allows children with sensory processing disorders or autism spectrum disorders to enjoy and build classroom/learning skills in a storytime setting.

Parents, teachers and administrators give the visits rave reviews!

110
Children Served
Each Month

"Your storytimes are amazing we love the songs and stories. Thank you so much for coming to our center." - Tracy Breimo, RurAL CAP

Who Supports Us

Library Advisory Board

The nine-member board reviews annual budgets and operations, makes recommendations to the Administration and Assembly, and advocates for the Library.

Volunteers including our VolunTeens donated 4,892 hours of services to the Library in 2018.

Anchorage Library Foundation
works to promote, fund and support the long-term vitality of the Anchorage Public Library.

The Friends of the Library
support day-to-day needs of the Library through fundraising efforts including book sales and Beyond the Stacks.

How We're Funded

$8.7 Million
(+ $5.3M in intergovernmental charges)
Operating Budget, Staff and Materials

$202,500
Special Projects and Positions
(STEM Kits, Interlibrary Loans, Ready to Read)

$191,000
Capital Projects and New Initiatives
(Community Resource Coordinator, way finding signage, furniture)

$85,000
Special Programs and Materials
(Live @ The Library, Youth Programming, New Books, Etc.)
**SUMMER OVERVIEW**
4,840 participants registered
1,004 finishers
874 new youth library cards created
98,693 youth books circulated

**PROGRAMMING**
42 Summer Discovery programs: 5,064 attendees
124 storytimes: 3,154 attendees
135 other youth programs: 4,506 attendees
Total summer event attendance: 12,724

**PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS**
- Adult: 22%
- Preschool: 17%
- Teen: 16%
- School Age: 45%

**VOLUNTEENS**
47 teens volunteered for a total of 1,147 volunteer hours

**READERS TO THE RESCUE**
233,160 extra minutes logged

**ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**
PEOPLE SAY...

"As a parent, I was able to discover what types of books my sons like to encourage further reading. I'm excited to see how my 9 year old tests on his reading at the start of school."

"We enjoyed earning our stars, tracking was fun & a great challenge for adults."

"I like that the library encourages and rewards children for reading and giving them fun things to do in the summer."

"Summer Discovery helped us to continue thinking about reading and finding new activities that we did together as a family over the summer."

AT THE END OF SUMMER

65% of caregivers said their family read more

80% of caregivers said their child was a stronger reader because of Summer Discovery

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Alaska Ombudsman  Benihana
Alaska Railroad  Carrs/Safeway
Alaska Rock Gym  H20asis
Alaska State Library  Over the Rainbow Toys
Alaska State Fair  The Dome
Anchorage Museum  Title Wave Books

DONATIONS

$23,000 in cash from the Friends of the Library

$4,000 in-kind donations from other sponsors

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Reading Rendezvous had record attendance-- 3,100 people!

Harry Potter Day brought in 1,800 people to Z. J. Loussac Library