People made 67,803 visits to our library in 2019. That's more than 225 per day! In addition to borrowing books and attending 251 programs, they used the computers and WiFi 18,437 times.

8,315 items were downloaded by our registered cardholders, including ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, music, movies, TV, and comics. That's a 30% increase over 2018!

Our website had 52,947 visitors. That's 1018 visits every week, and 30% more visits than last year!

6399 people attended programs at the library, an average of 25 people per event.

Of the 80,637 items checked out from our library, 30% were children's items and just over 10% were digital downloads.

There were 47,011 items on our shelves, plus another 214,479 digital items available to our patrons. That's more than 22 titles for every person living in our district.

We shared our items with other libraries 5,541 times, and brought in items for our patrons 5,892 times.

1,417 people liked our Facebook page at the end of 2019. That's an increase of almost 15% since the start of the year.

3,193 people have an active account at our library (more than 1 in 4 residents!) & they borrowed 80,637 items in 2019. That's 25 checkouts per borrower, & 1551 checkouts per week!
Director's Message

My first year as director was quite an exciting ride. I added three great new staff members to our amazing team, made a few changes to our services to help make life easier for our patrons, and learned a lot along the way.

I also conducted a building needs assessment and reviewed the library’s fund balance. It quickly became clear that the library's operating budget would not be able to cover the looming maintenance for the 20-year-old building and also continue to provide the services and technology the community needs. The board decided late in 2019 to seek an additional millage when the debt service millage expires.

My second year is already shaping up to be even more interesting than the first, and I can't wait to see what next year's report will include. (Spoiler alert - there’s a pandemic.)

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia DeMumbrum

2019 Highlights

- We no longer charge overdue fines on any juvenile or teen items.
- A new automatic renewal system helps prevent adult fines.
- The library began offering streaming video through Hoopla.
- We are in the process of becoming a Family Place library, thanks to a $150,000 LSTA grant awarded jointly to three libraries in Muskegon County.

Financial Information

Our 2019 general revenue, excluding donations, was $392,285. The operating millage, levied at 0.6797, supplied 85% of our revenue. Other major sources of income were penal fines, state aid, and a TIFA/LDFA pass-through from the City of Whitehall. The debt service millage was collected for the final time in 2019. The construction bonds used to build the library will be paid off in early 2020.

Our largest expense was personnel costs, at 63% of income, and our collection expenses came to 7.2%. Both are within the normal range for a district library of our size.

The library had a clean financial audit for 2019. A large expenditure from the fund balance was necessary to replace the failing fire suppression system. The ending fund balance was at the low end of the recommended range, and the building will require additional costly maintenance over the next several years.