



# Oelwein Public Library

## 2019 Annual Report Library Board of Trustees

Brett Ingersoll, President  
Anita Mars, Vice President  
Blake Kerns, Secretary  
Callie Berryman  
Catherine Gilson

Submitted by Susan Macken  
January 9, 2020

# Year in Review

- A bird nesting box made by the First Grade Class was placed in a tree along the library bike path.
- The Hoopla web and mobile library media streaming platform for audiobooks, comics, e-books, movies, music, and TV was added to the collection.
- Jigsaw puzzles are cataloged for patrons to check-out for home use.
- *Brainfuse*, financed by Iowa Workforce Development funds, replaced *Learning Express* as a career services database.
- Patrons shared excess garden produce at our produce swap table.
- Renamed story time to “Pages and Play” while offering morning and afternoon sessions and incorporated interactive playtime.
- A representative from the U.S. Census Bureau had a table at the library to talk with people who may be interested in working as Census Takers.
- In preparation for applying for library accreditation, the library developed a new mission statement, goals, and objectives to guide the library for the next three years.
- A virtual reality headset is available for patrons to check-out.
- The *Fayette County GAR Records*, *The Fayette County Atlases: 1879, 1896, 1916, 1938*, and the *Roster of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion* was added to the Newspaper Archive. The *Oelwein Daily Register* historical newspapers are now available through the library’s website.
- One hundred forty-five people participated in the *Universe of Stories* summer reading program.
- Staff worked with a Senior Seminar student on using Hootsuite to post to Facebook and Instagram as a library business account instead of personal accounts.
- The library received a grant from the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation for \$13,000 to help with re-flooring the library.
- A Promise Jobs volunteer gained self-sufficiency by learning basic job skills.



hoopla



United States™  
Census  
2020



# Condition of the Building and Grounds

- Water leaks from ice dams plagued the library throughout the winter. The issue is not resolved despite a number of meetings with the contractor, two architects, and the building official.
- Updated select computers and the laptop from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Some computers were replaced, and some computers were only upgraded. The server and switches were updated.
- Repainted select areas of the library interior.
- A professional, retractable photography screen was purchased to replace the cloth background used for taking passport pictures.
- Oelwein Glass re-caulked some of the windows in the fireplace reading room.
- The multifunction printer was replaced.
- A module board in the electronic sign was replaced. All six fans, which keep the modules from overheating were replaced.
- StewartScapes replaced the fountain pump at their expense.



# Library Programs

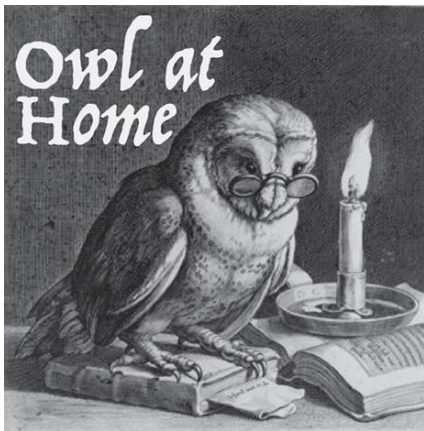
The library hosted 224 programs for children, teens, and adults throughout 2019. 2,921 people attended these programs.



Escape Room



Art Show



**BAYLEE SAYS:** WILL DEFINITELY BE BRINGING MY LITTLE FIREFIGHTER DOWN! HE HAS BEEN ASKING TO GO SEE A FIRETRUCK!



WHAT ERIC SAYS ABOUT BRIDGE LESSONS: WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA! WILL YOU THEN HAVE BRIDGE PLAYING DAYS AT THE LIBRARY? WHAT A GREAT WAY TO GET PEOPLE TO INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THIS DIGITAL AGE!





Pokemon Party



**ABOUT THE POKEMON PARTY:**

**ALEXIS SAYS:** EDWARD-WINNER-BEST OUTFIT!

**CHANTEL SAYS:** IT WAS FUN 😊 THANKS FOR HOSTING



**ABOUT THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM:**

**LAURA SAYS:** THIS IS A GREAT PROGRAM OVER THE SUMMER!!

**ALAURA SAYS:** I TOTALLY WANT TO TAKE THE BOYS TO THIS

**LAURA SAYS:** THEY DO SHOWS ONCE A WEEK, THE KIDS LOVE IT!

**LAURA SAYS:** YES! MAKE SURE YOU GET SIGNED UP, BOTH BOYS AND YOURSELF! LOTS OF COOL EVENTS POSTED AT THE LIBRARY.

**WE USUALLY GO TO THEM ALL**



Drone Program



Space Capsule Photo Booth



Making the Planet, Saturn



CHANTEL ON JUPITER VIEWING:  
IT WAS AWESOME 😊 THANKS  
FOR HOSTING THIS!



Looking for Jupiter through the big telescope



Salem Witch Trials Program



Strolling with the Spirits at Oakdale Cemetery

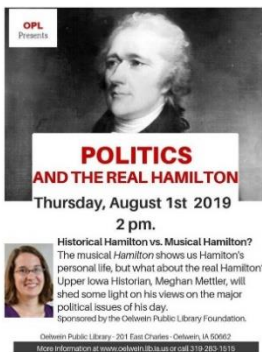
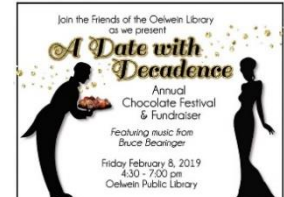


ASHLEY SAYS: WE COULD MAKE  
OUR OWN WREATHS FOR XMAS!



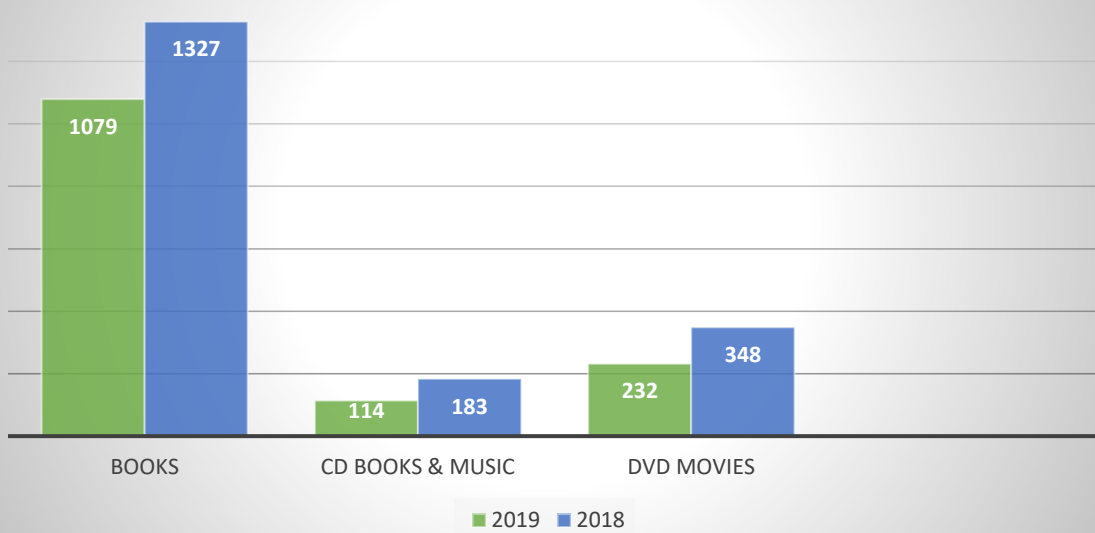
# Thank you Friends of the Library and Oelwein Public Library Foundation for all your Contributions throughout 2019!

- One hundred thirty boxes of chocolate were sold at the annual Chocolate Fest.
- Three more Little Free Libraries were placed throughout the community.
- A \$700 contribution was used to help maintain the library landscaping.
- Friends sponsored the *Appleseed* puppet show.
- Cookies and cider were served at the *Strolling with the Spirits* cemetery walk.
- A Noah's Ark stuffed animal building workshop was held at the conclusion of the summer reading program. Sixty children made their own purple Alien.
- \$1000.00 was donated towards the purchase of DVD movies.
- The Bi-Annual Book and Bake Sale was held in April and October. Jake Blitsch donated a card catalogue wall hanging which was a popular silent auction item.
- Friends planted flowers in the library's planters.
- The subscription was renewed for 25 copies of *Book Page* for patrons to read book reviews.
- A Friends of the Library Appreciation Tea was hosted A *Taste of Quebec* featuring a program on author, Louise Penny.
- The Oelwein Library Foundation sponsored the Grout Museum's indoor planetarium for the *Universe of Stories* summer reading program.
- The Oelwein Library Foundation sponsored two programs on the life and times of Alexander Hamilton to coincide with the Hamilton exhibit.
- Poinsettias decorated the library during the holiday season.

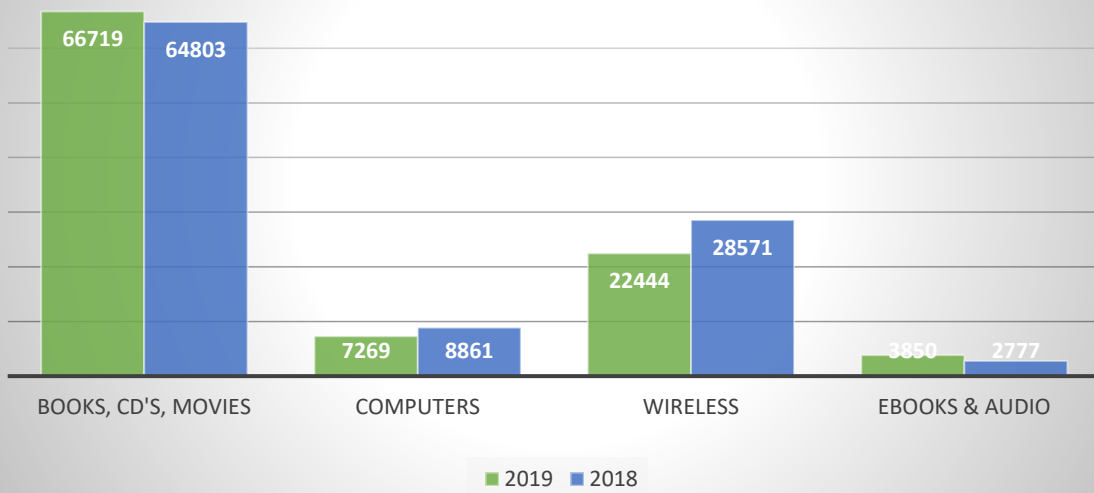


**Jen says:**  
The planetarium was a big hit at our house (Along with the virtual reality)!

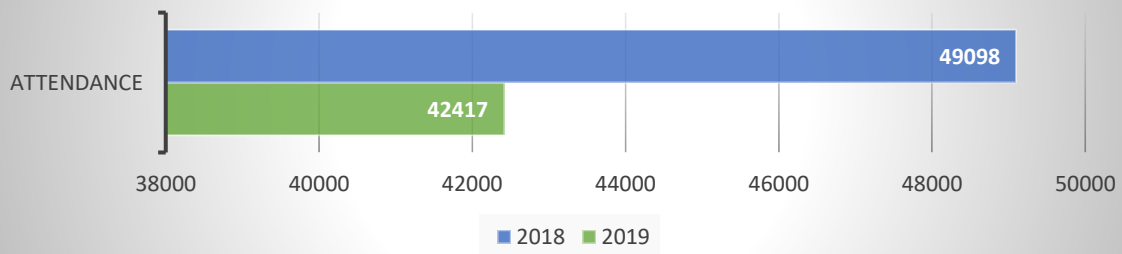
## Number of Materials Added



## Number of Items Checked-Out



## Attendance





# Plan of Service

Effective January 2020 – January 2023

Library staff collected demographics on the community of Oelwein using census information and city data. At the September 10, 2019 meeting, the Library Board of Trustees discussed the demographic information and how it affects the current library services. Ideas on what improvements could be made included the use of Instagram, showcasing materials available for check-out at community events, offering afternoon programs for retired patrons, and incorporating an additional study room. In addition, library staff designed a community survey that was available electronically on the library website and Facebook page. Paper copies were available at the library service desks, city hall, and at a wide variety of businesses throughout the community. The survey was available for two weeks with forty-six people responding. At the October 8, 2019 meeting, the Library Board of Trustees reviewed the results and the following conclusions were made:

- Patrons value the collection the most and gave the most recommendations for improving and expanding the collection.
- Patrons value the friendly, helpful staff and recommend having the library open on Sundays more often than the current time period of January – March.
- Patrons value having a beautiful, clean facility where people can meet and access information, especially through programs for all ages.

The results collected from demographics and the community survey were used to develop the library's plan of service which was approved by the Oelwein Public Library Board of Trustees December 17, 2019.

**Mission Statement:** The Oelwein Public Library is a strong foundation providing programs and services that benefit our community. Our goal is to honor our storied past, enrich present lives, and encourage life-long learning. The library is a passport to success!

**Goal:** Residents will have access to a diverse, current collection.

**Objective:** The material budget will increase by 10% per year.

**Objective:** The collection will be evaluated and purged of unused and/or dated material each year.

**Objective:** New genres and mediums will be added as they are developed dependent on community interest.

**Goal:** Residents will receive exceptional customer service.

**Objective:** Staff will attend a minimum of one continuing education class per year.

**Objective:** Staff will take part in a minimum of one community event per year.

**Objective:** Staff will improve electronic communication methods by 2021.

**Goal:** Residents will have a welcoming facility for meeting and interacting with others.

**Objective:** A study room enclosure will be integrated by 2021.

**Objective:** Parking lot plantings will be restored by 2022.

**Objective:** Exterior steel beams will be repainted by 2023.

**Objective:** Sunday hours will be expanded by 2023.