

Onawa Public Library

707 Iowa Ave.

Onawa, IA 51040 Ph. 712 423-1733

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



www.onawa.lib.ia.us



For those without money, the road to that treasure house of the imagination begins at the public library.

I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.

Laura Bush

"HAVING THE FREEDOM TO READ AND THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE IS ONE OF THE BEST GIFTS MY PARENTS EVER GAVE ME."

- JUDY BLUME



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"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

Lady Bird Johnson



"A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone."

—Jo Godwin

On June 25th, 1953 we said that we trust the people of this nation to make their own decisions about what they read and believe.

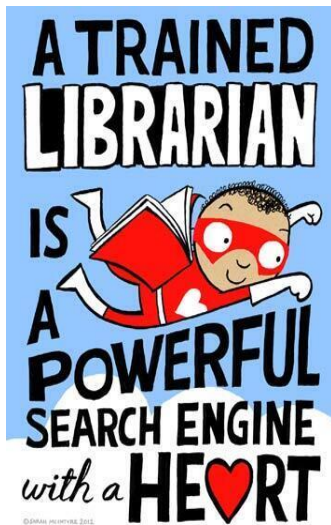
70 Years later, we still trust them to make their own decisions.





THE LIBRARY -- GOALS AND PERSONNEL

The Onawa Public Library provides the residents of Onawa and the surrounding area with access to books, library materials and other resources, as well as programs and services to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. The library promotes reading and the use of library materials, and provides support for community, cultural and historical activities. Through its staff, Board and services, the library builds knowledge, understanding and appreciation of libraries and library materials in those it serves. Financial support of donations from gracious library supporters, the City of Onawa, the Monona County Board of Supervisors, Enrich Iowa, Open Access, Access Plus, and Iowa Infrastructure enable the library to serve the majority of people in Monona County.



We feel so fortunate to have a staff of employees who are dedicated to supplying the kind of quality service that the patrons of the Onawa Public Library have become accustomed to.

These workers are listed below as well as their years of service to the library:

Director:	Amy McDermott	13 years (Director: 3/1/2020)
Librarians:	Chris Zink	33 years
	Rachel Ruffcorn	14 years
	Laurie Joy	6 years
	Dani Johnson	4 years

Board of Library Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Onawa Public Library who, like the founding fathers of the library, are civic minded people who truly love and support our library. Without their dedication, our library would not be the community asset that it is.

These members of our Board were as follows:

Jessica Hupke	appointed July 2016	(July 2028)	President
Jenn Collison	appointed July 2018	(July 2030)	Vice-President
Kara Minnihan	appointed July 2020	(July 2026)	
Charles Persinger	appointed July 2022	(July 2028)	
Randy Stanislav	appointed July 2024	(July 2030)	

The dates of expiration of their terms on the Board are shown in parenthesis.





Every year we have to depend on the gracious and generous support of many different entities and people. Our City is a constant source of great support for our facility making us able to continue to provide wonderful services for those in our community who cannot afford these things themselves. We are always pleased with the amount of donations that have been given. Some of these come in the form of memorials, monetary gifts, or a gift of an item from our wish list. This year with the city's help we were able to replace the two recirculation pumps before the second one went down and we were able to add automatic doors and lights to the restrooms. We also received generous donations that have helped with additional kids' programming and we were able to add a Musical Garden to the library yard for the community!



Revenue Collection

(Actual)

Transfers in (city funds)	\$ 176,820.00
Monona County	\$ 20,301.00
Fees and fines	\$ 1,357.00
Fee cards	\$ 784.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,173.00
Gifts	\$ 22,330.00
Memorials	\$ 2,681.00
Facility tax	\$ 5,065.00
Rents	\$ 4,695.00
Grant	\$ -
Enrich Iowa	\$ 2,373.00
Totals	\$ 240,579.00

Expenditures

(Actual)

Salaries	\$ 96,132.00
Withholdings FICA, IPERS, Health Ins	\$ 16,429.00
Repairs	\$ 13,605.00
Liability Ins. -Work Comp	\$ 11,504.00
Books & Periodicals	\$ 18,061.00
Operational supplies	\$ 44,016.00
Misc/petty cash	\$ 1,226.00
Memorials/Gifts	\$ 7,023.00
Capitol Outlay - Improvements	\$ 26,847.00
Totals	\$ 234,843.00



****Capitol Outlay = Two recirculation pumps for the heating system, balance of the new water fountain and auto doors for the restrooms (MCCPF Grant paid \$7500 – received 6/2024)**

We truly value and appreciate the generosity of our patrons. With the continued support of our community, we will be able to keep up with whatever changes the future holds for America's Libraries.

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

–Andrew Carnegie



The citizens of our community are happy with all we are doing at the library. The library has been able to continue to provide BRIDGES eBook/audio services to our patrons. This service has seen a continued growth level and our Facebook page continues to gain support and followers. We try hard to keep our website up to date so check it out! We are always looking for new ways to expand our services such as homebound delivery, proctoring tests, processing passports, Notary Services, BRIDGES eBooks, and free Wi-Fi. This year we completed the upgrade our water fountain and to added handicap accessibility to the restrooms as well as automatic lights. We launched our "Library of Things" to include a telescope, hand tools, medical devices, various baking/decorating items, Launch Pad passes and so much more!

BRIDGES is an eService that we subscribe to for our patrons to use to download any form of audio or electronic format. There are many different formats and genres available. We have had an ever-increasing number of patrons subscribe to use this service. We now have over 225 patrons who have registered and used this service for a total of 4253 circulations this fiscal year. This was down a little from previous years. We may want to consider another type of online format to cover those that don't want to be on a waiting list. This is where your donations can make another difference!



Circulation Statistics:

Books:

Adult	8629
Young Adult	390
Juvenile	<u>6776</u>
Total Books	15,795

Other Materials:

Video (DVD)	596
Audio	368
Periodicals	240
All others	<u>280</u>
Total	1484

Registered Patrons:	3559
Patrons Added	135
Patrons Withdrawn	<u>158</u>
Total active patrons	3,536

Meeting Room use	7229 @ 504 mtgs/programs
In-Library Material use	7,450
Door Count	24,513
Computer usage	5422
Passports processed	163
Notary	40
Proctored Tests	No Proctoring done

Holdings:

Items held at the start of the year	49,725
Materials Added	1361
Materials Withdrawn	<u>2149</u>
Total materials at year end	48,937

This year we continued to correct problems with the heating system. With the city's continued support and generosity of a library supporter we were able to replace two circulation pumps to finish out the heat pump project. We received the Monona County Community Partners Foundation Grant in June to install a new bottle filler/water fountain and add handicap accessibility to the restrooms. This work was completed in August and the friends sponsored refillable water bottles that went along with our summer reading theme.

We continued to focus on the kids and sprinkled in some adult programs and even a few teen programs. We are also working on finding ways to move with the times! Here are a few things we do that helps keep our library viable.

- Kids' programs like 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Kids' Club every Wednesday, class visits with the elementary, and our Teen Advisory Board and teen programs. We try to use our community resources such as the Monona County Naturalist, Monona County Extension, Burgess Health Center and Mental Health, and our wonderful teachers and volunteers.
- The Library of Things was added this year. We received donations of blood pressure cuffs, pulse ox machines, and digital thermometers from Burgess Health Center as well as various tools from Rasmussen Lumber Yard. We have our telescope that we received from the Library Telescope Grant Program, mini microscopes, and binoculars. We also received passes for the Launch Pad Museum which allows families to take their kids for free with a valid library card. Other items include a cake decorating kit, cake pans, and cookie cutters as well as a radon detector. All the items on the Library of Things can be checked out by an adult with a valid library card.
- We continue to process passport applications and we have a Notary available.
- Printing and copying are big jobs for the staff and we offer lamination as well. We updated our printer during Covid so it allows us to print from phones as well as fax and scan to an email.
- We received a tablet from a private donor that can be used in the library for telehealth appointments, zoom/team meetings, and even job interviews. We did a little rearranging in the "probate room" so there is a more private area that people can use for these meetings.
- We were able to purchase a new big screen, smart TV and an OWL for the upstairs meeting room. These have been well received! We are still working to improve our technology for the meeting rooms while being mindful of our beautiful historic building!

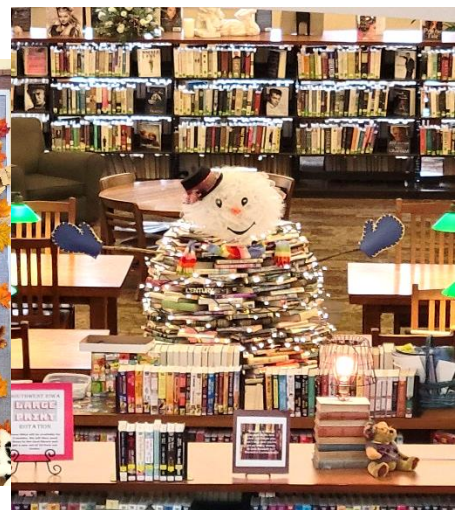


As librarians,
our job is to help
young people find
the right book for
who they are now,
without judgment.



The staff continues to make fun displays for the public. The library will always be a safe space for anyone that visits and we do our best to encourage reading new things!

Displays Rock!!!



Monona County Libraries

Working together with the other libraries in Monona county has been so great! We worked together along with the Monona County Board of Supervisors to ensure the communities in Monona county have the resources they need! Some things we do throughout the year include our Monona County Reads program, Night Hike in the Whiting Woods, two days of story and craft time at the Monona County Fair, and our Little Free Libraries at Blue Lake, Huff's Access (Blencoe), and Peter's Park (Rodney). The directors meet 6 times a year and do a County Trustee meeting as well. These meetings let us brainstorm and share ideas and frustrations because we cannot do this alone!



The Friends of the Library continued funding our books to hand out for Halloween (over 500 books) as well as supporting our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. The Friends also helped us purchase new large print books every month as well as audio books on CD, the Sioux City Journal and Omaha World Harold subscriptions and an increased donation for the Summer Reading Program which allows for more exciting programs!

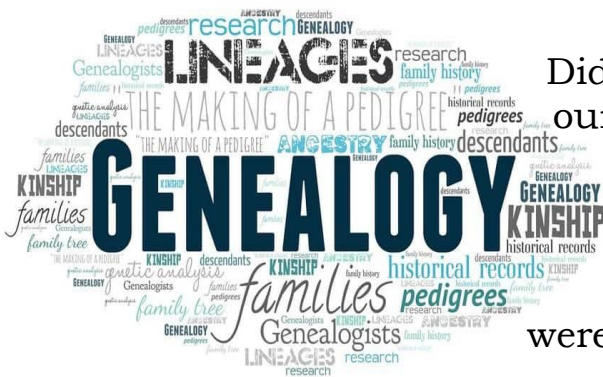
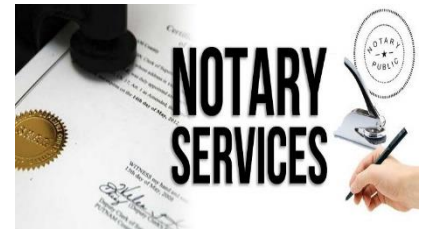


We still offer Test Proctoring however it was a slow (none) year for this. We will continue offering it though as you never know when someone may need a test or certification proctored! Pass the word!!!



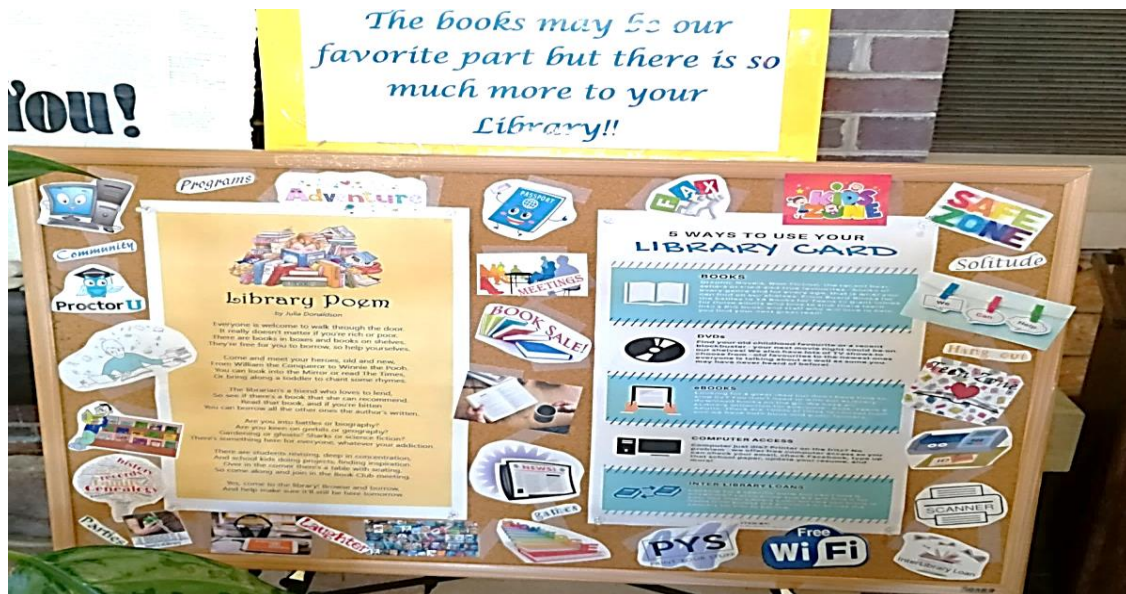
We continue to have 2 registered agents who can process passport applications. We have been getting people from all sorts of areas that have heard about how easy we make the process. We have been very busy with passports each year and processed 174 passports this year. It is an amazing service and we are so glad to be able to provide this service for our community.

Everyone is surprised that we also offer notary service. This is offered as a free-will donation rather than a fee for the service.



Did you know you can view the local newspapers on our website? These date back to the 1800s! Thanks to a generous donation we have also added access to Ancestry.com Library Edition to our genealogy resources so you can do additional genealogy research here in the library. We were also able to digitize the year books that we have and any microfilm that hadn't been done!

You'd be amazed at all your library can and does provide.



“Level Up in at Your Library”



We finished up our 32nd Summer Reading Program which ran June 4th – August 7th, 2024. We had a lot of community involvement with this program and were able to have Summer Reading Program and Summer Story Time every week in June and July with a final big program in August. Community involvement included Monona County Extension, Monona County Naturalist, Iowa DNR, and Burgess Mental Health/BHIS. It was great to include them again!

Our 2025 program was Level Up at Your Library and ran June 4th – August 6th. iREAD 2025: Level Up at Your Library reminded us that libraries are not just a space for knowledge, they are a space for fun! Play is one of the ways we learn to relate to others, to think in new ways, and to foster friendships, new and old. We had everything from magic shows to dragon training to learning how to control your emotions. We even had a teen program with the Nebraska Virtual Reality Truck and Do Art Productions for a Comic Book Workshop!



Program 1: Mikayla Oz Library Magic Show (June)

Our kick off of the summer reading program was a fabulous magic show! Mikayla wowed and entertained over 70 individuals of all ages!

Program 2: Dragon Training Academy (June) & Teen VR Truck

This was a busy day! We had 69 kids going on a time traveling adventure to learn how to train a fire breathing dragon! We also had 14 littles join us after their story time adventure to pet a dragon first hand! Not to be left out the teens had a 3-hour visit from the Nebraska VR Truck. 35 middle and high school kids enjoyed a virtual reality and video game experience!

Program 3: Level Up Your Emotions (June)

Burgess Mental Health's Behavioral Health Intervention Specialists joined us again to teach the kids how to better control all their emotions to include getting way to excited or feeling really angry. The kids acted out emotions as groups to practice identifying how others are feeling as well. 69 Participants

Program 4: Scavenger Hunt and I Spy Bottles (June)

The library staff hosted this program. We gathered small items to hide for the kids to find. Never a group to be stopped by the weather we moved this scavenger hunt into the library! They were everywhere looking for items like dice, animal erasers, and gems. What a great way to introduce them to all the areas of the library. Our volunteers led the groups around to find their items. Once they had them all gathered we went upstairs and they each created their own I Spy Bottles. 66 participants

Program 5: Level Up in Nature: Animal Skills (July)

Tyler Ruge, Monona County Naturalist, joined us again for another nature themed program. He taught the kids about animal skills in nature. Then the kids got to go outside to practice their animal skills like stalking and gathering food. 58 participants

Program 6: Relay Races(July)

Staff and volunteers took the kids on an adventure with relay races such as Space Hopper Race, Dragon Egg Carry, and the Book Worm Challenge. What a great day to be outside! 52 participants



Programs 7: Stories, nature, and charades (July)

This program was presented by Megan Schiltz. Megan read the kids her favorite story – hey it's a Summer Reading Program! Then she let them get messy to feed the birds. They rolled corn on the cob in peanut butter and bird seed to hang in the trees outside! Next they headed back upstairs to do charades. 56 participants

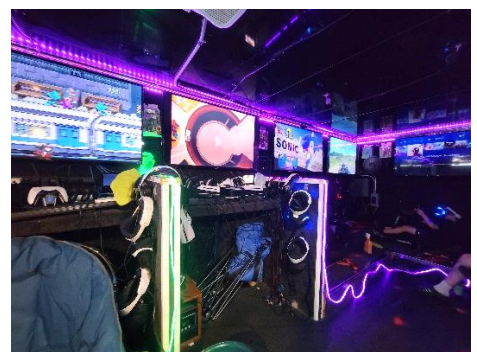
Program 8: Stomp, Chomp, Roar (July)

What an adventure! Jurassic Park in the library! The kids learned about dinosaurs and fossils. They even got to meet a baby dinosaur!!! So much fun! 73 participants

Program 9: Mr. Jack Faith Jr (July)

We wrapped up our summer reading program with local builder Jack Faith Jr. The kids worked in groups to build cars out of wooden blocks and other items. Then they got to race them down the track to see who's went the farthest. This was a good test of team work and figuring out how to make adjustments to level up! 62 participants.

We finished our Summer Reading and Summer Story Times with another magic show! All the kids (and adults) had a blast with Jeff Quinn's Library Magic Show. It was a great summer!!!



Finally, with our regular program our Board of Trustee President, Jessica Hupke, provided a Pre-K story time that was open to those kids that are not old enough for the regular program. We were so happy that Mrs. Hupke volunteered her time again and we didn't have to break the hearts of little siblings that couldn't join us.

Thanks to the generosity of our community we had another great Summer Reading Program. We receive donations from Kiwanis and the Friends of the Library group every year to help off-set the cost of programs, supplies, and prizes. We also received prize donations from the Hut, Downtown Coffee and Cream, and Pizza Hut Book-its. We also did various fundraisers throughout the year and local businesses have sponsored programs to make our summer programs (all of our programs really) a huge summer success!



Onawa Public Library

Trust Fund Accounts

The Onawa Public Library has been the recipient of several memorial trust funds. In nearly all instances, the principal is not to be used and there are specific instructions as to how the interest of each of these accounts may be used.

Trust funds are as follows:

Allen	\$973	Interest on hand	\$423.00	\$0.00 spent
Fran		Interest to be used for biographies		
Burton	\$2,500	Interest on hand	\$570.18	\$0.00 spent
Harry		Interest to be used to create an interest in astronomy		
McCaskey	\$1,000	Interest on hand	\$530.18	\$0.00 spent
Edith		Interest to be used for books for the general collection.		
Murphy	\$5250	Interest on hand	\$564.63	\$223.90 spent
Esther		Some interest to be used for children's books some to accumulate.		
Meyers	\$5,000	Interest on hand	\$1686.56	\$44.41 spent
Frank C.		Interest to be used for books on history, biographies & general collection.		
Pennington	\$1,000	Interest on hand	\$498.31	\$0.00 spent
Horton B.		Interest to be used for non-fiction books on history.		
Prichard	\$550	Interest on hand	\$442.11	\$0.00 spent
Robert		Interest to be used for books.		
Prichard	\$405	Interest on hand	\$130.33	\$0.00 spent
E.M. "Bert"		Interest to be used for books		
Ropes	\$2,200	Interest on hand	\$490.33	\$0.00 spent
Wayne		Interest to be used for adult non-fiction		
& Cora		John Ropes contributed for a time with the purchase of Savings Bonds which will begin maturing in 2026		
Snyder	\$300	Interest on hand	\$334.43	\$0.00 spent
Earl		Interest to be used for items reflecting Earl's interests.		
Williams M	\$7966	Interest on hand	\$916.03	\$0.00 spent
Wright D		These two funds were combined at the family's request and items purchased should reflect each woman's interest.		
Blakely	\$1456.32 available	\$70.67 spent (Loren)	\$40.81 available	\$176.69 spent (Helen)
Loren & Helen	Fund established to purchase fiction books that reflect Loren's and Helen's interests.			

We are also blessed to have regular contributors whose funds we are able to use at our discretion. We greatly appreciate your trust in us and hope that we are able to use the funds to best exemplify their wishes.

Our beautiful Library



Welcome to Our Musical Garden
Gift to the community
by the
Susan Dittman Trust Fund

All Ages Welcome!
Enjoy making music, exploring sounds, and relaxing in this special space.

Garden Guidelines:

- Be gentle with the instruments
- No climbing, hanging, or standing on the instruments
- Please share so everyone can play
- Supervise young children
- Respect others enjoying the garden
- Treat the garden and plants with care

Thank you for helping keep the garden joyful and safe for all!



Apple Bash 2024



Kids' Club STEAM Program



Absolute Science!!

Thanks to all those that supported our Drive Thru Chili Supper we were able to have 2 amazing science shows and 4 hours of hands-on activities for all the elementary kids!!!



Other Programs



Bob Ross Certified Instructor – Gary Schmidt
Who would have thought this would be our most popular program?!?!



Haley McAndrews



Jacqueline Reinig



Lynette Petersen



*Emily's Papercraft
Book Folding*



Monona County Reads Progressive Mystery



Photography and Poetry with local resources



*Friends Chamber Coffee
& Silent Auction
(Coming again in December!)*

Thanks for all your support!!!

Without our community support we could not do this! Whether it is monetary donations of all sizes, volunteering, supporting our crazy fundraising ideas, or just spreading the word and talking about the wonderful things at library – it all makes a difference!