LIBRARY USAGE TRENDS

Libraries are more than statistics about check outs and door counts, and stats don't tell the whole story.

The truth is, library usage ebbs and flows. This is attributable to things like the economy, how our vendors manage the services we subscribe to, and even the original building layout. For example:

• When the recession hit in 2008, we saw a rise in usage for many years. People were using the ibrary to save money by borrowing materials and finding sources of entertainment and education at the library at no charge. As the economy began to strengthen in 2016, usage started to decline, and people started buying those things again. This is typical of what happened at libraries across the country and is cyclical based on the economy.

• One of our subscriptions is Tumblebooks, which is e-books for kids. The link was on all school district tablets for the kids and was an open access account for about a year. The vendor policy changed and users needed to have a library card to use the service, which caused a drop in usage.

• Our original program room (the current non-fiction room, if you're familiar with the library) would seat 75+ for a program. The current program space is in the trailers and holds about 30. The drop in program attendance numbers is due to the fact that we're not able to accommodate all the folks who want to attend or participate.

Libraries aren't just about numbers. At the HAPL we also serve the community by:

• providing a safe space to students and tutors working together at the library

• greeting visitors with a warm environment so they can get out of a lonely house

• educating children and providing them with emergent literacy skills so they are better prepared to start kindergarten

• offering space for adult ESL students to meet with volunteers who help them to learn English

• housing local history archives and genealogy data

• maintaining the database of Veterans recognized by the Huntley Area Veteran's Memorial in the town square

• answering questions, locating resources, and finding rare books to borrow from another library

• placing materials on hold and providing readers advisory services

• servicing and coordinating 33 book clubs and their materials each month

• assisting students who need materials for a high school class or college research

• delivering materials to homebound patrons and residents in assisted living

• teaching patrons to use the new kindle they got for Christmas or how to use an excel spreadsheet to create a budget

HOW THE LIBRARY IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY

- Nearly 9.6 million items have been borrowed

- Over 4.5 million people have visited the library to use or borrow materials, attend a program, utilize technology services, receive tutoring or to read in a comfortable and safe environment.

- More than 12,500 programs have been attended by 381,000 people

- Over 14 million questions have been answered or technology assistance given by a professional

- More than 16,000 volunteer sessions and 76,000 hours have saved taxpayers an estimated $1.89 million according to independentsector.org ($24.69/hr as of 4/2018)

LIBRARY STATISTICS 2001-2017

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Physical Checkouts	199,728	300,618	352,208	387,363	413,283	447,384	468,908	530,050	598,751
Digital Checkouts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,274	1,858	2,067
Total Checkouts	199,728	300,618	352,208	387,363	413,283	447,384	470,182	531,908	600,818
Visitors	134,247	184,390	210,635	244,177	259,501	283,996	265,274	286,339	334,988
Programs	433	546	not available		542	564	498	858	899
Program Attendance	10,097	14,426	not available		19,205	23,831	21,926	24,430	32,984
Help Desk Questions	18,672	28,030	42,407	63,995	86,012	97,709	92,240	101,878	107,107
Volunteers (session)	270	249	281	244	547	593	703	828	1,144
Volunteer Hours	1,688	1,807	2,594	2,879	4,472	4,963	4,083	4,158	5,176
Collection Size	52,128	63,147	67,120	74,211	81,962	90,535	95,096	105,164	108,673

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTALS
Physical Checkouts	618,865	632,075	715,779	705,210	682,379	661,289	612,542	554,311	8,880,743
Digital Checkouts	2,952	6,513	16,255	48,969	77,874	179,855	181,968	192,613	712,198
Total Checkouts	621,817	638,588	732,034	754,179	760,253	841,144	794,510	746,924	9,592,941
Visitors	318,668	329,958	347,984	316,069	226,277	270,527	259,545	243,198	4,515,773
Programs	912	926	977	1,038	1,090	1,163	1,116	1,076	12,638
Program Attendance	27,551	27,450	27,180	31,390	28,956	31,771	30,467	29,856	381,520
Help Desk Questions	110,573	115,549	117,603	112,286	101,966	96,043	92,118	82,030	1,466,218
Volunteers (session)	1,313	1,463	1,648	1,408	1,594	1,504	1,514	1,337	16,640
Volunteer Hours	5,375	5,634	5,057	5,649	5,355	5,919	6,026	5,804	76,639
Collection Size	115,460	120,700	127,651	135,350	137,821	139,688	136,999	131,933	