



2017 Annual Report

Newton Public Library

100 N 3rd Ave W

Newton, IA 50208

641.792.4108

www.newton.lib.ia.us

Newton Public Library's Mission Statement:

The Newton Public Library is a community resource providing a unique place for lifelong readers.

The Newton Public Library:

- supports and assists readers pursuing personal growth and learning goals;
- provides free public access to the Internet and digital services;
- fosters, encourages, and stimulates young people's interest in reading and learning; and
- provides a public space where people meet and interact with others in the community.¹



¹ 2017 witnessed the end of the Newton Public Library's 5-year Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board in 2012. This is the last time the City Council will see this specific Mission Statement as 2018 will bring about a new 5-year Strategic Plan and new Mission Statement.

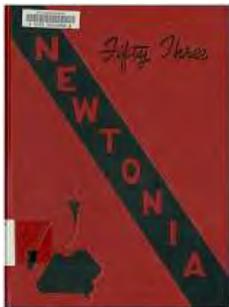
Technology Updates

It takes a lot of staff time, training, and updates to keep the Library's network server, 32 computers, 6 laptops, 3 AWE Literacy Stations, 3 iPads, and 2 Microfilm projectors working and ready for the public and staff to use. In Fiscal Year 2017, key technological updates were performed to improve the speed and stability of the Library's Internet and public Wi-Fi, including switching out all of the Library's Cat5 cabling for Cat6 cabling. The cabling replacement was funded through anonymous Library Donations and a Jasper Community Foundation Grant. Our bridge antenna, which receives the Internet signal from DMACC, was replaced in order to retain our line of sight.

The Library's network server, 2 catalog stations, 2 Information Desk stations, and 3 staff stations were replaced. These computers were then wiped and sent to other City Departments to be used.

The Newton Public Library Digital Archives Launched!

The [Newton Public Library Digital Archive](#) includes digitized materials selected from the collections of the Newton Public Library, Jasper County Historical Museum, and private citizens. Available materials include photographs, postcards, documents, and yearbooks that record the history of Jasper County's schools, government, businesses, and residents. New content is added weekly.



Building and Grounds



The buildings' 25th year saw vast improvements both inside and outside of the library facility.

Outside, the grounds received a landscaping makeover, removing over 600 daylilies and 3 trees at the Library's west entrance. Half of the landscaping was replaced with a Pollinator Garden through a partnership with Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge and Jasper County Conservation. The remaining of the landscaping will be replaced in 2018 with native Midwest pollinators that will bloom Spring through Fall, giving a more aesthetically pleasing sight for library visitors.

To further the Library's work in becoming energy efficient, 2 residential air conditioners and 3 residential furnaces were replaced. These units heat and cool the Library Meeting Room and staff offices and were original to the building.



All ash trees on the grounds were removed by the City due to ash borer infestation. Various trees species were replanted in the right-of-way after the ash removal.

Inside, the neon lights were removed from the Children's Library, 504 lights were replaced with LED efficient lighting, and the large furnace unit was repaired after a malfunction left the Library without heat for 51 days.



Adult Programs

From July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2017, there were 99 adult programs with 3,388 attendees. And in 2017 there were 225 Adult Summer Reading Program registrants, a drastic increase from 77 in 2016.

Here are a few photos from programs that went over especially well with the public and/or were new.



DIY @ the Library: Fairy Gardens. This program was so popular that our Public Services Librarian has offered it again and still has a wait-list for those wanting to join.

Rock the Library 2017 or otherwise known as Lawn Concerts at the Library.



Yoga on the Library Lawn. A very calming and beautiful place to practice yoga. This program is offered throughout the year and is moved inside to our Meeting Room when the weather is uncooperative.

Catch Your Pet Reading during the month of May 2017. "Porkchop is reading up for his own Cinco de Mayo birthday party. Thank goodness the library has plenty of Clifford books for inspiration!". This was a social media campaign inviting people to submit photos of their pets reading which lead to many cute photos all over the Library's Facebook page.



Teen Programs

From July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2017, the Library held 9 programs aimed at a teen audience, in which 204 young adults participated in. 62 young adults registered for the 2017 Summer Reading Program.



Young adults made beaded wind chimes at

Teens also helped out the Library on Red Pride Service Day by painting our benches and planting trees!



Children's Programs

From July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2017, the library held 216 children's programs with 6,710 attendees. For the 2017 Summer Reading Program, we had 541 kids register.



We always have a full meeting room when a Disney princess comes to visit!



We have very well attended story times on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays. This year we began Baby Storytimes for newborns to 18 months.



Families look forward to our Pumpkin Decorating Contest each October. Families are invited to submit a pumpkin decorated as their favorite book character. The public is then invited to vote on a winner.

Staff Updates

The event most dominating library staff news was the combination of the City's decision to freeze hiring at the end of FY17 and our Circulation Lead's decision to retire. Chris Nida had worked for the Library for over 25 years, coming over from the Jasper County Library and old Newton Public Library and working her way up into the Circulation Lead and Cataloger position. Her departure meant the Library was without a full-time position for over 6 months. During this period, the position was separated into two part-time positions of a part-time Cataloger and part-time Circulation Clerk, saving the Library and City benefits costs and salary costs for years to come.

Near the end of FY17, a Library Page decided to leave as well leaving us without a shelver during our busiest time of the year. Altogether this meant our staff was down 3 positions during our busiest season. Fortunately, our well-trained and professional staff pulled together and rose to the challenge and exceeded expectations under adverse circumstances to have a great summer.

The Library Board of Trustees' commitment to support continuing in-service training for staff encouraged many staff members to attend relevant online sessions and national conferences. In the Fall of 2016, Circulation Clerks Judy Zegers and Jean Lewis completed the online course of Public Library Support Staff earning certificates. In the summer of 17, Nicole Lindstrom and Becca Klein attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Chicago, IL learning alongside thousands of Librarians from across the US and overseas.

Currently, the Library closes the Library twice a year for in-services Staff training in January and the end of May. On January 9th, 2017, watched a webinar from the State Library of Iowa on becoming Community assets, learned about new technology updates at the Library, and enjoyed a pizza luncheon. On May 30th, 2017, staff were trained and became certified by the Newton Fire Department in CPR and First Aid.



Circulation: The Heart of the Library

One measure of a library's health is the circulation of its materials to patrons, both virtually and physically. Although circulation is no longer an accurate reflection of a library's varied transactions with the public, it still acts as a barometer of the success of collection development and the library's ability to deliver materials to meet patrons' needs.

Circulation of Physical Items

	2015	2016	2017
Adult Books	47,485	44,067	48,860
Young Adult Books	8,515	7,908	7,538
Children's Books	32,803	34,682	29,650
Video recordings	16,371	21,247	21,140
Audio recordings	7,799	8,465	8,180
Magazines	1,707	1,861	1,263
Other	1,130	1,107	783
Total:	115,810	119,337	117,414

Use of Downloadable Material

	2015	2016	2017
E-Books (Bridges)	6,229	6,412	6,825
Purchased E-books	-	-	905
Video Recordings	0	6	10
Audiobooks (Bridges)	2,459	4,013	4,919
Purchased Audiobooks	-	-	221
Total:	8,688	10,431	12,880

Total Circulation: 124,498 129,768 130,294

Circulation by Location

	2015	2016	2017
Circ to Newton	79,792	82,365	80,119
Circ to 28E Cities	2,227	2,270	713
Circ to Rural/County	27,607	26,794	29,819

Use of the Facility

There is an uncanny assumption that people visit the library only to return and check out materials. However, this is not the only reason, far from it! People come to use computers, access the Wi-Fi, charge their devices at our charging stations, and maybe cool off from the summer heat. They bring their children for programs, attend programs themselves, attend meetings in our Meeting Room or Conference Room, and more. They read the *Wall Street Journal*, *Des Moines Register*, *Newton Daily News*, or *Value Line Investment Survey*. Patrons can make use of the Library daily without becoming a statistic that is tracked by the state or the City, except to note that they entered through the gate, Library visits tallied in this way show that in Fiscal Year 2017, about 344 people visited the library on an average day. This is considering the fact that the Library is only open 6 days a week, approximately 297 days a year (subtracting Holidays).

Library Visits

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
75,861	76,160	96,805	105,110	102,049

Over the past 4 years our door count increased by over 25,000 visitors per year!

Meeting Room Use

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
316	211	271	365	510

Computer Use

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
11,876	13,466	12,382	11,298	10,768

Circulation of materials is only part of the equation describing the library's space in the community. Use of the facility for meetings and computers the library provides also reflects the library's vitality. The free community Meeting Room and Conference Room continue to increase in demand and use. While computer usages has witnessed a decline over the years, our usage of public Wi-Fi has seen a drastic increase. The statistics for Public Wi-Fi usage will be included in 2018's Annual Report as staff have just now started to track its usage.

Inter-Library Loan Lending & Borrowing

Many materials cannot be found in a library in Newton, Jasper County, or Iowa. The library's resource sharing agreements with out-of-state libraries enhances patrons' chances of being able to obtain what they are seeking. The Newton Public Library continues to be a "net lender", meaning we lend more items than we borrow from other libraries. This speaks well of the interlibrary loan service and the content of the Newton Public Library collection.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
ILL Borrowing	630	697	600
ILL Lending	1,243	976	987

Friends of the Newton Public Library

The Friends of the Newton Public Library promote and support the services and programs of the Newton Public Library, and fosters the giving of books, other materials, and funds to the library. The participation and support of the Friends has been vital the last few years in assisting the Library in cleaning the roof in preparation of Newton Fest, paying for George Lawson to analyze the space usage of the Library and create a new floor plan, and in paying for all for the education and entertaining programming at the Library.

In 2017, the Friends not only paid for programming supplies, refreshments and snacks but also financed over \$2,100 in programs for the Summer Reading Program. The Friends generously funds the Pool Party at the Maytag Pool for the end of the Children's and Teen's Summer Reading Program each year. In addition, the Friends funded a staff luncheon thanking the staff for making it through the cold days without a working furnace.

Friends continue to support and instill a love for lifelong reading by assembling and distributing bags to babies born at Skiff and throughout Jasper County. A child's first book bag contains board books and leaflets on encouraging children to read. They continue this love of lifelong reading by bussing community first-graders to the Library each year for a tour, storytime, and a book of their own to take home. Friends of the Library continue to be a keystone of the library organization.



Newton Public Library Foundation

Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has continued to play a vital role in funding public library extraordinary requests that reach beyond budget allowances to enhance technology, building, programming, and collection needs. In 2017, the Foundation funded 2 new picnic tables and a garbage bin to be placed by Sir Rustolot for families to enjoy time on the Library Lawn in the shade of the trees near their favorite dragon. The Foundation generously funds \$5,000 worth of programming every fiscal year to continually enhance the library's educational and entertaining programs for all ages.



The Foundation was instrumental in assisting the Library update its lighting to become LED efficient. They funded the first two phases of the project, replacing the 15 lights outside the library and 485 low-hanging lights inside the Library. The rebates from these projects were then used to assist funding the larger project of replacing all 600 Atrium lights that required a lift to access. By replacing the Library's lights with efficient LEDs the Library is saving approximately \$500 a month on electrical costs.

One of the best ways for Newton citizens to support the library and guarantee a healthy future (besides using the Library's services) is through tax deductible donations and bequests to the Newton Public Library Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a 7-member board which meets annually in June and reports monthly to the Newton Public Library Board.

Library Board of Trustees

All meetings of the Newton Public Library Board are open to the public and take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4pm in the Board Room of the Library.

Rita Baker, 2018, President
1416 W. 9th St. S.
Newton, IA 50208
641-831-0420

Tom Hollander, 2020, Treasurer
1010 W. 18th St. S.
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-9397

Terry Townsend, 2022, Vice President
500 E. 17th St. N.
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-3637

Juana McConnell, 2022, Secretary
601 S. 2nd Ave. W.
Newton, IA 50208
641-521-9852

Cindy Smith, 2020
514 E. 4th St. S.
Newton, IA 50208
641-791-9197

Newton Public Library Annual Statistics 2016-2017

OPERATING INCOME

City appropriation	\$715,426	
Special library levy & LOST	\$347,320	
Revenue from County	\$55,566	
State Government funding	\$6,520	
Income from Contracting Cities (Lambs Grove)	\$4,152	
Donations & other income received	\$9,172	
Fines and/or fees received	\$18,131	
Total Operating support		\$1,138,156

EXPENDITURES

Total Staff Expenditures	\$775,185	
Total Collection Expenditures	\$95,759	
All Other Operating Expenditures (including building maintenance, heat, phone, lights, cooling, postage, data processing, equipment, and supplies)	\$206,939	
Total Operating expenditures		\$1,077,883

LIBRARY COLLECTION

Total number physical volumes held at start of year	77,949	
Total physical volumes added	5,799	
Total physical volumes withdrawn	6,490	
Total physical volumes held at end of year	77,258	
Total downloadable materials held at end of year	49,477	
Total physical and downloadable materials held at end of year		126,735

CIRCULATION of LIBRARY MATERIALS and BUILDING USAGE

Adult Books	48,860	
Young Adult Books	7,538	
Children's Books	29,650	
Video Recordings	21,140	
Audio Recordings	8,180	
Periodicals	1,263	
Downloadable circulation	12,880	
Other items	783	
TOTAL CIRCULATION		130,294

ANNUAL INTERNET COMPUTER USE	10,768	
Interlibrary Loan received from other libraries	600	
Interlibrary Loan provided to other libraries	987	
Current total registered borrowers	15,652 (on June 30, 2017)	
Library visits	102,049	
Annual Meeting Room use	510	
PROGRAMMING		
Total of Library Programs for Children	216	
Total of People Attending Library Programs for Children	6,710	
Total of Library Programs for Young Adults	9	
Total of People Attending Library Programs for Young Adults	204	
Total of Library Programs for Adults	99	
Total of People Attending Library Programs for Adults	3,388	
Number of Children Registered in FY2016 Summer Reading Program		541
Number of Young Adults Registered in FY2016 Summer Reading Program		62
Number of Adults Registered in FY2016 Summer Reading Program		225