



south dakota
STATE LIBRARY

Leadership. Innovation. Excellence.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

2020 IN REVIEW

... A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

2020 was a year like no other. It started out quiet and normal. We prepared for a flood of legislators coming to town. That was our normal for January in the capital city. There were welcome letters to send out to new legislators and library cards (barcodes) to issue. Then in February we joined the state library organization, SDLA, to host the annual Library Legislative Day at the Capitol rotunda. That busy day always ends with our traditional celebration of public libraries that have been accredited during the past year. We celebrated with our fellow librarians as trustees, friends and proud legislators looked on. Like we usually do, we purchased South Dakota award winning titles with gift funds to give to our accredited libraries. This way they have more than a certificate to take home, but also a stack of teen and children's books tied in a big bright ribbon. It is always rewarding to celebrate with these libraries who have worked hard to reach a goal to improve in nine areas like facilities, collection and policy development, governance and trustee training to name a few.

We barely caught our breath before we 'jumped' into our annual Jump Start regional workshops which are preparations for South Dakota's summer reading programs. Then with only one workshop remaining, we heard some devastating news. COVID-19 had arrived in our state, and state government employees, like so many others, were sent home to begin working remotely. After a week we started to regroup and hold online "Zoom" meetings. This was all new to most of us, but we learned fast. The State Library staff started working from home as best they could. Many of the Braille and Talking Book staff continued to come in to keep the tapes going out to their patrons. New safety protocols were put in place and we began advising librarians how to safely continue serving their communities. Our staff read countless articles and CDC reports on how long the virus remained on various surfaces. We posted guidance for our school and public libraries.

By the time we started coming back into the building, Congress had passed the federal CARES Act. The IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) had appropriated nearly \$80,000 for South Dakota public and school libraries, so the State Library got busy creating a portal and grant application. It would be a grant for upgrading or expanding technology within the library. In three

rounds, we awarded 36 library technology grants, each in the amount of \$1,000 or \$2,000. Once the pandemic passes, we hope to get out in the field and see the improvements made for the benefit of local communities. This was one blessing of the pandemic. Also, many communities pledged additional funds to move their local collection online or purchase additional pieces of equipment.

We also used \$15,500 to purchase an online summer reading program. Talk about collaboration and working at breakneck speed: working with the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications, we worked very fast to locate the best vendor, get it tested for security purposes, write and submit a contract AND get several dozen librarians signed up and trained prior to June 1. It was a sight to behold, but congratulations to everyone involved and thank you! As a result, 55 public libraries did not have to cancel their summer reading programs. They were prepared to offer something new and exciting ...and safe for kids in their communities to keep learning and reading going during the summer. We usually have around 95,000 summer participants. This year, South Dakota had nearly 85,000 children sign up and participate in a summer reading program. Good things happen even in difficult times! We had hoped to reach 100,000 kids this year. However, given the pandemic, 85,000 is a real success story. Libraries kept our teens and children reading while they were out of school for an extended period. Local librarians proved to be real heroes in this pandemic.



Daria Bossman, State Librarian



AWARDS

CERTIFICATION: PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

The State Library awarded certification to 12 public librarians from nine public libraries in October 2020:

- Leslie Brondsema, Huron Public Library
- Daniel Burniston, Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library
- Misti Burns, Tripp County Library (Winner)
- Ester Johannesen, Wall Community Library
- Sarah Jones-Lutter, Redfield Carnegie Library
- Jennifer Littlefield, Huron Public Library
- Kevin Kenkel, Mitchell Public Library
- Zackery North, Mitchell Public Library
- Mary Jo Parker, Lake Andes Carnegie Library
- Amanda Raiche, Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library
- Sara Weishaar, Bison Public Library
- Amber Wilde, Grace Balloch Memorial Library (Spearfish)

21ST CENTURY SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Twelve South Dakota school libraries awarded by the State Library in 2020:

- **Effective:** Piedmont Valley Elementary Library, Sturgis Elementary Library, Whitewood Elementary Library, Rapid Valley Elementary School Library (Rapid City)
- **Enhanced:** Elk Point-Jefferson School Libraries
- **Exemplary:** Douglas Middle School Library (Box Elder), Harrisburg South Middle School Library, Horizon Elementary School Library (Harrisburg), Madison Central School Libraries, Robert Frost Elementary School Library (Sioux Falls), West Central Middle/High School Library (Hartford), West Middle School Library (Rapid City)

ACCREDITATION: PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Six South Dakota public libraries accredited by the State Library in 2020:

- **Essential:** Piedmont Valley Library, Wall Community Library, Canton Public Library
- **Enhanced:** Tripp County Grossenburg Memorial Library (Winner)
- **Exemplary:** Custer County Library, Rawlins Municipal Library (Pierre)

BRAILLE & TALKING BOOK

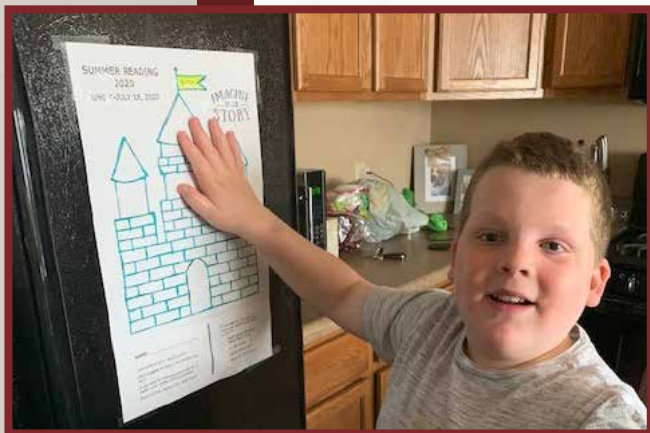
2020 STATISTICS:

- 49 Winter Reading participants, 37 Summer Reading participants
- 333 new patrons
- 728 audio descriptive videos checked out
- 127,886 books circulated
- 1,251 hours spent by volunteers recording SD books

DOWNLOAD ON DEMAND

In 2020, the Braille & Talking Book Library began converting to a new way of sending books to our patrons. Download on Demand is a process that allows for multiple books to be added per individual cartridge. This allows patrons to enjoy more books while receiving less mail. Our patrons are now able to receive any book available on the National Library Service BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Service.

As of Nov. 1, 2020, staff have fully implemented this new process for every Braille & Talking Book patron. This will streamline our services and allow staff to enhance other program areas.



Left: The South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Library hosts two reading programs a year.

Opposite, Top: Custer County Library hosted Summer Reading storytimes over Facebook.

Opposite, Bottom: Centerville Community Library used their YouTube channel to post virtual storytimes for their patrons.

SUMMER READING 2020

*Imagine
Your Story!*

AMIDST A PANDEMIC...

The pandemic changed, but did not stop, summer reading. South Dakota public libraries reached more than 84,540 patrons through summer reading programming! "Imagine Your Story" is exactly what librarians did. Their imaginative programming included 18,704 patrons accessing programming remotely, 15,109 patrons attending live virtual programming and 41,113 patrons viewing recorded virtual programming.

READSQUARED

Fifty-five South Dakota public libraries were able to use the READsquared software program at no cost to run their summer reading programs online. The program makes it easy and fun for patrons to sign up from home, track reading goals and collect incentives. Funding for READsquared was made possible by the federal CARES Act through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the South Dakota State Library.



Summer Reading 2020 Storytime Episode 13

33 views • Jul 20, 2020

👍 0 🗣️ 0 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮



Centerville Community Library
13 subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

DIGITAL BRANCHES

The State Library contracted with Mile Up Marketing web developers of Lead to launch websites for a pilot group of 40 public libraries. Additional public libraries will be adding a local website in the next year. The new library websites provide direct links to online resources such as the libraries' online catalogs, ebook services, and State Library sponsored online resources, making it the libraries' 'digital branch'.

"Very grateful for this push to bring us into current times. So nice to have everything on one page for our patrons and perfect for our varied services we are focusing on at this time."

--Sisseton Memorial Library

Librarians are given the tools they need to keep the new websites updated. The websites are secure, meet current accessibility standards, and use responsive design to work well on mobile devices. "A modern website communicates the ability of a library to provide 21st century services and is very convenient," said State Librarian, Daria Bossman.

LSTA federal funding made this 'digital branch' website initiative possible through the South Dakota State Library.



PUBLIC LIBRARY ESSENTIAL WIFI

Free public WiFi is an essential service provided by nearly all South Dakota's public libraries. The State Library makes it easy for libraries to measure the usage and impact of this service through a wireless counter application called **WhoFi**. The software is configured to protect patron privacy and provide useful insights about WiFi usage.

Based on the data collected, library staff have recognized the importance of their public wireless networks and some have implemented improvements to bandwidth, network equipment, hours and physical reach of WiFi service. The State Library is licensed to provide this service to all the state's public libraries. Nearly 70% of our libraries are currently using this service.

LSTA federal funding made this initiative possible through the South Dakota State Library.





South Dakota State Library

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