

# 2024 Annual Report



## A YEAR OF OUTREACH, COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Black Earth Public Library continues to be a place where patrons can find leisure, information, community, and support. The 2024 annual report reflects increased attendance at in-person programs, partly due to larger scale programs featuring special guests and performers. We also collaborated with the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA), the Black Earth Children's Museum, and the Wisconsin Heights School District to provide greater connections within the community.

↪ **4,347** IN-PERSON PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

↪ **184** IN-PERSON PROGRAMS OFFERED



Zoo to You - Henry Vilas Zoo Visit

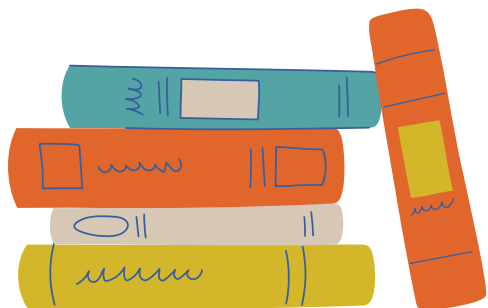
### In-Person Programming

In 2024, the library provided a variety of in-person programming for all ages, including:

- Book discussions for adults
- Storytime & Toddler Art
- Early Literacy Play Dates
- Local Author Fair
- Paranormal Wisconsin
- Titanic Menus
- Garden Club
- Earth Day Celebration
- Teen Nail Art
- Taylor Swift Party
- and much more!

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## AN EYE ON COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT



Yearly management of all library collections means collections remain current, attractive, and informative. The Library Director, Youth Services Librarian, and Circulation Manager worked together in 2024 to maintain a library collection that encourages browsing and continues to be relevant to the community.

↪ **18,048**

PHYSICAL  
MATERIALS IN  
OUR  
COLLECTION

↪ **20,645**

TOTAL  
CIRCULATION

↪ **698**

ITEMS ADDED  
TO THE  
COLLECTION

### What happens to materials that have been deselected?

All items deselected from the library collection find a second life by being donated to the Friends of the Black Earth Public Library.

Deselection occurs using a set of criteria outlined in the Collection Development Policy on the Black Earth Public Library website.

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## A WELCOMING SPACE WITH AN UPDATED PLAN

Black Earth Public Library continues to be a welcoming space for community members of all ages. Whether you would like to work on the community jigsaw puzzle, chat with librarians and friends, or meet up with other families to play in the children’s area, the library provides a safe and comfortable place where all are welcome.

The library completed an updated Strategic Plan (2025-2030) with the assistance of South Central Library System consultants and community surveys. The plan gives a snapshot of where we are and who we serve. It also features goal themes of library space, accessibility, education, and fiscal responsibility. The full plan is available on the library’s website.



↪ **18,878** VISITS

↪ **1,121** REGISTERED USERS

↪ **520** REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS

### Getting connected at the library

Providing computer and broadband access is an integral part of Black Earth Public Library’s services and mission.

**581** PUBLIC COMPUTER USES

**72,240** PUBLIC WI-FI USES

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## DIGITAL & TO-GO SERVICES

Our self-directed activities continue to be popular with all ages. Because of this, we increased the number of total self-directed activities we offered in 2024, and we saw an overall increase in participants.

We continue to offer robust online services to our patrons including databases, streaming services, and Libby. These digital services are available with a library card, and remain quite popular.

↪ **1,088**

PARTICIPANTS  
IN SELF-DIRECTED  
ACTIVITIES

↪ **42**

TOTAL NUMBER  
OF SELF-DIRECTED  
ACTIVITIES

↪ **8,726**

USES OF  
ELECTRONIC  
MATERIALS

## What are self-directed activities?

Self-directed activities are "planned, independent activities available for a definite time period which introduce participants to any of the broad range of library services or activities that directly provide information to participants." In short, self-directed activities include passive programs in the library and grab n' go kits. At Black Earth Public Library, this includes:

- Activity Grab Bags for Kids
- Adult Take & Makes
- Spice of the Month Kits

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## REVENUES

Village of Black Earth:	\$157,447
Dane County Reimbursements:	\$67,368
Other County Reimbursements:	
Columbia County	\$102
Green County	\$34
Iowa County	\$4,557
Sauk County	\$306
Grants Received:	
SCLS Youth Literacy Grant	\$450
e-Rate reimbursement	\$27
Continuing Education Grant	\$149
 Total Operating Income:	 \$236,057

## EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Wages:	\$126,091
Benefits:	\$21,109
Library Materials:	\$20,314
Contracted Services:	\$15,529
Other Expenditures:	\$33,088
 Total Operating Expenses:	 \$216,131

## LIBRARY STAFF

Carla Huston	Library Director
Kirsten Rogers	Youth Services Librarian
Michelle Zander	Circulation Manager
Miles Varichak	Library Assistant
Donna Vought	Library Assistant
Maureen Frame	Substitute Library Assistant
Murilo Alves Zacareli	Substitute Library Asst.
Leah Adler	Substitute Library Assistant
Hannah Flanders	Substitute Library Asst
Riley Lynch	Substitute Library Assistant
Felicity Crowe	Substitute Library Assistant
Ella Buttchen	Library Page
Tirzah Caminiti	Library Page
Brenna Schuetz	Library Page

## LIBRARY BOARD

Gary Schuetz	President/Treasurer
Dylan Helmenstine	Secretary/Village Representative
Mary Jane Ederer	School Representative
Cathy Wittenwyler	Trustee