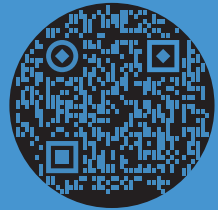


ANNUAL REPORT

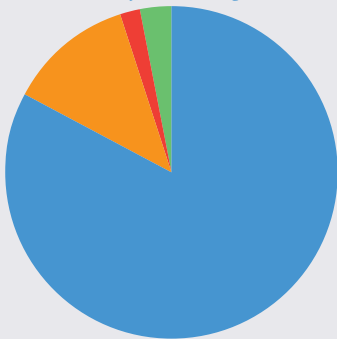
MESA COUNTY LIBRARIES

2020



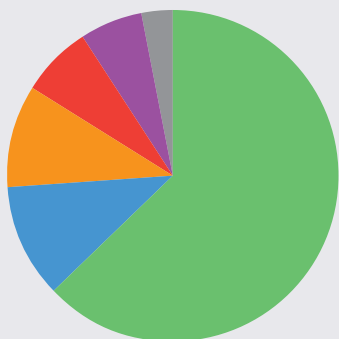
2020 FINANCIAL DATA

(Preliminary unaudited figures)



TOTAL REVENUE = \$7,892,001

- Property Taxes - \$6,549,450
- Ownership Taxes - \$939,106
- Fees & Misc. - \$132,702
- Gifts & Donations - \$270,743



TOTAL EXPENDITURES = \$6,529,509

- Personnel - \$4,119,101
- Library Materials - \$706,533
- Support Services - \$689,168
- Technology - \$439,559
- Facilities - \$389,584
- Capital Projects - \$185,564

Adapting to the Unexpected

What an amazing, unexpected, unprecedented year! The elimination of overdue fines in January 2020 contributed to the highest two months of circulation in Mesa County Libraries' history and increased access to the library. Then a pandemic hit the world, causing massive disruption.

Library staff shifted quickly to keep core services going with the addition of curbside holds pick-up, online library cards, expanded digital collections, and virtual programming produced in the library's 970West Studio.

The elimination of in-person programs resulted in a 50% drop in library visits, contributing to a loss of community connection. Yet the library's signature events — Summer Reading, Comic Con, and Culture Fest — continued in new, different online formats. New ways of serving patrons emerged, including the creation of popular

Take and Make kits for all ages and the evolution of the Discovery Garden, which brought joy (and food) to visitors.

Finally, the new Clifton Branch Building Project worked with the CU-Denver University Technical Assistance Program on conceptual designs. While the work was done virtually, the community gave feedback on the progress in December. In 2021, the library will hire an architect and begin a capital campaign. This building project was a positive focus for the library in 2020.

Happily, the new Clifton Branch building will not result in increased taxes for the community. The library district has been saving for this project, and a significant portion will be funded through private donations and grants.

Michelle Boisvenue-Fox
Library Director

2020 STATS

TOP 5

Checked out Items

KIDS FICTION

1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid (various titles)
– Jeff Kinney

2 Wrecking Ball
– Jeff Kinney

3 The Pigeon Needs a Bath!
– Mo Willems

4 The Pigeon Has to Go to School!
– Mo Willems

**5 Disney Junior Puppy Dog Pals
5-Minute Stories**

TEEN FICTION

1 The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes
– Suzanne Collins

2 The Maze Runner
– James Dashner

3 Minecraft Essential Handbook
– Stephanie Milton

4 The Hate U Give
– Angie Thomas

5 The Book Thief
– Markus Zusak

ADULT FICTION

1 Where the Crawdads Sing
– Delia Owens

2 The Guardians
– John Grisham

3 Long Range
– C.J. Box

4 Blue Moon: A Jack Reacher Novel
– Lee Child

5 The Bitterroots: A Cassie Dewell Novel
– C.J. Box

Fine-Free in 2020

Overdue fines were eliminated Jan. 1, 2020, removing a barrier for many patrons.

- 20% no longer felt apprehensive about library use
- 17% checked out more materials
- 23% kept materials longer

PATRON COMMENTS:

Takes the stress out of checking out books, especially with kiddos!

Fear of fines should not keep people from borrowing and reading books.

I stopped using the library until I heard you eliminated overdue fines.

It's really opened us up to using the library more!

39% **Electronic Circulation**
= 230,824

11% **Adult Student Hours**
= 16,037

330% **Social Media Followers**
= 61,827

7.4% **Library Cardholders**
= 76,215

20% **Checkouts & Renewals**
= 1,062,056

56% **Library Visits**
= 322,232

Key Stats

Library Board of Trustees

Barry Blanchard - President
Cindy Cyphers - Vice President
Chris Mahre - Secretary
Elaine Barnett
Dean DiDario
Abby Landmeier
Candice Walton



**Mesa County
LIBRARIES**

Pandemic Recap

The library closed twice in 2020 due to the pandemic: March 15-June 7, and Nov. 23-Jan. 18, 2021. The pandemic's effects were profound:

- Library visits fell 56%.
- Ebook checkouts increased 39%.
- Programming moved online, attracting 12,569 1-minute views.
- Curbside holds pick-up began May 4 at all locations, serving 14,230 patrons by year-end.
- In a survey, patrons said they missed browsing, taking kids to the library, and a sense of community during the closures.
- Via remote learning, 85% of Adult Learning Center students continued their studies despite building closures.

Did You Know?

In 2020 ...

- The small, **46-year-old elevator** at the Central Library was **replaced**.
- **10 students** completed **GED** and **Career Online High School** programs through the library.
- **Six** imaginative sculpture benches created by **local artists** were installed in the Discovery Garden.
- The library **added** to the collection nearly **1,100 titles** suggested by patrons.
- New Take and Make **craft kits** proved **popular** with **all ages**.
- Patrons watched more than **22,000 streaming video titles** on Kanopy. Most popular was "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" based on the book by Mo Willems.
- **Volunteers** contributed **6,629 hours** of their time. **Thank you!**

Library Leadership

Michelle Boisvenue-Fox - Library Director
Shana Wade - Associate Director
Blair Wade - Finance Director
Karen Kllanxhja - Development Director

Contact Mesa County Libraries

970-243-4442 • mesacountylibraries.org