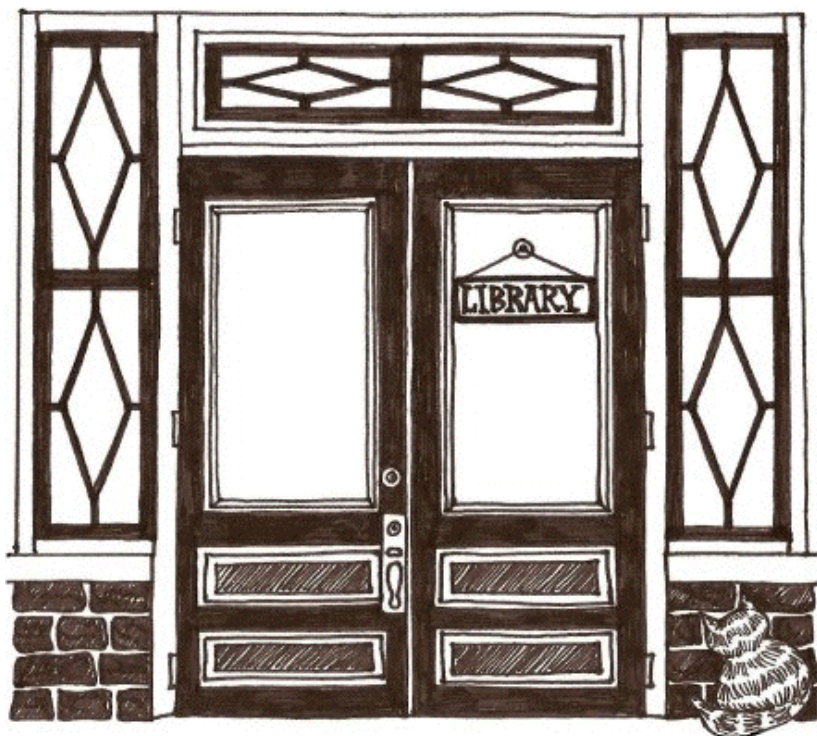


Benzonia Public
Library
FY 2015
Annual Report



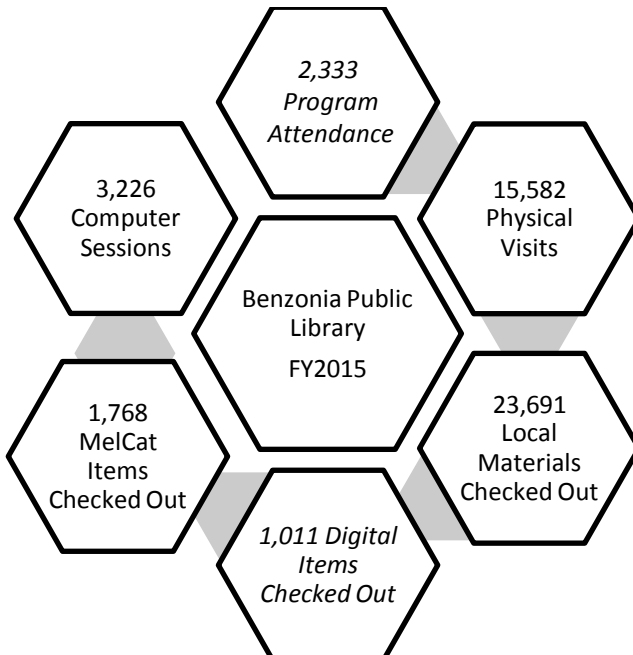
Benzonia Public Library FY 2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015

Mission Statement:

**Preserving yesterday, enriching today,
inspiring tomorrow in our community**

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



2015 was another exciting year at

Benzonia Pubic Library!

New Directions – eBooks

Benzonia Public Library teamed up with more than 30 libraries in northwest lower Michigan to provide a joint collection of materials available electronically through the Up North Digital Collection on OverDrive. The Library now provides downloadable eBooks, audio books, music, and videos to in-county patrons.



More DVDs

The collection of DVDs almost doubled, and patrons have been streaming in to borrow them for one-week checkouts. The library purchased some and thanks patrons who have donated their gently used DVDs. Including Audio Books for adults, the circulation of AV materials has increased dramatically to 5,185 in FY2015.



Books

Yes, physical books are still popular and purchased! Trying new directions does not mean abandoning the old.

Renovation

Following up on improvements to the exterior and grounds of the historic building by landlord Mills Community House, the Library updated the interior by installing new shelving, brightening the walls, adding an electric misting fireplace, and renovating the bathroom. Classics are now in the main hallway.

An antique glass-front bookcase holds books from the Benzonia Academy, which operated here from 1900 to 1918.

Renovations were funded with donations.



MeLCat Inter-Library Loan

MeLCat allows Benzonia Library Card holders to borrow books and audio-visual materials from hundreds of libraries throughout the state. It is very much valued by patrons who gain access to materials not owned locally -- from scholarly tomes to a favorite author's books in large print format.



Wi-Fi Services

Besides public computers in the Library, the library provides wireless service enabling residents and visitors to access the Internet with their own laptops or smart devices from inside, on the porch, or in the parking lot.

Services to Children



The 2015 Summer Reading Program has the Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah teamed up again, and children are eagerly attending 3 joint programs. Thank you to Benzonia Township for letting the libraries hold these programs in the Township Park.

Benzonia Public Library also has weekly summer story times with guest presenters celebrating heroes in our community. And, we have prizes to encourage reading!

For Reading Awareness Month, Benzonia Public Library teamed up with Betsie Valley District Library and Benzie Central athletes for a fun program that encouraged reading and collected books for the elementary school libraries. Thank you to Mills Community House for donating space for the big event.

During the rest of the year, story time, craft programs, and LEGO Saturdays have brought in kids to enjoy their creativity. And, there was a fantastic Holiday Party!

Early Literacy Station

Younger children are enjoying a safe computer learning experience using the Early Literacy Station (ELS) from AWE.



Programming

Craft programs

Our staff “repurposeful librarians” and volunteers offered craft programs for adults, children, and families with the theme of “Re-purpose, Re-cycle, Re-use.” Laughter filled the building as participants created coiled baskets, loopy scarves, bats, tangled art, acrylic paintings, etc.

Off the Page

Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah collaborated in sponsoring visits by authors who talked about their writing and their inspiration.

Meeting Quality Standards

In FY 2015, Benzonia Public Library successfully renewed its **Essential Level Certification** by the Library of Michigan. QSAC includes standards to ensure that libraries give quality service.



Local Support

The Property Tax Millage from Benzonia Township is split equally to support Darcy Library of Beulah and Benzonia Public Library. Since the millage passed, Benzonia Public Library has extended its morning hours (and is now open at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday), upgraded computers, added high speed Internet access, and increased the Large Print, audio book, and DVD collections while continuing to purchase popular books.

Using Penal Fines to help support public libraries is unique to Michigan. Benzonia Public Library's share of penal fines is based on its contracts with townships: 1/2 of Benzonia Township, 1/2 of Homestead Township, all of Joyfield Township, and a third of Lake Township.

Joyfield, Lake, and Blaine Townships made additional financial contributions for which the library is grateful.

Individuals also made monetary donations to the Library. Charitable contributions to governmental units such as this Library are tax-deductible if made for a public purpose (section 170(c)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code).

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

There is an active 501(c)(3) Friends organization which helps to support the library in many ways, including raising funds for special library needs. In FY 2015, the Friends provided over \$6,500 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading presenters and supplies, DVDs (and repair machine), newsletter printing, craft supplies, staff training, and a bookcase for new books. The Friends are also funding the first two years of the OverDrive digital service.

Library Board

Currently serving Library Board members are Shaun Johnson, Helen Dewey, Paula Lake, Roxane Miner, Diana Heller, and Paul Sadows.



Benzonia Public Library

is open

to serve the public

Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Facebook page: Benzonia Public Library

Web page: www.benzonialibrary.org