

2015 Annual Report of the Jefferson County Library Service

*The Jefferson County Library Service works to support and strengthen our municipal libraries so that **all** county residents receive quality public library service.*

The county library service board works to oversee the annual county library funding request and the distribution of payments to libraries as well as to plan county library services. The county library tax exists to reimburse municipal libraries for use by residents who live in areas without their own library. This allows a fair sharing of costs by citizens in all municipalities and ensures equal access to library services for all county residents.

Jefferson County residents use their libraries! See Table 1 for the 2015 circulation numbers.

Table 1.

Library	Jefferson County non-resident circulation	Total circulation	Share of circulation to non-residents
Cambridge	23,915	61,300	39%
Dwight Foster/Fort Atkinson	51,286	181,472	28%
Jefferson	23,468	82,051	29%
Johnson Creek	9,655	31,409	31%
L.D. Fargo/Lake Mills	22,433	91,966	24%
Powers Memorial/Palmyra	8,818	21,625	41%
Karl Junginger/Waterloo	4,275	38,385	11%
Watertown	42,013	313,891	13%
Irvin L. Young/Whitewater	16,667	150,998	11%
Totals	202,530	973,097	21%

Libraries also circulate digital materials from the Wisconsin Digital Library--a relatively new and booming service. Digital circulations are not included in the circulation counts listed in Table 1. E-books and e-audio materials are available for borrowing by downloading to a computer or device. See Table 2 for the number of downloads of digital materials in 2015 by library. When you add the circulation of digital materials to the circulation of physical materials, the sum is more than 1 million items borrowed at the Jefferson County libraries in 2015.

Table 2.

Library	Number of digital downloads
Cambridge	1,895
Dwight Foster/Fort Atkinson	14,664
Jefferson	5,704
Johnson Creek	2,216
L.D. Fargo/Lake Mills	6,817
Powers Memorial/Palmyra	999
Karl Junginger/Waterloo	2,766
Watertown	20,591
Irvin L. Young/Whitewater	9,745
Totals	65,397

County Library Service Highlights of 2015

In late 2014, the Jefferson County library services board sent a query to adjacent library systems to explore the possibility of a new library system affiliation. After a 35-year membership in the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System and a great deal of study, in 2015 the decision was made to join the Waukesha County Federated Library System. The majority of 2015 was spent doing the work required by law to make the change, as well as carrying out the tasks necessary to ensure a smooth transition, including updating the [county library service plan](#). The migration of the automation system, from trio to CAFÉ, was a complex project and required many months of planning. In December of 2015, the libraries went live on CAFÉ with the exception of the Cambridge Community Library, which is located in Dane County and a member of the South Central Library System. A new library system named [Bridges Library System](#), serving Jefferson and Waukesha Counties, was formed and became official on January 1, 2016.

Jefferson County residents now have access to additional resources including the [CAFÉ catalog](#) with more than 2 million items.

Other resources include:

- ❖ JobNow (for job coaching, resume critiquing, and mock interview sessions)
- ❖ Gale courses (online, self-paced classes)
- ❖ Flipster (digital magazines)
- ❖ Ancestry.com (for researching family history)
- ❖ Consumer Reports (for making smart buying decisions)
- ❖ Reference USA (for researching businesses)
- ❖ 1000 Books Before Kindergarten app (to encourage parents to read to their young children)
- ❖ Rosetta Stone (for learning a language)
- ❖ Morningstar Investment Research (to research current or prospective holdings)

Library Highlights of 2015

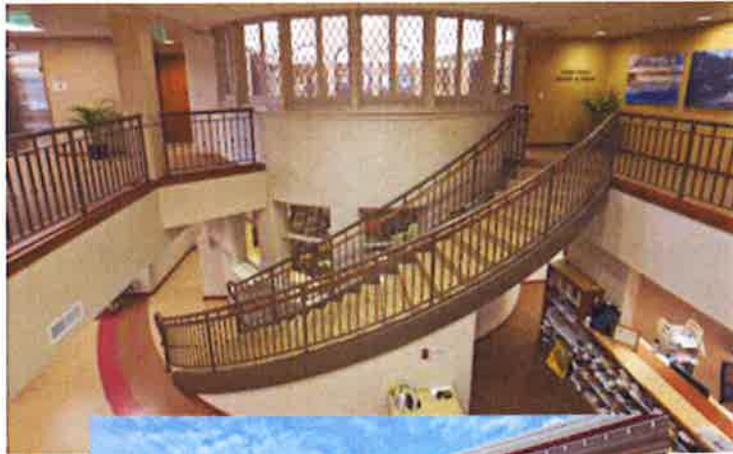
Cambridge Community Library

opened a beautiful new library building on July 20, 2015. The 8,258-square-foot facility offers state-of-the-art technology, plenty of seating for visitors, and meeting rooms for community use.



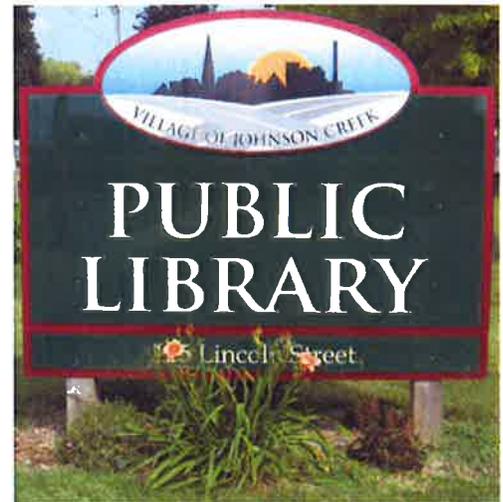
Dwight Foster Public Library

in Fort Atkinson spent its fifth year in its renovated and expanded building. More than 2,341 meetings were held in the library's public meeting rooms in 2015--fulfilling an important community need. The library upgraded its wi-fi capacity. The Wisconsin Poetry Festival was held at the library in October and brought people from around the United States to Jefferson County.

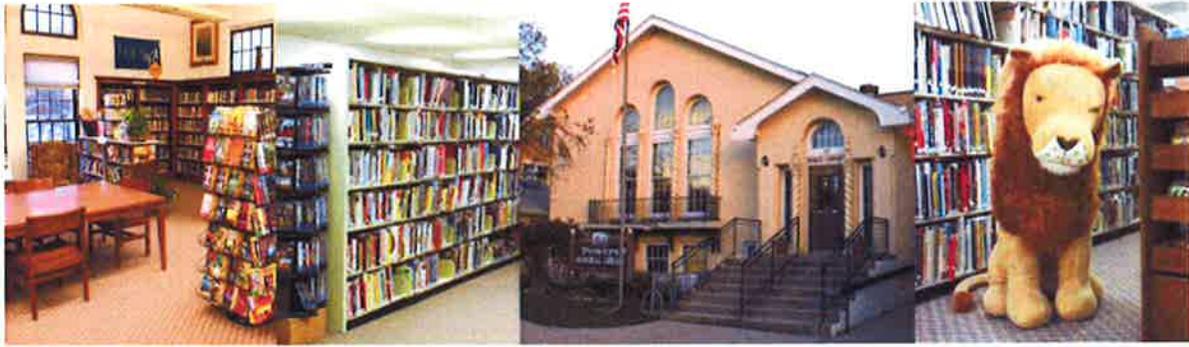


Jefferson Public Library celebrated its 30th year at the current location in 2015. A remodeling of the staff area was completed in 2015 to help the library accommodate the many changes in technology and library usage in the years since it was built. The library continues to be an important center of activity for the community and tallied more than 16,000 internet sessions in 2015. A new 24/7 materials return has been installed making it more convenient for patrons to return their items.

Johnson Creek Public Library had more than 15,000 visitors in 2015. People visited for many reasons, including to attend one of the many programs sponsored by the library. The library offers many popular homeschooling programs for students and their families. A child safety fair was held in August and was attended by more than 250 children and adults. The library also completed a strategic planning process in 2015.



L.D. Fargo Public Library in Lake Mills had an exterior face lift. The building was scraped and repainted in 2015. The new paint brightened the building and highlighted the hand-carved faces and designs that surround the front entry. In 2015, the library also partnered with several community organizations to provide programs to targeted groups.



Powers Memorial Library in Palmyra was in a leadership transition in 2015. After the retirement of the director in the summer, a new director was hired in the fall. The library began to offer weekly programs geared to teaching residents how to use technology. A MakerSpace has become a highlight of the library with a 3-D printer, Raspberry Pi, SnapCircuits, and LittleBits. Several new services for patrons have been added, including disc cleaning, lamination and 3-D printing. A new website was rolled out in December.

Karl Junginger Memorial Library in Waterloo re-landscaped the library property and replaced its roof with a metal roofing system in 2015. Additionally, the library expanded access by increasing hours open on Fridays. Meeting rooms were popular, with



329 community organizational meetings held in the library in 2015. Wi-fi usage was recorded at 4,631 sessions. A Friends of the Library group--a group of individuals, businesses, and organizations that exist to help provide financial and volunteer support to the library--was resurrected in 2015.



Watertown Public Library continues to work with city officials, community members, and architects to move its expansion project forward. The library and

city purchased and razed the building west of the library, architects created tentative drawings of the expansion, and trustees hired Library Strategies to conduct a feasibility study. The library added mobile printing technology to its list of services. Now anyone can send a print job from their location to the library and pick it up at their convenience. The library, open 7 days a week, holds programs on various days throughout each week and answered more than 12,000 reference questions in 2015.

Irvin L. Young Memorial Library in Whitewater, after many years of study, in 2015 determined that a traditional construction project would be too expensive and began investigating a public/private partnership with a developer who has past experience with



a new library/hotel construction project in Platteville. The library expanded its popular seed library and distributed 221 seed packets in 2015. The maker space continues to be popular, with 135 separate uses of the space in 2015.