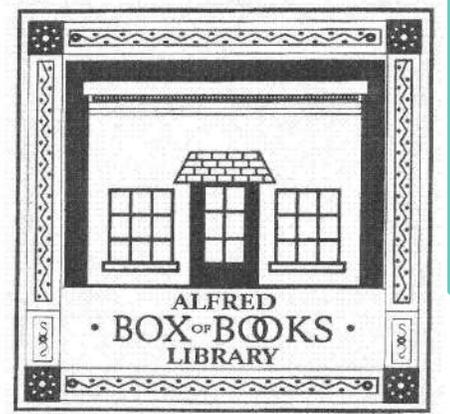


2017 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



The Alfred Box of Books Library is dedicated to the principle that free access to the individual pursuit of knowledge is essential to the support and preservation of democracy. The library strives to enhance the quality of life in this small rural area by providing an open and nonjudgmental environment in which all people have access to cultural, educational, and recreational resources, programming, and services while serving as a center for community interaction.

2017 By the Numbers

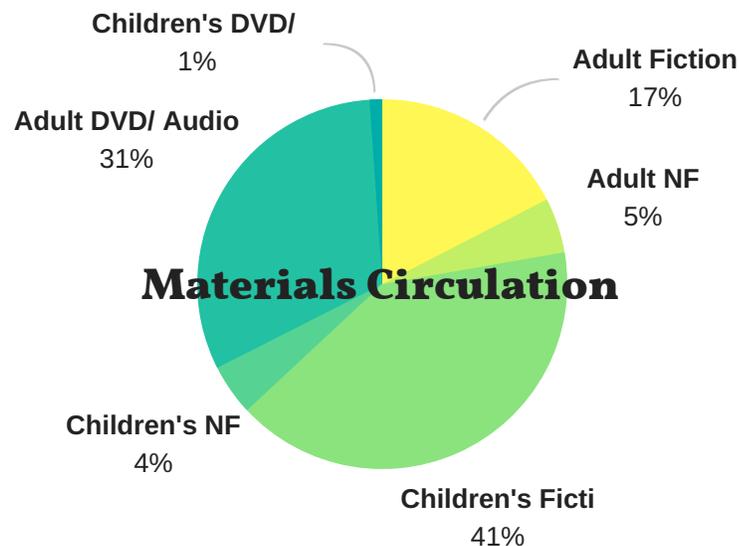
Print materials.....	10,696
DVDs/Audio.....	2,086 (7% increase)
Holdings including electronic....	31,236 (4% increase)
New Books Added.....	4,138 (11% increase)
Card Holders.....	1,144 (9% increase)
Visits to the Library.....	9,960 (44% increase)
Total circulation.....	25,843 (10% increase)
Programs offered.....	285 (47% increase)
Program Attendance.....	1,937 (70% increase)
Summer reading registrations.....	95 (5% increase)
Summer reading programs.....	51 (54% increase)
Early Literacy Programs.....	128 (43% increase)
Early Literacy Attendance.....	1,881 (86% increase)



Growth, service, community

These three words encompass our work in 2017. As our mission states, our small library works to provide educational, cultural, and recreational resources, programs and services to all. Libraries face uncertain economic times with continual threats to funding and increasing operating costs. However, despite this, the Alfred Box of Books continues to grow, offer new services, and play an active role in community life.

One of the ways we measure success is by collecting statistics. Our statistics increased across the board, from number of visits to the library and programs offered to circulation and program attendance. In 2017 the Alfred Box of Books continued to seek ways of fulfilling the recreational and educational needs of the community. In 2017 we offered more programs than we have before, with 30 adult programs, 30 teen programs, 179 children's programs, and 46 programs for mixed audiences. We also offered 128 early literacy program sessions (Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime).



To meet educational and informational needs of community members, we added 11% more items to our collection than we did in 2016. There was a 4% increase in the overall collection size. In turn, circulation saw a 10% increase with nearly 26,000 items being borrowed.

With an increase in program offerings and collection development, the library saw a 44% increase in patrons visiting the library. Nearly 10,000 people came through the library doors in 2017. Whether to use computers to fill out job applications, borrow audiobooks for road trips, attending storytime, or simply returning books, the community visited the library more in 2017 than ever recorded.

Many thanks go to the community and its show of support for the library and these services in May 2017 by voting to approve a tax referendum increasing library funding by 100%. 10% more voters turned out to show their support over the previous year. With this increase in funding (effective for our 2018 fiscal year), it is our goal to continue to grow, serve and connect with the community. Funds are earmarked for collection development and collection maintenance as well as programming which will also include dedicated funds for summer reading programs, staff development, technology upgrades and building improvements.

In 2018, we are dedicated to providing these services and more as we serve this amazing community.





2017 Highlights

Summer Reading

In 2017, we surpassed our record 2016 registrations. 95 people registered for summer reading (59 children, 5 teens, and 31 adults). We held 51 program sessions during the summer, attended by 317 people! In 2018, our goal is to register 100 summer reading participants!



The Eclipse

With a grant from the American Astronomical Society, the Box of Books Library was able to distribute 1,000 pairs of eclipse glasses. We shared many of these glasses with fellow libraries within the Southern Tier. The day of the event we saw record numbers of people at the library. We estimated that over 100 people stopped by the library to view the eclipse with our glasses, solarscope, or NASA livestream.



The Lease

After many years of hard work and negotiation, the library was able to sign a 14 year lease with Alfred University. This lease invests in the library and library services for the community. It also gives the library opportunity to apply for construction aid funds in order to make improvements to the building.



"Story hour, for us, became the highlight of the week, an opportunity for them to make friends, learn about sharing and cooperative play, practice communication skills, and develop respect for community space... Even at three years old, my kids know that the answers to many of their questions about the world can be found on the shelf of the local library; they need only look."

Grants & Finances

Grants are an important part of our operation. Funding from grants allows us to hold specific programs, build collections, and participate in staff development. Grants were received from the following organizations:

Allegany County Area Foundation
American Astronomical Society
Astronomical Society of the Pacific
Captain Planet Foundation
Cattaraugus County Arts Council
Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation
Southern Tier Library System (NYLA Scholarship)
Young Adult Library Services Association
Alfred- Alfred Station Community Chest
Hot Dog Day Committee

"I appreciate how our library can do anything the bigger ones do."



"I can't overstate the importance of this public indoor space in our economically disadvantaged, rural county."

Financial Summary

Revenues:

Local Public Funds: \$74,275
System Grants: \$9,616
Gifts, Fundraising, Fines: \$12,018

Total Receipts: \$95,909

Expenses:

Personnel: \$37,896
Collections: \$8,493
Operations, Maintenance: \$16,302
Reserve Deposit: \$33,218 *
Total Expenses: \$95,909

*This amount was received in 2017 as part of our \$95,000 tax levy. It is for the 2018 operating budget as our fiscal calendar runs from January-December.

"The Library has meant a lot for me and my family. It is not only a place where we can go and have a great time, but it has also been a link between my family and the Alfred Community."

Outreach & Collaboration

In order to best serve the community, the Alfred Box of Books continually looks for ways to partner with other organizations or agencies. In 2017, we collaborated with SUNY Alfred State Women Engineers are Pioneers (WEP) club, faculty and staff from both Alfred University and SUNY Alfred State, local artisan Elaine Hardman, and students from both Alfred University and SUNY Alfred State. Mawia Elawad helped with storytime and program planning for our cultural awareness workshops, and Alexianne Bacle attended storytime to help us learn French!

Friends & Fundraising

The Friends of the Alfred Box of Books Library are critical to our fundraising efforts. The Friends lead the way in fundraising opportunities such as dances and wine tastings in order to raise money for the library. The funds raised by the Friends group allows the library to purchase books or materials and host programs that might not otherwise be part of the budget. The library relies on the Friends to meet our goals. In turn, the Friends rely on the community for new members! If you want to be involved in the library, joining the Friends is a great way to further our mission!



Technology

In 2017, we continued to provide technology services and assistance with 11 classes, and by individual appointment. We collaborated with Almond library and Alfred Almond Central School's library to provide "Tech Talks" a monthly event in which patrons could drop-in with their technology questions, and also preview some of the technologies the libraries have to offer.



Board of Trustees & Volunteers

Allison Snyder, Board President
Jim Felip, Vice President
Cathy Powers, Financial Officer
Pat LaCourse, Secretary
Pat Crandall
Debbie Stephens
Lana Meissner
Martha Lash
Kelly Williams

Zoe Coombs (Processing)
Gene Staiger (Processing)
Jan Porter (Circulation)