



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

POPLAR BLUFF MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

# @your library

Wi-Fi

Books

Music

Space

Movies

Classes

Authors

Computers

Homework

Technology

Live Entertainment

# Table of Contents

Message from the Director . . . . 3

Your Library — More than Just Books . . . . 5

Inviting Spaces . . . . 7

Classes . . . . 8

Statistics . . . . 9

Library Top 5 . . . . 10

Finances . . . . 11

Leadership . . . . 12

# *Message from the* **Director**

**T**he year 2014 has been absolutely amazing. The library staff and I thank our patrons and community partners for making this year what it was. We grew and grew and grew. Our growth included building a firm foundation financially but also spreading roots into the community for sustained growth. More people visited the library than ever before. Well over 100,000 came through the doors. An average of 300 people per day checked out books, read the latest newspapers, used computers, accessed Wi-Fi, attended library programs, and got their latest movies or favorite television series. We made access to the libraries resources easier and gave safer access to the library's parking.

How did our patrons use the library? What were they checking out? It was more than the traditional print book. Our patrons were growing, also. Citizens developed skills and used library resources as never before.

- Your library surpassed many Missouri libraries with the number of eBooks (audio and print) checked out by our patrons. Consistently Poplar Bluff Library ranked in the top five or six libraries in cities three to four times larger for eBook check outs.
- What newspapers did they read? They read the local papers but they also read the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#).
- They used computers to apply for jobs, complete taxes, sign up for Social Security, run small businesses, print tickets, and many other tasks too numerous to mention.
- The library provided Wi-Fi in a healthy and safe environment, not only for adults, but for the many children using their MacBooks from Poplar Bluff schools. Children did their homework, checked out books for class assignments, and completed projects.
- Our patrons love our video collection. Whether they want to watch an old favorite, see a new film, or binge on their favorite television series, the library was there.

Our patrons not only used the resources at Poplar Bluff, but regularly borrowed materials from the Missouri Evergreen libraries (22 strong with 1.3 million books and movies) and across the nation from our Interlibrary Loan partners. Poplar Bluff has the world at its finger tips.

Children's and adult programming is growing by leaps and bounds. More children were involved in the summer reading program. They enjoyed a magician, animals, science, and prizes provided by our partners at 1<sup>st</sup> Midwest Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> Community Bank, ServPro, Sanders Construction, Simply Swirled, Subway, Pizza Hut, and the Friends of the Library. However, children's programming doesn't start and stop with summer reading. Throughout the year, children's activities include Homework at the Library (HAL), Fall and Winter Reading, and WEB (Where Everyone Belongs—activities for days when school is not in session). Children's story time on Tuesday continues to be popular with additional story time offerings being made for Head Start classes and the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church visits. We are thriving on the children's enthusiasm. We offer many thanks for the Three River's Swingsations for singing at our February story time. The library was alive with their music.

Our adult programming is growing with multiple offerings for everyone. Music on the Lawn continues to grow in popularity with the addition of Shakespeare on the Lawn featuring a St. Louis theater company. With the adult in mind, the library has the Sunday Movie Matinee featuring critically acclaimed films. The Sunday Book Club meets monthly. With the book club, the library offers "Book Club in a Bag". The library prepackages copies of books in varying formats that any book club can check out and use. Computer classes in email, Basic Computing, Windows 8, Publisher, and the Internet have helped many to get started and enhance their computer skills. Additionally, one-on-one computer instruction for mobile devices and laptops have helped numerous people get started with their technologies and get instruction for specific issues. Last but not least, the hobbyist learns at the library. Our fall knitting class enrolled twenty-five people who showed up four Saturday's in a row to learn the basics of knitting. Grandparents, parents, and children learned together and gained a life-long skill.

In 2014, the Board of Trustees removed barriers to library resources. The Board and library staff trust its patrons to behave responsibly. We know library materials will come back to the library for the enjoyment of all patrons. Therefore, patrons no longer pay fines for overdue books. We know patrons will pay for lost materials and pay for repairs and processing fees.

Additionally, the library improved and added a separate entrance and exit to the library parking lot. Patrons do not run a risk of meeting each other at one entrance and exit risking damages to life and vehicle. Many expressed their delight with the Magnolia tree entrance and Poplar tree exit.

The library patrons, citizens of Poplar Bluff and surrounding areas, community advocates, and business and industry help to make the library what it is. In this digital age when technology often separates us, the library is a place of community. It is vibrant and growing while giving back. The library staff work with Community Resource Council, Santa Land, Designing Women Foundation, public and private schools, Chamber of Commerce, and others to make our community better

Thank you. We could not and would not be this jewel of the community without your support. We look forward to continuing the work we have begun. We plan to be a part of Poplar Bluff's future and to grow with it. We have planted the roots to sustain our growth and as I have stated in the past, we want to be your partner. We look forward to 2015 and I ask you to look forward to being a part of our upcoming centennial celebrations in 2015 and 2016 by "Celebrating our Past...Embracing our Future."

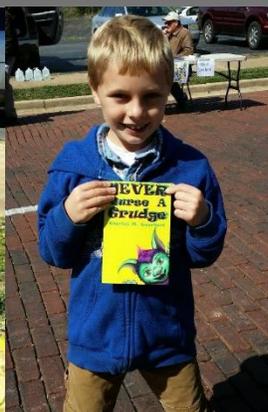
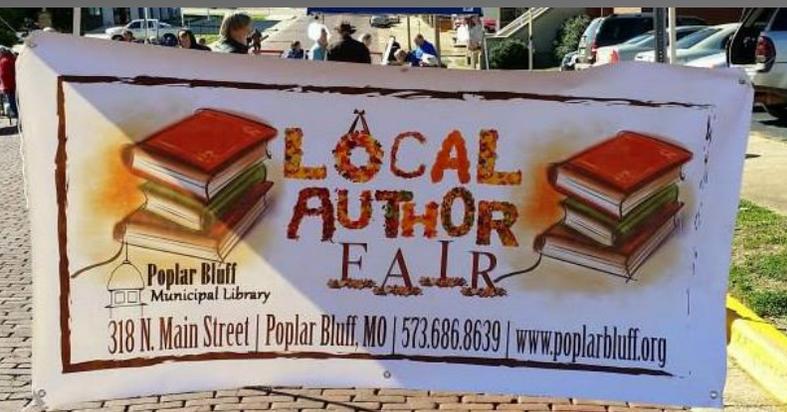
Sincerely,

*Sue Crites Szostak*

Sue Crites Szostak, MALS  
Director



The Library's summer "Music on the Lawn" concert series entertained more than 250 in 2014.



# Authors

The Library's first annual Local Author Fair hosted more than 30 booths for local and regional authors.



# Programs



The Library entertained **7,728 people** with events and programs in 2014.



# Inventing Spaces

101,048 people took advantage of inviting spaces at the Library in 2014.

# Classes



More than 1,000 people attended free classes at the Library in 2014.

**172,395**  
items checked out

**By the numbers**



**7%**

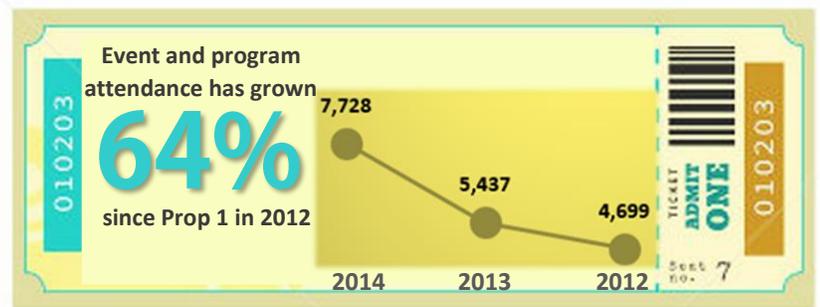
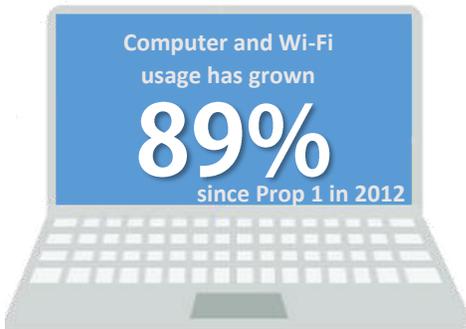
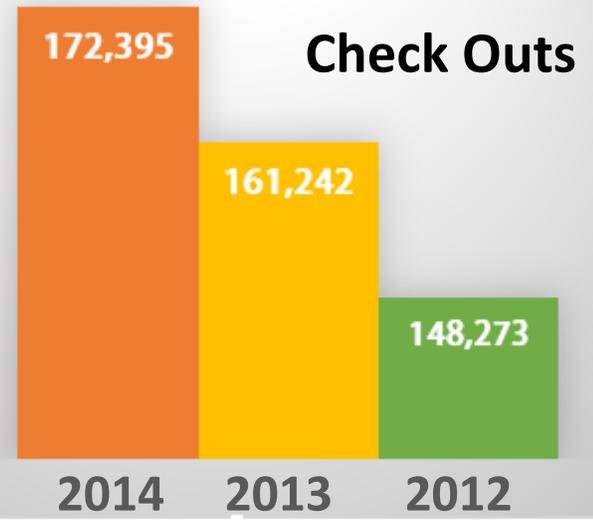


**71%**



**22%**

**Record Numbers**



**101,048**  
people visited the library



**16,724**  
items downloaded from MOLib2Go

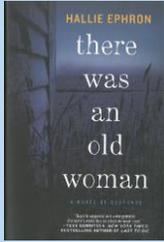


**39,417**  
PC and Wi-Fi sessions



**2,438**  
new library cards issued in 2014

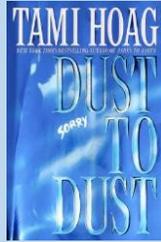
## Top 5 Fiction Books of 2014



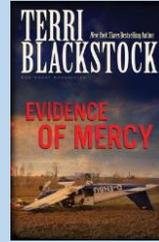
*There was an Old Woman*



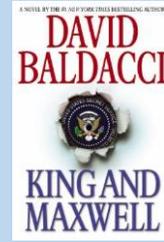
*Doing Hard Time*



*Dust*

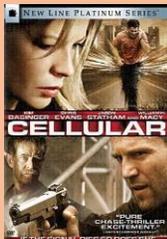


*Evidence of Mercy*

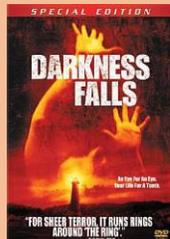


*King and Maxwell*

## Top 5 Movies of 2014



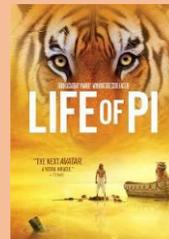
*Cellular*



*Darkness Falls*



*In the Electric Mist*

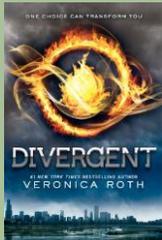


*Life of Pi*



*Bourne Legacy*

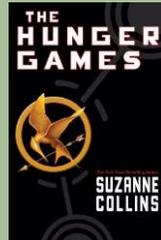
## Top 5 eBooks of 2014



*Divergent*



*Catching Fire*



*Hunger Games*

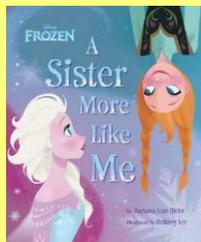


*Gone Girl*



*Mocking Jay*

## Top 5 Children's Books of 2014



*A Sister More Like Me*



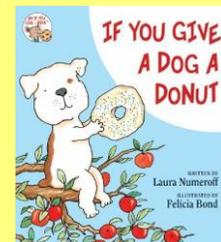
*Look Out Below*



*Jake Hatches a Plan*



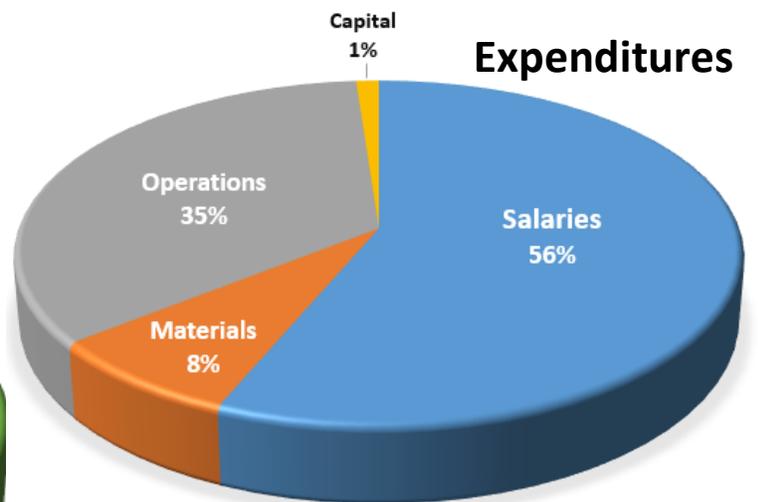
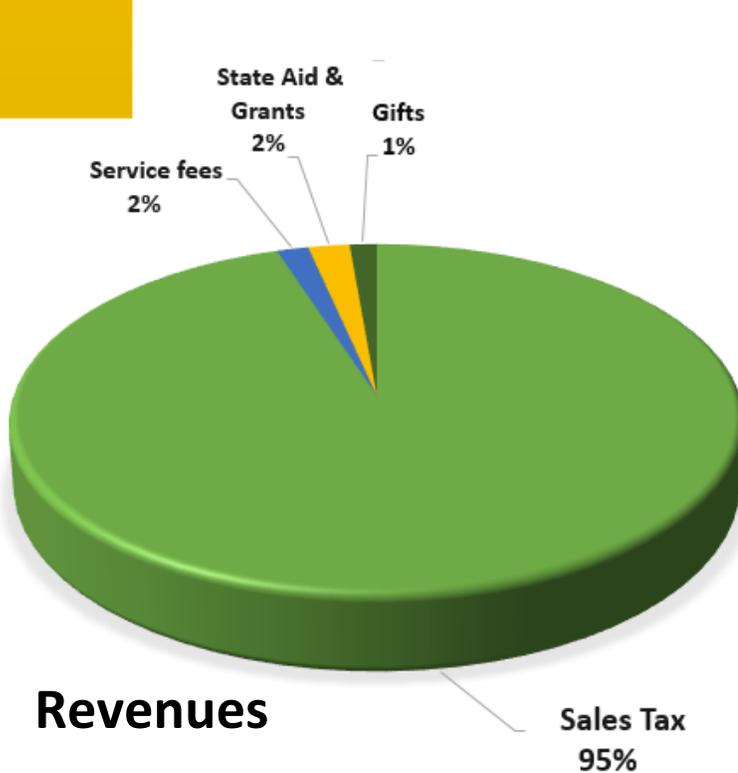
*Ghoulfriends Just Want to Have Fun*



*If You Give a Dog a Donut*

## Revenues & Expenditures

Library Revenue	
Sales Tax	1,148,657
Service fees	19,300
State Aid & Grants	25,125
Gifts and Contributions	16,426
Interest	2,776
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,151,433</b>
Library Expenditures	
Salaries and Benefits	562,441
Library Materials	79,161
Library Operations	344,465
Capital Outlay	11,564
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$997,631</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>214,653</b>
Fund balance, beginning of year	397,281
<b>Fund balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$611,934</b>



# Board of Trustees

---

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# Administration

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Assistant Director

**Shon Griffin**

Collection Development Specialist

**Erin Rigby**

Children's Librarian

**Nicole Peats**

Public Services Librarian

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