



2021

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report FY21

Financial Statement for Harford County Public Library

Operating Revenue
\$21,737,603

County - 84.37%	\$18,339,690
State - 13.54%	2,942,755
Library - 0.51%	109,796
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 1.13%	246,240
Grants - 0.46%	99,122

Operating Expenditures
\$18,774,956

Personnel - 72.68%	\$13,645,482
Materials - 14.95%	2,807,464
Equipment - 1.74%	327,203
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 1.31%	246,240
Other - 9.31%	1,748,567

Capital Budget
\$400,000



Executive Summary from Mary Hastler, Library CEO

This Annual Report Executive Summary for fiscal year 2021 provides an essential overview of the Harford County Public Library's financial and statistical information along with highlights of a year that brought new opportunities as we navigated re-entry from the effects of a worldwide pandemic. The Library continued to launch educational, informational, and entertaining activities to our community while also developing long-range plans for a future of hope and anticipation. Our teams continued to provide essential services and resources to our community during the pandemic and never stopped working.

In early March 2021, the Library welcomed customers back inside the branches following ten months of contactless drive-through and front-door pick-up services. The Library launched free, contactless printing that allowed customers to place a remote printing request then pick up from the branch of their choice within one hour. This was warmly received by county educators, the small business community, and others as they, too, were navigating their way through the new environment. Fines continued to be waived and automatic renewals provided support for all ages. Many safety and wellness measures were implemented to ensure that we continued to do our best in minimizing risk to our customers and to our staff.

Through Maryland State Library (MSL), Harford County Public Library received Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funding to deliver safe, secure public internet access to remote locations using Verizon's LTE network via the Islands of Connectivity initiative. In addition, the Library received CARES Act funding from Harford County Government to expand the collection of MiFi hotspots and to establish a designated service for students, their families, and educators. Hotspots were available to borrow for six months with the monthly service paid for by the Library. The availability of these hotspots created opportunity and equity for those in our community who otherwise did not have access to high-speed internet at home.

Virtual and outdoor programming continued to be very well received during the past year. The Library system held 4,983 programs and events with more than 409,970 people in

attendance. The Branches embraced programming in the great outdoors. In the spring, Outdoor Story Times were launched throughout the system and the county. This was a fun way to reintroduce our youngest customers and their families to the library through the love of reading, play, and music. Thousands of Take & Make craft kits were created for children and families as well as new community based StoryWalks® and sensory paths that were enjoyed by all.

The Library's annual Winter Reading Program, "Take Out a Good Book," for adults and high school students was very popular with more than 2,900 participants reading more than 10,800 books. The program featured many local restaurants and chefs including a virtual cooking show with local chef and author John Shields. This is where the idea sprouted to partner with the amazing John Shields and host a cooking show series that emphasized local agriculture, local seafood, and more. Season I consisted of six episodes and pre-production for the second season is currently underway.

The Summer Reading Adventure was held virtually again in 2021. More than 9,700 children, teens, and adults participated, reading over 43,100 books. The most popular book for elementary school-age readers was the *Dog Man* series by popular author Dav Pilkey. The Summer Reading Adventure 2021 wrapped up with a celebration held at Broom's Bloom Dairy featuring a dance party and scrumptious ice cream for all participants.

While preschools and daycares remained closed to visiting HCPL librarians, a new service, "Preschool Traveling Library" was developed by librarians. More than 97 thematic story time book bundles were delivered to licensed daycare providers. Each bundle included a librarian-created, curriculum-based newsletter that featured learning objectives, music suggestions, and tips based upon Every Child Ready to Read. This research-based initiative provides support to parents and caregivers in the nurturing and development of early literacy skills in children from birth to age five. Virtual Story Times were also produced by internal staff to accompany themed book bundles and curriculum.

"I am very, very grateful for all your hard work, all the copies, all the gathering of materials, all the checking out, bagging up, the answering of all the phone calls, the many questions, the tracking down Marina resources...I could not be the homeschool mama I am without you guys. So if I haven't told you, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!"

-Genevieve E.

“During the pandemic when everything changed and closed, HCPL still provided me the services, such as online info, hoopla, Overdrive, and drive-thru services.

The thing that I most appreciate and absolutely love is the weekly virtual book clubs. I have become an avid reader and been able to participate in the book club discussions led by competent and compassionate librarians. That one hour each week, indeed uplifted my spirit and helped me to escape from a difficult and highly unusual time...

The Library has always been one of my heavens where I can completely immerse in the knowledge, history and imagination of humanity...thank you for all you do from the bottom of my heart.”

-Stella L.

The Silver Reader, a mobile outreach vehicle which serves senior populations in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other locations throughout the county, quickly modified services when onsite visits were not permitted. The team transitioned a series of classes, “Books and Beyond,” to a virtual format. The series, for those experiencing early-onset dementia and their caregivers, more than doubled its participation compared to the classes held prior to COVID. The Silver Reader also provided “Door Drop” delivery service to assisted living locations throughout the county.

The Library’s outreach vehicle for youth, the Rolling Reader, created 254 programs featuring STREAM challenge activities, story times and more, many of which were virtual. More than 4,900 students, teachers, and parents participated. In addition, the Rolling Reader created and distributed more than 2,500 thematic Take & Make craft kits. Extension learning activities for parents and caregivers featured age-appropriate learning activities, book recommendations, early literacy tips, and Choose Civility activities. The Rolling Reader team also created and delivered hundreds of monthly, teacher-specific, thematic book bundles to the County Child Development Centers, Head Start programs, Harford County Public Schools Early Intervention locations, after-school centers, and YMCA preschools.

Community partnerships remained a priority for the Library. Throughout the year, several branches were sites for Harford Community Action Agency’s Mobile Food Pantry. In addition, the Library’s partnerships with county agencies and multiple non-profits were invaluable as we worked together to keep Harford strong. The Harford County Health Department requested assistance in contacting over 200 residents who had received their first COVID vaccine but had not received their second dose. In true partnership spirit, Library staff at branches and at headquarters answered the call and contacted these residents to walk them through the registration process for their second dose.

Outreach and support continued throughout the year and the Library purchased books for the graduates of the Circuit Court’s Adult Drug Court, and were honored to support this year’s graduating class. The Library also provided support to People Who Care, founded by Grace Callwood, with book donations to Little Free Libraries throughout the county

that promote diversity and inclusion in literature. The Library sponsored Harford Community Action Agency’s “Summer Snack Club” at its Edgewood headquarters. Children and families stopped by to participate in activities, pick up goodies, and take home a bag of food. The Library participated in farmers markets throughout the county and enjoyed talking to residents about the many services and resources the Library offers for all ages.

The Harford County Public Library Foundation hosted “Once Upon a Rodeo” at the Harford County Equestrian Center on June 19. More than 3,500 people attended this professionally sanctioned event along with a musical concert that followed. The Foundation also embraced outdoor activities and held its first, family-fun, virtual 5K in celebration of our Winter Reading Program. In honor of National Library Week, the Foundation also held its first virtual golf tournament that included both 18-hole golf and miniature golf.

The Cultural Arts Board continued to award more than \$100,000 in grants to local nonprofits and schools who provide critical support to our arts community.

Every year, but especially this year, we are extremely appreciative of our wonderful sponsors, our Library Friends Groups, and the Library Foundation who all support the Library throughout the year.

We continue to experience a time of unique opportunity to explore new and groundbreaking delivery models and to adapt to our new environment. We will continue to prioritize quality and value while also bringing innovation to Harford County. We are listening to our valued customers and staff and are excelling at problem solving and expanding capacity. Join us as we celebrate Harford County Public Library’s “75 + 1 Anniversary” in 2022! The many successes, along with wonderful community engagement, reflects the Library’s leadership, vision, and forward focus as we continue to deliver exceptional resources and services to our community.

Mary Hastler, CEO

“Do the best you can until you know better.

Then when you know better, do better.”

Maya Angelou

"I am very thankful for the contactless printing. I have saved hundreds of dollars with this service."

-Jean F.





“It is so nice that the library offers convenient contactless printing service, especially since so many home learning texts are sold as ebooks.”

-Amber L.

“My kids didn’t even notice the toys weren’t out because they were so happy to be in the library and check out books!”

-Jaime K.

“I want to give a big “Thank you!” to the Fallston library! We read a ton of books, and you all are amazing to check them all out and organize them for us to pick up. We are so grateful! We love the little crafts as well...Thank you for all your hard work. It enriches our home!”

-Tessa, Paul, Noelle, and Faith H.

“Thank you for continuing to schedule such wonderful events!”

-Christina B.

“I bring my kids there literally every day. I see the teens taking refuge, the elderly clients, the children playing. You all have created a welcome haven after all the recent turmoil. So thank you very much.”

-Christian L.



Annual Statistics for Harford County Public Library

Visits to Local Branches	275,433
Circulation	1,945,897
Subtotal - Adult Circulation	1,313,792
Subtotal - Children Circulation	632,105
Website & Catalog Visits	8,248,046
Questions Answered by Staff	233,986
Programs Offered	4,983
Program Attendance	409,970
Online Classes	134,522
Collection Size	1,010,041
Digital Collection Circulation	702,279
Interlibrary Loan - Borrowed	16,510
Interlibrary Loan - Loaned	14,417
WiFi Users	198,349
Personnel - FTE	209.74
Registered Borrowers	252,725
Branches	11
Outreach Vehicles	2
Headquarters	1



“Thank you for all you do to meet our needs, especially now in these difficult times. You truly matter to your community.”

-Susan E.

HCPL Locations

ADMINISTRATION	1221-A Brass Mill Rd 410-273-5600 @hcplonline @hcplmd @hcplonline Harford County Public Library
ABERDEEN	21 Franklin St 410-273-5608 @aberdeenlibrary @aberdeenhcplmd
ABINGDON	2510 Tollgate Rd 410-638-3990 @HCPLAbingdon @abingdonhcplmd
BEL AIR	100 E. Pennsylvania Ave 410-638-3151 @belairbranch @belairhcplmd
DARLINGTON	1134 Main St 410-638-3750 @DarlingtonLibrary @darlingtonhcplmd
EDGEWOOD	629 Edgewood Rd 410-612-1600 @edgewoodlibrarymd @edgewoodhcplmd
FALLSTON	1461 Fallston Rd 410-638-3003 @fallstonbranchHCPL @fallstonhcplmd
HAVRE DE GRACE	120 N. Union Ave 410-939-6700 @HdGLibrary @havredegracehcplmd
JARRETTSVILLE	3722 Norrisville Rd 410-692-7887 @JarrettsvilleLibrary @jarrettsvillehcplmd
JOPPA	655 Towne Center Dr 410-612-1660 @joppabranh @joppahcplmd
NORRISVILLE	5310 Norrisville Rd 410-692-7850 @norrisvillelibrary @norrisvillehcplmd
WHITEFORD	2407 Whiteford Rd 410-638-3608 @WhitefordLibrary @whitefordhcplmd
ROLLING READER	Mobile Unit 410-612-1600 @rollingreader @hcplrollingreader
SILVER READER	Mobile Unit 410-638-3151 @silverreaderhcpl @silverreaderhcplmd

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Harford County
Public Library

HCPLonline.org