Our mission is to connect people to ideas, information, community life and each other. We do that in a variety of ways, from improving existing services and introducing new ones to changing the ways we reach out to people in our communities.

TWO LIBRARY DISTRICTS MERGE

To simplify the governance of the DBRL system, the board of trustees has gone through the process to merge the Columbia Library District and the Boone County Library District. The new district is called the Columbia and Boone County Library District and went into effect January 1, 2018. It is governed by nine board members and serves all of Boone County except the City of Centralia which has its own separate city library district with its own tax rate. DBRL also continues to serve the Callaway County Library District.

BOOKMOBILE SERVICE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

In 1957, the Columbia Public Library was one of several Mid-Missouri libraries that participated in a bookmobile trial with the Missouri State Library. The program was a success, and a bookmobile became a regular service of the Daniel Boone Regional Library system after it formed in 1959. Today, the DBRL operates two bookmobiles that visit communities and licensed child care centers. The bookmobiles average 10,000 visits annually, resulting in about 78,000 check-outs.

EXPANDED DIGITAL SERVICES

As interest in digital resources continues to climb, we have responded by expanding our offerings in several ways. With funds provided by the Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation, we purchased a trial collection of Playaway Launchpads, tablets pre-loaded with learning apps for ages 3-10. We also started lending Wi-Fi hotspots on a trial basis. And, near the end of 2017, we began offering Kanopy, a streaming film and video service with over 30,000 award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles and classic feature films.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Library trustees adopted a new strategic plan that outlines goals for the next three years. DBRL staff collected and analyzed public and staff input through more than 40 community conversations and online surveys throughout the two-county area. We updated our Mission and Vision Statements and identified areas of strategic focus as part of the process. You may read the plan at www.dbrl.org/strategic-plan.
Public libraries in Missouri are funded primarily through property taxes. DBRL’s funding increased slightly this year, with tax income bringing in $329,566 more than in 2016. Prudent financial management and cost-saving measures over the years have allowed us to maintain a high level of service and keep up with necessary facility and equipment maintenance.

**STATE FUNDING IMPROVED**

The FY 2018 Missouri State budget included an appropriation of funds of approximately 38 cents per capita for each public library. As a result, we estimate that DBRL will receive a total of $77,314 in state aid in 2018, up from the $42,816 received in 2017. In addition, DBRL expects the REAL program support and Athletes and Entertainment tax funds to remain consistent with the prior year’s funding levels.

**GRANTS RECEIVED**

We rely on federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Secretary of State’s office, to improve our services.

Thanks to LSTA grant funds, we offered the **Books by Snail** program to elementary and secondary students in rural areas in Boone and Callaway counties for the tenth year. We received $20,000 in 2017 for this summer program allowing students in Auxvasse, Hallsville, Harrisburg, Hatton, Holts Summit, Kingdom City, Mokane, New Bloomfield, Sturgeon and Williamsburg to borrow books through the mail. This year, staff mailed 2,301 books to 298 students.

We received the final installment of an LSTA “Racing to Read” grant with which we updated our “**Recipes for Fun**” booklets that are full of sensory activities to build school readiness skills. We also used grant funds to offer related programming in eight communities and buy books to give to attendees.

A grant from the **Community Foundation of Central Missouri** will be used for music and literacy programming in 2018.

The Columbia Public Library was one of 15 Missouri libraries selected to host a Bill of Rights exhibit from the **Missouri Humanities Council (MHC)** along with a grant for related programming. We invited two scholars from the Kinder Institute to address “Examining Free Speech in the Digital Era.”

The MHC also awarded a $5,746 grant to DBRL in support of “**Riders on the Orphan Train**,” a presentation set for April, 2018 which is designed to inform, inspire and raise awareness for audiences of all ages about this little-known part of history.

**DONATIONS RECEIVED**

In 2017, the **Friends of the Columbia Public Library** donated books valued at $13,600 to our collection and $82,000 earned from book sales to buy new library materials and to help fund the annual Summer Reading, **One Read** and Unbound Book Festival events.

Donations collected by the **DBRL Foundation** help fund the library’s programming and capital projects, and are invested for future needs. Through its own annual fundraising campaign, participation in COMO Gives and individual memorial donations, the Foundation raised $38,000 in 2017. The Foundation funded transportation for student tours, paid for the initial collection of Launchpads and donated $4,479 to purchase robots and other supplies for STEAM programming. In honor of retiring library director Melissa Carr, the Foundation established the Melissa Carr Literacy Through the Arts Fund in 2017.
We celebrated some milestone anniversaries in 2017:

**35 YEARS**
Diana Buckner  
Finance, Payroll and Benefits

**30 YEARS**
Carolyn Cain  
Public Services

**25 YEARS**
Betsy Collins  
Collection Development Manager  
Nina Sappington  
Reference Librarian

Some longtime staff members retired:

Melissa Carr  
DBRL Director, 46 years

Patricia Miller  
Adult Services Manager, 28 years

Svetlana Groban  
Reference Librarian and Training Center Manager, 26 years

We welcomed a new manager:

Nathan Pauley  
Technical Services Manager

The community chose to read the novel “The Turner House” by Angela Flournoy for One Read. In addition to the author visit, we hosted programs on a variety of topics such as the Great Migration; “haints” and African-American folklore; mental health; and Detroit. With more digital copies available this year, we saw more check-outs than the previous year, with 3,850 check-outs across all formats. About 1,040 people attended 32 programs region-wide.

Mid-Missouri was in the direct path of a total solar eclipse on August 21. We invited astrophysicist Dr. Angela Speck to present “The Eclipse of a Generation — Don’t Get Left in the Dark” at each of our libraries in July and handed out free eclipse-viewing glasses up through the day of the eclipse. All facilities closed 12:30-1:30 p.m. so that staff could view the solar event.

The 2017 Summer Reading program, “Build a Better World,” focused on the themes of collaboration, innovation and education. A total of 4,050 individuals of all ages plus 101 groups signed up region-wide.

For the second year, we helped plan and staff the Unbound Book Festival, held on April 21 & 22 at Stephens College. Author Salman Rushdie kicked off the event with his presentation at the Missouri Theatre. Author talks for all age groups took place throughout the day Saturday. The Friends of the Columbia Public Library helped fund the children’s portion of the festival, which included author-illustrator Barney Saltzberg, author-illustrator Jan Spivey Gilchrist, author Brian Katcher and author Zac Brewer.

After 46 years at DBRL, with 21 years as the library director, Melissa Carr announced her retirement, effective January 15, 2018. Carr began her library career at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in the Circulation Department while an undergraduate at the University of Missouri. She received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri in 1975 and worked in several leadership roles at the library until being hired by the Board of Directors as the director in 1996.

During Carr’s tenure as library director, the library was established in Ashland, the Callaway County Public Library was renovated, the current Columbia Public Library building opened, a second bookmobile was added to better serve children in our counties, the One Read program was founded and flourished, and the digital branch (www.dbrl.org) became a reality.

The DBRL Board of Trustees selected Margaret Conroy as Carr’s replacement, and she began January 18, 2018. Margaret Conroy has spent most of her library career in Missouri in a variety of leadership positions. Most recently, she was the assistant director of the St. Charles City-County Library District in St. Charles, Missouri. Before that, she served as the Missouri State Librarian (2006–2013), was the director at Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City and earlier at Little Dixie Regional Libraries in Moberly.

The exterior south stairs leading up to the lobby at the Columbia Public Library were replaced, the handicapped parking spaces were re-graded and two more spaces were added to the south lot. The Callaway County Public Library parking lot was resurfaced and grading improvements were made to the handicapped parking spaces.

The free resource ProQuest Historical Newspapers was added to the digital branch.

The library joined Instagram to increase awareness of our programs and services.
Library Governance through December 31, 2017

The Daniel Boone Regional Library is governed by the DBRL Board of Trustees, which consists of 19 volunteers. As outlined in state statute, city library districts have nine members appointed by the mayor; trustees can serve up to three, three-year terms. County library district boards have five members appointed by their respective commissioners and serve four-year terms with no limit. A contract binds our three member library districts into a regional library system.

The DBRL board makes all library policy and budget decisions. Daniel Boone Regional Library’s fiscal year runs January-December. We are funded primarily through property tax income. State aid; interest income; grants; bequests and donations; and copier/printer income make up the rest of our revenue. Melissa Carr has served as the regional director for 21 years and worked for the library for 46 years. The director oversees the day-to-day library operations and the staff.

DBRL Board of Trustees as of December 31, 2017

Officers: President Mary Fennel, Vice President/Secretary Khaki Westerfield, Warrant Officer Bill Young

Boone County Library District Board of Trustees:
Dorothy Carner, Susan Daly, August Nielsen, Patricia Powell, Bill Young

Callaway County Library District Board of Trustees:
Mary Fennel, Tonya Hays-Martin, Jean Howard, Brian Warren

Columbia Library District Board of Trustees:
Lisa Groshong, Philip Harrison, Lynn Hostetler, J. Hasbrouk Jacobs, Kathleen Markie, Khaki Westerfield

Libraries & Bookmobile Stops

In 2017, the Daniel Boone Regional Library served three library districts: Boone County, Callaway County and the City of Columbia. The Columbia Public Library is the largest library, and serves as the regional headquarters. DBRL also operates the Callaway County Public Library in Fulton and the Southern Boone County Public Library in Ashland.

DBRL also operates two bookmobiles and serves numerous community organizations, retirement homes, etc. In 2017, the bookmobile served Auxvasse, Columbia, Hallsville, Harrisburg, Holts Summit, Rocheport and Sturgeon. The smaller Bookmobile, Jr. makes stops around Columbia in the Bear Creek, Blind Boone and Columbia Square neighborhoods and at Lunch in the Park during the summer, as well as visiting licensed child care centers in areas without a library building.

Callaway County Public Library
710 Court Street, Fulton, MO 65251, (573) 642-7261, TTY 642-0662

Columbia Public Library
100 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203 (573) 443-3161, TTY 443-6027, 1-800-324-4806

Southern Boone County Public Library
109 North Main Street, Ashland, MO 65010, (573) 657-7378

Bookmobile & Outreach Department
P.O. Box 1267, Columbia, MO 65205, 1-800-324-4806