New Library Open in Holts Summit

On March 5, 2019, the community of Holts Summit welcomed its own Daniel Boone Regional Library location. The new branch replaced the popular bookmobile visits that had served the community for 62 years. The Library-To-Go lockers and book drop were moved to the new library so residents could continue to have 24-hour access to pick up items on reserve and to return library materials. Since opening, check-outs at the new library exceeded those from the bookmobile stops and lockers combined. By year’s end, 36,721 items had been checked out and 2,975 people had attended library programs.

Mid-Missourians Give Library High Marks

Results from the community survey conducted on behalf of the library showed high satisfaction rates among residents in Boone and Callaway Counties. We used ETC Institute, a research firm that does studies for public libraries and municipalities all across the country.

ETC compared some of our findings with other governmental organizations and reported that:

• Overall satisfaction with the DBRL’s services is 92%, which is 17% above the national average of 75% for public libraries.

• Of those surveyed, 87% are satisfied with the overall value they receive for their tax dollars going to libraries, which is 42% higher than the national average for local governments.

• Satisfaction with DBRL’s customer service from staff, at 96%, is 42% above the national average for governmental organizations.
2019 Statistics

112,386 DBRL Cardholders
223,303 people in library district*
12,665 new cards issued
54,820 attendees at 2,038 programs

2,515,342 Total Check-outs
Columbia: 1,415,052
Digital Branch: 781,939
Callaway: 116,636
Outreach Services: 84,727
Southern Boone: 70,939
Holts Summit: 36,721
Library-To-Go: 9,328

1,189,351 Webpage Views
29,627 online resource uses

Over 711,050 Library Visits
143,963 uses of library computers
142,971 uses of library Wi-Fi

568,494 Items in Collection
Books: 402,494
eBooks: 58,219
DVDs: 42,062
Music CDs: 25,653
Audiobooks (CDs & Playaways): 22,625
Downloadable Audiobooks: 16,242
Learning Kits & Devices: 1,199

Additional Digital Materials
These third-party services expand our digital offerings to provide streaming or downloadable titles not counted above. New titles are frequently added, so totals fluctuate.

Freegal: 40,000 music videos and 15 million songs
Hoopla: 745,000 titles streaming audiobooks, eBooks, comics, music and TV shows
Kanopy: 30,000 films and videos
RBdigital: 116 magazine titles and 6,643 audiobook titles

New Services in 2019

People Apply for New Passports at Our Libraries
Since this service was first introduced in May, 2019, 977 people were assisted at the Columbia Public Library and 26 at the Callaway County Public Library through year’s end. Walk-ins were welcome in Columbia and appointments were requested in Fulton during regular open hours.

Hobbyists and Artists Take Creativebug Classes
Through the library’s subscription to Creativebug, you can access more than 1,000 award-winning art and craft video classes for all skill levels taught by recognized design experts and artists. You can also download patterns, templates and recipes, as well as browse the Creativebug Inspiration Feed where people share photos of their favorite projects. New content is added weekly. In 2019, patrons viewed hundreds of video tutorials.

Stargazers Check Out Telescopes
Patrons 18 or older can now borrow a telescope for one week from the library or bookmobile. Each Orion Starblast 4.5” tabletop reflector telescope comes with instructions and a star chart to guide you. Patrons checked out the 10 telescopes 112 times in 2019.

School Children Check Out Cubelets Kits
We introduced STEAM Kits in 2018, and added the Cubelets Discovery Kits in 2019. This tech toy consists of blocks that snap together to form different robots you can program. STEAM Kits are designed to help students learn coding and other technological skills. Funds from the DBRL Foundation helped purchase the Cubelets.

DBRL Celebrates 60 Years

In 1959, several Mid-Missouri library districts came together to form the Daniel Boone Regional Library system. We celebrated our 60th anniversary throughout 2019, using historical photos on the covers of our program guides, giving away bookmarks and sharing photos and facts on social media. In October, patrons were invited to attend a number of programs in recognition of the anniversary.

*Based on U.S. Census projections for 2017.
Grants and Donations Enhance Library Services in 2019

New Videos Train Educators and Parents
With funds received from a Spotlight on Literacy grant through the Missouri State Library,* library staff demonstrated the melodies and movements for 27 of the songs and rhymes included in DBRL’s “Music and Movement” booklet. In January 2020, we began posting three each week to the library’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/dbrlorg.

Outreach to Child Care Centers Expands
Thanks to the many people and businesses who donated more than $158,000 to the DBRL Foundation in 2018, we were able to buy our new Book Rover. The Book Rover is a specialized van that helps us offer library materials to children and educators at the child care centers we visit.

We began taking Book Rover to child care centers in 2019. We now have a total of 26 centers served with monthly visits by Book Rover and another 27 served by Bookmobile, Jr. In its inaugural year, 10,397 items were checked out from Book Rover and staff presented 402 story times during its visits to child care centers.

More Groups Participate in Summer Reading
Group enrollment in Summer Reading was up 50.7%, thanks to a grant from the Missouri State Library* that funded staff to contact and be a liaison for child care centers. That grant also covered the cost of providing an activity flip book for preschoolers and Missouri Building Block book sets for groups to check out. The number of participating children increased 44.7% (4,241) and 85% of groups completed the suggested Summer Reading activities.

Preschoolers Check Out New Read-Along Books
DBRL introduced a new collection of picture books that come with a built-in audio player allowing children to hear the story as they read along. A portion of this new collection was funded through a generous donation to the Foundation by an attorney with the Carson & Coil law firm.

Audiobook Options Expand for At-home Patrons
With a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Missouri, the library expanded our collection of audiobooks and purchased new players made for those with limited hand dexterity and vision.

2019 Operating Revenue
$12,183,275

- Other 4.9%
- Contributions 2.8%
- State Aid 1.1%
- Property Taxes 91.2%

2019 Operating Expenditures
$13,072,520

- Library Materials 14.5%
- Building Operations & Maintenance 9.5%
- General Operating 6.5%
- Salaries & Benefits 66.2%
- Capital Outlay 3.3%

*This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Normally, we focus on what happened during the previous year in our annual report, but given the crisis we are all dealing with, we want to use this space to also let you know how much we miss welcoming visitors to our libraries and bookmobiles.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a shared experience that we don’t welcome, and it causes concern for everyone in our communities.

We are actively planning our phased reopening of library services. Our book drops are now open and accepting returns, and we will begin curbside holds pickup very shortly, perhaps by the time you read this. Our beautiful libraries will open their doors as soon as we’ve made the social distancing changes that will keep us all safe.