

Indiana State Library and
Indiana Public Libraries

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A message from the Indiana State Librarian



Hello,

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unexpected and unprecedented challenges to the Indiana library community. Libraries responded quickly and creatively to serve their communities during challenging times. It was truly admirable how libraries and their boards met the challenge head on and continued to deliver critical services and expand the ways they assisted their communities. This report tells some of the libraries' stories, highlights the services of the State Library and reviews some of the historical markers installed in 2020.

The mission of the State Library is to serve Indiana residents, lead and support the library community and preserve Indiana history. The State Library fulfills Hoosiers' library service needs by providing statewide services such as inspire.in.gov, a courier service and training. The agency also provides direct support to school, public, academic and special libraries.

The State Library continues to provide an extensive genealogy and Indiana history collection. Librarians and historians at the agency assist Hoosiers every day with their questions and research projects. The library also provides specialized service to people who are blind and visually impaired, and leads early literacy programs.

Please enjoy these highlights of how the Indiana State Library and libraries around the state service Hoosiers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jawob Speer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

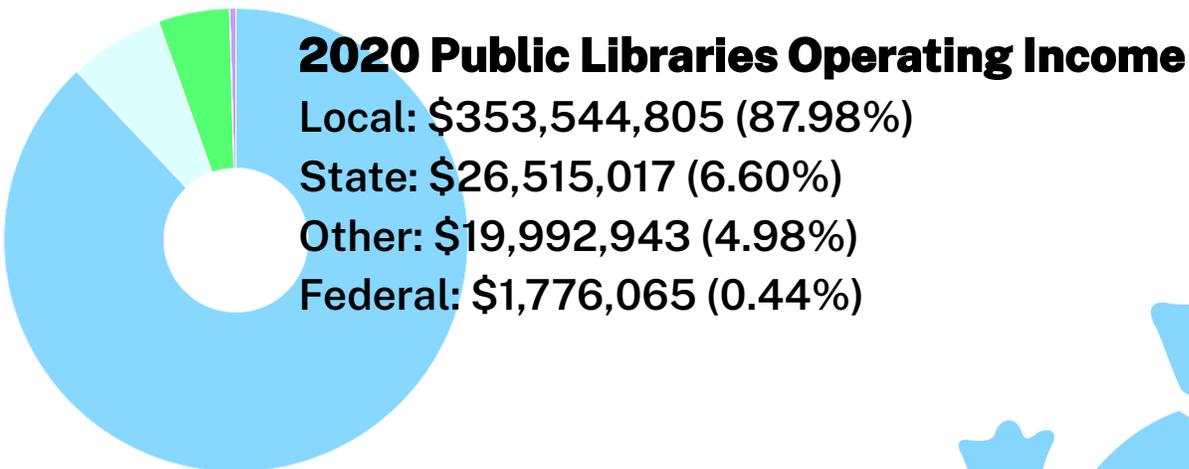
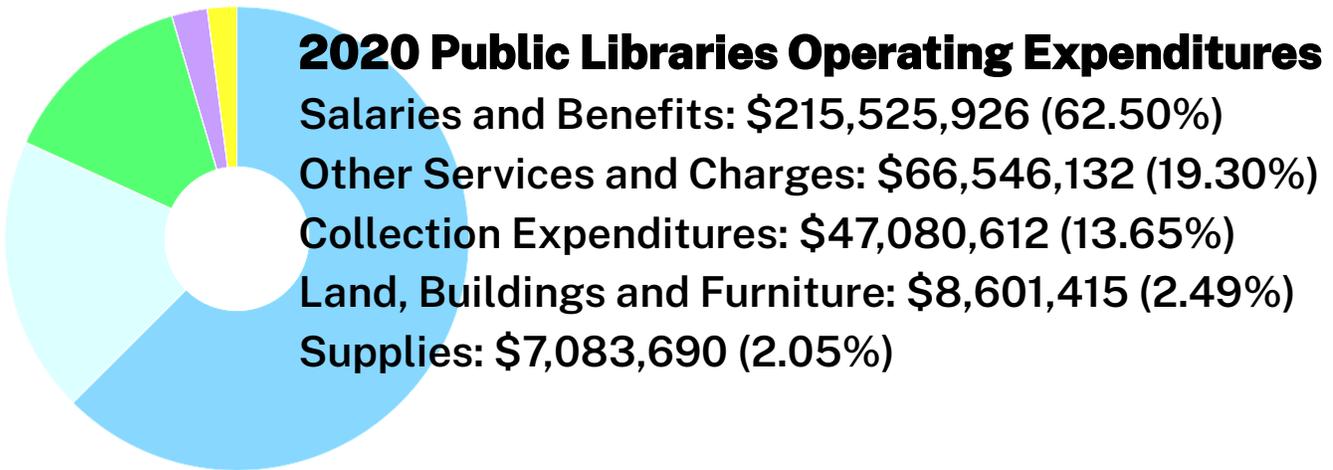
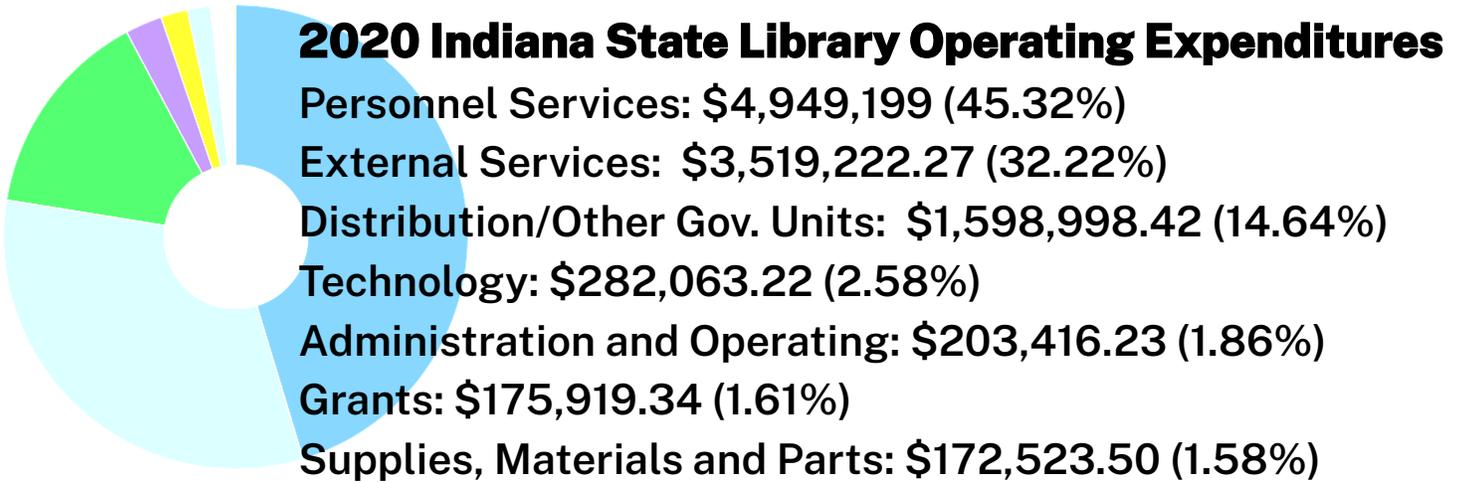
Indiana State Librarian

Contents

Financial Reports	02
INSPIRE Highlights	03
Public Library Stories	04
Grant Information	06
Indiana Historical Bureau Highlights	07
Public and State Library Statistics	08
Resources	09



Financial Reports





INSPIRE encourages lifelong learning



207 MILLION SEARCHES

In 2020, users performed 207,037,353 searches for academic articles, images, current news, newspaper articles and more.

3 MILLION FULL-TEXT SEARCHES COMPLETED

A critical resource for k-12 students and higher education institutions, INSPIRE provides vetted research materials.



14,753 HOOSIERS ACCESSED ROSETTA STONE

Nearly 15,000 Indiana residents accessed level one of the language learning program Rosetta Stone via INSPIRE.

70 DATABASES AVAILABLE FOR INDIANA RESIDENTS

A service of the Indiana State Library and supported by the Indiana General Assembly, INSPIRE is free for all Hoosiers.



DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to providing 70 databases, INSPIRE also contains news, test prep, Indiana history and resources for teachers.

inspire.in.gov

Libraries step up to the challenge

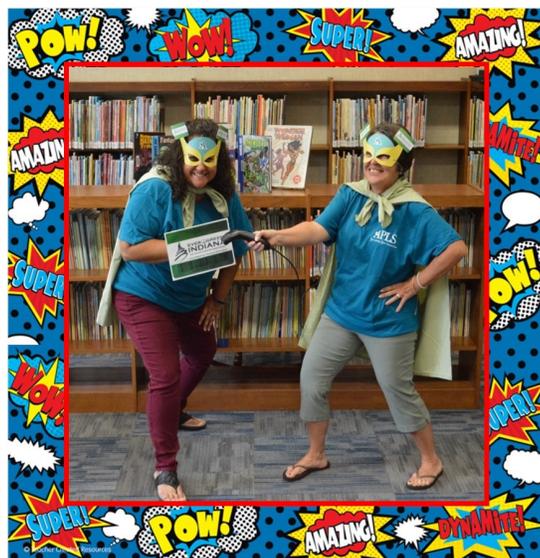
2020 was one of the most unprecedented years in recent history. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and restrictions were put in place, libraries had to make major adjustments in order to ensure that their patrons would still receive the same level of service to which they were accustomed. Indiana libraries certainly stepped up. When asked “What’s something your library did in the past year that you’re proud of?”, nearly every library replied with multiple things they did in 2020 to help keep service alive for their patrons. Below are some of those answers.

What’s something your library did in the past year that you’re proud of?

“When the local schools went 100% virtual in August, we contacted the parks department to see if we could borrow picnic tables for the lawn. We were able to add picnic tables around the building to help kids who needed internet access. The tables were used extensively during that time.” - **Adams Public Library System**

“The Lowell Public Library started a YouTube channel and [posted] videos several times a month. We have cleaned, set procedures and kept up with all the COVID-19 restrictions. Lowell Public Library was one of the first libraries in the state to offer curbside service.” - **Lowell Public Library**

“The East Chicago Public Library offered new and innovative programs that [presented] literacy initiatives during the pandemic. We were able to gauge our online audience with activities that fostered literacy and recreation. One of our greatest successes was our partnership with the school and city where we provided space and electronic devices for students in need of assistance. Our library has witnessed significant growth by offering an array of new services. We will continue to focus on ways to engage our community through literacy and technology.” - **East Chicago Public Library**



“Proud that we could move quickly to high-quality digital programming that has been viewed by over 128,000 unique viewers. We’re proud that we could increase our digital holdings due to our digital circulation increasing by 43%. Lastly, we are extremely proud that we could continue to serve our community while helping to keep people safe.” - **Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library**

“We formed partnerships with local industry and universities to 3D print thousands of mask extenders and provide them to health care heroes, front line workers and those in our community that needed them.” - **Kendallville Public Library**





“[We’re] proud of how we adapted to the pandemic. We were able to switch many of our planned live programs to virtual programs and develop many new programs that are especially suited for a virtual environment. We continued to interact with our customers via chat, email and social media. Because of the pandemic, we bolstered many of the electronic resources we have and increased check-out limits on our eBook and audiobook services. We were able to start offering curbside service as soon as we were given the green light to do so. We were even able to open our doors to the public very quickly and safely following the state’s reopening guidelines. We implemented many internal improvements including creating a pandemic policy as well as a shared leave policy.” - **Jeffersonville Township Public Library**

“We turned two library carts into little free libraries and made them available while we were closed so that patrons could have access to books they didn't need to worry about returning.” - **Benton County Public Library**

“The 2020 pandemic had a negative impact on staffing levels for many libraries across the country. IndyPL was able to continue employing and paying the vast majority of staff in 2020 through extensive efforts around policies and deploying staff in non-traditional ways.” - **Indianapolis Public Library**

“Since we [were] not offering live, in-person programming we developed a virtual Letters to Santa program for the Christmas season. Santa recorded a visit for children to view on our website and via Facebook. He presented a storytime for Christmas, as well. With financial help from our township trustees, we were able to give all children who visited the libraries a cloth Christmas bag with an appropriate Christmas book, snack, toy and a letter that they could complete, place in an envelope we provided with a ‘stamp’ on it for the North Pole. Santa answered all letters via the U.S. Mail!” - **Newton County Public Library**

“We extended Wi-Fi access to patrons throughout the building, as well as access to outside of the building into the parking areas. We added a pergola with public benches that has an electrical outlet nearby for public access. We held the summer reading program with take and make craft bags and had a magician that the public could access for a virtual magic show. We continued to make the craft bags each month for all the community children even if they did not have a library card.” - **Montpelier Harrison Public Township Library**



Grant Information

LSTA

While COVID did not preclude the Indiana State Library from awarding its annual Library Science and Technology Act grants, it had an enormous impact on the timeline and execution of the projects. Pandemic-related changes to the state budget resulted in delayed contracts, and global chip shortages and shipping delays made it challenging for libraries to procure supplies. Grantees were forced to get creative in efforts to redirect projects that had been based on the assumption that staff and patrons would have access to libraries - which proved not to be the case for much of the year.

Despite numerous hurdles, the 2020 LSTA grantees were able to accomplish remarkable things. Hamilton East Public Library partnered with a local community service organization to establish a “micro-library” in an underserved area, with a second partnership already underway. Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library and Warren High School were able to take STEM projects meant for classes in a traditional school setting and go virtual. Many patrons will return to libraries providing new services and items made available as restrictions on programming and shared spaces ease.

CARES

The pandemic-related issues that made LSTA projects a struggle were part of a larger upheaval of library services across the nation. Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which ultimately resulted in the one-time allocation of emergency funds distributed to state libraries. The Indiana State Library offered two rounds of grants to public and academic libraries to be used to help defray the costs associated with preparing for and responding to the pandemic.

If LSTA grantees were slowed by the pandemic, CARES grantees were forced to speed up, as the newly-created awards had a quick turnaround. Luckily, CARES was a rare reimbursement grant that allowed for purchases made prior to contract to be reimbursed, which meant many libraries were able to “get back” some money they had already spent on COVID-related safety supplies: facemasks, sanitizer, plexiglass dividers, etc. It also helped cover the costs on things like signage, stanchions and bags for curbside services. Some libraries added large numbers of hotspots to their circulating collection in an effort to help patrons without home internet access when buildings were closed to the public. Many other libraries found themselves purchasing more digital materials during prolonged closures, allowing patrons to enjoy expanded offerings from their homes. Creative solutions to social distancing and limitations to public services operations resulted in some unusual claims; shower curtains make much more sense when you learn that libraries used them to divide shared work spaces or to block off collections temporarily unavailable for public browsing.

Even as libraries wrapped up the CARES mini-grants, a new opportunity for help in a post-pandemic era was waiting in the wings in the form of American Rescue Plan Act grants, slated to be awarded in the fall of 2021.



\$168,000

awarded to 26 LSTA grantees

\$600,000+

distributed via CARES Act

300+

CARES Act awards

Indiana Historical Bureau Highlights

In 2020, the Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative, administered by the Indiana Historical Bureau, conducted 24 interviews with former state legislators. Ben Baumann, the ILOHI project manager and oral historian, finished identifying and interviewing all legislators available from the 1960s and then shifted focus to those who served in the 1970s. The ILOHI online archive and website hosting the interviews and completed transcripts is available at ilohi.ihb.in.gov. Curriculum development also began in 2020 with Baumann reaching out to schools around the state to discuss the ways in which ILOHI interviews could be implemented into their history or political science curriculum.

Also in 2020, IHB worked with community partners to dedicate 10 new state historical markers, which are listed below. In addition to these, IHB completed research and marker text on another 10, which are pending completion due to COVID. A listing of all markers installed across the state is available at in.gov/history/state-historical-markers.

Black Market Firebombing (Monroe County)

Bloomington's Black Market, a cultural center for Black students at Indiana University, was firebombed and destroyed in 1968 by a man with Ku Klux Klan ties.

Will Vawter (Hancock County)

Landscape artist and illustrator Will Vawter captured the character of rural Hoosiers and the beauty of the Indiana landscape.

Gary Roosevelt High School (Lake County)

Dedicated in 1931 as an all-Black K-12 school, Gary Roosevelt High School became a center of pride for the city's Black community.

Herman B Wells (Boone County)

As Indiana University president, Wells expanded university programs and facilities in Bloomington and across the state.

Weaver Settlement (Grant County)

Black pioneers settled in Grant County by the 1840s and established the thriving community of Weaver Settlement.

Grace Julian Clarke (Marion County)

Clarke helped revive Indiana's suffrage movement in the 1910s and was integral to the state's 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Booth Tarkington (Marion County)

Tarkington gained prominence during the Golden Age of Indiana Literature as a prolific author of short stories, plays and novels.

Lincoln Gardens (Vanderburgh County)

Opened in 1938, Lincoln Gardens was a federal housing project established to provide fair housing for African Americans.

Fouts Soyland Farm (Carroll County)

Carroll County farmer Taylor Fouts and his brothers helped make soybeans an essential Indiana crop. In 1920, farmers and researchers met at their "Soyland" farm and formed the organization that became the American Soybean Association.

Franklin Wonder Five (Johnson County)

The Wonder Five dominated Indiana basketball in the early 1920s, winning three state championships for Franklin High School and two championships with Franklin College.



Statistics

Indiana Public Library and Indiana State Library Highlights

\$1,776,065

in total public library federal operating income, a 68.71% increase from 2019.

2,719,412

searches in Indiana Legacy and Hoosier State Chronicles - a record high, and an 18.6 % increase from the previous year.

16,964,556

eBooks available for circulation in public libraries, a 37.32% increase from 2019.

84,899

books and magazines downloaded through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, a 5.32% increase from 2019.

265,579

total public library virtual program attendees.

3,319

virtual reference questions answered at the Indiana State Library, a 70.14% increase from 2019.

191

public library branches in Indiana, in addition to 236 central locations. Two new branches constitute a 1.06% increase over the previous year.

1,486

total non-field trip youth program attendees at the Indiana State Library, a 16.73% increase over the previous year.

127

libraries in the Evergreen Indiana consortium. Two new libraries account for a 1.6% increase in members from 2019.

100

attendees at the annual Hoosier Women at Work History Conference, themed "Suffrage and Citizenship," held on March 7.



Resources



INSPIRE

INSPIRE is a collection of academic databases and other

information that can be accessed for free by Indiana residents. INSPIRE is supported by the Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds, the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and in partnership with Academic Libraries of Indiana.

<https://inspire.in.gov/>



SRCS

Indiana's Statewide Remote Circulation Service is administered by the Indiana State Library and links the catalogs of over 200 Indiana libraries into a single interface containing over 30 million items. Authorized users can search this combined catalog and request to have selected materials delivered to their home library using the InfoExpress courier.

<https://www.in.gov/library/SRCS.htm>



InfoExpress

InfoExpress is the statewide library courier service provided by the Indiana State Library. Public library districts and school districts - along with academic, institutional and special libraries - are eligible to participate in the InfoExpress courier program.

<https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/infoexpress/>



Evergreen Indiana

Evergreen Indiana is a consortium of over 100 libraries located throughout Indiana that use the Evergreen integrated library system. Patrons of member libraries can use their Evergreen Indiana library card to view the catalogs and borrow materials from the other member libraries.

<https://www.in.gov/library/evergreen.htm>



Indiana State

Library Foundation

The mission of the Indiana State Library Foundation is to serve the citizens of Indiana through the support, enhancement and promotion of the activities of the Indiana State Library, their programs and collections and to aid in the development of programs benefiting individuals and libraries throughout the state.

Donations help provide content and services to people who are visually-impaired. They also assist in the purchase of materials and equipment vital to the continuing preservation of invaluable books, maps and reference materials, which make the history of Indiana accessible to all of its residents. Donate or learn more at indianastatelibraryfdn.org/.



Volunteer Program

Indiana State Library volunteers have the opportunity to work with the library's many historic collections. The library can accommodate almost any schedule, with some positions even allowing for work from home. A background in library science or history is not necessary and the library will provide any training needed. Please visit the library's website for information on how available volunteer opportunities at the Indiana State Library.

www.in.gov/library/volunteer.



Indiana State Library

Blogs

Keep up on a variety of library and history topics by reading the Indiana State Library's blog and the Indiana Historical Bureau's blog.

<https://blog.library.in.gov/>

<https://blog.history.in.gov/>

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Serving Indiana residents, leading and supporting the library community and preserving Indiana history.



Enhancing communities by granting access to information and knowledge.

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