HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

- Launched 1,000 Books before Kindergarten (443 participants, 10 completed thus far)
- Expanded Outreach to include new Pop Up NPL sites, distributed free Books on the Go collections to Uptown Station and the Community Cancer Center and reached additional Home Delivery clients
- Awarded maximum award for Live and Learn Construction Grant for Accessibility ($50,000)
- Popular parking lot update: new asphalt, angled parking, additional accessible space, improved safety, dedicated pedestrian path
- Continued lease of Young America parking lot for additional surface parking spaces
- Partnered with Communication Junction for interactive and accessible American Sign Language story times

- Continued partnership with Unit 5 to create library card accounts for all students
- Partners in Reading (435 volunteers, 465 students), Partners in Technology, Phase 2 of NASA@MyLibrary grant
- New circulating technology offerings: Breakout EDU boxes; Ozobot Bit, Sphero SPRK+, Dot & Dash Robots
- Successful Giving Tuesday campaign to fund Sensory NPL app
- Social Media presence expanded greatly with the addition of several hundred new followers on Instagram (1,308 followers) and Facebook (4,712 followers)
- Increased focus on intentional communications with local news media to expand awareness of major library programs, services and initiatives

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2020

- Yule Ball ticketed fundraiser at Bloomington Country Club on March 7
- Construction of three accessible, single-stall restrooms on main floor
- Census 2020 programming, services, and promotion to ensure a complete count in Normal
- Continued and expanded outreach with key community partners

- Additional outreach vehicle to enable increased off-site events and programming
- Development of the 2021–2024 strategic plan with input from residents, partners and stakeholders
- Sensory NPL app to assist in creating a welcoming, inclusive library for all
- New west roof
- Hampstead Stage’s production of Aladdin on April 25 in celebration of National Library Week
A new off-site program offered this year gave programs and activity tables at special events, sessions, story hour classes, informational...
enlarge reading skills, foster a lifelong love of reading and help children discover all that the library has to offer. In 2019, 435 volunteers from Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College worked with 465 elementary students. The total attendance for sessions was 4,070.

**STORY HOURS**
Children’s Services offers many story hour options for children ages zero to five and their families. Last year, 5,337 children and families enjoyed the 232 story hours presented at the library.

**ADDITIONAL ON-SITE PROGRAMMING**
We offered a wide variety of programs for all age groups, including T-Explorers and art classes with both Illinois Art Station and McLean County Arts Center. Children’s Book Week was all about *Bruce the Bear* and a variety of activities, including visits to Unit 5 schools. Drop-in tech programs such as Tech-It-Out and iSurprise provided opportunities for children of all ages to try out new and emerging technologies.

NPL welcomed best-selling author Lisa McMann in April for two free interactive programs at the library, including *The Artistic Unwanteds* featuring Lisa McMann and *Going Wild* with Lisa McMann, a caregiver and child book discussion. Lisa also presented *Double Identity: A Night of Discovery*, a Normal Public Library Foundation event. Other highlights included *Techstravaganza*, a *Pokemon Hunt* and the always popular *Polar Express Experience*.

**OFF-SITE PROGRAMMING**
In order to reach more people in the community, we offer numerous off-site activities. Many of these are storytelling sessions, story hour classes, informational programs and activity tables at special events. A new off-site program offered this year gave children the opportunity to participate in an egg drop challenge in partnership with Town of Normal Parks and Recreation. Last year, 92 off-site programs were presented with a total participation of 7,134.

**DISCOVERY ROOM**
The Discovery Room continues to be a favorite destination for children, families, playgroups and tour groups visiting the library. This room features a Crooked House, an infant and toddler tot spot, whisper tubes, a puppet theater with an extensive puppet collection, a Velcro wall and more!

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<th>557</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAMS OFFERED</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMBINED ATTENDANCE</strong></td>
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<td>to children &amp; families in our community.</td>
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**BOOK NOOK**
The Book Nook remains a popular place for library programs, visiting classes and patrons looking for a fun area to enjoy a variety of activities, books, puzzles, games and time with each other.

**TECH PLAYGROUND**
In this area, children come to collaborate, experiment, manipulate and have fun with tech toys and gadgets. The Tech Playground features iPads and fun educational apps available every day. Spontaneous iSurprise times offer opportunities to test out cool tech toys such as Osmo, Sphero SPRK+ and Ozobots Bits with staff interaction!

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
Children’s Services is proud to partner with many local organizations to benefit children and families in our community. These partners include, but are not limited to, Autism McLean, Bloomington Public Library, Children’s Discovery Museum, College Mentors for Kids, Heartland Head Start, Illinois State University, Illinois Art Station, McLean County Arts Center,
A new off-site program offered this year gave programs and activity tables at special events. Sessions, story hour classes, informational and going new and emerging technologies. Tech-It-Out and Illinois Art Station classes with both T-Rexplorers and运维." zero/zero/zero attendance for sessions was four onum. The Illinois State University, Illinois enhanced reading skills, foster a March seven onum at the Bloomington Country Club. The book series by J.K. Rowling. We will be hosting! The Yule Ball is begins May two onum/seven onum.

Staff are starting to gear up Piggie on Saturday, April two onum/five onum during Aladdin and tour groups visiting the library. This room The Discovery Room continues to be a favorite participation of seven onum, three onum. off-site programs were presented with a total Normal Parks and Recreation. Last year, nine onum/two onum children the opportunity to participate in an transportation to Hogwarts. Tickets away, participants will also addition to dancing the night inspired by the book series. In, a wizard rock and the Aurors at seven onum pm. Each of these events will feature a interactive story times feature Pokemon Hunt Techstravaganza Public Library Foundation.

Wild Experience. Junction, presents American Sign Language is always popular Polar Express Double Identity: A presented stories, rhymes, songs, and tour groups visiting the library. This room The Discovery Room continues to be a favorite participation of seven onum, three onum.

The number of items in each availability and staff discretion. All selected materials will be placed on hold using the patron’s personal library card.

EDUCATOR CARDS AND EDUCATOR PACKS
Educator Cards allow teachers to check out up to 45 items for classroom use without using personal library cards. To be eligible for a card, educators must be employed in a licensed institutional setting in Normal or Bloomington, including child care centers, preschools, public elementary schools and private elementary schools. All Unit 5 elementary school educators are eligible for an Educator Card. We currently have 252 local educators benefiting from this service.

We continue to offer Educator Packs which allow educators to benefit from our children’s librarians’ collection development expertise—and save time! Educator Packs are filled with books to supplement units of study and check out for six weeks at a time.

HOMESCHOOL PACKS
The Homeschool Pack Service helps local home educators take advantage of the wide variety of educational materials available in Children’s Services. It is intended to supplement units of study with books specially curated by library staff. Homeschool families may request one Homeschool Pack every three weeks. The number of items in each Homeschool Pack is dependent on subject availability and staff discretion. All selected materials will be placed on hold using the patron’s personal library card.

GRANTS
Phase 2 of the NASA@My Library grant continues until December 2020. With the support of this grant, the library continues to bring new and innovative STEM programs to the community at no cost to participants.

WELLNESS ROOM
This room opened in 2017 and is located on the second floor near the Media Zone. It is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This space is available to individuals requesting a private place to nurse, or for children—accompanied by an adult—in need of a calm, quiet space to re-group. This space features adjustable lighting, a love seat, a mobile divider which can be used as a privacy screen if desired, child-sized furniture, several puzzles, fidget/sensory toys and wiggle seats. Weighted blankets are available at the Children’s Information Desk.

WHAT’S NEW?

1,000 Books before Kindergarten is an early literacy initiative with three main goals: to promote early childhood literacy, to prepare young children for kindergarten and to facilitate family bonding through reading. Children's reading success in kindergarten and beyond begins with positive reading experiences in infancy and early childhood. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten allows caregivers to play an active role in their child’s learning and development. Studies show that reading with a young child can significantly improve their vocabulary, memory, attention span and mastery of language. Parents and caregivers may register any child between the ages of 0–6. Children will earn prizes for every completed and returned 100-Book Reading Log. Any book may be counted in the log, and books may be repeated. Repetition is encouraged, as it increases both comprehension and confidence in young children. Award-winning musician and author Jim Gill helped us kick off this program with
two concerts in June. We currently have 443 participants, and 10 children have already completed this program!

**NPL’s Library of Things** added Breakout EDU boxes, Ozobot Bits, Sphero SPRK+ and Dot & Dash Robots—all popular additions to the collection of tech available for checkout.

**Art for All Ages** has featured a variety of arts and craft programs popular for artists and creators of all ages and skill levels!

Our new monthly musical program, **Jam Session**, features a musical story, a chance to jam along, singing and dancing, and the opportunity to explore and play a variety of musical instruments.

A new partner, **Communication Junction**, presents **Sign & Sing** twice a month! These interactive story times feature stories, rhymes, songs, movement and bubbles. American Sign Language is used to highlight key vocabulary throughout the program.

**Hooray for Volunteers**
In 2019, volunteers completed approximately 2,886 hours of service helping with programs, collection maintenance and facility maintenance. THANK YOU!

**What’s Ahead in 2020**
Do not miss Hampstead Stage’s production of *Aladdin* on Saturday, April 25 during **National Library Week**! Performances will take place at 10 am and 2 pm. In celebration of **Children’s Book Week** popular characters **Elephant and Piggie** will be at the library May 4–8 for a variety of events. Staff are starting to gear up for **Summer Reading Program 2020**! The theme is Digging Deeper, and registration begins May 27.

NPL will host its first **Yule Ball**! The Yule Ball is a unique magical event in the Harry Potter book series by J.K. Rowling. We will be hosting two Yule Ball fundraising events on Saturday, March 7 at the Bloomington Country Club. The first event is at 3 pm and open to all ages. The second event is an Adult only (ages 21+) event at 7 pm. Each of these events will feature a very special treat for our participants: **Tonks and the Aurors**, a wizard rock band that plays original music inspired by the book series. In addition to dancing the night away, participants will also enjoy magical crafts, interactive games and heavy appetizers as they are transported to Hogwarts. Tickets are $25.

**Teen Services**

**Summer Reading**
We had another great year of Summer Reading, with a total of 547 teens signing up. 253 teens completed all 25 hours of reading, with 363 participants logging at least 5 hours. Over 1,000 prizes were awarded, including paperback books, water bottles, tote bags and donations from local businesses. Overall, the teens put in 8,465 hours of reading! Summer activities for teens were highly successful, including popular events such as the **International Snack Food Taste Test**, **Crafternoons** and **Murder Mystery Night**.

**Teen Advisory Council**
Twice a month, teens meet after school for programs ranging from **book discussions** to **game days**. The members help choose new books for the collection and plan programs for teens.

**Manga and Anime Club**
Every month, an average of 10–15 participants enjoy their favorite anime and manga together. Events including a **Cosplay Picnic** at Anderson Park and an **anime movie marathon** were popular, particularly with younger teens.
TEEN WRITERS’ WORKSHOP
Once a month, an average of 8 teens gather to work on elements of writing fiction together. The summer sessions were especially enjoyed and this program’s popularity grew.

TEEN MAKER WEDNESDAYS
Monthly, around 7 teens get together and alternate learning about traditional crafts and technology, including knitting, programming, Arduino and more.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS
Monthly visits are made to Chiddix, Kingsley, Parkside and Evans Junior High Schools for Books and Bites. Over the lunch periods at each school, the young adult librarians from the Normal Public Library and the Bloomington Public Library, as well as the school librarian, offer book talks while the students eat. Attendance is voluntary. Regular visits are also made to the Unit 5 high schools, University High School and Bloomington Junior High.

McLean County Detention Center visits are made monthly for book talks, games and discussions. Roughly 10 interesting new books from the library are checked out to the Center for two months for the teens to read, and about 15 teens attend each visit.

2,220 COMBINED ATTENDANCE AT ALL TEEN EVENTS

ADULT SERVICES

EVENTS & SERVICES
The 219 adult events held at the Normal Public Library served over 6,770 patrons, including Movie screenings, craft classes, seed swaps, along with daily technology help and downloadable and streaming services help. An Inside Look, a partnership with Heartland Theatre Company, continues to provide patrons a chance to see all that goes into producing a play. Popular events included our Great Annual Model Train Exhibition in November and Winter Reading, with 203 participants. We offered Adult Book Club, NPL After Hours, Autism Café, author readings and more.

We again welcomed the Young at Heartland theatre group who performed for over 40 attendees. Lunchtime Yoga continued through 2019 and is offered twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Our bi-monthly Poetry is Normal Open Mic series and Poetry is Normal Presents guest poet series continued to be popular.

A lively program that ran throughout the year was our Tiny Book Concert series. A variety of musicians from the community and students from local universities provided the entertainment for these weekly one hour concerts. Support built over time to serve 467 people through 12 concerts. We appreciated sponsorship for this program by the Normal Public Library Foundation.

Curb It, our hold pick up service, continued to be enjoyed in 2019. Patrons who had a book on hold could pick it up “curbside” right outside our workroom door. During 2019, patrons used Curb It 408 times.

Services we continued and grew in 2019 included free 3D printing for all patrons, with 196 unique 3D printing requests submitted. We also continued our library’s podcast, Check It Out, which has over 50 entertaining episodes and almost 6,000 listeners! Another very popular service we continued were our WiFi Hotspot check outs. We continue to offer free reference services, free notary services, test proctoring, faxing, free document scanning and more.

ADULT OUTREACH
NPL provided regular delivery of books and other materials to 20 homebound and Peace Meal residents, and served even more on an as-needed basis.

In an ongoing partnership, books were distributed to patrons with the help of the Peace Meal program. This partnership between Peace Meal, NPL and Bloomington Public Library worked to identify patrons currently
served by Peace Meal who may wish to receive library materials with their meals. While Peace Meal no longer delivers items for us, they continue to refer to us residents who express an interest in receiving Home Delivery.

Adult Services staff are regular participants in several community committees and councils, including the Area Planning Council at Heartland Community College, Reducing Social Isolation Committee focusing on seniors, Blue Bow Committee with Children’s Home and Aid, BN Parents, Human Service Council, Central Illinois Community Educators Group and others!

In August, library staff enjoyed greeting senior citizens at the Young at Heart Day at the McLean County Fair, as well as students at Festival ISU, where they handed out free items and spoke with attendees. Throughout the year staff attended events focused on connecting the community with NPL.

**WHAT’S NEW?**
Normal Public Library began membership in **Find More Illinois** in 2019, a service that expands our patrons’ access to Illinois library collections beyond our current system. Roughly 90 requests were filled by referral or through interlibrary loan via this service.

**OFF-SITE PROGRAMS**
Every Month, **Pop Up NPL** brings library services and materials to the Normal Adult Recreation Center (first and third Tuesday), Blair House Senior Living (second Monday), Meadows at Mercy Creek Senior Living (second Tuesday), Evergreen Village Senior Living (fourth Tuesday), Children’s Discovery Museum (third Friday) and Evergreen Place Senior Living (fourth Tuesday). This service offers a way for residents to get library cards, check out and return items and place holds on materials outside of the library. Often, people are waiting for the Pop Up team to arrive so they can browse the new books and movies! At the Children’s Discovery Museum, staff bring robots and coding toys for the children and their caregivers to explore.

**Books on the Go (BOTG)** is a new service that was added at Uptown Station and the Community Cancer Center. BOTG provides donated books that are free for anyone to take, and do not require checkout. People can choose to keep the books or return them to the library. Our aim with BOTG is to make print books accessible without barriers.

Deposit collections were maintained at five Normal residence centers. At each location, a curated collection of approximately 40 books is rotated every 2–3 months.

Staff provide a monthly activity at the BroMenn Adult Day Services group, bringing library literacy and fun to day service attendees.

**PARTNERSHIPS**
Event partners included, but are not limited to, Advocate BroMenn, Alpha Phi Omega, Autism McLean, Bloomington Public Library, Busey Bank, F3E Foundation for Financial Freedom, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Heartland Theatre, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Marcfirst, McLean County Museum of History, McLean County 4-H, Normal Township, Peace Meal, Sigma Tau Delta, STAR Literacy, Unit 5 Schools and University of Illinois Extension.

**HOORAY FOR VOLUNTEERS**
Volunteer hours for 2019 totaled 1,471. These contributed hours made a world of difference to our library services and provided valuable experience to our volunteers. Volunteers from the Unit 5 VTAP program participated in shelving, shredding, recycling and waste collection in the library. Book sale volunteers, including Alpha Phi Omega and Sigma Tau Delta from Illinois State University, contributed over one thousand volunteer hours. THANK YOU!
### DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td>NUMBER OF SUMMER READING PROGRAMS</td>
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<td>508</td>
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<td>PARTNERS IN READING—ATTENDANCE</td>
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<td>STORY HOURS PARTICIPATION</td>
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<td>OFF-SITE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION</td>
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