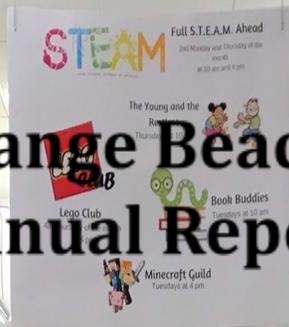


The Orange Beach Public Library Annual Report for 2022



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DAVID FOWLER



We love the library here and love the staff!
Everyone is always so nice and helpful!

Very pleased with this library and its services, adding more is a bonus. This library is our go-to library January - March



I appreciate the OB Public Library and their accommodating schedule. The staff is always very friendly and helpful and the Library is an asset to our community. I appreciate how inviting and welcoming the library is for students.

A lovely and quaint library with a computer lab and a view. What more could a vacationing family ask for? We rode our bikes to the waterfront park and library. One of the things we love most about Orange Beach!



This is a real jewel of a library. One can sit outside in the rear of the building and get a water view. The staff is very helpful.



Financial Statement for Orange Beach Public Library

Operating Budget \$692,281

City Allocation \$663,299
 State Aid/Grants \$14,778
 Library Donations \$ 7,728
 Friend of OBPL \$6,733

Operating Expenditures \$692,281

Personnel \$514,023
 Materials (Physical and Electronic) \$98,852
 Programming \$12,453
 Other \$66,953

Annual Statistics for Orange Beach Public Library

Visitors 153,368
 Circulation 128,849
 Programs Offered 337
 Program Attendance 5,851
 OB Collection Size 46,471
 Baldwin County Collection Size 516,151
 Digital Collection 68,965
 WiFi Users 30,774
 Registered Borrowers 10,601

Executive Summary From Meagan Bing, Library Director

This Annual Report Executive Summary for fiscal year 2022 provides an essential overview of the Orange Beach Public Library's financial and statistical information along with highlights of the year. 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.

The Orange Beach Public Library's mission is to provide our community free and open access to the trained professional personnel, information, materials, and services they need for life-long learning, civic engagement, entertainment, and the exchange of ideas.

The Orange Beach Public Library (OBPL) serves the citizens of Orange Beach (census population 8,095) and our surrounding area. It is a member of the Baldwin County Library Cooperative and serves a seasonal population of "snowbirds" who are heavy library users.

Over 2,341 Orange Beach Public Library cards were used between October 1, 2021 and the end of September 2022 (The State Fiscal Year). This is an increase from our 2021 numbers of 1,948.

Circulation increased by 12.32% from FY2021. And this number does not take into account the e-resource check-outs that do not count toward card activity and therefore are not reflected in that number. With a full-time resident population of around 8,100, this activity level indicates the value our visitors place on the library.

These numbers include some county residents and people who work in but do not live within the Orange Beach city limits. We treat our greater area as "locals," as the library deems our workforce and regular visitors from nearby locations in Baldwin County to be part of our primary service community. Over 772 new cards were created in our 2022 Fiscal year. Some of these are replacements for long-lost cards due to deleted accounts, but most of these are patrons joining the library for the very first time.

The Orange Beach Public Library continues lending devices. We have four Kindle e-readers to purchase materials and provide instant access to patrons. As you can imagine, this has proven to be quite popular. These devices are checked out to the patron for two weeks and are based on availability. The advantages of this program are the elimination of wait times, savings on postage and staff time, as well as owning the item digitally in perpetuity. Like all interlibrary loans, we limit them to 10 per-year-per-patron. We have continued our unlimited 4G hotspots with 31 active units at a time. This service costs around \$19,895 annually, and we are expecting the costs to be on par for the 2023 for the program.

We continue to participate in the Baldwin County Library Cooperative to provide an expanded collection to our patrons. Five days a week, a courier runs between Baldwin County libraries. Most books ordered for delivery to Orange Beach are received the same or the next day. Our collection is in high demand, and for every book we borrow from the Cooperative, we lend out 1.7. Our

collection development positively impacts the entire county.

Community support is a fundamental part of the public library mission. We continue to provide computers and resources like Cypress Resume, a service that helps create quality documents based on work experience, for our job seekers. We continue to inform patrons about the Alabama Public Library Service's Learning Express Library. Learning Express has career and college test materials, life-long learning tools, and is FREE with a public library card. Also, we like to remind learners that Homework Alabama isn't just for kids; Career Alabama is hosted on the same site and has resume help, citizenship help, ESL, reading comprehension, GED tutoring, and basic computer literacy tutors. Language learners can also access our Rosetta Stone database. In addition to our Camellia Net e-resource program, local patrons have access to an amazing resource, HOOPLA Digital Libraries, that gives readers instant access to comics, books, audio books, movies, and tv series. We continue providing notary public services at the library, ensuring that a notary is available on all weekend shifts barring vacations or absences due to illness.

Our Children's librarian, Kaylen Bradberry, had a very busy, successful year. With over 200 programs and around 5200 participants, the numbers are a testament to her excellent work ethic, passion for her profession, and love for her patrons.

The OBPL 2022 Summer Reading programming was generously funded by the Orange Beach Friends of the Library. This year the friends provided us with \$6,500 to cover the expenses of the program. This covered the cost for the programs, speakers,

summer reading finale party, and also the prizes for our young readers.

This year the theme for summer reading across the nation was "Oceans of Possibilities" and was once again record breaking with: 355 sign-ups, 1031 program participants, and 12,902 items checked out.

Kaylen used the Readerzone app that proved to be both practical and attractive in its implementation and use. The application was available for download on both IOS and Android devices, and the simple yet intuitive design made it easily accessible to all users. The use of this application made it possible for the library to track engagement with summer readers in real time. The ease of use, real time tracking, and simple but intuitive design further helped to aid in gamifying the program for participants and encourage them to pursue a summer of reading.

The 2022 Summer Reading program was dressed in a mix of both new and old accoutrements, so that it might attract returning as well as new participants. Kaylen continued the very popular character hide & seek game. Every week a single stuffed animal would be selected and hidden in the children's room. Once the character had been located the seeker could retrieve a small prize from a pirate chest, and then they would be responsible for hiding the stuffed animal for the next seeker.

Our reference librarian, Jason Neel, has several key programs that fall under his purview. Jason is responsible for our book-a-librarian service, proctor service, Minecraft, Makerspace, and technology lectures. He has added some lectures to various local clubs such as Rotary, Lions Club, etc.

All of these services have continued to perform well, no doubt due to Jason's friendly demeanor and hard work ethic. It is, however, worth noting the significant growth of our book-a-librarian program. This program has a wide variety of applications for its users, but ultimately it provides one-on-one assistance to patrons with whatever is desired (technology, reference, general support). The service is offered in-person to those needing personalized support, and the patron needs simply to book an appointment. The book-a-librarian program has experienced year-over-year growth over the last three years, and has demonstrated to us the value that the community places on the program. There is an evident need and desire in our community for obtaining personalized assistance from professional researchers, and those with significant experience with technology. We anticipate further growth for this service in the future.

Our new Adult Services Librarian, Kayla Boutwell, came up with some programming ideas that provided entertainment and enrichment such as bingo nights, Bob Ross Paint-a-longs, and book clubs. She continued Birdie Bags, a weekly craft bag that patrons could grab and complete on their own time. Some examples of this include needlepoint necklaces, macrame, vision boards, diamond paintings, scratch painting and so much more.

This year we conducted a patron survey via Google Forms. We had over 1,200 responses that offered insight into what is liked, disliked, and some new ideas of what our community wants in future programming and collection development.

Moving into the new year we say goodbye to two of our staff members, Angie Wolf and Kaylen Bradberry. We welcome our new Technical Services Librarian, Carrie Atkins, whose technology background will be an amazing asset for the OBPL Team. As of the writing of this report the new Children's Librarian has yet to be established but we are looking forward to seeing where the youth services will take us in the upcoming year. One thing is for sure, they have some big shoes to fill!

We continue to experience a time of unique opportunity to explore new delivery models and to adapt to our new environment. We will continue to prioritize quality and value while also bringing innovation to Orange Beach. We are listening to our valued patrons and staff and are excelling at problem solving and expanding capacity. The many successes, along with wonderful community engagement, reflects the Library's vision and forward focus as we continue to deliver exceptional resources and services to our community.

