

A black and white photograph of the Butler Area Public Library. The building is a multi-story brick structure with several windows. In the foreground, there is a large, leafless tree and a sign that reads "BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY". The sign features a circular logo with an 'i' and an arrow. The entire image is overlaid with a teal-colored graphic on the left side, which contains the text "ANNUAL REPORT 2019".

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**BUTLER AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
218 N. MCKEAN ST.
BUTLER, PA 16001
724-287-1715**

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A Note from the Director's Desk

Oh what a memorable year 2019 has proven to be. It has been a year of milestone celebrations and unexpected challenges. The July ransomware attack on the Butler County Federated Library System was indeed challenging but also a learning experience. It provided an unexpected opportunity to review, rethink, and revise many aspects of daily operations.

Although currently in the fine-tuning stage, we anticipate putting the ransomware fallout completely behind us within the next few weeks. The staff looks forward to putting all of their energy into more positive projects including the installation of a new information desk on the first floor. I am grateful for the perseverance of the library team and the encouragement of the Board of Directors. Our patrons showed an exemplary amount of patience and the outpouring of community support was amazing.

Not to be overshadowed were the many events held to celebrate the Library's 125th anniversary year. Displays of memorabilia, parties including an old fashioned ice cream social, reminiscing with staff and patrons of the past and present all served to validate the value and important role the library has played over time.

The arrival of a new decade brings the possibility of new discoveries, new advancements in technology, and new opportunities for serving our patrons. Most likely, new skillsets and resources will be identified as the ever changing workforce continues to evolve. Innovative products and trends for improving daily life will undoubtedly be introduced. I look forward to navigating this next chapter with you.

Happy New Year!

Best Regards,
Lori Hinderliter

Organizational Information

MISSION

The Butler Area Public Library will continue to provide programs, services and a balanced collection which will serve and enhance the informational, educational and cultural needs of the greater Butler community, thereby creating possibilities for individual and community growth and development.

VISION

To serve as a versatile community hub of evolving information access, creativity and collaboration. Through innovative programming, relevant collections and superior services, our goal is to empower an informed, educated and connected community.

GOALS

- Support Intellectual Freedom
- Promote Technology and Information Access
- Promote Education and Lifelong Learning
- Foster Community Culture and History
- Cultivate Innovation and Excellence
- Embrace Diversity

Funding

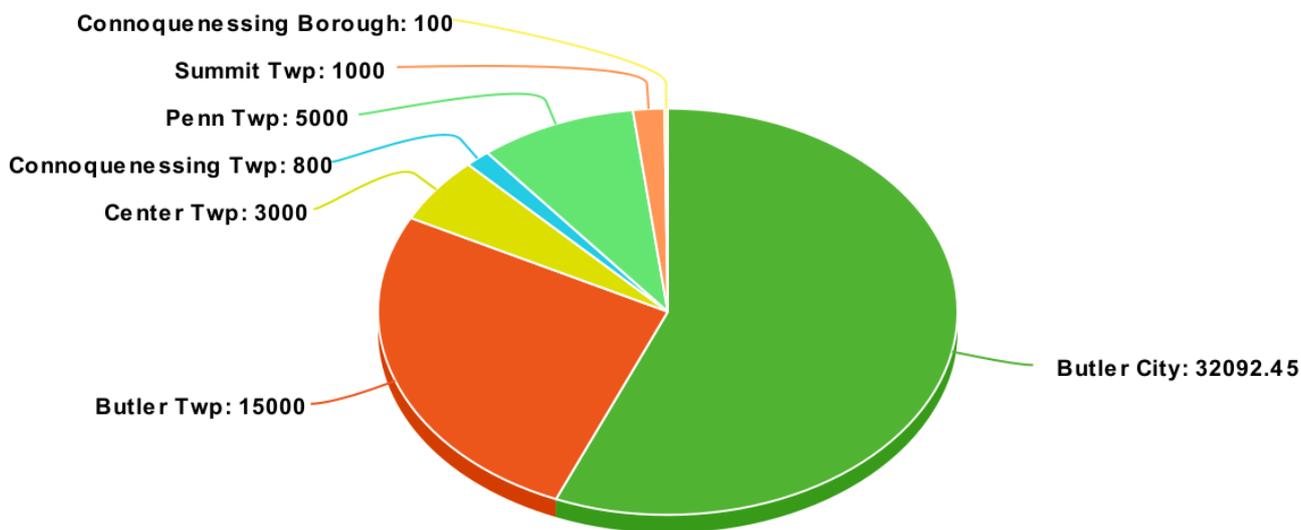
STATE AID

The state aid for 2019 was \$172,558.

MUNICIPAL FUNDING

The city of Butler, five townships, and one borough supported Butler Area Public Library by donating \$56,992.45.

Municipal Funding



- Butler City
- Butler Twp
- Center Twp
- Connoquenessing Twp
- Penn Twp
- Summit Twp
- Connoquenessing Borough

meta-chart.com

MY LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

The library raised \$47,300 through our 2019 "My Library" campaign.

LIGHT THE WAY CAMPAIGN

The library raised \$10,071 through our 125th Anniversary campaign called "Light the Way."

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library held two large book sales as well as a smaller ongoing book sale and were able to donate \$5,335.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Other gifts and memorials given to the library amounted to \$25,919.

GRANTS

The library also received \$5,950 in grants.

Programming

ADULTS

In 2019 we offered over 60 programs for adults. We offered programs for those who love to craft, those who love to play games, and for those who love to research their family history.

We worked with the Butler County Community College's Lifelong Learning Program to offer introductory programs for some of their upcoming classes. Patrons were able to take a Tai Chi class, learn about backyard gardening, and see what it takes to start their own podcast just to name a few.

Over 40 individuals scheduled a one-on-one meeting with a member of our Reference staff. In those meetings we taught patrons how to use their smartphone or their computer. We helped them set up email addresses. We also helped some apply for jobs, and in at least two cases we know of they were hired.

The library staff continued to reach out to some of our local retirement communities. iPad classes were offered at Concordia. We also began delivering books and offering a story time to the residents of the Lowry Place.

All-in-all we reached well over 1,400 adults through our adult programming in 2019.

GENEALOGY

In 2019, we responded to 1,163 genealogy reference requests, a new record number for our department. That represents a 17.35% increase compared to 2018 requests. Questions came in from 33 states, Canada, England, Germany, and Switzerland, and were as varied as their originating destinations. The variety of researchers is always fascinating: hobby genealogists, professional researchers, law firms, professors, students, journalists, and more all seek out our department for help. It is a testament to the enduring value of our collection and the role we play in assisting patrons.

Many more patrons visit to do self-directed research. Some are locals who dropped by like clockwork, and others made the trek from as far as Germany to engage with our records first-hand.

Butler County library card holders conducted 11,298 genealogy searches from home using our Heritage Quest subscription, up more than 24% from last year. Another 5,238 searches were performed in-library on Ancestry Library Edition, a 16% increase. These subscriptions allow us to offer access to millions more records than could ever fit in our physical space!

134 patrons attended 10 group genealogy programs, including beginner 101 courses and instruction on wills, DNA, and advanced search techniques.

25 additional patrons scheduled one-on-one research instruction sessions to learn the basics of genealogy or develop confidence while working with specific records like deeds, DNA tests, or international records.

Two programs were collaborations with Slippery Rock University. Digital Humanities students from SRU continued their project photographing the County Home census ledger from our archive. The students are also completing transcription and data analysis of the personal information in the book, which should be very useful for future researchers. We also taught a half-day beginner genealogy workshop as part of SRU's Institute for Learning in Retirement program.

Additionally, we partnered with Jennings Environmental Education Center to do a great "Citizen History" program. Participants picked the name of a historic person who lived or worked in the area now comprising the Jennings Center, and researched their life to help create future exhibit content.

We also made a few physical improvements to the department. In May we completed installation of a new HVAC system for our Special Collections room. The new system will help keep our unique archival collections preserved for years to come in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment. A kind donation from the GFWC Intermediate League enabled us to install 48 feet of additional shelving - most of which we've already filled with new genealogy materials!

Last but not least, our archival collections played a key role in the library's 125th anniversary year. Using historic library reports, photographs, and objects, we helped create physical and digital displays to illustrate the role of the Butler Area Public Library in local history. A combined 510 patrons attended our February Open House, June Anniversary Ice Cream Social, and December Farewell events.

CHILDREN'S

2019 was a great year for our Children's programming. We offered 157 programs which had a total attendance of over 5,000 children and over 2,000 adults. That was an attendance increase of 7% for the children and 10% for the adults. Much of this attendance increase took place during our annual Summer Reading Program.

Some of our other achievements this year include the following. We renewed our partnership with the WQED Inquire Within program which is being funded by the Center for Community Resources. A Sensory Station was created in order to enhance the use of our play space. Our picture books, nonfiction, and holiday sections were weeded and updated. A new section was added to our Parent Collection with books focused on Tough Topics to discuss with kids.

On top of all of those wonderful things, we were able to hit a milestone with our Summer Challenge Program. We finished the summer with 54% of the children completing the program. An all time high completion rate.

2019 saw more children and families of Butler being served through the library than the year before, and 2020 is going to be even better. Great things are in store.

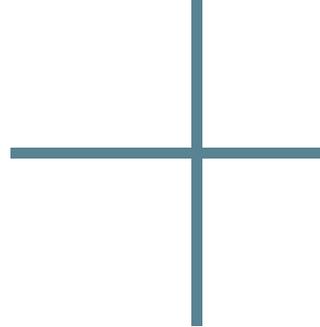
YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adult area focuses on the library's Tween (grades 4-6) and Teen (grades 7-12) patrons. We offer regular passive programming as well as interactive programming. Young Adult services offered 65 total programs for our Tweens and Teens in 2019 with a total attendance of over 1,600. This was a 30% increase in attendance over the previous year.

We predict this exciting growth will continue this next year, in no small part to one of our newest staff members, Tristyn Parker. Between Tristyn and Tiffany the ideas for new and creative programs are never ending. This is a team to watch.

2019 also saw our second year participating in the Public Library Association's Inclusive Internship Initiative. Through this program we were able to offer a paid summer internship to one of our local teens. the internship gave our intern Sarayne Forbes an opportunity to learn various aspects of library operations and the chance to complete a connected learning project that would benefit the library, the community, and the intern.

The Young Adult staff looks forward to fostering our relationship with the school district and its students as school population distribution changes in the future. The youth of Butler are always at the forefront of our minds and programming.



125th Anniversary

It's not every year you get to celebrate being 125 years old; so in 2019 we did our best to go big.

We had a small open house celebration in the cold month of February on the actual anniversary of the library's opening. We offered cookies and drinks for those who visited us, and we let them know to keep their eyes and ears open as we knew we were planning something big for the Summer.

That something big happened on Saturday, June 22 when we celebrated with an ice cream social in the library's courtyard. We had ice cream sundaes and floats. Live music was provided by Hungry Town. There were yard games being played and conversations being had with patrons who visit every day and those who had not been to the library in a while. By the end of the event over 350 people joined in on the celebration.

Though the year was not without its difficulty, here's looking at your Ransomware, 2019 was another year of growth and purpose. The library spent the year reaching new people with the information they sought. Families enjoyed story times, game days, and our Summer Challenge. Tweens and Teens made crafts and served during our VolunTEEN days. Adults learned new skills. The library helped change lives; the same way we had for 125 years prior, the same way we plan to for the next 125 years.

Watch out year 2144 we're coming for you!

