

2022 Impact Report

94,032
Annual Visits



3,830
Current
Cardholders

302
Reference
Questions
Answered



64,488
Wi-Fi Uses



348 Programs
3,971 Attendees



123,567
Total Uses
of Collection



23,920
Ebook and
Audiobook
Downloads

96 Take-and-Make Programs
4,613 Participants





In 2022 the library reaffirmed our longstanding commitment to serving the community and drafted a new mission statement: “The Ilsley Public Library system enriches lives and builds community connections by providing engaging and accessible programs, services, resources, and spaces that meet evolving community needs. Library staff invite everyone in to learn, create, and collaborate. The library is a safe and friendly environment where everyone belongs.”

How did the library work to fulfill this mission over the past year? A beautiful example is the “Art in the Garden” program. For six weeks this summer, there were easels, art supplies, and crafts in the library garden for two hours every Tuesday. At the same time, the Zen Community House parked a free food truck next to the garden, offering healthy food. Families with young children came for the crafts, and community members from all walks of life came for a delicious free meal. The result of this partnership was a vibrant community gathering, with residents of all ages connecting, creating, and sharing a meal together. This is the library, and our community, at its best.

Circulation continued to climb back after a drop during the first year of the pandemic, and the library added digital magazines to the collection. Grant funding from the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund allowed the library to purchase an e-bike, growing our “library of things” collection. The library’s e-bike joined two other community e-bikes at Frog Hollow, and all three e-bikes are available to check-out through the library. Between May and October, the e-bikes were checked out ninety-three times.

Those that have visited the library in the past year will be familiar with the litany of facilities challenges we face. In order to address these issues, and many more, the Middlebury Selectboard created the Ilsley 100 Project Team in early 2022. Over the past year the Project Team has developed a vision and preliminary program plan for a new library building, and explored and evaluated four different project directions, including renovating; renovating and expanding; annexing a second location downtown; and building new. Ultimately, the Project Team made a recommendation to the Selectboard to pursue a renovation and expansion of the existing library building at 75 Main Street, at an estimated cost of \$14.8 million dollars.

In 2023, the Project Team will seek conceptual designs for a renovation and expansion from several design teams. The community will have ample opportunity to review these conceptual designs and give feedback. The Project Team will then select one design team to move forward with, progressing to schematic designs in the fall. This is an exciting time for the Ilsley Public Library, and the more voices involved the better the end result will be. I encourage all community members to become involved in this important process over the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Hart".

Dana Hart
Director