

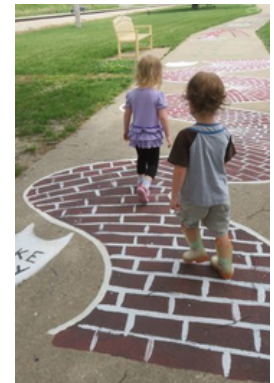
LIBRARY SERVICES

Burlington Public Library
FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Promoting Learning & Literacy

The fiscal year started in the midst of the library's virtual **summer reading program of 2020**. After switching to virtual youth literacy classes that March, the team was well practiced in adapting for the summer.

As a fun way to connect with residents in a new way, they team paint an **obstacle course on the riverfront** for summer 2020. It was so well received by the community that a group of staff members painted a new one in 2021. Diamond Vogel donated paint that holds up even better than the first year.



Throughout this fiscal year, the library team offered several **popular take-home activity kits for all ages** to provide self-paced hands-on learning opportunities. We offered two weekly kits for children and teens with our **Little Learners and CoLab** kits and videos. We also offered a monthly themed kit for all ages.

Virtual WiggleTime and Babygarten classes were made more engaging by offering **kits with all the usual props** and a book for the families to use at home. Kits also allowed us to continue **Family Nights**, like the Painting and Hot Cocoa Zoom night.



We reshaped the **Sterling Lord event** celebrating local authors and created online author interviews to share the authors' work and the stories of their creative process.

Pumpkinpalooza, a popular annual family event, became a popular take-and-make kit with a virtual storytime. For December, we celebrated **holidays around the world with take-home kits** with online videos with stories and demonstrations of the various activities.



The fiscal year ended with the first month of **summer reading 2021**, a mix of virtual components and in-person programs at Crapo Park and The Port. Families loved the back-to-back programs for kids on Wednesdays at the big shelter house at Crapo Park. Weekly performers drew families and kids in day care programs, including the city's day camp, to see musicians, magic acts, puppetry, and more. The annual summer reading program helps prevent summer learning loss and retain reading skills while students are out of the classroom.

Building Community

The **Kindness Club**, which began in March 2020, organized monthly projects including a food and clothing drive and kits on Black History Month and more. Their work was noticed nationally when we were asked to write an article for a national library newsletter and this article was picked up by other library publications.

We continued **outreach with schools**, including virtual book talks and a mix of in-person and virtual storytimes at area preschools. We also added a **new monthly outreach to senior centers** with kits delivered to the centers for fun and engagement.

Create Learn Imagine monthly classes are an **outreach initiative with Hope Haven** providing hands-on activities for residents through kits and a meet up on Zoom to do the projects together and enjoy conversation.

Expanding Options

The Job Center expanded to include other topics such as investing and consumer information. With a makeover of the space, it became the new **Money Matters section**.

The collection of circulating **mobile hotspots** expanded to meet demand for this popular service that helps bridge the digital divide for our residents.

Chromebook kits are a new technology resource to increase community access to the internet. The library started this service this year with five kits that include a mobile hotspot and a Chromebook for one-week checkout. Based on the popularity of this service, we will be looking for opportunities to expand to more kits.

The online library grew this year to include **Niche Academy**, a wide-range of tutorials for technology tools.

Community members now have online access to **NewsBank**, which includes online access to current Hawk Eye articles and past articles back to 1995 as well as articles from newspapers throughout the country. The NewsBank subscription also includes **Heritage Hub**, a database of U.S. obituaries dating back to 1842. The library's **NewspaperArchive** subscription expanded from just Iowa newspapers to offer global coverage of newspapers.

To preserve the **archive of The Hawk Eye** which we have in microfilm back to its beginning, the library developed a process for having The Hawk Eye microfilmed now that it is no longer provided by the newspaper.

The youth collection expanded to include **circulating activity kits**. Kits include music, literacy, and STEM activities. We also added **Healing Library kits**, which support families facing difficult discussions with their children on topics such as death and divorce.

The youth team again successfully applied for **two STEM Scale Up awards**. These awards provided FIRST LEGO League Explore and Storytime STEM materials and training.

Community Comments

"Omg! I just wanted to hype you guys on the summer reading program. Great execution on a hard year!" -- parent comment

"I have been enjoying reading so much during this time and am very thankful for the library's assistance with this. I was so sad when you had to be closed, but am very happy and excited that you are open for browsing now too!" -- user comment

"I CANT! You guys are so phenomenal!!! Fall Wiggle Time started today and it was so much fun to see friends. We got to sing songs, read books and use all of the sweet props you got together for us in our Wiggle time kit we picked up from the library. Our library is amazing and you guys should ALL check out what they have to offer!" -- social media comment

"These kits are awesome! The kids love playing with them...all day even!" -- caregiver during Babygarten

"To each and every one of you at the Library... Thank you for all your hard work and your ideas over this past year to make sure we all still had access to books and internet and library services this past year(+). Your work and the curbside services have meant the world to all of us in this town -- especially over the past year! -- user who dropped of cookies for the staff

"I graduate with my master's degree in like 3 months and without you [the library staff] I wouldn't have made it!" -- comment from a resident who used the meeting rooms, technology assistance and access, and more

Improving Continuously

New security gates were installed in July thanks to funding from the Library Foundation.

A new secure entry system for the staff/receiving door, also funded by the Foundation, was added in February. The previous system required key fobs that the company no longer could provide and the system itself was no longer supported. The new system works smoothly with our RFID staff IDs and allows for easy configuration. We were able to achieve some efficiency by using the same company that does our security cameras.

The Lightscape Project committee donated **new lighting for the library flag**.

The team redid the **library's website** on a new platform that makes the site responsive adapting to all types of screen sizes for a better user experience. The team did a full overhaul of the content and design.

The team chose a **new online reservation system** for the meeting rooms. The previous system was built-in to the old website platform. The new system has proven to be easier to use.

The **new biography and nonfiction collections** moved to a new display area in a higher traffic area to make these more prominent and easier for users to discover.

