



Barry-Lawrence Regional
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR LIBRARY

AROUND THE BLRL

CHARLES PEITER OF MARIONVILLE RETIRED FROM HIS BLRL BOARD POSITION IN OCTOBER OF 2024:

Since the 1980s, he has held various roles on the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library Board. His reasonable and logical approach has been invaluable for decades. Mr. Peiter's steadfast support of the BLRL patrons, staff, and other board members is best illustrated by volunteering to serve on the Library Board for the better part of 40 years. During his time on the board, he encouraged community engagement and played a crucial role in several building projects. Mr. Peiter was instrumental in making the dream of the new Marionville Branch a reality in his hometown. He perennially opened his home as a stop on the Christmas Home Tour and participated in many other community events. Mr. & Mrs. Peiter are moving out of state to be near their children and grandchildren. We are all incredibly thankful for his years of dedication. We wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives.



BOOK BIKE & POP-UP LIBRARY OUTREACH:

This energetic outreach across the Library district (including towns without a Library Branch) gets out and meets our community where they are—taking the BLRL outside the walls of the Library Branch. These programs allowed us to share information about the Library and encourage new patrons. Various activities like Nature Notes Scavenger Hunts, Craft Projects, Storytime and distribution of Library promotional materials.





PLAY MUSIC ON THE PORCH:

Live music from local and regional performers gave the community a fabulous free Monett Library concert featuring a music festival atmosphere. This event featured The Dulcimer Group, Marshall Miller Band, Ruby Cook, Dwanye Smith, Schumacher Sisters, and Matt Baird of the Band Spoken.



FAIRY TEA PARTY:

After a donation of the Children's Book "Friendship Fairy", Leigh Ann and Vickey brainstormed used the books as inspiration for celebrating International Fairy Tea Party Day (Sept 22). The Aurora Library hosted young ladies and their mothers and/or their grandmothers for a Fairy Tea Party. We provided the books as party favors for the children and fairy dust bath salts for the adults. A happy participant said, "This was a dream come true for her." The patron-donated tea sets for the program insure the library will continue many tea parties in the future. This year's third annual Fairy Tea Party welcomed 40 guests enjoying macarons, tea, and other delightful refreshments while enjoying an ethereal backdrop for enchanted photos.



2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

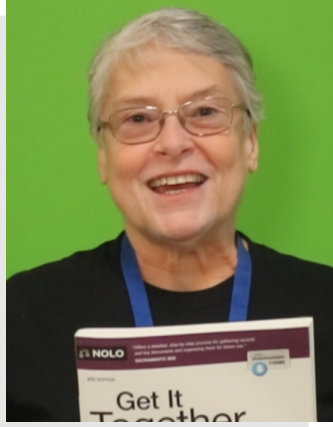
RETIREMENTS:

Joyce Frazier, Regional Office—Administrative Assistant, retired July 31, 2023 after 36 years of service.

Donna Lawson, Cassville Branch—Library Assistant, Adult Services, retired September 29, 2023 after 6 years of service.

Cheryl Williams, Cassville Branch—Supervisor, retired May 31, 2024 after 17 years of service.

Martha Pettegrew, Aurora Branch—Supervisor, retired May 31, 2024 after 32 years of service.



MAINTENANCE:

We replaced HVAC units at Aurora, Marionville, Mt. Vernon, and Pierce City. We replaced the Miller Branch Roof in April 2024.

ACCOUNTING UPDATES:

All bookkeeping moved to Quickbooks online and we moved to an online payroll system with direct deposit in January 2024.

GRANTS, MEMORIALS, AND DONATIONS:

When the mother of local Monettan Donna Beckett passed away the Monett Branch Library was honored to receive memorials in the amount of \$2,110 in memory of Janice Beshear. The funds were used to purchase new books for the youth collection at the Monett Branch Library.

Dr. Peter Rashe donated two small lots next to the Shell Knob Branch Library. With the donation of this property the district decided to pivot their plans for a new Shell Knob library and stay in the Bridge-way Plaza. We will now renovate and add to the existing Shell Knob Branch Library. The library board voted to deed back the land previously donated by Charles Singleton and Danny Street.

Three LSTA Grants from the Missouri State Library: \$5,000 to purchase “Memory Kits”. The “Memory Kits” will be used for programs with Senior Centers, Nursing Homes, the Library, etc. for memory care patients or they can be checked out for home use. A variety of the “Memory Kits” are available at each branch location throughout the library district. \$13,332 to purchase replacement firewalls and switches for all branches excluding Monett as their equipment was brand new. \$8,163.70 to purchase five replacement laptops for staff.

TECHNOLOGY:

Installed Azure Cloud Server beginning October 2023. Azure Cloud Server gives the Regional Office remote access to documents stored securely in the Cloud.

Computer Technician Lee Ann Santee provided mentoring leadership to the Sarcoxie Library when they joined the Missouri Evergreen Consortium during the Summer of 2024.

NEW MONETT BRANCH LIBRARY:

In November 2023, the Monett Branch celebrated their one year anniversary in the new location. To celebrate the anniversary, they gave out cake kits to families and provided coffee and cookies.

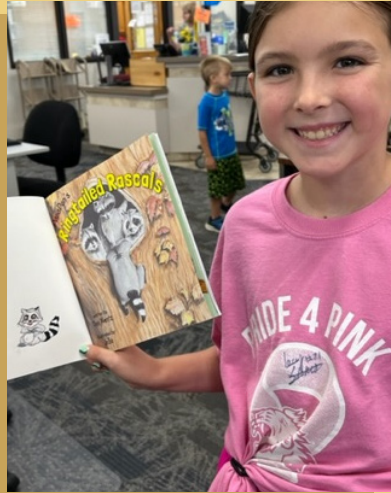
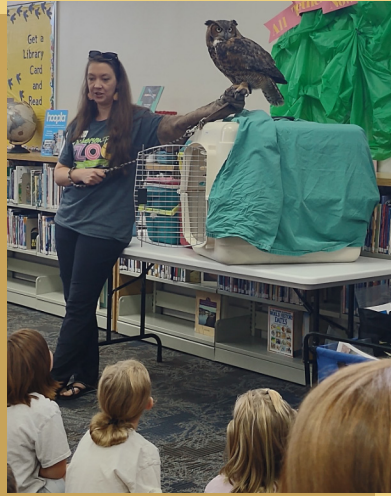
REGIONAL OFFICE RENOVATION:

The library met with Paragon Architecture in the summer of 2023 to begin planning for a renovation of the old Monett Library for Administrative Offices. The floorplan design was finalized in November 2023. The project was bid out in May 2024 and RE Smith was selected as the general contractor.

SUMMER READING CLUB 2023

"ALL TOGETHER NOW":

A total of 874 patrons participated in the "All Together Now" 2023 reading challenge—481 children, 65 teens, and 328 adults. They read a total of 11,894 books! In the summer of 2023 we provided 301 summer programs with an overall attendance of 12,729 patrons—170 children's programs, 41 teen programs, and 90 adult programs throughout the library district. We had 8 school and daycare classrooms participate and they read 504 books.



STAFF TRAINING DAY, 2023: The library district closed on Monday, October 9, 2023 for a district wide staff training day at the new Monett Library. Training sessions were provided by Country Crossroads Counseling, the Missouri State Library, and Meant 2B Outdoors.



OUR LIBRARY IS MORE THAN THE DATA CAN SHOW:



IN TODAY'S DIGITAL AGE, PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. Libraries remain essential community hubs that offer a wide range of services and resources. According to recent data from the Pew Research Center, 49% of Americans aged 16 or older have used their local library in the past year. This demonstrates the ongoing relevance of libraries in the lives of individuals and families.

THE BARRY-LAWRENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY PROVIDES FREE ACCESS to information, technology, and educational programs. They offer a calm space for study and research, as well as opportunities for social interaction and community engagement. In an era of increasing economic challenges, the BLRL promotes literacy, lifelong learning, and access to digital resources to residents of all income levels. They offer resources and services that can help people of all ages and backgrounds improve their skills, find jobs, and connect with their communities.

A STRONG LIBRARY IS VITAL TO OUR COMMUNITY. The BLRL offers a wealth of resources and services that are essential for local individuals and families to thrive in the 21st century. As technology evolves, the BLRL will remain important as a place where our local community can access information, learn new skills, and connect with others.

BLRL BRANCHES ARE LOCATED IN AURORA, CASSVILLE, EAGLE ROCK, MARIONVILLE, MILLER, MONETT, MT. VERNON, PIERCE CITY, AND SHELL NOB. Patrons are welcome at all 9 branches that all share the same mission: "Connecting People to the Transforming Power of Knowledge" and we invite you to join in our mission. **Learn more at blrlibrary.org**



EVERY BRANCH IS UNIQUE

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY'S STORY:

Each of our nine branch locations serves a diverse community. Different populations, demographics, and even geography affect how our patrons use their local Library Branch. The charts below show a comparison between the different branches in some key library metrics.

CIRCULATION

Monett	64,546
Cassville	46,530
Mt. Vernon	42,186
Aurora	34,651
Marionville	16,199
Shell Knob	11,980
Pierce City (8)	11,629
Eagle Rock (7)	10,779
Miller	6,944

COLLECTION SIZE

Monett	37,611
Mt. Vernon	37,461
Cassville	33,826
Aurora	26,327
Pierce City (6)	14,062
Marionville (5)	13,827
Shell Knob	10,399
Eagle Rock (9)	6,509
Miller (8)	6,397

CARDHOLDERS

Monett	5,912
Cassville	4,775
Aurora	3,987
Mt. Vernon	3,585
Marionville	1,210
Shell Knob	1,012
Pierce City	797
Miller	629
Eagle Rock	474

COMPUTER USE

Monett (4)	6,254
Aurora	5,695
Mt. Vernon (1)	4,974
Cassville (3)	4,951
Shell Knob (6)	1,727
Pierce City (7)	1,419
Marionville (5)	1,113
Eagle Rock	731
Miller	624

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

Monett (2)	734
Aurora (3)	449
Cassville (4)	377
Mt. Vernon (5)	324
Pierce City (7)	263
Shell Knob	252
Marionville (1)	237
Eagle Rock	198
Miller	92

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Monett	23,931
Cassville (4)	13,677
Aurora (2)	13,077
Mt. Vernon (5)	8,316
Pierce City (7)	6,749
Shell Knob	6,215
Marionville (3)	6,085
Eagle Rock	2,962
Miller	1,531

LIBRARY VISITORS

Monett	53,365
Cassville	36,439
Aurora	36,322
Mt. Vernon	25,558
Shell Knob (6)	10,517
Marionville (5)	9,230
Pierce City (8)	8,528
Eagle Rock (7)	6,266
Miller	5,200

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Cassville (2)	36,452
Monett (1)	33,722
Aurora	18,031
Eagle Rock (6)	16,614
Shell Knob (4)	14,248
Mt. Vernon (5)	5,161
Pierce City (9)	3,289
Miller	2,951
Marionville (7)	1,664



Note: Numbers in parantheses represent placement in 2022-2023 Top Nine.

YOUR LIBRARY IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

YOUR LIBRARY CARD GIVES YOU ACCESS TO A TON OF EXCELLENT ONLINE SERVICES.

You can download and stream media right to your phone, tablet, or computer with Hoopla and/or Libby. You can search all available media through a search of the catalog and request books from dozens of libraries across the State with Missouri Evergreen for free. Below are just a few online services you can use for free with your BLRL Library Card a blrLibrary.org

MANGO LANGUAGE LEARNING: Mango's adaptive learning process evolves with your progress and unique learning behaviors, preparing you to start the conversation in many languages confidently.

BOOK CONNECTIONS: Bring reading to life. Book Connections strives to joyfully enrich everyone's experience reading children's and young adult books.

LIBBY: With Libby, it takes just a few taps to find and borrow a book. Libby has a ground-breaking built-in ebook reader and a beautiful audiobook player. If you prefer, you can send books to your Kindle for reading.

ROSEN FINANCIAL LITERACY: The Rosen Financial Literacy database makes economics and personal finance easy to understand and highly engaging. Articles explore macro-, micro-, and global economics as well as individual and household finance. Financial Literacy is an online economics and personal finance resource specifically designed for grades 7–12 students, but it can easily benefit adults.

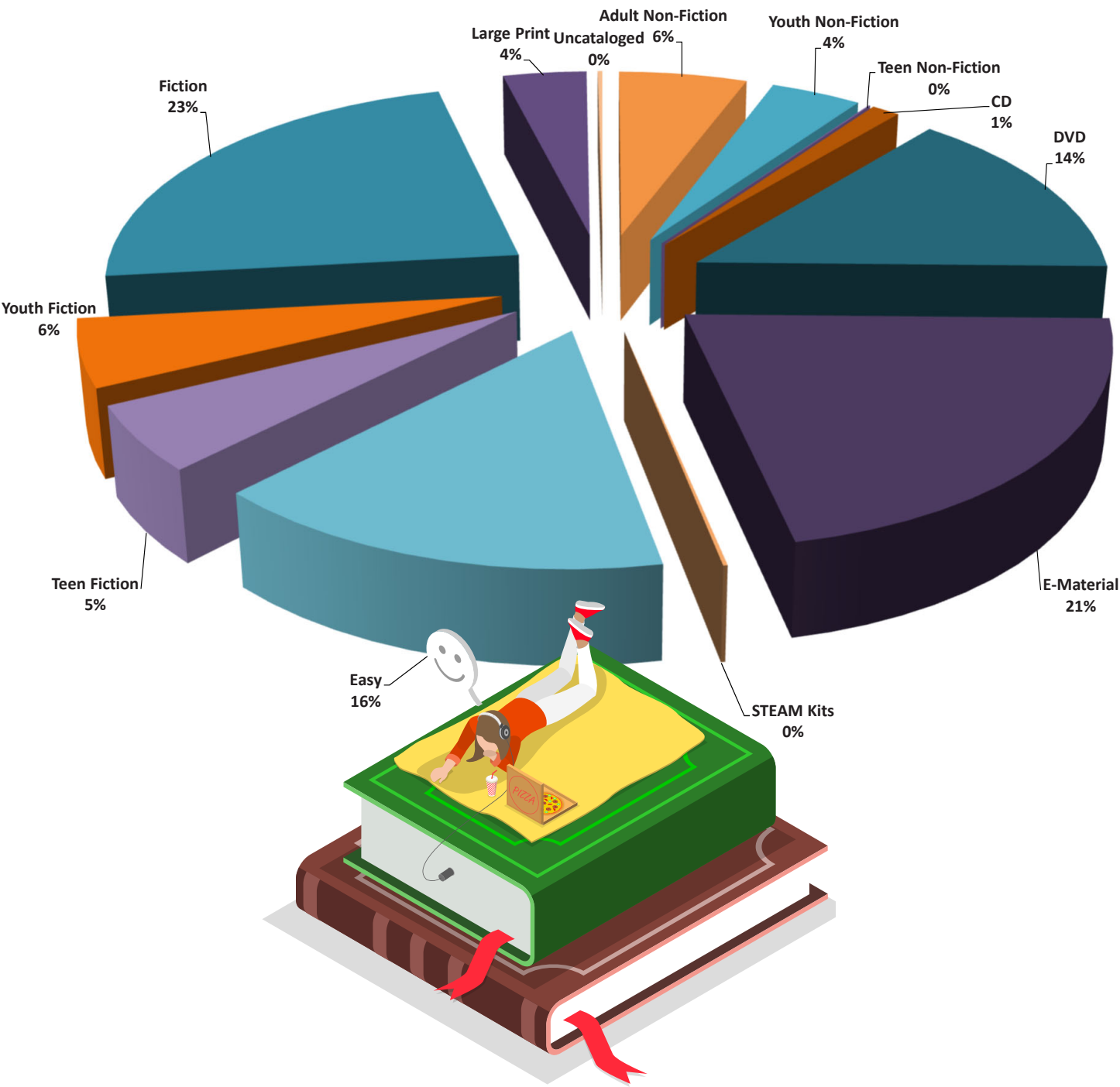
VET NOW: a great library resource for veterans! The BLRL now has a wonderful new FREE resource for local veterans; VetNow links you with online resources and real-live people available to assist veterans in many vital areas.

Go to **<https://www.blrlibrary.com/services>** or use the safe QR Code below to check out these apps and several more useful free services provided by the BLRL.

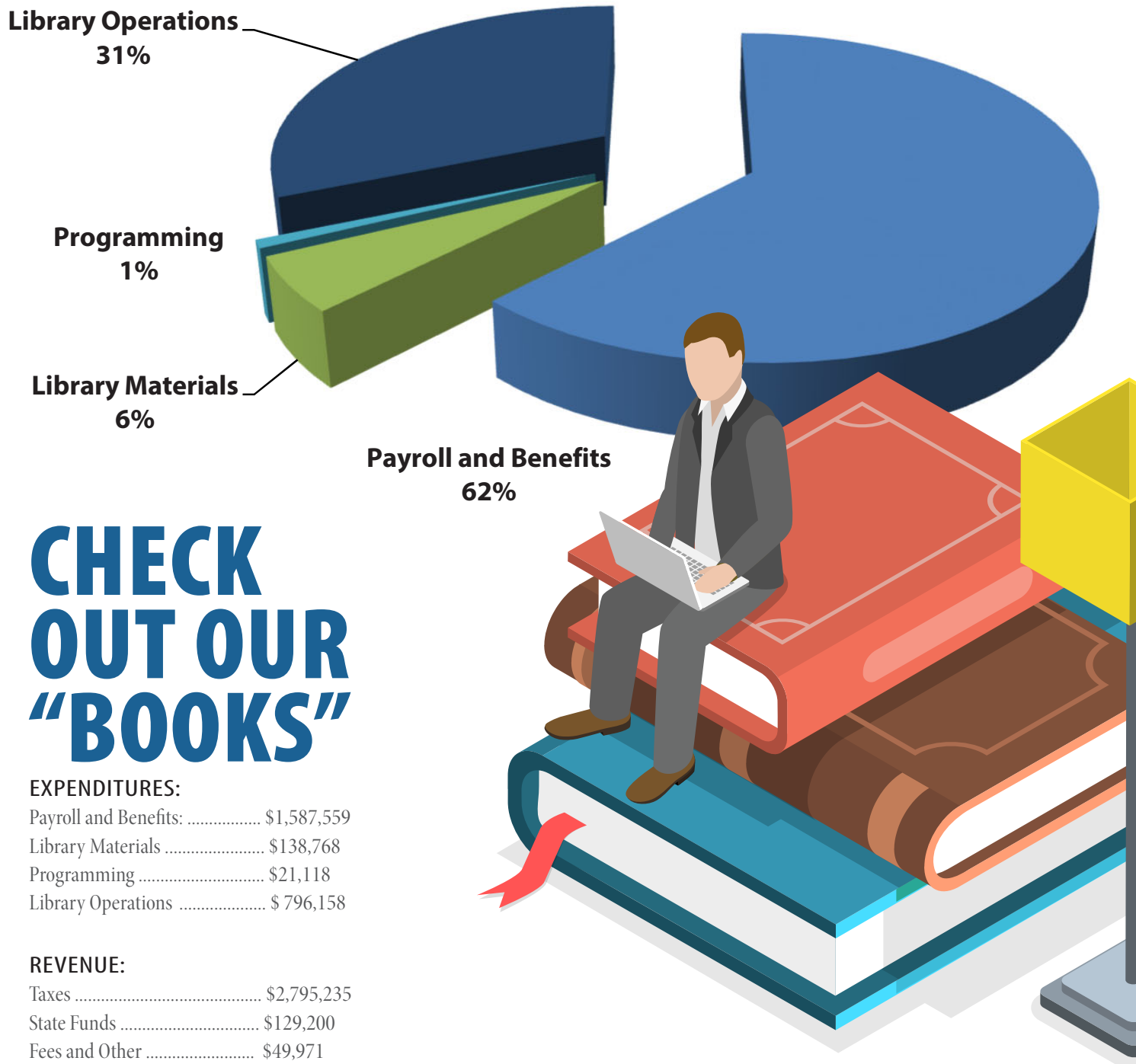


CIRCULATION BY ITEM TYPE

SEE WHAT CHECKS OUT: Everyone is welcome at all nine branch locations of the BLRL, and everyone will “library” in their own unique way. The chart below shows what your fellow BLRL patrons are checking out. Electronic materials are a growing segment of how we adapt to better serve our patron’s needs.



EXPENDITURES



CHECK OUT OUR "BOOKS"

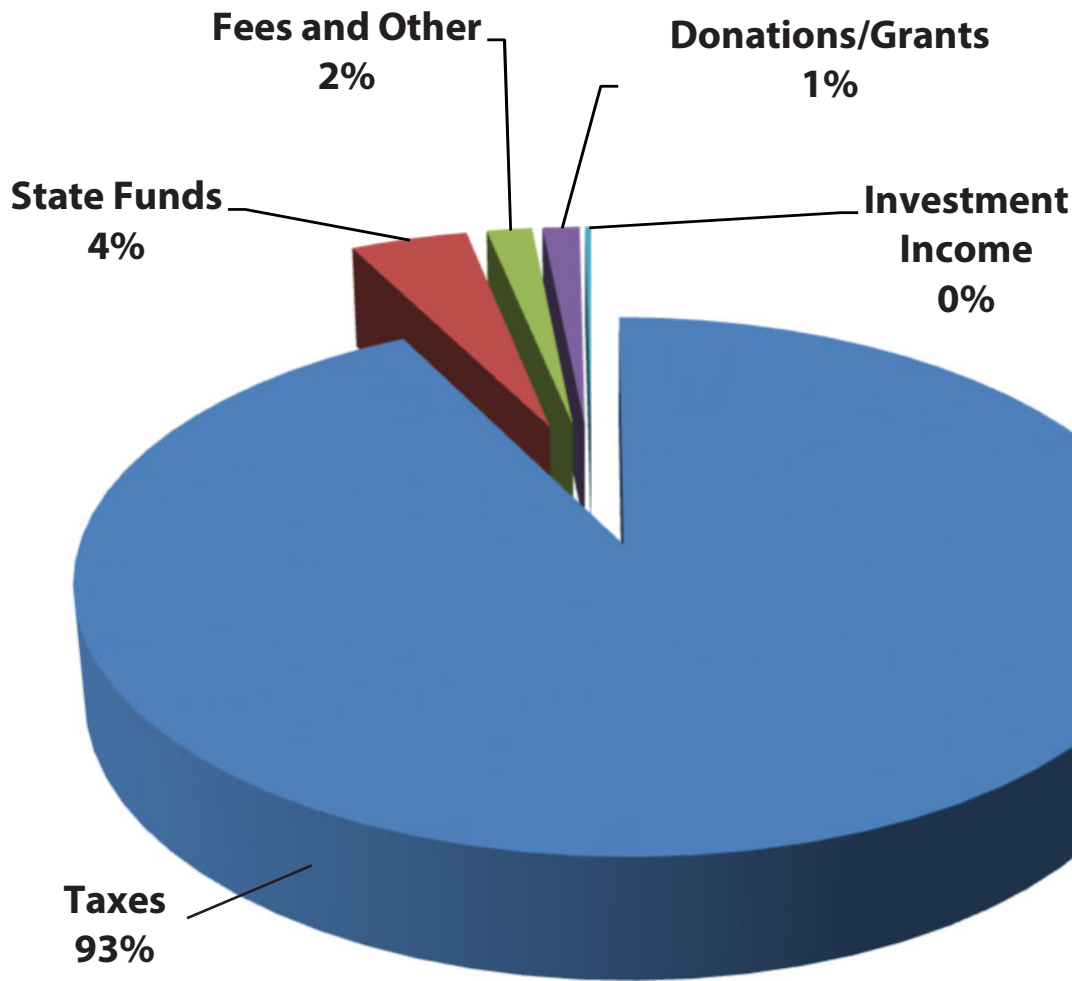
EXPENDITURES:

Payroll and Benefits:	\$1,587,559
Library Materials	\$138,768
Programming	\$21,118
Library Operations	\$ 796,158

REVENUE:

Taxes	\$2,795,235
State Funds	\$129,200
Fees and Other	\$49,971
Donations/Grants	\$ 40,861
Investment Income	\$6,564

REVENUE



LIBRARY FUNDING

The BLRL is funded 100% by public funds through your donations or taxes. As part of our community and economy, you directly or indirectly support our Library District, so you are the hero of this story. When you vote to support the library, you are voting to enrich the lives of children, teens, older people, and everyone else in our local community. If you donate to the BLRL, 100% of your gift stays here to provide more services and better library facilities for your local community. If you can donate, contact the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library Regional Office at 417-235-6646 or by email at libinfo@blrlibrary.org

BLRL BRANCH LOCATIONS:

AURORA BRANCH: 202 JEFFERSON, AURORA, MO 65605 · PHONE: 417-678-2036

CASSVILLE BRANCH: 301 W. 17TH ST., CASSVILLE, MO 65625 · PHONE: 417-847-2121

EAGLE ROCK BRANCH: P.O. BOX 147, EAGLE ROCK, MO 65641 · PHONE: 417-271-3186

MARIONVILLE BRANCH: 303 W. WASHINGTON ST., MARIONVILLE, MO 65705 · PHONE: 417-463-2675

MILLER BRANCH: 112 E. MAIN STREET, MILLER, MO 65707 · PHONE: 417-423-8528

MONETT BRANCH: 2200 PARK STREET, MONETT, MO 65708 · PHONE: 417-235-7350

MT. VERNON BRANCH: 206 W. WATER STREET, MT. VERNON, MO 65712 · PHONE: 417-466-292

PIERCE CITY BRANCH: 101 N. WALNUT STREET, PIERCE CITY, MO 65723 · PHONE: 417-476-5110

SHELL KNOB BRANCH: P.O. BOX 349, SHELL KNOB, MO 65747 · PHONE: 417-858-3618

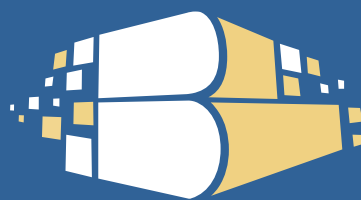
BOARD MEMBERS:

BARRY COUNTY:

KATIE BRITTENHAM
DEBRA LEA
REGINA MCILRATH
WENDY MIEKLEY

LAWRENCE COUNTY:

ANNE GAROUTTE
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VACANT
JULIE VAUGHN



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