



IOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

2024 Annual Report

Connections

Library programs, services, and staff helped our community stay connected to each other in 2024. Friendships were made and strengthened at storytimes, the *Old Timers Talking* club, and at the *In Stitches* crochet group. Our favorite volunteer, Anna, started a poetry writing club in April and continued to lead a weekly chess club. Visitors stayed connected to the world by reading local and national newspapers. Students took a Journey Back into the history of the holocaust using grant-funded VR headsets. Computers and high-speed wifi connected users to their email, social media, and games. At the first annual *Flewharty Annex Art Fest*, local artists were matched with art lovers. And yes, we also helped readers connect with the perfect book.



By the Numbers

- 35,951 visits in 2024 9% ⬆
- 64,408 borrowed items 7% ⬆
- 378 programs 13% ⬆
- 185 meeting room uses 41% ⬆
- 4,476 computer uses 11% ⬆
- 227 curbside service uses 19% ⬆

Board of Directors

Katrina Springer, President
Marilyn Logan, Vice President
Elaine Stewart, Treasurer
Marcia Davis, Secretary
Tim Stauffer
Pam Coons
Nancy Haire
Steven French, Mayor

Community Partners

For *Iola Reads*, the community read *True Grit* by Charles Portis and books from the *Ranger in Time* series by Kate Messner. Children enjoyed reading to the therapy dogs.

Together, the **Friends of Iola Public Library** book sale and Everything Chocolate sale raised \$3,468. The Friends also launched a story walk in store windows around the square.



Financial Overview

City of Iola	264,541
State Grant-in-Aid	1,516
Other Income	70,060
SEKLS Support	16,633
Total Income	\$352,750
Staff Expense	251,895
Collection & Programs	22,932
Building & Admin	45,285
Flewharty Annex	5,800
Total Expense	\$324,912

Grants:

Kansas Notable Books	\$ 325
American Heart Association	\$ 750
Pilcrow Foundation Children's Book Project Grant	\$ 800
Family Engagement Grant	\$1,910

Major Gifts:

Friends of Iola Public Library
 Judith Thyer Memorial
 M. Lee Brown Family funded the ADA ramp at the Flewharty-Powell Annex

Endowment:

Donations Received	\$ 5,962
Foundation Match Grant	\$ 4,633
Balance as of 12/31	\$177,168

The acknowledgement list of our generous donors is on the [Donate](#) page of our website.

Highlights from the Year

- ✓ Author series with Stephen Gilpin, Maranda Collins, and Donna Hawk
- ✓ Partnered with the Bowlus, Derryberry Breadery, Humanities Kansas, Allen Community College, and K-State Extension
- ✓ Humanities Kansas speakers: Dennis Etzel Jr. held a poetry workshop and Linda Knoll shared *Army of Amazons*
- ✓ Distributed over 2,000 seed packets

Adventure Begins

To support and celebrate summer reading, the Library held 30 adventure-themed programs attended by 545 children and teens in June and July. Program participants read at least 30 minutes a day, with many reading for longer. Lesa also held weekly storytimes, monthly *Stay and Play* events, and interesting science-based programs throughout the year. In total, the Library held 148 on-site youth programs, including a new *First Friday* story time that started in October.



Flewharty-Powell Library Annex

The Annex at 211 East Street was a busy place in 2024. The Steering Committee was featured in the *Register* on Feb. 5, we had a garage sale in June, held a spinning program to highlight folk arts with Laura Jernigan in July, used the kitchen for recipe exchanges and *Kids in the Kitchen*, and sponsored the *Art Fest* in November. Lastly, a new ADA ramp was funded by Mr. Brown, designed by Richard Moreland, and built by Keith Keller and his team.

