

Circa 1908



2021

MORTON-JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FY 2019-20

## MORTON-JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

### FY 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year 2019-2020 statistics are based on 5 months of regular service and 7 of working with an alternative service plan. Covid-19 changed life at the Library on March 18, 2020. The Library started serving the public via Lobby only pickup. Patrons would contact the Library and staff would fill the orders checking them out to the patrons' accounts. Materials were quarantined for a week, sanitized and re-shelved. No fines were assessed except for lost material. Later on, we opened up the Kimmel Gallery for the browsing of new materials that patrons could check out directly from the temporary shelving displays in the Kimmel Gallery. Libraries, academic and public, across the United States closed their doors and did not provide services of any kind. MJPL kept on serving the public throughout the year. Staff kept up to date with what other libraries were doing, how budgets were impacted and gathered information on best, safest practices to use in the library to curtail the spread of the virus. Our Board of Directors supported all of our decisions we made as a staff throughout the year.

Out of the strange year a few highlights emerged. Our Library Innovation Studio (makerspace) for one. The Nebraska Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project was supported in part by the Nebraska Library Commission, partnering with the University of Nebraska Lincoln Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Regional Library Systems.



The project was funded through a National Leadership Grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Fourteen pieces of equipment or kits rolled into the Kimmel Gallery in October. Twenty-two people plus staff trained over a two-day period to be able to run the machines and teach others how to use the equipment. Trainings were scheduled starting in November and the makerspace was up and running. We saw at least 4 local business owners use our equipment for their business needs, in addition to individuals creating items for their own personal use or later for holiday gifts. An Innovation Studio Showcase was held March 10, 2020 with displays of the creations from our local makers and business people. The Studio was closed on March 14, the equipment boxed up and returned on March 17.



We went to the alternate service delivery plan the next day. MJPL is very thankful for the Nebraska Library Commission and the community connections that were made during the time we had the Innovation Studio here in Nebraska City.

The second highlight was that the majority of the Exterior Restoration and Preservation Project was completed. Nebraska City was awarded a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant in the previous fiscal year. By December 2019, matching grants had been raised through the local family foundations and a few individual donors. After the work of creating a proposal, the bid process and acceptance and plans drawn, it was June 2020 that the first bit of work started on the building itself with tuckpointing and sealing replacement being the first tasks to be worked on. The stone bands that had been disintegrating due to many years' worth of harsh winters, were next along with the window sills that had weather damage as well.



Fiscal year 2020-21 started and saw the larger bands on the western face of the building cut and installed. Steps were re-done and lastly several of the ornamental pieces were re-created and installed by the original North entrance. The building is ready to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.



MJPL was selected out of 500 applicants for one of 59 Library Census Equity Fund Grants through the American Library Association. This was \$2000 in funding to get the word out regarding the census in an effort to reach hard-to-count communities in order to achieve a complete count in the 2020 Census. When residents are missed in the Census, their communities miss out on needed funding for services such as libraries, schools, healthcare and transportation. Unfortunately, the final push for planned meeting activities was thwarted due to Covid shutdowns. It was nice to be recognized by the ALA, as the only library in Nebraska to receive a Census grant.

Our Summer Reading Program was completely transformed into the virtual world! American Sign Language lessons, story times, guest presenter visits and take and make craft kits with video instructions were all created and posted to our website if allowed by presenters. Families were pleased that the program would continue despite Covid.



Lastly, the support we have received from our Board and patrons was phenomenal. Our Board was always concerned about staff health and safety. In addition, not only did we receive an assortment of baked goods and candy from patrons, but donations to the Library honoring the staff that was working so hard to keep them supplied with materials during the pandemic. One patron wrote "Thank you for always taking time to round up magazines for me to read and I do miss stopping in the Library." A large donation arrived with a note "My thank you is long over due to all of you for the wonderful job you have done keeping the library accessible. I am sure it has been a challenge for all of you and will continue to challenge your creativity during the Covid Pandemic." This donor wanted to treat the staff. In the process of making calls to our community members regarding when their materials were ready for pick up, staff was able to keep up with how members were doing and received many verbal expressions of thanks and compliments along the way. It was most rewarding.

## Now to the facts and figures....

### LIBRARY VISITORS AND GUESTS

23,355 people in total visited our facility during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

12,803 accessed MJPL's free Wi-Fi service.

The Library website was visited 10,882 times.

3,329 guests attended 175 programs and events.

2,140 visitors used the Library's tech Center or MJPL laptop.

The Early Literacy Station was used for 167 sessions before access was closed in March.



### LIBRARY COLLECTION



MJPL's collection includes 53,518 items including books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, microfilm and telescopes.

A total of 48,067 items were borrowed from the Library.

2,781 items were added to the collection.

4,275 were removed from the collection.

Objective criteria were used in making weeding decisions, such as publication date, circulation history and physical condition of the resource. Statistics on weeding are reported by the Library in the Nebraska Library Association's *Public Libraries Survey*. This process often leads to higher circulation of materials and is needed to make sure the collection stays current, vital and attractive to patrons.

### LIBRARY MEMBERS

There are 2583 library numbers.

105 new members became library card holders this year.

Library members saved \$476,658 by borrowing library materials instead of buying them.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

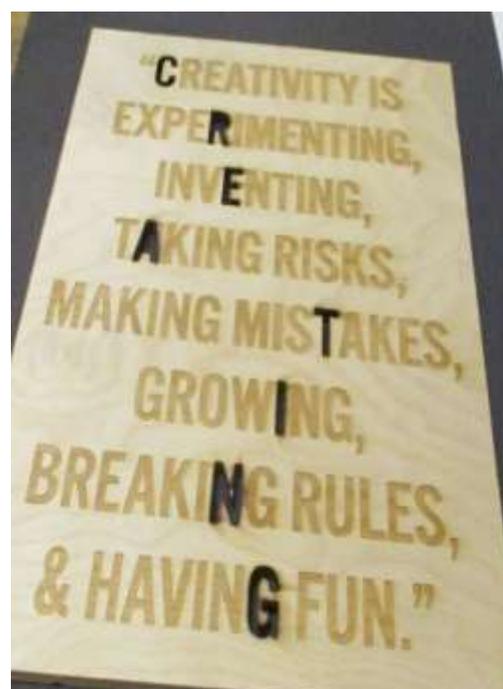
6267 reference questions were answered.

A total of 21 genealogy research questions were answered.

Library staff delivered 534 items to homebound members.

Interlibrary loan program secured 233 items for our patrons and loaned to other library systems a total of 248 items.

Volunteers donated 89.5 hours of their time plus Makerspace volunteers donated an additional 287.75 hours (Oct-March 10). **Final total hours equaled 377.25.** The value of volunteer hours equaled \$2434.40 plus makerspace volunteers equaled \$7826.80. **Final total value through volunteering equaled \$10,261.20.** Value is based on the 2020 Nebraska rate of \$27.20 per hour provided by the Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs.



## THANK YOU!

Morton-James Public Library's Board and Staff would like to thank the numerous community members, foundations, volunteers and organizations that have helped to support the Morton-James Public Library during 2019-20. MJPL would not have been able to serve the varied needs of the community without the valuable support demonstrated. We look forward to providing access and continuing to serve Nebraska City and surrounding areas in meeting its educational and entertainment needs.

## LIBRARY EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$367,376.18
Utilities	\$ 23,332.65
Repairs/ Maintenance	\$ 9,047.34
Contract Supplies/Services	\$ 9,170.93
Capital Outlays	\$ 3,398.40
Library Materials	\$ 44,925.33
Electronic Subscriptions	\$ 6,544.72
Computer	\$ 5,997.95
Donation Purchases	\$ 7,131.19
Endowment Purchases	\$ 32,525.14
Grant Purchases	\$138,414.58
Other Expenses	\$ 15,241.56
Aid Purchases	\$ 1,206.00
Loan Payment	\$ 51,815.77
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$716,127.74</b>

## LIBRARY REVENUE *MJPL stopped collecting late fees and non-resident card fees in March, 2020.*

Nebraska Library Commission-State Aid	\$ 1,496.00
Library Book Fees and Fines	\$ 2,909.83
Miscellaneous Book Sales	\$ 101.09
Library Donations	\$ 6,915.62
Library Endowments	\$ 32,769.46
Library Grants	\$242,757.88 includes \$3257.88 Cares Act grant paid to City
<b>Total Library Revenue</b>	<b>\$286,949.88</b>

## **DONATIONS ROUND UP**

### **Lifetime Library Sponsors**

Carol and Tim Crook   Nancy Baragary   Jim & Mary Callen

Linda and Tim Engel   Dave & Romana Gress

Ruth McMaster

Karen Tilson Memorial

### **2019 Annual Library Sponsors**

John & Nichi Barton   Mary Causgrove   Kent & Anna-Lena Heckman

Sharon Hersemann   Mary Jane Kellogg   Jacquelyn Kraenow   Sonya Kummer DDS

Jerry & Suzi Martin   Britt & Heidi Rosane   Dr. Paul & Debbie Salansky

Gary & Martha Schaffer   John & Teresa Schlorholtz   Todd & Terry Smith

Lori Waldon   Gail Wurtele   Chris Webster   Claudette Wielechowski

### **Designated Donations**

Better Life Chiropractic & Wellness–Children’s Library Materials and Exterior Preservation Project

Jim & Mary Callen-Children’s Library Materials

1895 Films Company-Newspaper Digitization

### **Memorials & Bequests**

Betty Davis Memorial

Martha Supernaw Memorial

Mildred Stahlhut Memorial

Betty Wilberger Memorial

### **Moller Endowment Funds**

*supported the following*

Audio-Visual Equipment Purchase

Association of Small and Rural Libraries Library Conference Attendance

Dollywood Imagination Library   Kanopy Streaming Film Service

Newspaper Digitization Project   Summer Reading Program

Ancestry Library Edition, Lynda.com, NewsBank, Mango Languages and World Book Database Renewals

## Grant Awards

### Exterior Restoration-Preservation Project

Paul, John, Anton, Doris Wirth Foundation  
Richard P. Kimmel & Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation  
The Steinhart Foundation  
Kropp Charitable Foundation  
Karl H. & Wealtha H. Nelson Family Foundation (earlier fiscal year)



### Library Census Equity Fund

American Library Association

## Library Board and Staff

### Governing Board

President: Brooke Chaney (Oct. '19-June '20) Molly McNeely (July '20-)  
Vice-President: Molly McNeely (Oct. '19-June '20) Cindy Patton (July '20-)  
Secretary: Chris Fletcher (Oct. '19-June '20) Cindy Patton (July '20-)  
Members at Large: Alan Fox (Oct. '19 -June '20)  
Nikki Johnson, Sue Little, Claudette Wielechowski (July '20-)

### Staff

Donna S. Kruse, Director Louan Beard, Assistant Director  
Amanda Winkler, Youth Services Manager Tom Boeche, Library Assistant  
Denise Davis, Reference Brenda Knickman, Interlibrary Loan

### Affidavit of the Morton-James Public Library Board

The members of the Morton-James Public Library Board, affirm that the information and facts contained in the Library's fiscal year 2019-2020 Annual Report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge.

Molly McNeely, Board President