



NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

FY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

NWRLS is a department of Bay County



Customer Visits:

463,399



Job & e-Government Sessions:

7,419



Class & Event Attendance:

39,690



Items Borrowed:

676,941



Users Receiving Technology Assistance:

20,211



DID YOU KNOW ?

- ⇒ NWRLS serves 200,000 residents of Bay, Gulf and Liberty Counties, plus thousands of visitors through eight libraries, a website, and numerous outreach activities.
- ⇒ Free Wi-Fi is available from all eight library locations.
- ⇒ Early childhood education classes build vocabulary, prepare children for school, and instill a love of reading and learning. They are also fun and provide socialization experiences.
- ⇒ Technology instruction includes workforce readiness training and job searching assistance.
- ⇒ Outreach activities provide educational services to underserved communities.
- ⇒ Taxpayer ROI in Florida Public Libraries \$1 = \$10.18 (<http://roi.info.florida.gov>)

LIBRARIES ENABLE SUCCESS

“Chloe has learned so much from being a part of Book Babies...Thanks to you she now wants to read daily, loves music, can count and knows her colors and animals.”

School Readiness and Emergent Literacy Education

“I came from section 8 housing and now I'm working on my Master's degree thanks to Public Libraries!”

Educational Resources for All Ages

“Both my boys attended your preschool programs. They are both voracious readers now in 2nd and 5th grade. Thank you all for helping to foster the love of reading in my children.”

Classes that Inspire Reading and Life-Long Learning

Highlights



⇒ The Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe changed operating hours to include Saturdays to provide access to members of the community who are unable to visit on weekdays.

⇒ Gulf County was selected by the Florida Humanities Council to serve as a PrimeTime Family Literacy site. The six-week program of reading, discussion, and storytelling for families with young children is designed to increase family bonding and reading time, improve reading attitudes and behaviors, increase public library use and improve student academic achievement. Nancy Brockman wrote the grant and is the Program Director.



⇒ Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN) Innovation Grants purchased Kindles loaded with ebooks for customers to borrow in Liberty and Gulf Counties (grant written by Gerry Giordano), and six Makerspace Mobile kits with activities to support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in our communities (grant written by Heather Ogilvie and Nancy Brockman).

⇒ Technology upgrades included new public access internet computers for Bay County, Panama City Beach, and Parker Libraries.

⇒ The Literacy Department added new classes at the Bay County and Panama City Beach Libraries to help meet customer demand. Library Literacy Tutors provided 1,180 hours of instruction this year, including 552 individual and 556 group classes.



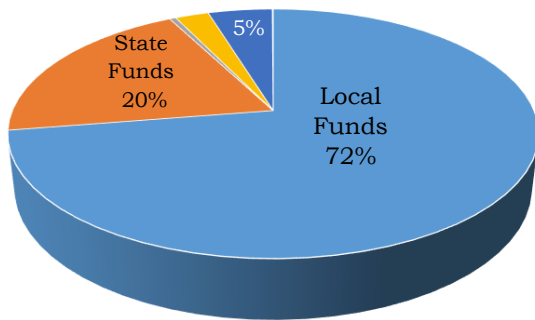
⇒ Several new programs were introduced including: a Local Recipe Cooking Contest organized by the Bay County Genealogy & Local History Department staff; a Doctor Who event at the Bay County Library with 400 attendees; computer coding classes taught by the Rhythmic Coders from Port St. Joe, adult art classes in Port St. Joe, and ukulele lessons at the Bay County Library. The Bay County Public Library hosted Newbery Award winning youth author Kwame Alexander, and bestselling adult author Karen White.

⇒ A new Outreach Librarian position was created to expand services to underserved residents.

⇒ Sarah Burris (Bay County) won the Florida Library Association's Outstanding New Librarian award for 2015 and Director Robin Shader was elected Vice President/President Elect for the Florida Library Association.

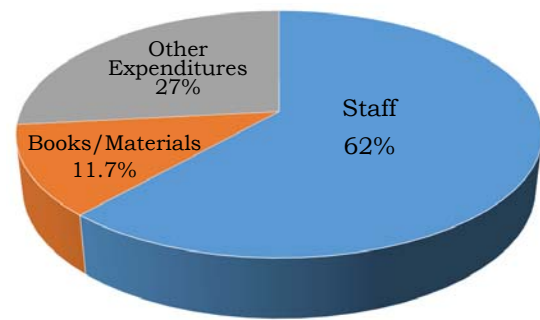


FY 2016 OPERATING INCOME - \$2,677,296



- Local Funds: \$1,940,130
- State Funds: \$532,473
- Federal Funds: \$12,489
- Donations: \$65,281
- Fines & Fees: \$125,128
- Other: \$1,795

FY 2016 OPERATING EXPENSES - \$2,970,735



- Staff: \$1,827,514
- Books/Materials: \$349,089
- Other Expenditures: \$794,132

USAGE BY LOCATION	Visits			Items Borrowed			Computer Uses			Program Attendance		
	2015*	2016*	Percent Change	2015*	2016*	Percent Change	2015**	2016**	Percent Change	2015	2016	Percent Change
Bay County Public Library	277,622	274,748	-1%	436,240	454,097	4.1%	132,087	104,241	-21.1%	20,845	24,404	17.1%
Panama City Beach	98,188	98,544	.36%	131,187	136,887	4.3%	63,843	36,261	-43.2%	9,818	8,217	-16.3%
Parker	19,096	16,617	-13%	10,998	10,998	0%	3,391	3,139	-7.4%	59	47	-20.3%
Springfield	20,549	18,704	-9%	13,906	12,427	-10.6%	8,577	9,264	8%	563	325	-42.3%
Port St. Joe	19,785	21,787	10.1%	34,242	36,847	7.6%	5,665	5,532	-2.3%	1,741	1,615	-7.2%
Wewahitchka	17,112	15,326	10.4%	15,627	14,638	-6.3%	8,194	6,962	-15%	1,313	998	-24%
Bristol	9,406	8,912	-5.3%	7,573	6,496	-14.2%	4,804	5,952	24%	453	620	36.9%
Hosford	9,274	8,761	5.5%	4,244	4,551	7.2%	2,811	2,598	-7.6%	2,982	3,464	16.2%
Total	471,032	463,399	-1.6%	654,017	676,941	3.5%	229,372	173,949	-24.2%	37,774	39,690	5.1%

* Items borrowed figures for Bay County Public Library include e-books and other digital item checkouts for the entire library system. Total digital downloads in FY 2016 were 34,172, an increase of 41.4% over the previous year. **Computer use calculations for all locations include Wi-Fi use.