

Annual Report 2017



JEFFERSON
COUNTY
LIBRARY

EXPANDING HORIZONS



“Thanks for making this the
social and intellectual center
of East Jefferson County.”
~ Library Patron

Message from the Director



Greetings from your new Library Director! Although I was only here for a few months at the end of 2017, I am delighted to be able to share some of our past year's achievements and am excited to look ahead to 2018.

The Jefferson County Library saw a major change in 2017 with the retirement of beloved former Director Meredith Wagner after 27 years of service to the library. In her final 10 months, Meredith oversaw the completion of a new roof on the library building, the construction of a covered area over the drive-up book returns, and the transition and training of a new Director. Her commitment to the library and its successes over the years has been phenomenal, and we wish her all the best in her retirement!

The library saw dramatic increases in use in several areas in 2017, including a nearly 9% increase in total circulation. Over 457,500 items were checked out, including 39,322 downloaded eBooks and eAudiobooks. Our per capita circulation was 21.9 items/person, over 2.5 times the national average of 8.6 items/person! The library also provided mobile services throughout the county with its

Bookmobile and HomeLibrary Service. Look for expanded mobile services in 2018 as we begin visiting Coyle every week and maintain Read-and-Return collections at new locations in Coyle and at the Tri-area Food Bank.

The Jefferson County Library continues to increase its role in providing educational programs, internet connectivity, and opportunities for community engagement. In 2017, over 11,600 people attended library programs, including Tech Tuesday classes in Quilcene, Books on Tap Trivia at Finnriver Farm & Cidery, summer reading programs for all ages, and film screenings at the library. Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs for kids continued to generate excitement and our highly regarded *Inquiring Mind* and *Great Decisions* lecture series' brought hundreds of people together to learn about and discuss a wide variety of topics. We look forward to continuing these great programs and integrating new ones in 2018, including a planned "Book-a-Librarian" service for one-on-one technology support and a financial literacy program series.

This library is, as one patron recently commented, "...the social and intellectual center of E. Jefferson County" and I am honored to now be guiding this institution forward. Please feel free to contact me with thoughts about your library at tmeredith@jclibrary.info.

GROWING

In 2017, we...



checked-out
36,360
more items



added
14,373
new items
to the collection



answered
22%
more reference
questions

Early Literacy



Libraries are founded on supporting literacy for all ages, and our programs start with the very youngest! We offer Baby, Toddler, and Pre-school Story Times focused on developing lifelong readers, learners, and thinkers.

21,848
attended
programs

STEAM

It's not enough to just read about technology and the arts – you have to get hands-on and messy if you really want to learn!

Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs provide the opportunity for youth to explore, design, build, and create.



“Dear Jefferson Library,
All I want to say is...
you're awesome!”
~ W.S.

Books on Tap



Our Books on Tap Trivia nights were a big hit in 2017. It's just one way we bring library programs into the community to meet people where they are –and have fun in the process!

“Your technical staff are
a community treasure!”
~ L.W.

“Historical perspectives were very
helpful... great program - keep it going.”
~ Patron Comment (Great Decisions)

Humanities

Bestselling author Anchee Min, featured at the annual Huntingford Lecture, captivated the audience of over 300 with her story of growing up in Communist China. The *Great Decisions* and *Inquiring Mind* programs bring in local and national experts to present and lead discussions on topics ranging from foreign policy to children's literature.



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EXPLORE



MOBILE SERVICES

Our Bookmobile serves hundreds of Jefferson County residents each month, including students at Quilcene and Brinnon Schools, by bringing a collection of books, DVDs, magazines, and access to the 150,000+ items in our library catalog. For those who cannot get to the Bookmobile or the library, our HomeLibrary service brings resources directly to patrons in their homes.

42,135
bookmobile checkouts



Libraries work to narrow the digital divide for residents who do not have their own computers or internet access, or need assistance learning how to use technology tools. In 2017, we assured access to information through technology by providing computers, wi-fi, printers, copiers, and scanners as well as training and support.

25,996
computer sessions

59,160
wireless sessions

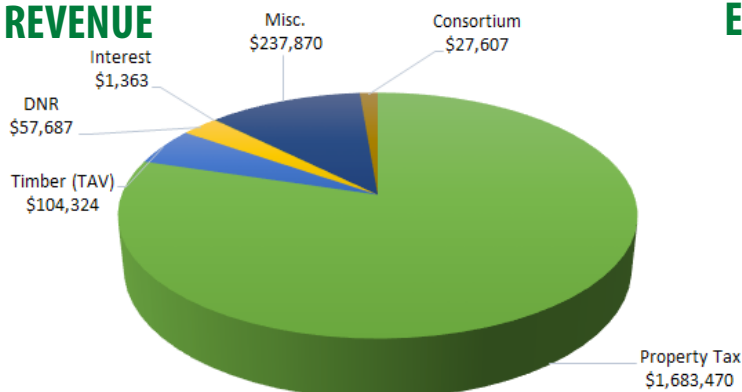
TECHNOLOGY



FINANCES

Jefferson County Library is a junior taxing district that includes all of Jefferson County except the City of Port Townsend. The majority of our funding is derived from property tax. In 2017, revenues totaled \$2,112,321 and operating expenditures totaled \$1,902,583. Surplus revenue is reserved to support future cash flow, operations, capital projects, and other funding needs.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES

