



Annual Report 2016

"The Merrill Memorial Library is a public library that makes available to all members of the community a broad range of materials, services and information. The mission of the library is to provide our patrons with educational, recreational and cultural enrichment and opportunities for independent learning and for personal and professional growth. The library trustees and staff will support this mission by providing an environment that is welcoming, stimulating, respectful and supportive."

The Library experienced significant growth in 2016. Much of this growth is attributed to increased visibility within the community owing to the recent improvements made to the facility in the 2014 renovation. Additionally, there was significant community input gathered for the compilation of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan document. Although the plan was not finalized until the fall of 2016, the Community Survey results were available earlier in the year and this gave the staff the ability to get a head start on initiatives identified in the plan.

The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan was presented to community members in October and is available in print at the Library as well as on the Library homepage, www.yarmouthlibrary.org. The Plan outlines several areas in which the Library Staff and Trustees will focus resources for the next 5 years. Early progress has been made in improving Library communications with the community, expanding the slate of programs for children and adults, developing services for local business owners and preparing for the eventual move to a statewide consortium platform.

Some 2016 data:

The meeting room usage by community groups doubled from 87 bookings in 2015 to 176 bookings in 2016. We added a dedicated laptop and an extra projector to the meeting rooms, as well as additional light blocking shades and sound absorbing acoustical panels, which significantly improved the room's performance. We continue to tweak the room usage process to allow for maximum efficiency and safety. Both rooms were enjoyed by non-profits and for-profit entities of many kinds.

We have added a regular outreach visit to Bay Square Assisted Living, which includes one staff member with a full complement of Library materials and resources.

New furnishings were installed in all of the Juvenile areas on the ground floor.

A new copier with SCAN & FAX capabilities was installed on the ground floor.

We provided free passes to area museums to 146 families.

We added a monthly matinee of a current release movie, and a twice monthly screening of classic films.

We resurrected our walk-in tech help program TECHSPRESSO, and helped people every Tuesday afternoon for 33 weeks.

Patrons downloaded audios and e-books 4750 times thru the downloadable Overdrive Library.

We borrowed 1414 items from other libraries across the country for our patrons.

We loaned MML items 112,000 times in 2016.

For children, we added two new adventure backpacks, "Birding" and "Astronomy".

We added the following new children's programs: monthly book group, Tail Waggin' Tales read aloud program, ECO-KIDS environmental club, Magic the Gathering open card gaming on Fridays and Pokemon the Card Game on Mondays.

We registered 437 children for the annual Summer Reading Program and expanded the program with outreach to include Wednesday Science in the Park and Mondays at Lunch Crunch.

We held 8 adult Reader's Circle book discussions, two titles in concert with the annual Camden Conference on Russia Resurgent.

We enjoy our place in the Yarmouth community and look forward to serving you all in the years to come. Your comments are welcome anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

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