



OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2021 Annual Report to the Community

Celebrating 150 years!



In 2021, the Olean Public Library turned 150! The first library in Olean opened its doors on August 15, 1871, in a space donated by John G. Pelton within his tailor shop on Union Street. At that time, the library charged annual dues to its members and was known as the Olean Library Association. Between 1871 and 1888, the library moved to several different temporary locations to house its growing collections, including the second floor of the Exchange Bank and the Olean Opera House.

By 1895, the library board began to consider how to become a free library and thereby access funding through the state of New York. On December 13, 1906, the institution was renamed the Olean Public Library and became free to all citizens of Olean, and in 1908 the board donated the library property to Olean's Union Free School District, allowing the library to be supported through annual school tax funding.

Now that the library had become publicly owned and free, Andrew Carnegie was willing to contribute \$40,000 to construct a new facility that would meet the needs of the rapidly growing Olean community. The cornerstone for the new building was laid on July 3, 1909.



By the mid-1960s, it became clear that the magnificent building was no longer a practical facility for library operations. After considering doubling the size of the Carnegie building, the board instead decided to renovate the former Loblaw's Supermarket into a new library that would easily be made handicapped-accessible. The library remains at this location to this day.



2021 Highlights

In 2021, the library won the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Lane ornament contest!



Approximately 500 patrons attended the Olean Public Library's 150th birthday party in August. The first 150 children received a free commemorative stuffed squirrel and were told that they must read to the squirrel daily to keep it happy! There were many activities including a prize wheel to win 150th promo items, face painting, birthday card making, balloon animals, and snacks.

You are invited to a birthday party!

Join us in library, during StrOlean, to celebrate our sesquicentennial year

Friday, August 13th between 12 and 4 pm.



The Library, in collaboration with the Race Unity Circle of Olean, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the WNY Foundation to run educational programs to spark conversations around race.

OPL was also awarded an outreach mini-grant from the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (CCLS) to enhance our current partnership with CORE: The Learning Center, by advertising the opportunities that English as a Second Language learners now have in the library, and to buy learning materials.

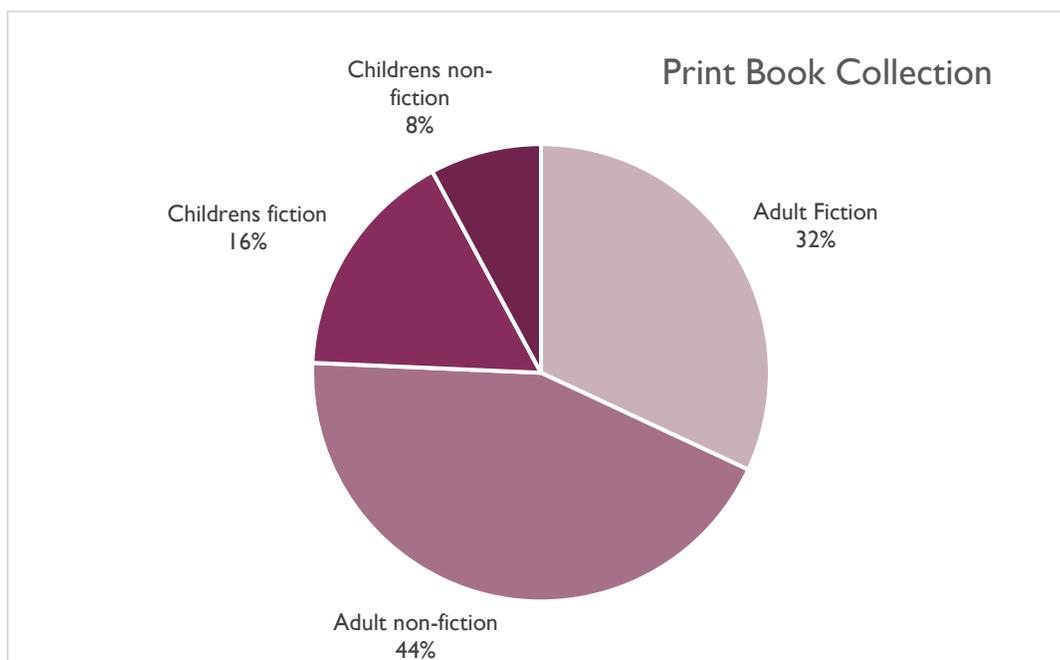
The Children’s Department was awarded two mini-grants from CCLS. One was used to provide items for the *Lobster Tales Cooking Club*, a program designed to boost literacy through cooking. The other was used to provide new yoga mats for the popular *Stories and Stretches* program, which helps give kids the tools they need to connect to creativity while acquiring listening and literacy skills, body awareness and character development.

A permanent endowment was established for the Library by former resident Kevin O’Connell and his wife Susan, in honor of Kevin’s late mother, Frances Bean O’Connell, who was an artist and ardent library user. The program helps fund high-quality arts programs at the Library. The endowment was named the Frances Bean O’Connell Arts Program Fund and is overseen by the Erie Community Foundation in Erie, PA.

In 2019, the Library received NYS Public Library Construction Aid in the amount of \$186,500 to replace two of its 30-year-old rooftop HVAC units with new energy-efficient units. In 2021, we put in another application this year to replace the remaining two older units, and because the funds were awarded, the Library will begin replacement work in 2023.

The Year in Numbers

COLLECTIONS



72,395 print circulations—**Value: Savings of \$1,230,715.00** if each title had been purchased instead of checked out at the library.

9,848 additions to the collection in 2021



Top 10 Most circulated Books

1. Naruto, by Masashi Kishimoto
2. Fullmetal Alchemist, by Hiromu Arakawa
3. Hikaru no Go, by Yumi Hotta
4. The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah
5. One Piece, by Eiichiro Oda
6. Bleach, by Tite Kubo
7. Death Note, by Tsugumi Oba
8. Dark Sky, by C.J. Box
9. Fortune and Glory, by Janet Evanovich
10. The Russian, by James Patterson

Top 10 Most Circulated DVDs

1. Star Wars
2. Honest Thief
3. Wonder Woman 1984
4. Star Wars the Last Jedi
5. The Dark and the Wicked
6. News of the World
7. Survive the Night
8. Made in Italy
9. Ad Astra
10. A Hidden Life



7,807 DVDs

29,261 electronic resources including 20,380 E-books and 8,660 Audio books

Beyond the 15 NOVEL NY collection of databases that cover many subjects, Olean Public Library purchases access to Ancestry Library Edition, JobNow, Skillshare, NY Times, WSJ, and the Foundation Directory – free to use in the library!



LIBRARY USAGE

65,338 visits to the library in 2021 compared to **130,488** Library visits in 2019. This reduction was due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

22,559 registered borrowers compared to **20,075** in 2019

7,261 computer sessions—a value to the community of **\$87,132 at \$12/hr**

5,473 Wireless sessions

5,233 in-person, telephone, and virtual Reference transactions, compared to **4,539** in 2019



PROGRAMMING

67 Adult Programs with **562 attendees**—a savings of **\$8430** in attendance fees

48 Teen Programs with **229 attendees**—that's **\$2748** your teen didn't ask you for!

123 children's programs with **1,628 attendees**—a savings of **\$11,396** in heartwarming activities with your little ones!

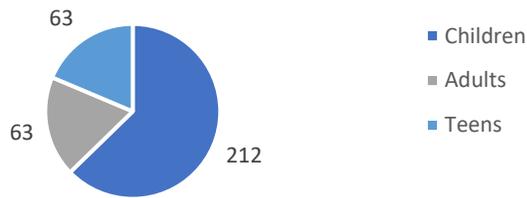


64 Early Literacy programs in 2021 with a total audience of **1005 attendees**



SUMMER READING

Summer Reading Log Participants



1022 Summer Reading Program attendees—Value: Savings of \$1,939 over places charging admission fees!



VALUE OF YOUR LIBRARY TAX DOLLARS

For a \$73,000 median home price in 2021, THE LIBRARY ONLY COSTS YOU **\$137** A YEAR

What you can buy for \$137 in 2021?

+ 14 movie tickets at \$9.57 each 

+ 1 year subscription to Amazon Prime 

+ 9 large pizzas at \$15 each 

Various nonprofit organizations used library meeting rooms *free of charge* for **105** programs, meetings, and other events, providing a **value to the community** of around **\$2,625** at \$25/hour – other local venues charge up to \$37.50 per hour!

