

Thank councilors for their support.

Reappointments to the Library Board will offer continuity needed to maintain a strong focus on serving both patrons and the Oshkosh community.

2022 library facts

Circulation: 475,206

Building visits: 195,791

Collection size: 263,691 + access to 273,364 in eBooks, eAudiobooks and downloadable video

Registered users: 30,819

Budget Advocacy

Making the case: Flat funding puts excellent library service at risk.

There has been no increase in city funding approved for the library in seven years, but costs continue to increase. Just as inflation stresses household budgets, inflation puts pressure on our ability to purchase library materials and to fund library services.

What could greater tax support accomplish?

A funding increase would help the library to advance important strategic goals and objectives.

Collection: The library needs to maintain a robust collection of materials in a variety of formats. Print, downloadable and streaming options all need budget support for OPL to provide the range of reading, learning and leisure experiences that meet the needs of today's patrons.

Downtown destination: A facility upgrade would attract more people to the library by making the building easier to navigate and more suitable for a wider variety of patron and community needs. A "marketplace" approach to showcasing materials would make them more accessible and help to increase use.

Library in the community: Extending service outside of downtown Oshkosh would make it more convenient for community members to use the library. Book drops and materials pickup; programming; and outreach (including issuing/updating library cards; and showing people how to use library resources).

Building relationships: Mobilizing more staff and other resources for community-focused partnerships, projects and collaborations would extend the benefits of library resources and expertise to a broader cross-section of the community.

Everyday Advocacy: Building relationships with stakeholders

Best practice: Building relationships helps when it's time to "make the ask."

- Invite councilors for a library tour/orientation. (staff)
- When speaking with a councilor, ask what they know about the library. Find out what's important to them to gauge how the library serves or could address that need.
- Invite them to a library program/activity that matches their interest.
- Report back what you learned after your meeting or conversation.

Trustee talking points: *OPL is here for the Oshkosh community.*

We're here for readers

- Our extensive collection is a reader's dream. Whether you're sharing the joy of picture books with your toddler, marching through chronicles of World War II or escaping into the latest bestseller, we have books for any reader.
- Professional children's librarians and other experienced staff can recommend books that will get children excited about reading and build their skills.
- We have a librarian who specializes in readers advisory – connecting adults with books they want to read. Get recommendations from library staff or order up a Book Bundle geared to your reading tastes.
- Get recommendations and connect with others who love to talk about what they're reading. Our eNewsletter; in-person book clubs and online book chats help readers stay engaged and build community around reading.

We're here to respond to community needs

OPL steps up when Oshkosh has needs we can help to meet. We're a polling place, a site for free legal assistance, a comfortable spot for Memory Café and a convenient place to get free notary service.

We're here for lifelong learners

Instructor-led online classes; self-paced language learning and practice tests for students are available on the OPL website with a library card.

We're here for job seekers

We have online career building resources as well as weekly sessions at the library with local employment experts who assist with job applications, resumes, interview skills and career counseling.

And we offer some things you might not expect from the library ...

- Pick up a day pass to a Wisconsin State Park
- Check out a Try-It-Yourself Kit to learn about papermaking, play the ukelele, practice art or try stargazing.
- Check out a Wi-Fi hotspot.
- Document shredding, laminating, faxing, photocopying and other support for home office tasks.
- Convert your VHS tapes to DVD or flash drive.