The Baxter County Library continued to experience remarkable growth in 2012. Overall Library program attendance for 2012 quadrupled since 2009 due in large part to the number of visitors who came to see the Library’s first grant-funded national traveling exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. Adult Program attendance more than doubled in the last year with the introduction of a selection of technology classes and an increased number of programs and exhibits. Also notable was a 65% increase in Teen program attendance.

Other numbers were up as well. Circulation numbers increased moderately in 2012. Ebooks, which were introduced to Baxter County Library patrons in 2011, accounted for 4.5% of total circulation in 2012. With eBooks and other valuable resources added to the Library’s website in 2012, visits to the Library’s website were up nearly 20% from 2011. The Library began tracking the use of the Library’s Wi-Fi service in March 2012.

In a 2006 sustainability study, The Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas projected baseline library revenues and expenses through 2016 with a 10% variation above and below baseline. With tax revenue collections essentially flat or declining in 2012 and a slight, anticipated increase in operating costs, the good news is that we are within the projected amounts, although we are at the lower projection for revenues and the higher one for expenses.

The Restricted Fund for Programs was established in 2011, and a Restricted Fund for Maintenance was established with a $2 million matching grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. Earnings from both of these restricted funds became available for use in 2012 to help defray program and maintenance costs.
2012 Highlights

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Grant Awarded

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Arkansas, the Library was awarded a grant to create a multi-generational event. *Fire in the Hole: Quilt Signals and Cannon Blasts* featured an entertaining and educational journey through Civil War history with a variety of exhibits and demonstrations including a Dutch oven cook-off, Civil War reenactors, *The Quilted History* exhibit, and the traveling exhibit *Civil War Arkansas: 1861–1865*.

TumbleBooks

*TumbleBooks* were introduced on the Library website in 2012. The collection offers three levels of instant access eBooks, audio books, and videos for kids of all reading levels, from animated and narrated picture books to eBooks for junior high and high school students.

Blackbird Café

The Blackbird Café opened in the Library February 16, 2012, and the response has been tremendous. Library visitors flocked to the Café for delicious coffee, sandwiches, and salads. Café-goers also enjoyed music nights and open mic nights. Income from the Café rental space is a source of revenue for the Library.

National Traveling Exhibit

**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War** Welcomed

The Library was one of only 50 locations to receive the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* exhibit on its first tour through the United States. Guided tours of the exhibit offered a unique look at Lincoln and his history-making decisions during the Civil War. Library visitors also enjoyed speaking appearances by Civil War experts, film screenings, and a book discussion and Skype visit with Robin Oliveira, author of *My Name is Mary Sutter*.
Community Orrery
Stations for the Sun, Mercury, Venus, and Earth were installed on Library grounds in 2012 as part of a 3-D scale model of our solar system. The project was the brainchild of Pinkston Middle School Science teacher Lynn Kelsh, who received a grant from the Mountain Home Education Foundation to fund the project. The Orrery was designed to help dispel misconceptions of the relative sizes and distances of the heavenly bodies in our solar system.

Technology Classes
New in 2012, technology classes taught by specially trained Library staff and volunteers addressed the needs of the 50 and older set with beginning computer classes designed for people with little or no computer experience. Library users also attended classes on how to download eBooks to their favorite eReader from the Library’s website. Approximately 350 people attended technology classes at the Library in 2012.

Discover Tech Exhibit Announced
The Library was selected as one of only eight libraries in the nation to host the Discover Tech exhibit coming in the fall 2013. The interactive exhibit will introduce visitors to engineers and how they use creative problem solving to affect our everyday lives. In 2012, Library staff was selected to conduct a pilot test of an engineering workshop for children and families called Playful Building that complements the Discover Tech exhibit.
Baxter County Library has two complementary support organizations -
The Friends of the Baxter County Library (FOL) and the Baxter County Library Foundation (BCLF).

Library Foundation

The Baxter County Library Foundation manages the Restricted Fund for Programs and the Restricted Fund for Maintenance. Interest from these funds became available in 2012 and was used for the first time to supplement the Library's operating budget.

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<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Library Foundation Revenue</th>
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<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>Unrestricted Donations</td>
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<td>Earnings on Restricted Funds</td>
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<td>Earnings on Unrestricted Funds</td>
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<td>Fundraisers</td>
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<td>Paver Stones</td>
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<td>Memorials/Honorariums</td>
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Library Foundation Board of Trustees

Jackie Edmonds, President
Julie Wright, Vice President
Elizabeth VanderStek, Treasurer
Deborah Knox, Secretary
Bobbi Brown
Deborah Chatman
Warren Haley
Steve Johnson
Gwen Khayat
Carol Landrum
Shonda Litty
Roger Pitchford
Katie King Risk
Francis (Sonny) Sharp
Barbara Skeffington
Nealus Wheeler
Pat Ballard, ex officio

Catherine Sawyer, Foundation Coordinator

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Baxter County Library reached a milestone in May 2012 when they presented the final installment on their commitment to the Library's Capital Campaign, bringing their total contribution to the Library's Restricted Fund for Programs to $100,000. The Friends of the Library's Used Book Sales and their annual *Share Your Treasures* auction raise money to support Library programs and services. In 2012, the Friends sponsored many of the Children's Summer Programs including science and art classes. They also sponsored the *Mother Daughter Tea*, the *Artmobile*, the *Young Arkansas Artists* exhibit, the Arkansas Arts Center's *Children's Theatre* performance, and teen programs including an author Skype discussion and *The Hunger Games* program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Support Provided by Friends of the Library</th>
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<td>Programs/Exhibits</td>
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<td>Materials/Misc.</td>
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<td>Staff Development</td>
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Friends of the Library Executive Officers

JoBelle Zimmerman, President
Janet Wheeler, Vice President
Audrey Burns, Secretary
Eileen Jenkins, Treasurer
Maureen Rozelle, Book Sale Co-Chair
Nancy Knopp, Book Sale Co-Chair
Margie Kelly, Online Sales
Mary Lou Duseberg, Ways and Means Chair
Mary Nida Smith, Hospitality Chair
Judy Purvis, Membership Chair
Nealus Wheeler, Foundation Liaison
Jackie Becker, Mailings Chair
**Library Staff**

In 2012, the Library had a full-time-equivalent staff of 17.

**Library Management Staff**
- Gwen Khayat, Librarian
- Danita Stine, Administrative Assistant
- Kim Crow Sheaner, Outreach Coordinator
- Brenda Knight, Circulation Manager
- Susan Nixon, Cataloging Supervisor
- Vincent S. Anderson, Reference Librarian
- Deborah Edmonds, Children’s Librarian
- Miranda Walters, Teen Librarian
- Kathleen Altazan, Adult Programs Coordinator
- Bill Cramton, IT Coordinator
- Julie Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator

**Volunteers**

The Library depended on a dedicated team of volunteers. In 2012, some 130 volunteers contributed 9,412 hours to the Library. We showed our appreciation with special events honoring our volunteers. Library volunteers were special guests at a picnic-themed dinner in April and were also treated to an ice cream social and front row seats on the Library lawn for the *Red White and Blue Festival* fireworks in June.

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**Library Board**

The Library Board is the governing body for the Baxter County Library. Members are appointed by the County Judge in accordance with state law and serve without remuneration.

- John Ahrens, Board Chair
- Francis (Sonny) Sharp, Vice Chair
- Sally Gilbert
- Heather Loftis
- Irvin DeAtley

**Library Advisory Board**

Library Advisory Board members act as liaisons between the Library and the community.

- Paul Bayless
- Cara Coleman
- Sonny Garrett
- Kelly Hagaman
- Anita Hayden
- Mary Kirby
- Lynn McAlister
- Joe Miles
- Robin Myers
- Ben Ponder
- Don Sharp
- Christina White
- Mike Willard
- Jo Wilson

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**Library Donors**

Library donors continued to pay their campaign pledges. In addition, new donors have joined their ranks. All donors contributing $5,000 or more to the Library are recognized on the Donor Wall in the Library entryway.
Looking Forward

Thanks to our Friends of the Library, Library Foundation, sponsorships, and grants, Library users can anticipate some really wonderful programming in 2013:
• Downloadable music from our website (Freegal)
• Discover Tech exhibit and related programming
• Pre-loaded eReaders for check out

The Library expects increased use due to enhanced programming, but property tax revenues which cover the largest part of our operating expenses are expected to decrease 3 to 5%, making it necessary to look for alternative revenue sources and partners to maintain services and programs. Although the Library millage has remained at 1 mill since the early 1950s, growth in the tax base and rising property values over the years have enabled us to grow with the community. Without new growth in the tax base, revenues will remain at the lower level for the next five years, impacting our ability to offer quality Library service.

Earnings from the Library Foundation’s Restricted Fund for Maintenance will allow us to keep technology current and functional, but will not provide for additional equipment or services.

A fun new fundraiser, Library Mini-Golf, will take place in August. A mini-golf course will be set up inside the Library for participants of all ages. There will be sponsorship opportunities at various levels, and an admission fee.

Discover Tech, an interactive exhibit for all ages, will arrive in the Fall. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this and future major exhibits as well as sponsorships at various levels for a variety of Library programs.

The coming year is bringing new challenges. We look forward to working through them with continued strong community support.