A Year for New Beginnings
2021 Timeline  Serving the public during a pandemic…

JANUARY
NAVI gates A MAJOR SOFTWARE CONVERSION OF THE INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM WHICH MANAGES PATRON AND MATERIAL RECORDS. THE NEW SYSTEM PROVIDES BETTER REPORTING FUNCTIONS AND COST SAVINGS.

FEBRUARY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION HELD THEIR FIRST VIRTUAL VALENTINE FUNDRAISER

APRIL
INCREASED NUMBER OF HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, OPENED SOME STUDY ROOMS WITH OCCUPANCY LIMITS, OPENED COMMUNITY ROOMS FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS, AND OFFERED A HYBRID OF IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

JUNE
FURTHER INCREASED HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND OPENED MEETING ROOMS FOR PUBLIC BOOKINGS WITH OCCUPANCY LIMITS

SUMMER
INTRODUCED OUTDOOR PROGRAMS UNDER THE LIBRARY TENT.

FALL
THE ART ODYSSEY TOUR OF ARTISTS’ STUDIOS TOOK PLACE AFTER SKIPPING THE 2020 TOUR.
HOSTED THE REIMAGINING AMERICA: THE MAPS OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXHIBIT
WELCOMED AUTHORS, IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY, DURING THE READ | WRITE | IGNITE LITERARY SERIES
The Outdoor Experience
Programming Evolution
The year started off with a line-up of virtual programs, which were a great way to stay connected during COVID. All Booked and Issues & View Points book clubs enjoyed discussing their reads via Zoom. Make It craft classes were a very big hit, with participants picking up their supply kits in advance of their virtual class time. Families could enjoy a new story time each week on Facebook.

As summer rolled around, it was time to try some safe, in-person programming by moving outdoors. A large tent, purchased with funding from the Arkansas State Library with American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, helped make outdoor programming possible.

Fun in the Shade
Summertime programs for children of all ages debuted under the “big top” in June of 2021, followed by featured authors such as Nancy Allen, during the Read | Write | Ignite Literary Series in the fall. The tent was also made available for booking by community organizations in need of a well-ventilated space to meet.

Evening Programs
Outdoor programming was not limited to daylight hours in 2021. Family Summer Movie Nights and a fall Stargazing Program rounded out the Library’s program assortment.
2021 Fast Facts

Library visits, total items circulated, and program attendance gradually began to shift back towards pre-COVID levels.

180,729 visits to the Library in 2021. compared to 75,562 in 2020. 139%

180,729 items circulated in 2021. compared to 137,722 in 2020. 31%

Program Attendance

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Teen</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Multi-Gen</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>2,967</td>
<td>3,006</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>8,190</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>7,109</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>9,761</td>
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</table>

26%
Followers Gained 10%
(3,576 → 3,933)
Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter total

Volunteer Hours 46%
(4,776 → 6,963)
Volunteers began to return as COVID conditions improved.

New Cards Issued 110%
(657 → 1383)
Renewing and Reconnecting
Driving positive change for Baxter County
Baxter County Early Literacy Project
In 2021, this community collaboration project remained devoted to its mission of preparing all Baxter County children with the early literacy skills they need to enter Kindergarten. After a break due to COVID, distribution of free children's books through the project's Little Free Library locations picked back up. Through participation in some community events, registrations for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs increased.

Community Outreach
As COVID restrictions eased a bit, Library staff were able to connect with more people out in the community. The Library and the Baxter County Early Literacy Project made a big splash at the 2021 Red White & Blue Festival as well as the Mountain Home Kindergarten registration event. The Early Literacy Project was also out interacting with costumed families at the Trunk or Treat event on the ASUMH campus.

Outreach Story Times
Youth Services’ Outreach Story Times resumed in the fall of 2021. This valuable program brings the Library to multiple pre-school programs in the area, providing regular story times and rotating book collections.
Creativity and Innovation

Challenging times such as a world-wide pandemic have a way of bringing out the best, most creative, and innovative ideas. The Library, already known for innovative programs and services, made the most of 2021.

Art On-Loan
The Library features an outstanding permanent collection of local and regional art, which was installed when the building opened in 2010. To freshen up the collection and give Library-goers some new art to enjoy, the Library introduced the first in a continuing series of On-Loan Art Exhibits in 2021. Exhibits feature art on-loan from area artists hand-selected by a committee.

New Technology
New security gates and self-checkout kiosks were installed in 2021, offering enhanced capabilities and convenience.
**Baby Space**
Library staff frequently observed moms chasing after their crawling little ones in the Children’s Library. Their solution was the Baby Space. Unveiled in the spring of 2021, it is an area surrounded by cushioned seating for moms, where little ones can play and be read to. The space features an easy to sanitize play mat, educational toys, and books.
2021 Foundation Donors

The Baxter County Library is extremely grateful to those who give to the Library. Our 2021 donors helped support a variety of Library programs and services.

201 Pet Salon and Resort
Advanced Auto Body Repair
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Catherine Allen
Marilyn Allen
Truby Allen
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Dale and Katherine Anthony
Stella Anthony
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Linda Jardine
Jay Chafin Insurance Agency, Inc.

*Our apologies if we have inadvertently left your name off of this list. Please inform us of this error by contacting foundation@baxlib.org
Volunteers Return

The Library depended on wonderful volunteers who helped provide unmatched service and support for the entire community.

Library Processing Volunteers (left to right) Margaret Park and Susan Nixon

Library Board
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Deborah Chatman
Robert Clarke
Carol Landrum
Joe Miles

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Jake Long
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Joe Miles
Robin Myers
Tobias Pugsley
Katie Risk
Nancy Scarpa
Debby Stanuch
Christina White
Beth VanderStek
A Friends of the Library volunteer, Margie Kelly, received a Gold level President’s Volunteer Service Award in 2021. A minimum of 500 hours is required to get a gold-level award. However, Margie went above and beyond with 1,133 volunteer hours, pricing books, and working with Friends of the Library during the Covid pandemic!

2021 Presidential Award Recipients
Gold
Margie Kelly

Silver
Margaret Park
Neal Wheeler

Bronze
Barbara King Soden
Carolyn Clark
Charlotte Smith
Chris Langley
David Smith
Donna Kimes
Eileen Jenkins
Janet Wheeler
Jim Clevenger
Jim Neff
JoBelle Zimmerman
John Reckard
Kathy Bauwens
Linda Brown
Margaret Weeks
Mary Lou Duseberg
Maureen Rozelle
Nancy Knopp
Susan Nixon
Tony Khayat

Volunteers
Jerri Anderson
Barbara Barnett-Koch
Linda Brown
Bonnie Elders
Donna Enright
Sandra Erney
Mary Ferron
Marti Frazier
Phil Gardner
Donna Gibbs
Karen Gillespie
Donna Greer
Bonnie Harris
Julian Herring
Eileen Jenkins
Bob Jones
Sharon Jones
Sharon K Jones
Annie Juarez
John Kelly
Margie Kelly
Dylan Kimbriel
Donna Kimes
Barbara King Soden
Nancy Knopp
Chris Langley
Karen McDonald
Genevieve McMillen
Judy McNabb
Jim Neff
Janet Newman
Charlie Newsom
Susan Nixon
Kathryn Nusbaum
Margaret Park
Evalyn Quinn
John Reckard
Jayna Rone
Maureen Rozelle
Noel Rozelle
Christine Schmid
Charlotte Smith
David Smith
Rosalee St. Clair
Aliceson Stallings
Suzanne Sutherland
Susan Thomas
Chris Thomas
Ginny Varn
Margaret Weeks
Janet Wheeler
Neal Wheeler
Jeanne Whittam
Gerald Wilde
Terry Wilson
JoBelle Zimmerman

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Financial Support

The nonprofits that give us the opportunity to be more for the community

Financial support from the Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library is absolutely essential to the Library’s operation. As indicated in the revenue chart, both organizations provide a significant source of revenue to the Library. Also in 2021, the Library received COVID relief funds provided by the Arkansas State Library American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and CARES Act funds. Funds were used for COVID related expenses such as a tent, tables, chairs, and a trailer to facilitate outdoor programming, as well as hygienic improvements such as touchless water faucets throughout the building.
Baxter County Library Foundation
Due to continued COVID safety concerns, the Library Foundation did not hold any in-person fundraising events in 2021. Online giving campaigns: Library Giving Day during National Library Week in April and the year-end Wrap It Up giving campaign were very successful. The Foundation also held their very first virtual fundraiser, Library Love Virtual Valentine event. Ticket holders picked up meal ingredients and champagne in advance. Also in 2021, the Foundation held their first event exclusively for Library Hill Legacy members. Library Hill Legacy members are philanthropically-minded people who have included the Library Foundation in their will.

Friends of the Library
The Friends held their first book sale of the year in May of 2021 with COVID precautions in place. They also awarded their annual college scholarships to three graduating Baxter County students and one Library staff member.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
Public libraries are enjoyed by people in every season of their lives, but it seems that people turn to the Library especially during times of major transition. 2021 was definitely a transition year. As the country began to cautiously emerge from COVID restrictions, many people began reexamining and reinventing their lives and careers, and they found what they needed in order to do that at the Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County.

If they were starting a small business, they found resources to guide them and used the Library as their first office space. If they were searching for the right job, they found public computers to complete job applications and online skills assessments for exploring new career paths.

The Library’s hybrid model of virtual and in-person programming in 2021 allowed folks to safely experience their favorite Library programs again. They delighted in their children's discovery of new things at story time. They fell in love with a new author through one of the Library’s book discussion groups or reading challenges. They prepared for college entrance exams, explored new hobbies, and reconnected with friends.

Moms enjoyed the Library’s new Mom Walk and Talk program. History buffs explored the Maps of Lewis and Clark exhibit. The Art Odyssey tour of artists’ studios was a hit with art lovers. The big tent on the Library lawn opened up a brand new, safe space for children’s summer science and art programs.

The Baxter County Early Literacy Project, a successful collaboration with Mountain Home Schools, Norfork Schools, Cotter Schools, the Schliemann Center for Women’s Education, ASUMH, and other early literacy advocates, made great strides with their many outreach programs in 2021 aimed at preparing all Baxter County children with the early literacy skills they need to start Kindergarten.

The Library seized the opportunities that 2021 brought for renewing and reconnecting with the community we serve, and 2022 promises even more. In January, look for the reintroduction of beginning technology classes such as Intro to Windows and Intro to iPads for adults and a new story time just for children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade called Big Adventures. Literature fans will enjoy an exciting line-up of guest authors for the Read | Write | Ignite Literary Series this spring and children of all ages can look forward to the fun-filled, Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading program. In the fall, the Library will welcome an exciting exhibit, Diamonds, from the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Library in 2022!

Kim Crow Sheaner
Library Director
Sincere appreciation goes to our amazing Library staff for their outstanding work and commitment to serving our community in 2021. Housekeeper Candy Tuck (not pictured) retired in July 2021 after 11 years with the Library.

Library Goals

1. Expand our reach
2. Rethink our delivery of lifelong learning
3. Make an impact on literacy
4. Enhance the Library experience
5. Align ourselves with community initiatives
6. Cultivate and improve our stewardship of resources
7. Grow staff and volunteers