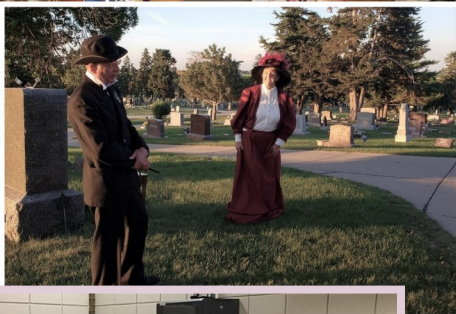


# Yankton Community Library

## 2021 Annual Report



**“I don’t have to look far to find treasures. I discover them every time I visit the library.”**

**Michael Embry**

## ... Letter from the Director ...

In 2021, the world continued to change in ways that many of us never saw coming. Several months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the library was still going strong and finding new and creative ways to support the community. It became apparent that some of our new protocols were here to stay such as more frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces, the convenience of curbside pick-up, and the opportunity for “trial cards” for those individuals living outside of Yankton city limits. Through the first half of the year, the library was open to the public but all of our programming remained virtual. We continued offering Take & Make kits for all ages, with some of our most popular kits offering an opportunity to make your own Boba Tea and Hot Cocoa Bombs. In June 2021, we resumed in-person programs with the start of our Summer Reading Program. We were thrilled with the number of attendees we had throughout the summer, with many events having record numbers! Some of the highlights included Starr Chief Eagle (160 participants), the Cemetery Walk (123) the Zoo Man (200) and Big Bang Bubbles (300).

Teen engagement was revitalized with the introduction of Teen Subscription Bags in May. “Subscribers” received a book picked specifically for them based on their preferences along with a few extra goodies that they got to keep each month. Attendance at teen programs also grew steadily as new programs were introduced. Another significant achievement of 2021 was being awarded a \$100,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan Act. This money was used to digitize the microfilm of the Yankton newspapers beginning in 1860 as well as updating every public and staff computer and data wiring throughout the building! Though we saw some changes in staff during this time, one thing did not change—the dedication, compassion and creativity demonstrated by our staff, Friends of the Library, Library Foundation and Library Board of Trustees. I feel lucky to be part of the story of this wonderful library and the impact it has on the community.



**Dana Schmidt , Library Director**

## ... Staff ...

Linda Dobrovolny	Assistant Director / Technical Services
Victoria Caine	Youth Services Librarian
Kelly O'Dea	Library Assistant
Danita Eckert	Library Assistant
Jeremy Hoeck	Library Assistant
Tahlia Reynolds	Library Assistant
Emma Bargstadt, Jill Paulson, Lizz Nedved, Mikael Pietila, Karley Schieffer, Marcus Teel	Part-time Circulation Assistants

## ... Library Board of Trustees ...

The Library Board of Trustees is composed of six Mayoral/City Commission-appointed positions plus a County Commission representative. It also includes a representative from the City Commission. The Board of Trustees is a volunteer governmental body with various policy-making responsibilities. They meet monthly at the library and also participate in training so that our library can maintain Enhanced Accreditation Status within the state. The 2021 Board of Trustees was composed of Sarah Mechtenberg (President), David Koerner (Vice President), Christine Tielke, Jean Huff, Sue Otterman, Jerry Weber, and Dan Klimisch.

## ... Yankton Community Library Foundation, Inc. ...

The Yankton Community Library Foundation, Inc. has as its basic purpose the promotion of the continued growth and development of the Yankton Community Library, its general welfare, and its public relations. The Foundation sponsored the sale of YCL sweatshirts and t-shirts to community patrons as a fundraiser in 2021.



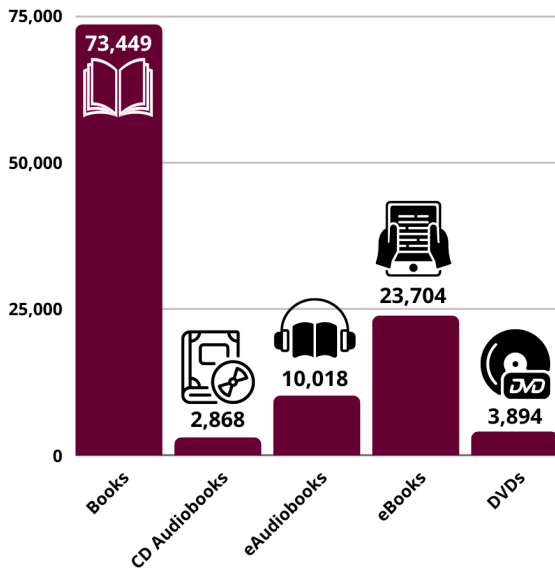
## ... Friends of the Library ...

The Friends raise money for the Yankton Community Library through regular used book sales. The proceeds of these sales benefit the library and its patrons by sponsoring purchases and projects that are outside of the library's regular budget including performers for the Summer Reading Program, new toys for imaginary play, and supporting the microfilm digitization project. The Friends continued to offer outdoor book sales in 2021 when the weather was agreeable and began offering new benefits to Friends members, including a chance to shop early at the indoor sales and receiving a free book at every sale. The Friends of the Library also began working with Better World Books (BWB). They are able to scan books that are weeded from the library collection or have not sold at previous sales to determine whether to send them to BWB. If BWB resells these books, a portion of the profit comes back to the Friends of the Library. This is a great way to help the Friends share books with others and manage their very limited storage space with the bonus of earning proceeds for the Friends of the Library!



# ... Collection, Circulation & Services ...

## LIBRARY COLLECTION



## LIBRARY CIRCULATION



**Whatever the cost  
of our libraries,  
the price is cheap  
compared to that  
of an ignorant nation.**

**Walter Cronkite**  
American broadcast journalist  
1916-2009

**5,307** NEW  
ITEMS ADDED TO  
THE COLLECTION  
IN 2021

**INTERLIBRARY  
LOAN**  
1,079 IN  
312 OUT

**PUBLIC  
COMPUTER USE**  
  
USERS...4,177  
HOURS...2,003

**WiFi**  
  
SESSIONS...11,037  
HOURS...13,514

# ... Collection, Circulation & Services ...

**GRAB & GO**

JANUARY - MAY

6,453 VISITS

**2,811**

CURBSIDE PICKUPS







**Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.**

**Kate DiCamillo**  
American children's fiction author

**PROCTORED EXAMS**  
38

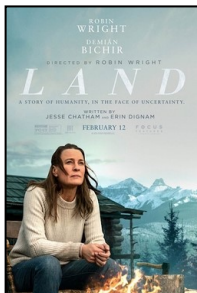
**STUDY ROOM USE**  
191 SESSIONS  
324.5 HOURS

**MEETING ROOM USE**  
BY LIBRARY:  
202 SESSIONS ... 370 HOURS  
NON-LIBRARY:  
115 SESSIONS  
172 HOURS

## ... TOP TITLES FOR CHECK-OUT IN 2021 ...

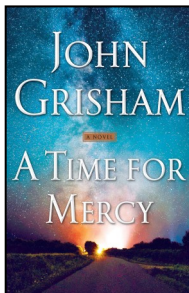
### ADULT DVD



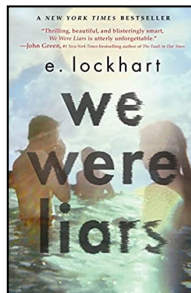
### ADULT TV SERIES



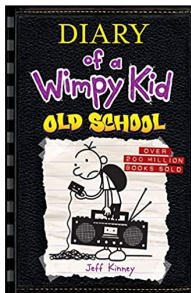
### ADULT FICTION



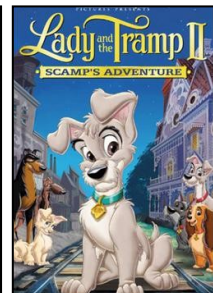
### YA FICTION



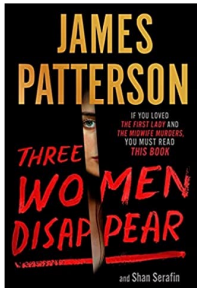
### JUNIOR FICTION



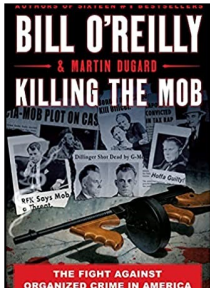
### JUNIOR DVD



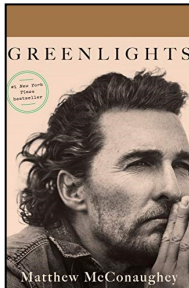
### ADULT CD BOOK



### ADULT NONFICTION



### BIOGRAPHY



### JR GRAPHIC NOVEL



Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.

Mortimer J. Adler  
American author (1902-2001)

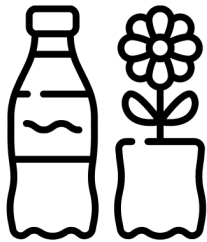
# ... Special Events & Programs ...

## Operations in the COVID era...

For the first several months of the year, YCL hosted over 30 virtual programs such as storytimes held at bedtime and book discussions. During this time, the library staff worked to keep children and adults engaged by providing Take & Make kits such as paracord bracelets and Boba (bubble) tea kits. Over 600 Take & Make kits were distributed between January and May.



## TAKING LIBRARY FUN HOME

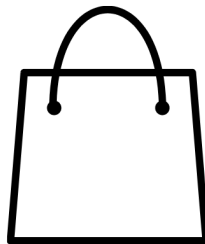


693

CRAFT & ACTIVITY KITS

129

TEEN SUBSCRIPTION BAGS



## VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

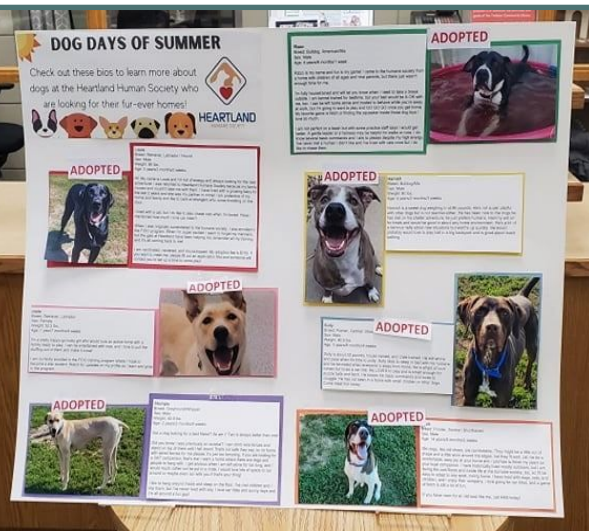
January - May 2021

# OF KIDS' PROGRAMS  
49

ENGAGEMENT  
(VIEWS, LIKES, COMMENTS & SHARES)  
4,055

# OF TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS  
21

ENGAGEMENT  
(VIEWS, LIKES, COMMENTS & SHARES)  
457

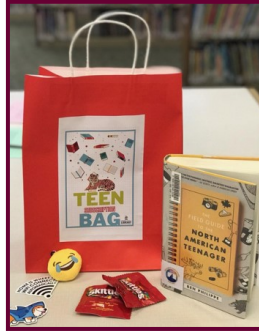


Over the summer, YCL partnered with Heartland Humane Society in Yankton and helped several deserving canines get new, loving homes!!

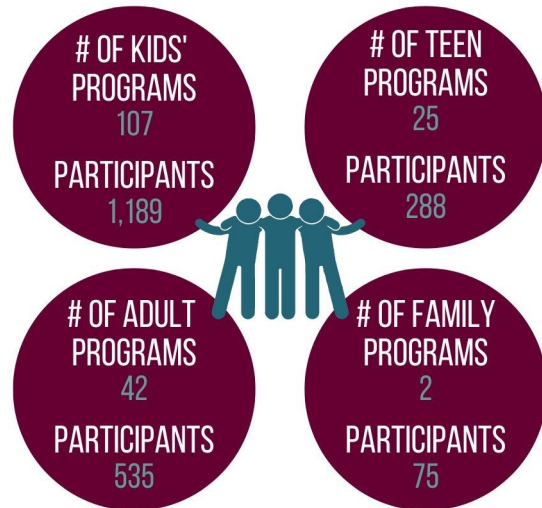
# ... Special Events & Programs ...

## New Teen Programs...

Teens were in for a special treat in 2021! YCL started a monthly teen subscription bag program. Any teen (grade 6 and up) who loves to read can sign up. They simply answer a few questions about their favorite books and what they like to read. From there, the library staff handpicks a great book for the teen based on their interests and prepares it for pick up with snacks and other fun treats. Youth Services Librarian Victoria Caine also helped to grow teen involvement at YCL through the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Teen representatives in TAB meet monthly and discuss ideas for teen activities and programs at the library.



## IN PERSON PROGRAMMING



In May, the Yankton Community Library hosted an amazing family event—an outdoor showing of *Sing!* Patrons brought their own outdoor seating and enjoyed the spring weather. In October, YCL hosted an interactive family movie night with the showing of *Boss Baby*. During the movie, viewers were given props that they could use during the movie by following a provided script. For example, when there was bubbles in the movie, viewers were encouraged to blow bubbles. If there was an action scene, they could do a karate chop or when a main character said a specific catch phrase, they were given a phrase to shout out.



## Are you following us on Facebook?

We are working hard to keep our patrons up to date on everything that is going on at the library including reading programs, library resources, events, challenges and more. Don't miss out. Like, share & follow us TODAY!



## ... Special Events & Programs ...

### Summer Reading Program

The 2021 Summer Reading Program, with the theme of "Tails and Tales!", was a huge success. Children earned beads by logging their reading time while teens and adults completed reading challenges for entry into prize drawings.

As always, programming was a big part of summer. For youth, highlights included performances by Storyteller Will Stuck, Hoop Dancer Starr Chief Eagle and Science Steve. For adults, the Cemetery Walk is an annual classic and, in keeping with the summer theme, Roger Dietrich was invited to share a presentation on his wildlife photography. The total attendance for June and July events was nearly 900 individuals of all ages.



Starr Eagle Chief (above), the Zoo Man (bottom right) and the Cemetery Walk (bottom left) were just a few of the favorite programs featured in this year's Summer Reading Program.





## ... Special Events & Programs ...

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM



387 PARTICIPANTS:  
CHILDREN & ADULTS

MINUTES READ BY CHILDREN = 128,996

18

CRAFTS &  
ACTIVITIES

526  
PARTICIPANTS

9

EVENTS &  
PROGRAMS

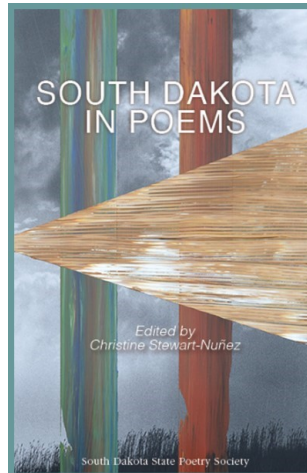
894  
PARTICIPANTS

### STEM Youth Programming

In June, YCL held an Owl Pellet Dissection program for elementary-aged youth. Pellets are a record of what owls have eaten, and scientists can study them to learn more about the owl and the ecosystems in which they live. When kids dissect owl pellets, they can see and identify the tiny bones from that owl's meal, can learn about the owl's diet and place in the food web.



scientists can study them to learn more about the owl and the ecosystems in which they live. When kids dissect owl pellets, they can see and identify the tiny bones from



In honor of National Poetry Month, YCL hosted a live virtual Book Talk with South Dakota Poet Laureate Christine Stewart-Nuñez in April to discuss the anthology that she recently edited, called *South Dakota in Poems*, as well as her other books of poetry.

### A *Beautiful Snow* Author Talk

Author Cindy Wilson visited YCL in October to discuss her book *The Beautiful Snow: The Ingalls Family, the Railroads, and the Hard Winter of 1880-81*. The novel beautifully details the dramatic events of a winter of never ending blizzards, leading to railroad blockades that all but cut off fledgling communities in southwestern Minnesota and southeastern Dakota Territory.

Pulling from regional newspapers and historic photographs, Wilson's presentation provided an overview of her book, covering the hard winter of 1880-1881 and reviewing the weather, the railroad efforts to battle the snow, food, fuel, and boosterism.

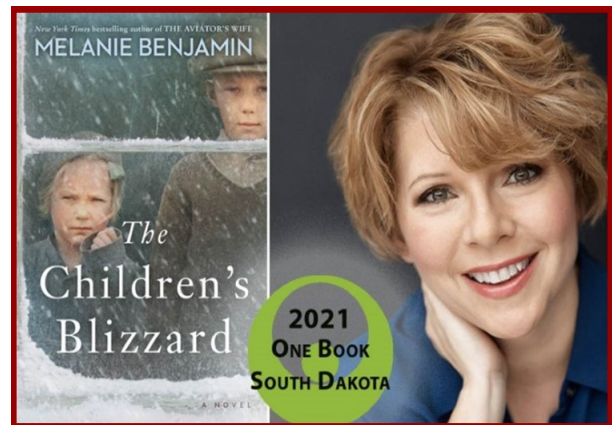


## ... Special Events & Programs ...

### Historic Yankton Walking Tours Make a Revival...

The Yankton Community Library was excited to revive "Who Lived in that House" in 2021 with a monthly series of walking tours in August, September and October. Each month, a different historic neighborhood was explored and participants were able to learn more about the unique character of these Yankton neighborhoods.

### One Book South Dakota Virtual Discussion



## ... Special Events & Programs ...

On July 27, YCL hosted a virtual discussion of the 2021 One Book South Dakota selection, *The Children's Blizzard*, by Melanie Benjamin. Dr. Jamie Sullivan, a South Dakota Humanities Council scholar, led the discussion. Ms. Benjamin, a New York Times bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife* and *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* joined virtually to share insights about the writing of her book and answer patron questions.

*The Children's Blizzard* tells a thrilling story whose setting includes areas near Yankton. Inspired by a ferocious storm that struck Dakota Territory in 1888, the 2021 One Book South Dakota is a historical novel that hits close to home. When planning the book, Benjamin said she wanted to write a true story about a historical event that was "grand and dramatic and sweeping."



YCL is about more than just books!  
There are hands-on learning toys  
and other activities that are FUN for all ages!

### Mixing up some flavor at the library...

YCL was so excited to partner with Connecting Cultures for an event to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in October 2021. Two presenters, representing 5 different Hispanic countries, shared a little about each country — including how salsa is made — as part of the Salsa Demo & Tasting program. Patrons had the opportunity to sample different salsa variations as well as share their own recipes.



## ... Mission ...

The mission of the Yankton Community Library is to uphold the public's freedom of access to information by providing a dynamic collection in a variety of formats and technologies, and responding to the needs of the community through timely services and programs.

## ... Core Service Values ...

### **Providing Access .....**

We believe that free access to information is foundational to democracy and as such libraries have an obligation to provide free and equitable access to all patrons, regardless of their age, race, sex, gender identity, religion, political affiliations, socioeconomic statuses, national origin, marital status, or abilities.

### **Promoting Lifelong Learning .....**

Learning doesn't begin and end with formal education; libraries have been called the "people's university." We strive to rise to this label by providing vibrant collections, digital opportunities and training, and interesting programs to our community.

### **Increasing Community Engagement .....**

Communities are stronger when we embrace and interact with one another. The library believes that this strength is built through daily interactions with our friends and neighbors in public spaces such as libraries. Libraries are one of the only places people can go that do not cost money. This, we believe, is an excellent environment for promoting community engagement.

### **Exceeding Expectations .....**

Our patrons are at the heart of what we do. By striving to exceed their expectations every day in our offerings, our interactions, and our collections, we build a stronger library and a better library experience for all.



## **Yankton Community Library**

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Yankton, South Dakota  
(605) 668-5275

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<http://library.cityofyankton.org>