Oh, the places you will go! As 2022 fades into 2023, I have been reflecting on the growth libraries have made over the last several decades.

When I began my career in libraries in late 1999, everyone was predicting that the Internet would kill libraries. With search engines like Google and the invention of smart phones, everyone has billions of webpages and information in the palm of their hands, and this, they said, would mark the end of libraries. Instead, libraries changed and became stronger. Neil Gaiman once wrote, "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

The end of libraries was again predicted with the invention of the e-book. Instead, libraries once again evolved. Librarians recognized that the story was important in whatever format the person prefers: print, audio, e-book, video, or streaming content. So now, libraries are the biggest buyers of e-books and downloadable audiobooks, and our e-content has been soaring in circulation as a result.

Modern libraries evolved from stuffy, quiet spaces for book storage and deep concentration to light, airy, open concept gathering spots for the community but still with an emphasis on reading and learning. However, we no longer shush, and the library is welcoming to all.

Polk County Library has also evolved over the last 20 years too! 20 years ago, we still used the old card catalogs and had no online presence. Now that is an integral part of our services. It has allowed us to have access to more items than ever before from all over the United States.

In the last 20 years, Polk County Library has tripled the residents who own library cards and has grown in every statistic we keep. While a pandemic hurt us, we are roaring back! Now we begin an improvements and upgrades project for the Rayl Family Library in Bolivar this Spring to allow us to continue to grow and change.
2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

**Income**
- Property Tax: $804,727
- RR & Surtax: $88,426
- Dunnegan Trust: $16,937
- Grants: $49,130
- MO State: $47,114
- Library & Misc: $24,114
- Total: $1,030,448

**Expenses**
- Capital Purchases: $6,335
- Grants: $33,522
- Insurance & Audit: $27,393
- Maint. & Utilities: $64,346
- Materials: $100,988
- Office Sup. & Misc: $14,515
- Wages & Benefits: $581,749
- Programs: $4,761
- Technology Serv: $30,518
- Total: $864,128

**WHERE THE MONEY WENT**
- Wages and Benefits: 66%
- Library Materials: 12%
- Library Services: 10%
- Operating Costs: 12%

**GRANTS**
- RECEIVED: $49,130
- AWARDED: $6,400
  - TECHNOLOGY GRANT
    - Grant: $5,941
    - Description: Photo scanning, computer, barcode readers
  - SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT
    - Grant: $6,600
    - Description: Books, performers, staff & supplies
  - AUTHOR VISIT GRANT
    - Grant: $5,000
    - Description: One County, One Read for Roland Smith
  - PANDEMIC RESPONSE GRANT
    - Grant: $17,240
    - Description: Presentation system upgrade, $11,499 received in 2022
  - STRENGTHEN MO GRANT
    - Grant: $11,000
    - Description: Digital content
  - TECHNOLOGY GRANT
    - Grant: $12,800
    - Description: Children’s learning stations and tablets: Awarded, $7,963 outstanding
2022 BY THE NUMBERS

65297 visitors
22318 library cards

550 programs
7850 attendance
8337 wifi users
9117 computer users

154920 items checked out
68353 physical items
4714 items added

5 Yr Trends

Library Visitors

Library Cards

Items Checked Out

Program Attendance
Rayl Family Library In Bolivar
Improvements and Upgrades 2023

Please excuse our mess and disruptions in service in the coming year as we renovate the Bolivar Library.

When we are done, new services and new layout will improve your experience.

Improvement Highlights:

- Outdoor Patio
- Bigger Children's Area
- More Seating and Conversation Areas
- More Bathrooms
- Community Meeting Room Upgrades
- Better Traffic Flow