BUILDING COMMUNITY

Celebrating History • Creating Connections • Inspiring Imagination

Paid for by the Blount County Friends of the Library
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In 2014, the Blount County Public Library (BCPL) Management Team, using the principles outlined by the Harwood Institute for public libraries (http://www.ala.org/transforming-libraries/libraries-transforming-communities/turning-outward), identified four priorities around which services were developed. These priorities were: 1) Develop organized spaces for interaction, 2) Build informal networks and links, 3) Become a boundary-spanning organization, and 4) Facilitate conscious community discussion.

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2016, the BCPL Staff, Board of Trustees, Library Foundation and Friends of the Library worked together to implement a new direction for public library services in Blount County, which culminated in the development of a formal business plan adopted in March 2015.

Library resources were focused on providing expanded learning opportunities through one-on-one instructional sessions, workforce development training in partnership with other county organizations, and the development and implementation of a “ready-to-read” early literacy program based on the American Library Association’s Every Child Ready to Read program.

In 2016, Adult program offerings increased 102% over 2014 program offerings with an increase in attendance of 71%. The same comparison for Children’s offerings and attendance reveals a 22% program increase in 2016 with attendance increasing by 35% over 2014.

Other accomplishments include: the installation of an 18 screen digital signage system including two smartboards, a video conferencing system and the Tightrope digital solution software, implementation of a HotSpot rental program to expand high-speed Internet access to residents, renovation of the old First Tennessee Bank Building into the Learning Lab @BCPL as a learning space for adults, and the development and implementation of a Life-Skills curriculum with the Blount County Recovery Court that provides 48 hours of training to recovery court participants.
The Blount County Public Library empowers residents to think, act, and aspire by providing opportunities to connect to our community, participate in life-long learning, and explore the world at large.
While BCPL is still a place for residents to interact with information resources, another vital role emerged during the strategic planning process: BCPL should serve as a place for community members to connect with one another. At BCPL we believe in democratic education and that our community holds the tools to its own success. By facilitating the creation of communities of learning, BCPL has helped fill in the gaps by providing a space for residents to generate new knowledge.

Between 2014 and 2016, the number of BCPL-sponsored adult programs grew 102%. In 2016 BCPL provided a total of 450 adult programs with new adult program development focusing on services to senior citizens, literary events and cultural presentations, as well as the annual Summer Reading Program. Professional staff members were encouraged to participate in the community through membership and partnerships with organizations that support sustainable community development.

In 2016, a monthly average of 318 meetings were held at the Library. Community groups that regularly met at the Library included the Rotary Club of Maryville, the Adult Education Foundation of Blount County, the Blount County Beekeepers Association, the Blount County Arts & Crafts Guild, Blount County Potters Guild, Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society, Blount County Republican Women, Blount County 4-H, Blount County Master Gardeners, Blount County Photo Club, Blount British Cars, Blount County Memorial Foundation, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, Mary Blount DAR, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the AARP Tax Aide program, and Blount County United Education Committee.

Additionally, a variety of local businesses and business organizations made use of library spaces to grow their businesses and support economic development in the community. Businesses scheduling library meeting spaces included BNI Blount Business Professionals; Blackberry Farm; Farm Bureau; First Community Mortgage; Anderson and Small, PLLC; Providence Advisors Group, LLC; REO Referral Excellence Organization; Foothills Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Foothills Weight Loss Specialists; United Healthcare; and Humana.

The Library also hosted meetings for government offices on the state, regional and local levels including the TN State Library and Archives, Ocoee River Regional Library, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, BC Agricultural Extension Office, Maryville City Schools, Blount County Commission, Blount County School District, and Blount County Recovery Court. In 2016, the Library began serving as an early voting location in partnership with the Blount County Election Commission.
4,301 People
Attended Summer Reading Programs in 2016

3,818 Meetings
6,707 Hours
Community Meetings in 2016

19,373 People
Attended Adult Programs in 2016
Focus On Seniors
The Library partnered with the Blount County Office on Aging to present monthly Focus on Seniors programs from September through November and January through April each year. The Focus on Seniors program series covered topics of special interest to senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers. Programs included Dementia: Ways for Families & Caregivers to Cope; Estate Planning: Wills, Trusts & Probate; Medicare: Basics & Changes; Medicare: Review & Part D Drug Plans; Fall Preventions and Chronic Disease Self-Management; and A Major Life Event Occurs: What are the Financial Options?

Hot Summer Nights Concert Series
The Blount County Public Library presented the Hot Summer Nights concert series for five weeks during the months of August and September each year. This concert series was presented in the Main Gallery every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. Featured artists in 2015 and 2016 included Classic Q Band, Ebony & Ivory, Pistol Creek Catch of the Day, The Outdoor Sisters and Ryan Worden, EmiSunshine, Wendel Werner and Alan Eleazer, Spencer’s Own and The Young Fables. This series also included one performance each year by the Knoxville Opera Association. This program series is sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library.

Mini-Con: A Free for All Ages Comic Convention
BCPL’s version of a comic convention and is the family-centered event that officially kicks off summer reading. The first Mini-Con was held in 2015 and continues to be one of the best attended family programs offered by the Library. Mini-Con 2016 was attended by over 800 participants across all age groups and featured fun activities such as sword fighting demonstrations, an acting class, a local authors panel, team trivia, a karaoke party, Lego Challenge, costume design, create your own comic, a cosplay contest and pizza! Mini-Con is sponsored by the Blount County Friends of the Library.

Southern Appalachian Studies
There has long been a demand for programs centered around Appalachian themes. In 2015, the BCPL Information Services department created the Southern Appalachian Study Center to enrich local knowledge on Appalachia and to facilitate an ongoing community conversation to preserve and share the rich history of the region. The Center’s lecture series was launched in February of 2016, providing to date ten lectures on topics including the natural history of Southern Appalachia, climate, European immigration into Southern Appalachia, Native American history of the southeast woodlands Indians, hillbilly culture, folk medicine in Southern Appalachia, Grandma Gatewood and the Appalachian Trail, education in Southern Appalachia, beekeeping, basketry, and Christmas in Southern Appalachia.

Foothills Voices Project
The Foothills Voices project is a writing and research course for novice or amateur writers, aimed at creating authentic nonfiction about and in the voices of everyday East Tennesseans. Completed works are currently being compiled into a professionally published anthology, forthcoming in summer 2017. In addition to instruction and feedback from library staff and research consultant and author Nancy McEntee, the student writers had workshops with University of Tennessee writing instructors and heard presentations from a range of researchers and writers, including Bill Landry, author and host of “The Heartland Series”; historical novelist Pamela Shoewenaldt; freelance writer Kate Clabough; Alcoa city historian David Duggan; and Knoxville Mercury writer and local historian Jack Neely. The class and anthology were the first in a biennial series.
Michael Ferschke Bust

In August 2016, BCPL, along with the Blount County Veterans Affairs office and the Blount County community, celebrated the installation of the Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke, Jr., Bronze Bust overlooking downtown Maryville. USMC Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke, Jr. graduated from Maryville High School in 2003. After high school he joined the Marine Corps and served as a proud Recon Marine in North Carolina, Okinawa, and his last mission in Iraq. He was killed in action on August 10th, 2008, in Iraq. His parents, Robin and Mike Ferschke, along with friends and family dedicated this statue in Michael’s honor. Robin wrote in her thank-you email, “Because of all of you our dream has come true. Our son will forever be remembered yet in another way and seen by so many.”

Holiday Events

The Library served as a central location for holiday celebrations in December. Beautiful holiday decorations, including a magical 20-foot tree, were put up throughout the building. Celebrations included musical performances by Blount County, Maryville, and Alcoa public and private schools. These performances brought the holiday season into the Library to be enjoyed by library users, as well as provided an opportunity for parents and children to enjoy the Library together. The Library participated in the City of Maryville Tree Lighting by hosting Santa at the Library. The newest tree, added in December 2016 by the Information Services Department, was a “Letters to Santa” tree featuring letters published in the Daily Times between 1907 and 1960. This tree provided a nostalgic glimpse into local holidays past. All the holiday decorations were purchased by the Blount County Friends of the Library.

Literary & Civic Activities

The BCPL held a variety of literary activities between 2014 and 2016 including Adult Coloring, Pumpkin Decorating Contests, Banned Books Week, Farmer’s Market, Shakespeare’s Birthday Celebration, Shakespeare Comedies performed by the Tennessee Stage Company directed by Tom Parkhill, (Merry Wives of Windsor, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing), Valentine’s Day Harp Ensemble, Grace Notes Flute Ensemble, Maryville Dulcimer Club, and the Out of the Ordinary Faire. Literary activities and author visits included Dr. Bill Bass, Bill Landry, Robert Wilson, Rhonda Rucker, Sam Beall, Dean Stone, a program on the Graffiti Houses of the Civil War, the Eric Carle Story Walk along the Greenway, the opera Hansel and Gretel, and the Dungeons and Dragons Group which began meeting in 2016.

In addition to serving as a location for early voting, the BCPL hosted other civic activities including ACA Healthcare Enrollment, AARP Tax Prep, career fairs in partnership with the Tennessee Career Center, Free Legal Clinics in partnership with Legal Aid of East Tennessee and the Blount County Bar Association, and the Be Informed, Vote Smart program in partnership with the Blount County League of Women Voters. The Library also hosted Medic blood drives two times each year and participated in the annual disability fair at Tennessee Rehabilitation Center. BCPL is proud to host both state and federal legislator constituent meetings.
Learn to Insult Shakespeare

crowned

villainous

sheep-biting

saucy

terrible

self-skinned

murrish

dankish

gorbellied

mewling

punny

vain

roguish
Building Our Community
Opportunities for Life-Long Learning

Between 2014 and 2016, BCPL staff focused on building relationships with community partners in an effort to expand/extend workforce development opportunities for residents. New workforce development programs included It’s Your Career… soft skills training series with the Blount Partnership and AEFBC, GAINS & “A Step Up” classes in partnership with the Adult Education Foundation of Blount County (AEFBC), and the Life Skills Curriculum in partnership with Blount County Recovery Court. In addition, BCPL implemented a staff development series with the Blount County school media specialists and the Blount County STEM teachers.

In 2014, a revamped pre-K story time series was launched based on the American Library Association’s Every Child Ready to Read publication designed to reinforce the skills needed to get a child ready to read and to illustrate ways parents and caregivers can support reading skills in their children. This new series, Growing Ready Readers, featured four programs Baby & Me (ages 3 & under), Little Learners (ages 3-5), Sensory Storytime (all ages), and Family Storytime (all ages).

In 2015, BCPL became a partner in the Maryville City Schools IReach initiative designed to support anytime Internet access for students. The Library’s wireless network was expanded to include areas adjacent to the library buildings. The Library participated in the school district’s annual laptop rollout by networking with parents and providing information on digital resources available through the library.

In 2015, the Youth Services Department launched STEAMKids (elementary) and LEGO Robotics (ages 7-11) to reinforce STEM skills in a hands-on learning environment that often includes parents and caregivers.

The Learning Lab @BCPL, a 1,500-square-foot STEM training center for adults, opened for use in December 2016. This newly renovated facility was made possible through funding provided by the Foundation for the Blount County Public Library with support from the BCPL Facilities Team and the Blount County Maintenance Department. In 2015, this building also became the new location for the Blount County Clerk’s drive-up window.
220 Programs
Early Literacy Programs Held in 2016

190 Classes
Workforce Development Classes Held in 2016

24,493 People
Participated in Library Classes in 2016
Growing Ready Readers

Literacy begins well before children learn to read, and Growing Ready Readers brings important pre-literacy experiences to the library’s youngest patrons and their caregivers. The Library offers 22 early literacy programs each month: weekly Baby and Me lap sit story times; weekly Little Learners story times for toddlers; monthly Family Storytime, with fun interactive themes for all ages; and monthly Sensory Storytime, especially for children with developmental disabilities but open to all. These programs reach an average of 135 children each month. Growing Ready Readers story times incorporate music, crafts and stories into a fun experience that is much more than fun. The programs build the five essential early literacy skills: Singing, Playing, Reading, Writing and Talking. Essentially, the program reinforces the importance of these skills, so caregivers can extend the fun and the learning at home to grow ready readers.

STEAMkids

STEAMkids is all about making connections. Every week there is a new hands-on experiment or challenge for students to explore collaboratively. STEAMkids focuses on building interdisciplinary bridges in young minds through discovery learning. Participants learn about topics such as computer science, earth science, math, physics, art, geology and much more. While this program started with "baking soda and vinegar" science experiments, it has grown largely beyond that. In 2015, STEAMkids was awarded the Curiosity Creates grant from the Association of Library Service to Children for funds to purchase technology tools to extend the STEAMkids learning environment. This funding connected students to technology tools they otherwise would not have access to in areas such as robotics, 3D printing, and simple circuitry.

Play Chess @Your Library

Initiated as a teen program, Chess Club has expanded to welcome all ages, with adult players learning alongside children and teenagers, in twice-weekly drop-in sessions. Approximately once a month, the library’s youth chess players attend a regional tournament or host a tournament in the Library. Chess advocate Wendi Fisher called the game “the perfect teaching and learning tool” because it builds such crucial skills as decision making, prediction/planning, statistical probability, geometry, and reasoning. BCPL’s Chess Club serves, on average, 20 young people each week, helping them communicate with each other and improve academic skills while having fun.

LEGO Club & LEGO Robotics

LEGO sets are the perfect tool for education, since children love them and they have so many literacy-related applications. At LEGO Club, students build with LEGO and complete timed and themed LEGO challenges, either individually or as a team. These challenges are STEAM or literacy focused and stretch young imaginations by helping cement concepts learned in the classroom in a hands-on way. Additionally, students stand up and share about their design or concept after each build, a critical time which develops communication, sequencing, and public speaking skills in a non-threatening way. LEGO supplies were purchased by the Blount County Friends of the Library.

In LEGO Robotics, children in grades 3 through 6 learn the basics of robotic construction with familiar and popular LEGO toys. Purchased by the Blount County Friends of the Library, the STEM-rich WeDo software, kits and curriculum, have introduced children to simple programming and coding as well as incorporating cross-curricular skills from language, literacy and social studies. Session themes have included simple machines, physical science, motors and sensors, and most recently storytelling with robots.
It’s Your Career . . . Series
This soft skills curriculum, developed with Blount Partnership and the Adult Education Foundation, offers eight programs each year in an informal, network based format that allows participants to share and learn with classmates. Soft skills topics have included networking, social media, managing people and personalities, time management, conflict management, team building, working smarter, work-life balance, and mentorship.

GAINS, A STEP UP, and Rookie Computer Classes
GAINS & A Step Up are two programs focused on using Microsoft Office application software, job searching, resume writing and interviewing. A Step Up also included completion of the Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. These programs were provided in partnership with the Adult Education Foundation and the ARCONIC Foundation. The BCPL Information Services staff developed and provided Rookie Computer Classes each month on topics such as basic computer operation, email, Facebook, Ancestry.com, Twitter, Pinterest, Internet Searching, and Apps for Health.

Blount County Recovery Court Life Skills Program
The Life Skills Program, developed in partnership with Blount County Recovery Court, is a 48-hour series of classes designed to assist Recovery Court Participants as they re-enter the workforce. Class topics include Basic Word, Excel, Writing a Resume, Setting up a Budget, Exploring Careers, Teamwork, Physical Health, and How to Interview for a Job.

Blount County Nerd Group
Blount County Nerd Group was started by two engaged and enterprising teens, Kaleb Davenport and Garrett Smith. These teens (who have their own small web development business) wanted to share their knowledge and love of computer science with their peers, and thus Blount County Nerd Group was born. Students grades 7 and up can learn the basic principles of computer programming, also known as coding. By participating in the Blount County Nerd Group, students can learn skills such as making simple games, developing professional websites, and creating mobile apps.

24-Hour Anytime Learning Opportunities
Education can happen anywhere, anytime when library users have access to self-directed learning opportunities. Between 2014 and 2016 the Library provided access to multiple online resources including: 1) The Tennessee Electronic Library, an online database of more than 400,000 resources, 2) Reference USA, which supplies business and residential information vital to economic research, business plans and job-hunting, 3) Power Speak Languages, which offers more than 1,000 lessons in ten languages including two versions of English-as-a-Second-Language, and 4) Learning Express Library, which provides video lessons and written tutorials on a wide variety of educational and career topics. For more structured study, the Library provided access to the more than 350 Gale Courses (instructor-led asynchronous online classes). For less structured learning, patrons were able to access non-fiction and reference materials via Tennessee R.E.A.D.S., the statewide online lending library.
Building Our Community
Opportunities to Explore the World At Large

BCPL offers the community a window to the world at large by providing access to a large and diverse materials collection (416,649 items including R.E.A.D.S.), a variety of programs and events based on life experiences and family history, access to Wi-Fi & mobile Internet devices, and community exhibits (eight exhibit cases featuring different exhibits each month). Additionally, the Library has three art walls that display the work of local artists on a rotating basis.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives, with the support of the Tennessee State Legislature and with funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, provides access to a variety of expanded information services and collections including the Tennessee Electronic Library, R.E.A.D.S. audio and eBook database, the statewide interlibrary loan service, the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, technology infrastructure and grants (LSTA), and materials for the Disadvantaged. The annual value of these services is estimated at 2.5 million dollars, which more than doubles available library collections and services to Blount County residents. These additional services are provided through the Ocoee River Regional Library, one of the nine library regions that make up the Tennessee State Regional Library System, which is under the direction of the Tennessee Secretary of State, Tre Hargett.

In Jan 2016, the BCPL hosted Discover Earth: Our Changing Planet developed by the Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL), the American Library Association’s Public Programs Office, the Lunar and Planetary Institute and the Afterschool Alliance. This interactive exhibit was made possible through support from the National Science Foundation and was part of NCIL’s STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net).

BCPL also provided support on the use of technologies including smart phones, tablets and other mobile technologies. In 2015, BCFOL purchased 25 hotspot devices to provide Internet access to residents who live in areas without high speed access. This program was so successful that 30 additional hotspot devices were added for a total of 55. These mobile Internet devices circulate to library cardholders for a nominal fee of $2.00 per day, which covers the cost of Internet service. Circulations for the hotspot devices reached 1,855 as of 31 December 2016.

Additionally, the Information Services Department implemented a tech consultation program where library users can schedule an appointment, bring in a mobile device, and have a member of the professional Library staff help them set-up and use the device. In 2016, the Information Services Department provided 283 tech consultations.
692,488 Items

Materials Circulation in 2016

69,989 Hours

WiFi Use in 2016

424,029 People

Patrons Using Library Technology in 2016
Tracing Irish and Scots-Irish Roots

Our 2015 genealogy workshop, Tracing Your Irish and Scots-Irish Roots, drew more than 100 participants. Both of our speakers, Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt, were from the long-established Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland. They spoke on how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context.

Scottish Genealogy on Both Sides of the Pond

In 2016, we hosted Scottish Genealogy on Both Sides of the Pond, a workshop featuring local, regional and international speakers. Keynote speaker was Graeme MacKenzie of Scotland, a trained historian with a master’s degree from University of Cambridge, Chairman of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies of Scotland, and author of two books on Scottish genealogy. Approximately 75 people attended the full-day event.

Discover Earth: Our Changing Planet

Blount County Public Library was selected to be one of nine sites in the nation to host Discover Earth: Our Changing Planet, a national traveling exhibition exploring the fascinating world of earth science. The exhibit explored Earth’s ever-changing physical and biological systems using stunning media and interactive experiences. Earth science topics in the exhibit included short and long-term time changes to the planet, the differences between weather and climate, and what it means to be a steward of our amazing planet.

The exhibition, displayed at the Library from 3 February through 29 April 2016, had an estimated 21,562 visits. The Library also offered a related series of public events to bring STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programming to children, teens and adults, with a total of 2,128 attendees. Additionally 21 classrooms toured the exhibit and did a specialized earth science curriculum with Youth Services staff.

The exhibition’s kick-off featured Mike Maslona, a Great Smoky Mountains National Park Ranger, who spoke on the National Park Service Centennial. Other presentations included: Reporting the Weather with WATE-TV meteorologist, Matt Hinkin; The Natural History of Southern Appalachia by Dr. Paul Threadgill, Biology Professor at Maryville College; and Eating Between the Rows with Jeff Ross, Farmstead Educator from Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tennessee.

Getting people, especially our youth, interested in science can be a challenge. Discover Earth made it fun with hands-on, multimedia activities on topics such as wild weather events, our changing ecosystems, and the global view of Earth. The Discover Earth exhibition focused on earth science topics—such as the differences between weather and climate, water cycle effects, and ecosystem changes. Visitors learned about how local environmental changes impact our global environment. The exhibit was divided into three areas: A) Our Changing Planet, B) Ecosystems: The Web of Life, and C) Environmental Change at Home. Exhibit components incorporated personal narratives, stunning graphics, video, animations, and simulation-based educational games.
North and South Pole Travelogues

Larry and Judy Ackley are dedicated library volunteers who love to travel. They have traveled extensively in the Caribbean, but decided to check off two items on Judy’s bucket list: cruises to the North and South Poles. In April 2014, they gave a presentation entitled, “The North and South Poles: the Differences from a Travelogue Perspective,” to share their experiences traveling to both the North and South Poles. They discussed what it was like to travel to the extreme ends of the earth and noted that there were more differences than common parameters between the two poles. Their presentation included relevant geographic information such as the North Pole is an ocean surrounded by continents and the South Pole is a continent surrounded by oceans, and that, while some of the most extreme weather conditions can be found in both areas, the South Pole weather is more severe.

Escape to Freedom

At the 2016 Blount County Friends of the Library (BCFOL) annual meeting, guest speaker Dr. Henry A. Fribourg discussed his escape with his immediate family from France during the Holocaust in 1942 and their subsequent immigration to America. His book, Escape to Freedom: Survival, Dreams, Betrayals and AccompInishments, was published in 2013 as an Amazon Kindle book. Fribourg, a disabled Korean War veteran, became a professor of crop ecology at the University of Tennessee where he worked for 45 years before retiring in 2001. He taught graduate level courses and received numerous awards and recognitions.

My Soul is in Haiti

Bertin M. Louis, Jr., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Africana Studies at the University of Tennessee, discussed his research in a talk, “My Soul Is in Haiti: An Anthropologist’s Study of Protestant Culture,” in April 2015. While Dr. Louis has conducted extensive research, he also has a personal affiliation with Haiti because his grandmother was from Haiti. In his talk, he discussed the research that led to the publication of his book, My Soul Is in Haiti: Protestantism in the Haitian Diaspora of the Bahamas, published by New York University Press in 2015. Louis said, “Their religious faith ties in to their belief in the need to ‘save’ their homeland as they re-imagine Haiti politically and morally as a Protestant nation.”

Summer Reading Program

In cooperation with the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the nationwide Collaborative Summer Library Program, BCPL hosted an annual summer reading program for all ages each summer between 2014 and 2016. Specific programs included Bright Star Theater’s “Sports Heroes A to Z,” which connected children to a diverse array of historical athletes and their stories; Eric Carle Story Walk, which invited young readers and their families to connect with the community through interactive outdoor reading and physical activities in the Greenway; Magicians Ben Young and Scott Humston, who used humor and illusion to connect children to character lessons and cultural history; Mr. Bond’s science show, which connected children to foundational scientific principles using humor and discovery; and MUSE story times, which used the Knoxville MUSE museum’s signature approach to hands-on learning to connect very young children to the scientific method and to math and engineering principles. Other Summer Reading Program presentations included performances by Abraham Lincoln and Sam Houston re-enactors, who connected people of all ages with important historical figures and underscored the importance of these stories today.
Governance

The Blount County Public Library is a department in the Blount County Government under the County Mayor’s office. The Library is governed by an appointed board of trustees consisting of nine members with four appointed by Blount County Government, two appointed by the City of Maryville and one appointed by the City of Alcoa. The remaining two members serve on the Ocoee River Regional Library Board and are appointed by the Blount County Government and the City of Maryville respectively.

Members of the Blount County Public Library
Board of Trustees 2014 - 2016

Bill Beaty          Sharon Hannum          John McArthur
David Duggan       Belinda Kenny         Susan Schneibel
Cathy Hammon       Bruce Kerr             Mary Beth West
Michele Hankes     Mike Crabtree         Meredith Goins
                     Ginnae Harley

Our Partners

Foundation for the Blount County Library

The Foundation for the Blount County Public Library is a 501(c)(3) organization established to support BCPL capital improvements including new construction, renovation, expansion and technology systems. The Foundation partners with the Library's Board of Trustees, the Blount County Friends of the Library, and the Library's staff in their efforts to ensure the Library continues to be a state-of-the-art facility for the Blount County community.

The Foundation's fundraising efforts were instrumental in the building of the new library (2002) as well as ongoing building renovations including The Learning Lab @BCPL, which opened in December 2016. Additionally, the Foundation provided funding for the technology upgrades identified in the 2015 Business Plan including the 18 monitor digital video system, two smart boards, a video conferencing system, and a new digital projector/sound system in the Sharon Lawson room. These new technology services were installed in 2015 (Main Library) and 2016 (Learning Lab).

Please visit the Foundation website at http://www.blountlibraryfoundation.org/ to learn more about what the Foundation does and how to contribute to future projects.
Blount County Friends of the Library

The Blount County Friends of the Library (BCFOL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with 900+ members who dedicate endless volunteer hours in support of the Library. This passionate, dedicated group works diligently to promote and sustain public awareness of the services provided by our library to the Blount County community. BCFOL’s fundraising and volunteer efforts provided financial support for 90% of all library programs between 2014 and 2016 including the annual Summer Reading Program, Mini-Con, Hot Summer Nights Concert Series, Southern Appalachian Study Center, Foothills Voices, Shakespeare’s Birthday Celebration, Growing Ready Readers Storytime programs, STEAMKids, and LEGO Robotics.

Additionally, BCFOL members work together to sponsor special events, raise money, and volunteer for a variety of outreach and service programs that help our library and our community including four quarterly book sales, Books for Soldiers, the Homebound Program, Ex-Libris (literacy outreach for assisted living residents), organizing and distributing books to inmates, running the Friends eBay store, and through their continuing support of the Bookmark Café (gift certificates, equipment purchases).

Please visit the BCFOL website at https://www.bcfol.org/ to learn more about our wonderful friends group and how you can volunteer to support the BCPL.

Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society

The Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society (BCGHS) is a non-profit affiliate of the BCPL. This organization’s purpose is to bring together people interested in genealogy research and in the preservation of genealogical and historical materials pertaining to Blount County. BCGHS contributes to library genealogy collections in the following ways: 1) by gathering and sorting local family documents and images stored in the Information Services Department, 2) by collecting and preserving Blount County’s culture and families in all formats including documents, oral histories and artifacts, and 3) by sponsoring presentations, seminars, tours and other events to educate the public on the history and traditions of Blount County.

BCGHS publishes Blount Journal (a semi-annual journal on Blount County history), holds quarterly historical programs at the library, digitizes and preserves historical documents and artifacts, reprints and makes available for purchase the History of Blount County by Inez Burns, and hosts an online forum for discussions pertaining to Blount County history. Please visit the BCGHS website at http://www.blountcountytngenealogy.org/ to learn more about Blount County.
Local funding for the Blount County Public Library is appropriated jointly through an agreement between Blount County Government (50%), the City of Maryville (40%) and the City of Alcoa (10%). Library generated funds (meeting room rentals, library fines & fees, Café proceeds, grants and donations) are added to these funds to make up the total of the library’s annual budget. The library’s budget is used to pay for staffing, operations, facilities, collections and information resources.

Funding for library programs, events and special services are provided through the efforts of the Blount County Friends of the Library. Funding for capital projects is provided by the Foundation for the Blount County Public Library. All funding requests are approved through the Library Board of Trustees before submission to BCFOL or the Foundation to ensure that allocations are being used in support of the library’s mission and strategic directions.
2015-16

Revenues
$2,161,809.36

- Library Generated Revenues $223,454.50
- City of Alcoa General Funds $196,513
- Blount County General Funds $959,108
- City of Maryville General Funds $767,286

Expenditures
$2,161,809.36

- Library Materials $232,541.99
- Staff Salaries & Expenditures $1,474,012.60
- Supplies & Services $456,254.77
About the Library

Location: 508 N. Cusick Street, Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: 865.982.0981
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday – 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
Friday – Saturday – 9:00 am to 5:30 pm
Sunday – 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Year Built: 2002
Number of Buildings: Two Buildings
Square Footage: Main Library – 65,000 SF Finished (28,000 SF Unfinished)
Learning Lab – 1,500 SF

Bookmark Café: Located in the Main Library: Full Service Coffee Menu, Smoothies, Baked Goods, Sandwiches, and Soup (Catering Available)

Meeting Spaces: Kathy Pagles Boardroom (18 Seats, Smart Board)
Dorothy Herron A (50 Seats, Digital Projector, Sound System, Presentation Monitor, Video Conferencing)
Dorothy Herron B (25 Seats, Digital Projector, Sound System)
Sharon Lawson Room (120 Seats, Digital Projector, Sound System, Two Presentation Monitors)
The Learning Lab @ BCPL (47 Seats, Smart Board, Two Presentation Monitors, Assorted Technology including laptops, tablets, 3D Printers, Vinyl Cutter, Heat Press and Robotics Kits)

Digital Advertising: Video Advertising System (18 Large Screen Digital Players located throughout Library Facilities), Uses Tightrope Software, Community Advertising Rates Available

Technology: 121 Public Access Computers (PC/Apple; Desktop/Laptop), 10 Surface Pros, 10 NVidia Gaming Laptops, 18 iPads, 12 Card Catalog Stations, 55 Staff Computers, Four Networked Printer/Scanners, Digital Microfilm Reader/Printer, Meraki Wi-Fi System, Internet Speed 100 MB up/down, Sensource People Analytics System, Atriuum Library Management Software, Amber Point of Sale System

Online Branch: http://www.blountlibrary.org

Number of Cardholders: 96,000 Card Holders
Annual Visitors in 2016: 364,042 Total Visitors (1,070 Average per Day)
Number of Staff: 24 Full Time Employees, 34 Part-Time Employees