



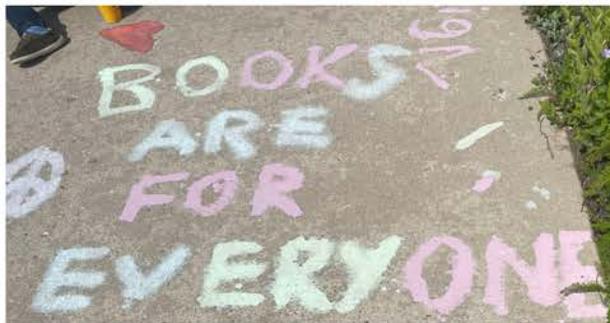
TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



The Traverse Area District Library provides dynamic resources and innovative services to stimulate intellectual curiosity, facilitate lifelong learning, promote literacy, and nurture personal enrichment.





Executive Summary...2025

When our Volunteer Fair drew over 200 people on a wintry Tuesday afternoon in January we knew 2025 was going to be a blockbuster - and we weren't wrong! We set a new Summer Reading Club participation record in July AND a new overall circulation record in December. New events and new collaborations (such as the Repair Cafe with the Green Door Folk School) are drawing more people to our libraries for more every day!

This, of course, provides a challenge when it comes to space, personnel, and scheduling, but it's a problem we're happy to wrestle. We've updated our website and online catalog to make it easier to find what you are looking for. This report is just a tiny peek at all the wonderful community events that happen here every day. Keep up with it all in our monthly newsletter and website, and we hope to see you soon!

Michele P. Howard
Library Director



**WE'RE PROVIDING
SUMMER MEALS**
in partnership with our local food bank

Available at no cost to all youth (18 and under) and disabled adults up to age 24





Year in Review...2025



Winter

The first quarter of the year included a new and popular, Volunteer Fair event, as well as a Teen Winter Lock-In, puzzle tournament, and winter reading challenges. Our BATA Book Bus is also a regular sight on local roadways throughout Grand Traverse County!



Spring

On March 12 we hosted a little ribbon-cutting ceremony in the server room to celebrate the launch of the Michigan Digital Preservation Network. TADL is one link in this new network dedicated to preserving Michigan's digital cultural heritage. The spring quarter included a much-needed elevator update, as well as annual favorites like MakerFest, the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten celebration, Poets' Night Out, promwear swap, and East Bay Branch launched a new tool library!



Summer

We put our first Repair Cafe together in early June, and it quickly won the hearts of both our skilled repair volunteers and visitors. Then Summer Reading Club started! Color Our World truly lived up to its name. Both staff and library visitors reveled in oodles of color, crafts, and creativity indoors and out. It was a wonderful summer, and we're happy to say, also a record-setter!



Fall

Our annual fall favorites, such as Banned Books Week and the Chili Cookoff continue. A second Repair Cafe was even more popular than the first, and we celebrated our SRC school champions with visits. We ended the year with an amazing food pantry drive - delivering over a ton of food to Father Fred between Nov. 19 and Dec. 19!



(+9% over 2024)

384,050

Visitors

(Main Library,
East Bay, Kingsley)



Fun stat: In 1987 only 22% of residents had a library card. We've doubled!

59,210

Cardholders
(Active Borrowers)

70,237

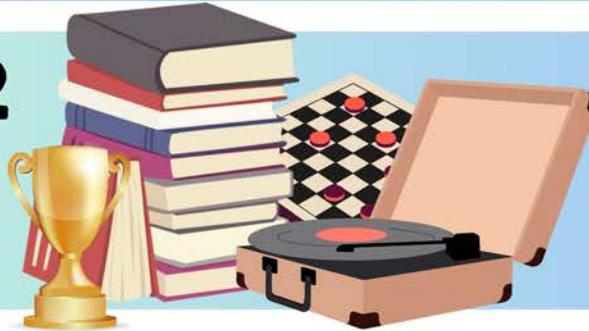
Reference
Questions Answered

(+3% over 2024)

1,460,072

Items Circulated
(District-Wide)

New record!



440,588

Items Available to
Circulate
(Lending & Reference)



125

Items per Day in
MeLCat borrowing
& lending!



Summer
Reading Club
2025

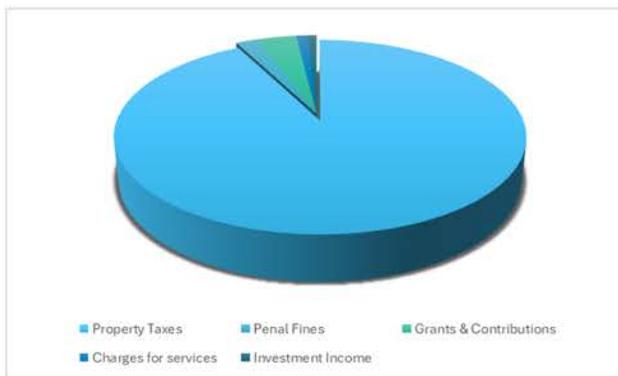
3,959 Participants

2,004,017
Reading Minutes!



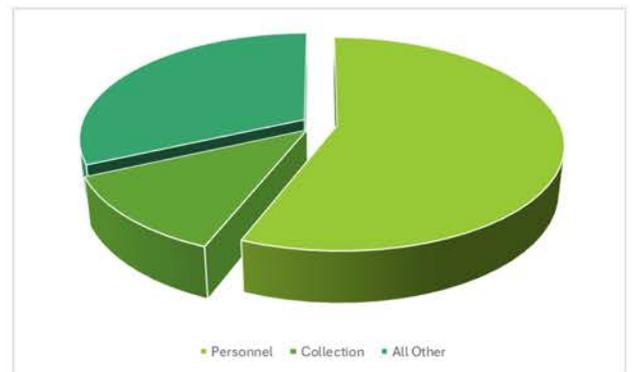
1
New sign-up
record!

2025 Operating Revenue
\$9,105,410.18



Property Taxes	\$8,411,612.10
Penal Fines	\$184,844.80
Grants & Contributions	\$336,080.34
Charges for services	\$95,113.23
Investment Income	\$77,759.71
	\$9,105,410.18

2025 Operating Expenses
\$8,080,049.73



Personnel	\$4,528,817.12
Collection (Books, Music, Video, Digital)	\$981,628.23
All Other (Services, Charges, Capital Outlay)	\$2,569,604.38
	\$8,080,049.73



With our new Strategic Plan complete, I have to thank all the patrons who provided important input, the staff for their thoughtful discussions and the Board for their strong leadership. With all three (patrons, staff and board) working together and developing a plan, we look forward to success in achieving our goals.

Our themes for the next 3 years are:

- Lead with Intention and Joy
- Optimize Physical Spaces
- Foster Understanding
- Cultivate Connections.

Knowing we can't focus on every area at once, in 2026 we'll be focusing on two topics: Lead with Intention and Joy and Optimize Physical Spaces.

By optimizing our physical spaces, we will be replacing the carpet in 2026 at the main library, and working on a building "refresh". Our services and patrons continue to expand and change and in response, we'll be adjusting some of our spaces to meet those needs. Finally, Summer Reading Club theme this year is Unearth a Story. Dinosaurs will be a highlight: T-Riffic!

DONOR RECOGNITION

Thank you donors!

Gold Level - \$10,000+

Friends of TADL Anonymous Donor
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Hanley

Bronze Level - \$500+

Roswell Ard	Michael Rodenburg	Krista & Jeffrey Goldman
Jane Maddox	Daniel Swislow	Michael & Kathleen Rhodes
Catherine McCullough	Sara Thompson	James Levy & Lois Counterman
Barbara Bjork Papazian	Jill Vollbrecht	William Fromm

Supporters

Leslie Veda	Anonymous
Mario David Ramirez Soriano	Ross Abrahamson
Sandra Umstead	Fred Anderson
Keith Robinson	Bonnie Schreiber
Alison Briggs	Kelly Taylor
Virginia Nelson	W.R. La Follette
& Nancy Busch	Christine Strom
Daniel Aced	Lisa Rabaduex
Nicole Swager	Deborah Wesolowski
Aiden Murphy	Heather Brady
Marilyn Ueno	Carol K Steffens
Courtney Vanorio	Virginia Roosevelt
Julie Brooks	Jerry & Barbara Martin
Christina Aldred	Carol Thorson
Harbor Lights	Christine Noga
Recreation Assn.	Marvin Grahn
Robert & Jane Meyers	Thomas & Montgomery
James & Carol Seidel	Plough
	Walt & Mary Ludwick
	Sharryl McCready

TRaverse AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Strategic Plan 2026 - 2028

- »» Lead with Intention and Joy ««
Embracing public trust and supporting an informed and engaged community.
- Optimize Physical Spaces
Developing and adapting our service spaces to best meet the needs of our community.
- Foster Understanding
Inspiring life-long literacy by championing curiosity and access to knowledge.
- Cultivate Connections
Sparking community engagement and connections.

tadl.org/strategic-plan

