

CEDAR FALLS PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

CULTIVATING ENDURING PATHWAYS  
TO EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE,  
ENRICH, AND CAPTIVATE THE  
IMAGINATION



## Director's Message



It is with great pride that I present to you our FY21 Annual Report of the Cedar Falls Public Library. It has been nearly two years since the pandemic changed life as we knew it, and in spite of the ongoing challenges presented, library staff and volunteers rose to the challenge, finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our community, providing access to information and ideas, technology, educational experiences, and services. Some of the changes we made to serve you safely continue, such as our curbside service and virtual program offerings, while others are gradually moving back towards the way they were pre-pandemic—we are offering more in-person programs again, and projects that were postponed or delayed because of the pandemic are resuming.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of the Library Board of Trustees, our Friends of the Library, our amazing and dedicated library staff, and the many library patrons who have provided encouragement and kind words just when we needed them, some of which are included in this report.

Libraries are places where we can discover and pursue what we are passionate about, and we are here to help you along the way.

Kelly Stern, Library Director



# FY21 Library Board of Trustees

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# Accessibility

Maintaining  
collections,  
services, and  
spaces that are  
available to all



"Thank you so much.  
What a great resource.  
Appreciate all you do for  
the community."

--Library Patron, about  
library databases

## Collection Numbers

121,756

TOTAL PHYSICAL  
ITEMS

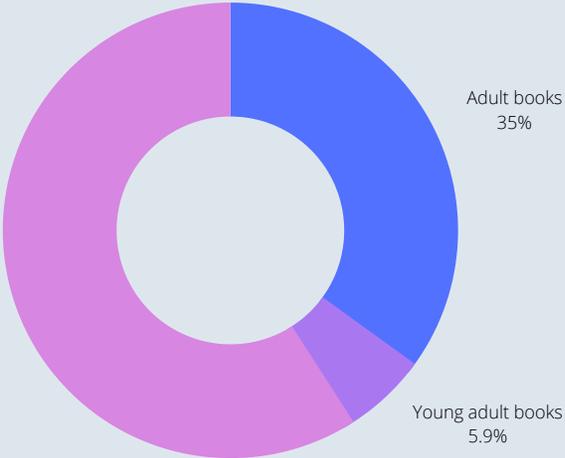
13,198

TOTAL  
DOWNLOADABLE  
ITEMS

142,425

TOTAL PHYSICAL  
AND DOWNLOADABLE  
ITEMS

# Circulation FY21



61,351

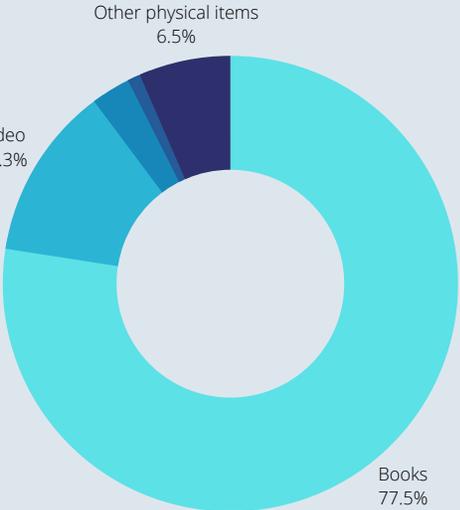
ADULT BOOKS

10,416

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

103,711

CHILDREN'S BOOKS



175,478

BOOKS

28,403

VIDEO RECORDINGS

6,422

AUDIO RECORDINGS

2,113

PERIODICALS

15,020

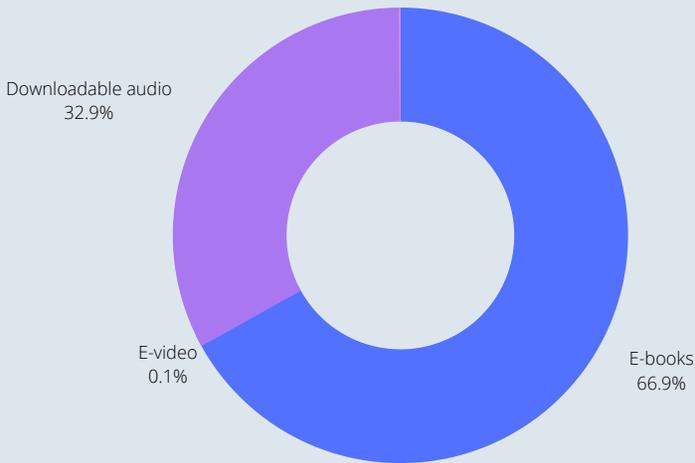
OTHER PHYSICAL ITEMS

227,436

TOTAL PHYSICAL CIRCULATION



# Circulation FY21



40,134

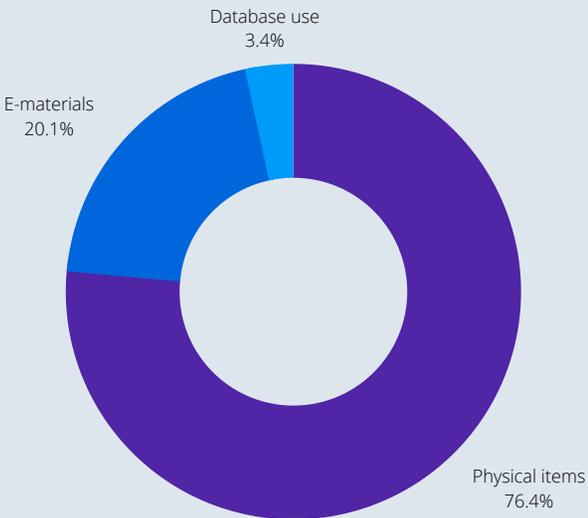
E-BOOKS

75

DOWNLOADABLE  
VIDEO

19,758

DOWNLOADABLE  
AUDIO



59,967

TOTAL E-MATERIALS  
CIRCULATION

227,436

TOTAL PHYSICAL  
CIRCULATION

10,202

DATABASE USE

287,403

TOTAL CIRCULATION  
OF PHYSICAL AND  
DOWNLOADABLE  
MATERIALS

38,878

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
LIBRARY  
CARDHOLDERS

# Community

Building relationships to serve local needs and interests



The Cedar Falls Public Library has a rich history of community partnerships for programs and services to benefit residents of the Cedar Valley. During FY21, we worked with the University of Northern Iowa's Fortepan Iowa Project, MercyOne, UnityPoint Health, the Cedar Valley Arboretum, Hearst Center for the Arts, Cedar Falls Historical Society, Cedar Falls Schools, Iowa Workforce Development, the National Weather Service, NASA, and the National Library of Medicine, among others. New partnerships form each year as community needs emerge for which the library is a logical partner.

# Diversity & Inclusion

Respecting difference and welcoming all



In FY21, the librarians who select materials for the library's collections completed a course from *Library Journal* about auditing library collections for diversity and inclusion. Following the course, they completed an audit and inventory of the library's collections, which informs their selections for enhancing the collections, an ongoing process. As a result, CFPL's collections provide broader representation of BIPOC, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities, deafness, and neurodivergence, and diverse family structures. The youth department now has some Braille items, and the youth librarian is working with various agencies to make the library's StoryWalk® accessible for the blind.

30%

OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED BY OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR

26%

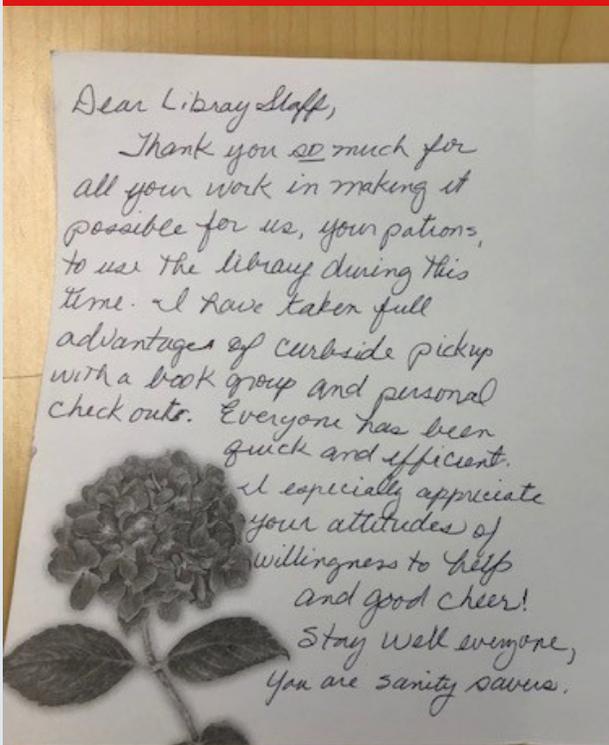
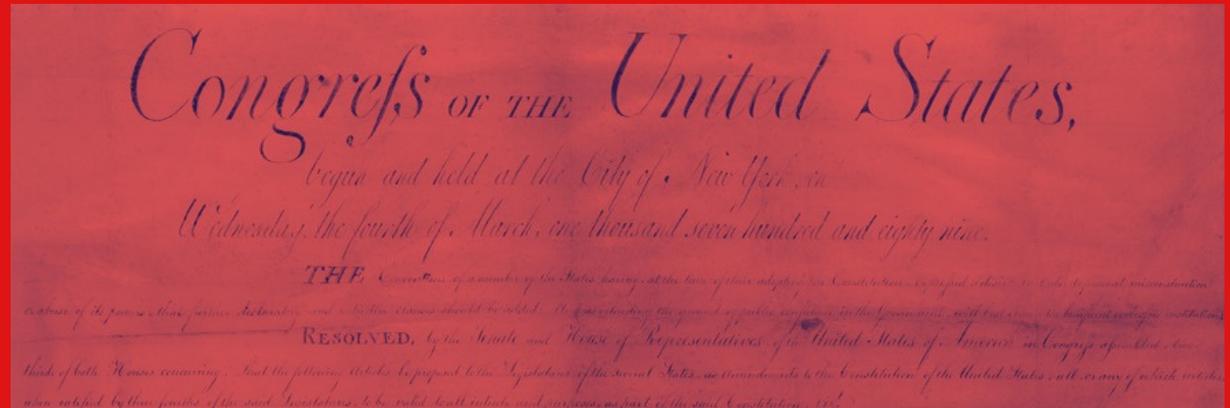
OF ALL BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED BY OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR

\*Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/literature-resources/ccbc-diversity-statistics/books-by-about-poc-fnn/>

\*Data on all books from *Publishers Weekly*: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/85450-the-unbearable-whiteness-of-publishing-revisited.html>

# Intellectual Freedom

Upholding  
personal rights to  
confidentiality and  
to access  
information freely



In recent months, school and public libraries across the country and in Iowa have been the targets of censorship efforts. Although CFPL has not been targeted with formal challenges, we remain committed to protecting your right to read, guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

*From the American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement:*

*"We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights."*

# Discovery, Education, & Learning

Enriching lives  
through the  
pursuit of  
knowledge



## Big Woods Lake StoryWalk®



"Our family is surviving this pandemic thanks to you guys! Thank you!"  
~Library Patron

"We are so very lucky to have this library. Wonderful staff always so willing to help."  
~Library Patron

"Hey Cedar Falls Public Library. We love our local library in CF. Shoutout to their hardworking staff, we appreciate all you do for this community."  
~Library Patron



# Discovery, Education, & Learning



## Some library programs offered during FY21:

STORYTIMES

BOOK CLUBS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS

TWEEN TIME

WRITING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS

STEM PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

MINECRAFT FOR TEENS

LECTURE SERIES FROM THE HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

TAKE-AND-MAKE CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN,  
TEENS, AND ADULTS

WEATHER AMBASSADOR TRAINING

VIRTUAL VISIT WITH ASTRONAUT RAJA CHARI AND OTHER  
NASA PROGRAMS

GARDENING AND SEED SAVING PROGRAMS

TEEN NIGHTS



# Discovery, Education, & Learning

## 2021 Summer Library Program

Cedar Falls Public Library

### Summer Reading 2021

#### At a Glance

845

children registered

4,614

badges earned

922

books given away

17,263

total days logged

600

votes for Miss Bekah's hair color

★ 3,808 ★

people participated in SRP programs

86

TEENS PARTICIPATED  
IN THE YOUNG ADULT  
SUMMER READING  
PROGRAM

1,156

DAYS OF READING  
LOGGED BY YOUNG  
ADULTS DURING THE  
SUMMER LIBRARY  
PROGRAM

567

ADULTS  
PARTICIPATED IN THE  
ADULT SUMMER  
READING PROGRAM

48

BOOKS EARNED BY  
YOUNG ADULTS  
DURING THE SUMMER  
LIBRARY PROGRAM



# Discovery, Education, & Learning

475

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
LIBRARY PROGRAMS  
OFFERED

15,444

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE ATTENDING  
LIBRARY PROGRAMS

52,986

VISITS TO THE  
LIBRARY

8,138

REFERENCE  
TRANSACTIONS

2,880

USES OF PUBLIC  
COMPUTERS

265,391

WI-FI SESSIONS

# Supporting the Library



**City of Cedar Falls**

**Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library**

**Cedar Falls Community Foundation:  
Robert & Shirley Berg Fund, Kathryn Ray  
Fund, Building Fund, Mary Beckman  
Endowment**

**Memorial donations**

**Grants: ARPA, STEM**

It takes a community to support a thriving library, and CFPL is fortunate to have a community of support. Funds raised by the Friends of the Library support ongoing library programs like storytimes and other youth programs, visiting authors, and numerous other programs and projects. Through the Cedar Falls Community Foundation, donor families have helped to fund programs like the Cedar Valley's Youth Read author-in-residence program, LitCon, the Cedar Valley Children's Book Festival, the summer library program, building improvements, and much more.

Many patrons have honored loved ones with memorial gifts used for new library materials. The library also pursues grant opportunities for some projects. A STEM grant provided materials for STEM programs for children and STEM kits for checkout, and an ARPA grant from the State Library of Iowa has enabled the library to acquire a book bike for outreach events beginning in 2022. The generosity of those who "pay it forward" benefits our whole community of library users.

# Coming Soon

Book Bike for Outreach

Branding the Library

Browsing Bins in the Youth Department

New Partnerships

Continued Accessibility Enhancements

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for Black Hawk County



Cedar Falls Public Library

Great Communities Deserve Great Libraries

The library isn't just a place to find stories; it is a place where you can make stories. Whether you are helping a child find a book to check out, learning a new skill at a Co-Lab class, expanding your knowledge at a library program, or gathering with others and making connections at the library, the staff at the Cedar Falls Public Library is here to help you.

