



West Virginia
Library Commission
Explore • Discover • Create



2021
Annual
Report

Legislators Thank You!

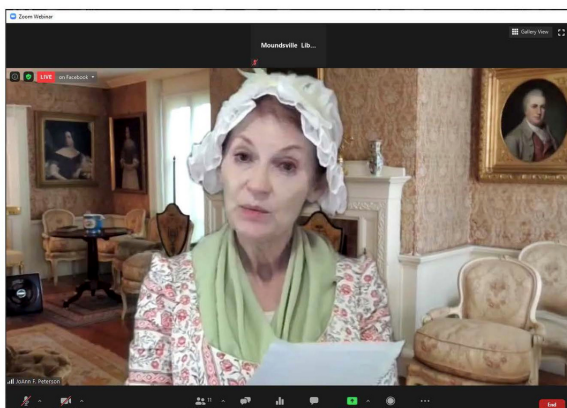
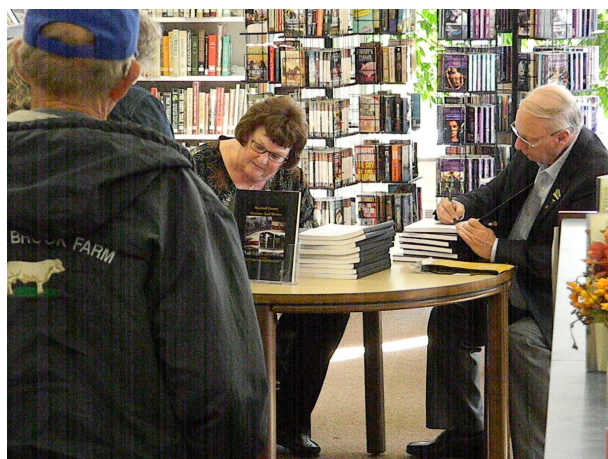
The West Virginia Library Commission thanks Governor Justice and the State Legislature for supporting the state's libraries that provide essential information services to West Virginians daily.



Executive Secretary

West Virginia Library Commission

Gary Rider and Roseanna Dakan Keller at a book signing at the Moundsville Marshall County Public Library.



JoAnn Peterson performs as Abigail Adams in a History Alive! virtual program, live on Zoom and Facebook, for the Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library audience (with support from the WV Humanities Council) in 2021.

JoAnn Peterson as Abigail Adams during a virtual *History Alive!* presentation.

DID YOU KNOW?

FY 2021 Public Library Facts:

1,171,990

people visited



4,371,891

items circulated



held

13,993

in-person, virtual or on demand
programs with

389,637

attending

172,710

public computer users

accessed

1,138

public library internet workstations





Library Development

Provides daily assistance and expertise to 96 public library systems in all 55 counties.

The Library Commission provides daily service and professional knowledge to all 96 public library systems. The staff includes professionals in library operations, statistics, collection development, and programming for all ages.

In December, the agency moved its topic-based [New Director Training](#) to monthly virtual sessions. The monthly sessions focused on a particular aspect of managing a library, including state Grant in Aid requirements; budgeting; working with the Library Board; policies; managing personnel; and services and programs. This initiative allowed all new directors to meet, learn, and strategize library services for their communities.

This year's [summer learning program](#) with the theme was Tails and Tales. Due to continued COVID concerns, supplemental programming information produced by the agency included both in-person and online options.



The Appalachian Heritage Writer-In-Residence Program at Shepherd University and the West Virginia Center for the Book at the West Virginia Library Commission, selected Patron Saint of Ugly by West Virginia native Marie Manilla as its 2021 [One Book, One West Virginia](#) statewide read. Access to the digital version of *The Patron Saint of Ugly* and supplemental discussion guides were provided to libraries and book discussion groups to encourage community discussion.

[Family Read Week](#) is an opportunity for libraries across the state to encourage parents and caregivers to read with children. The agency provides themed guidebooks for parents and libraries with ideas, reading lists, activities, promotional materials, and reading tips.



Collection Services

Ensuring West Virginians access current and reliable information by providing in-depth research services and collections.

The Library Commission ensures that library staff, state employees, and citizens have access to current and reliable information in various formats. Digital resources continued to be popular amongst library patrons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, usage of the statewide digital library WVInfoDepot.org increased in high school equivalency preparation, health information, and readers advisory.

Highlights

- Collaborated with the state's two largest shared catalog consortia to form a consortium serving 412,608 library patrons.
- Circulated 1,200 audiobooks and print books to public and school libraries.
- 19,411 digital checkouts to library patrons.
- West Virginians viewed 3,141 online tutorials on how to use digital library resources.
- Distributed 189 book discussion group sets to reading groups around the state.

Help For Job Seekers

The agency expanded school, job, and career resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights

- **206%** increase in usage of high school equivalency test preparation materials.
- **240%** increase in usage of cover letter resources.
- **646%** increase in usage of resume building resources.



Blind & Print Disabled Services

Ensuring West Virginians that cannot utilize traditional print materials have access to resources and services.

The Regional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled provides information and reading materials in accessible formats to West Virginia residents who are unable to use standard print as a result of a visual, physical, or reading disability. In fiscal year 2021, the Library served 2,830 active patrons.

Highlights

- 527,014 items circulated to active patrons.
- Subscribers made 22,028 calls or had 51,880 web-sessions on NFB Newline newspaper service.
- Staff delivered 3,428 large print titles and 364 descriptive videos to patrons.
- Staff provided patrons with readers advisory, detailed research information, and accessibility device information 3,733 times.

Duplication on Demand (DoD)

Duplication on Demand (DOD) allows the library to provide the entire catalog of recordings without having to house them.

Highlights

- 211,396 digital books downloaded for patrons at the Regional Library.
- 25,644 digital books downloaded for patrons from the Sub-Regional Libraries.



Information Technology

Providing free technical support and computer hardware and software recommendations to all West Virginia libraries.

The State Library Network provides internet accessibility and hardware/software support for 1,806 computers in 142 public libraries. Services include but are not limited to: library operations software support; infrastructure support; computing; Internet connectivity; or wiring. West Virginia Office of Technology staff works with the Library Commission to ensure all public libraries on the network have technical support.



With the assistance of the Office of Technology, the Library Commission installed outside wireless devices to all public libraries as part of the [Kids Connect](#) project which allowed access to the internet for public school students.

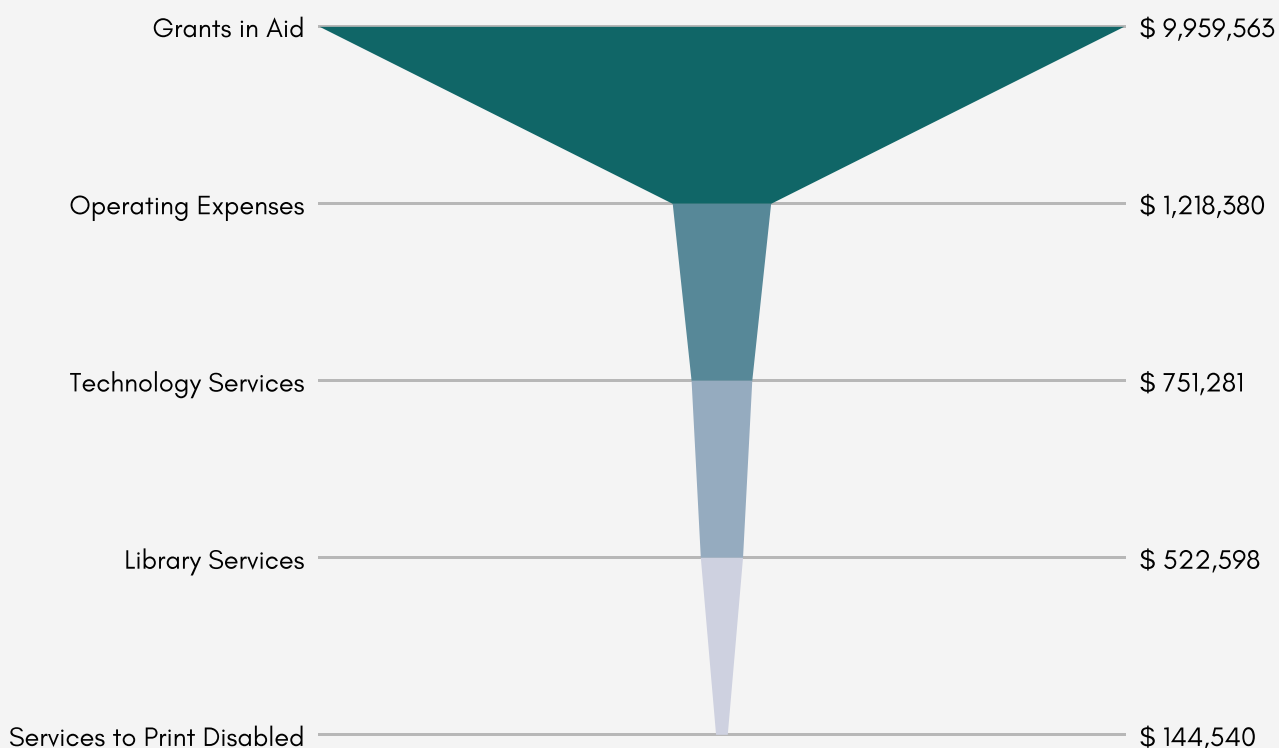
The agency completed [Phase 1](#) of its broadband upgrade for public libraries. Now 142 public libraries have broadband access of at least 100 Mbps.

Public libraries
are technology
hubs that West
Virginians rely
on for Internet
access.

The Library Commission receives both state and federal funding. The state provides operational funds for the agency. In addition, the West Virginia Legislature supports public libraries by providing state aid to the Grants in Aid (GIA) and Service Center Grants programs. Funding to public libraries is administered through the agency and is distributed quarterly to public libraries. The amount each library receives is based on a per-capita formula.

Funding and Finances

State Aid Information

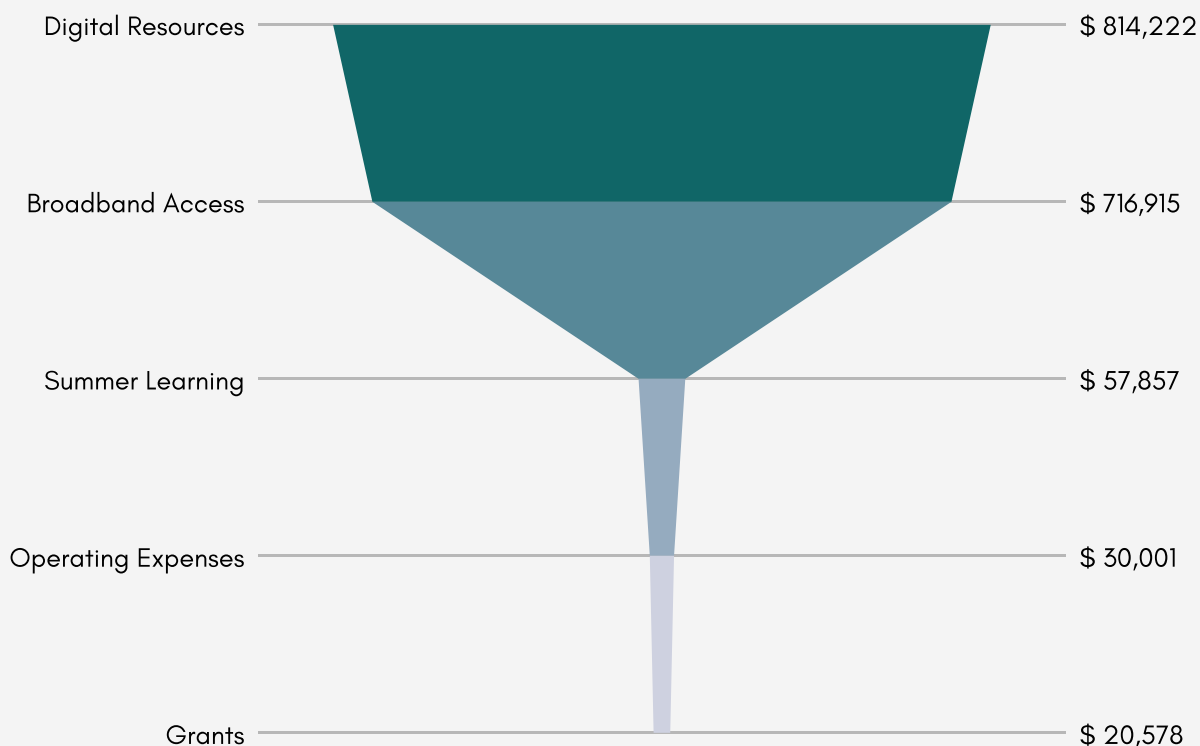


Federal funds are appropriated by Congress and received through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Library Commission uses funds from the IMLS Grants to States Program and the one-time appropriation of CARES ACT funding to support statewide library development. Federal dollars fund West Virginia's Summer Learning Program, Family Read Week, digital resources for all citizens, the Blind and Print Disabled services, and broadband in each library.

The Library Commission provides direct grants to West Virginia libraries with LSTA grant funding it receives each year. Grants are only awarded after a satisfactory application showing need and are contingent on available funds. The majority of LSTA funds are used for statewide projects that assist all libraries and West Virginians. To receive allotments from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Library Commission must have a current five-year plan that has been approved by IMLS that corresponds with the LSTA priorities.

Federal Grants Information

Federal Grant Information



Use of LSTA and CARES Funds:

- Access to several library services platforms that allows West Virginians to access public library collections.
- High-speed broadband access for 141 West Virginia public libraries.
- Library development services to West Virginia public libraries include consultations, technical electronic support, and continuing education opportunities.
- Noncompetitive grant awards to public libraries to increase digital resource availability, access to high speed internet, through mobile hotspots, in their communities.
- Statewide databases, including Consumer Health Complete, Job & Career Accelerator, Learning Express Library, and World Book Online.
- Summer library program materials distribution to West Virginia public libraries.
- Virtual educational/reading program for all West Virginia public libraries to hold events year-round.

Commissioners

First Congressional District:

Vacant
Vacant
Mary B. Stickland

Third Congressional District:

Vacant
Vacant
Dennis C. Taylor

Second Congressional District:

Betty Gunnoe, Chair
Debra K. Sullivan
Katy White

Ex Officio:

Randall Reid-Smith
Curator, WV Department of Arts,
Culture, and History

The Library Commission's mission is to enhance the capacity of public, academic, and school libraries to deliver resources, programs, and services that support learning for all West Virginians.

Contact

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