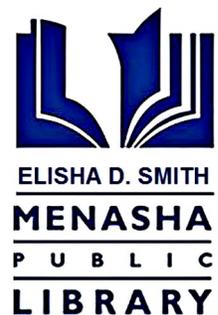
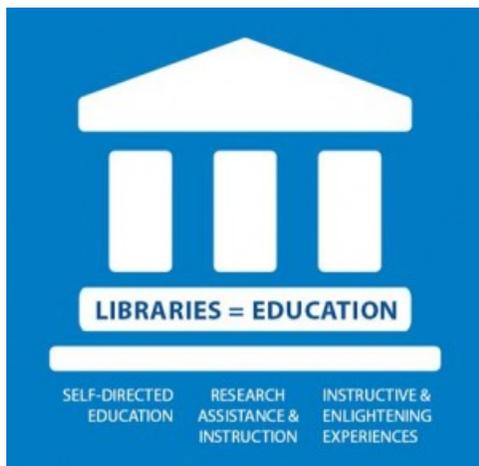


# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015



### Elisha D. Smith Public Library



440 1st Street  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 967-3690  
[www.menashalibrary.org](http://www.menashalibrary.org)

member of:  
Winnefox Library System  
Wisconsin's Public Library Consortium

# 2014/2015 Collaborations

The library collaborates with other community organizations on displays, programs, and other efforts:

- Boys & Girls Club (club registration)
- Chartwell's School's Dining Service (free lunches)
- Community Blood Center (blood drives)
- Double Portions (Food for Fines)
- ESTHER (Hispanic Voices program)
- Family Roots (genealogy programs)
- Five Stones of the Fox Valley (program)
- Fox Cities Book Festival (author visits)
- Fox Cities Performing Arts Center (displays)
- Fox Cities Reads (community read)
- Fox Cities Workforce Development Center (Job Seeker Saturdays)
- Friends of the Menasha Library (volunteers)
- Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (programs)
- League of Women Voters (forums)
- Menasha Historical Society (displays)
- Menasha Joint School District
- Menasha Parks and Recreation Dept. (programs)
- Menasha Police Department (programs)
- Menasha Public Works Department (programs)
- Menasha Rotary Club (fundraising)
- MoneySmart (author visits)
- Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue (programs)
- Reach Out & Read (preschool literacy)
- St. Mary Catholic Schools (tours)
- State Rep. Amanda Stuck (program)
- Trinity Lutheran School (holiday music)
- Veterans Museum of WI (display)
- Winnebago Co. Extension (rent smart)
- Winnebago Co. Justice Dept. (legal clinics)
- Wisconsin United We CAN (program)

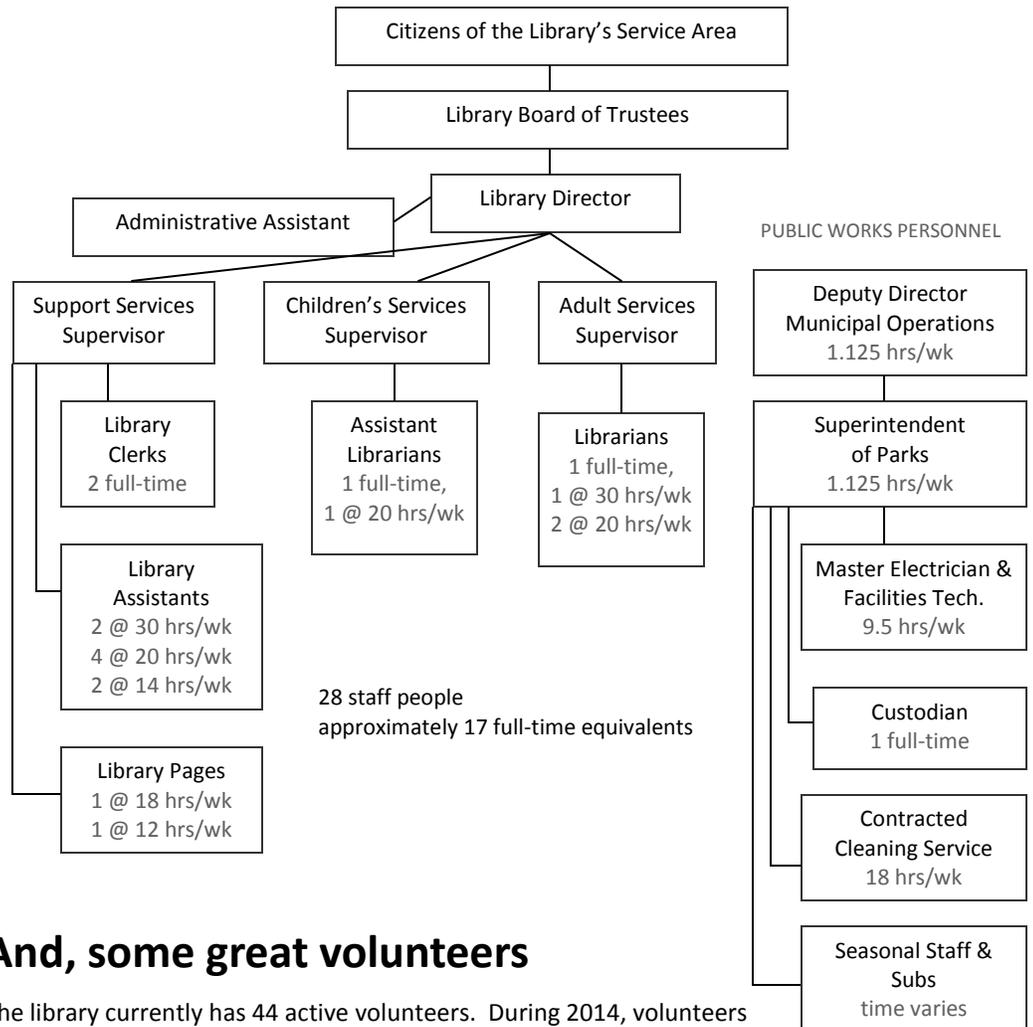
# Every Hero Has a Story: Summer Reading Program

June, July, & August 2015



Weekly prizes, fun programs, and good books were all part of the library's 2015 Summer Reading Program. More than 800 children participated. Every summer, schools compete for a Readers Cup trophy, which every year goes to the school with the most students who sign up (as a percentage of school enrollment). This year Gegan Elementary School won that trophy. Library summer reading programs support the school-year curriculum, curtailing loss of knowledge during summer vacation and showing children that reading can be fun and adventuresome. Public libraries are a key component of Wisconsin's strong education system.

## Library's Table

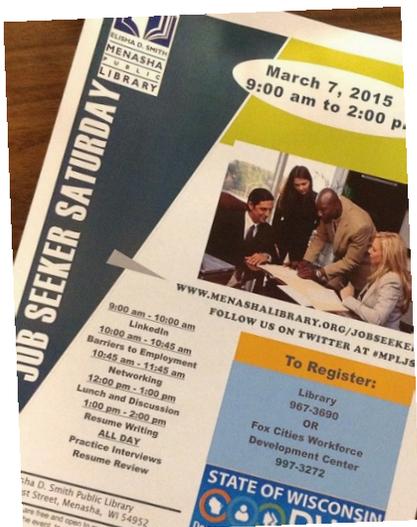


## And, some great volunteers

The library currently has 44 active volunteers. During 2014, volunteers worked at the library for 1,266 hours, shelving books, monitoring programs, giving programs, gardening, washing windows, creating displays, and running the book sales. Our volunteers' work, support, and generosity are very much appreciated. This year's volunteer of the year, Diane Hotynski, volunteered more than 300 hours at the library during 2014.

## And, our library trustees

A big Thank You for all of the work done by library board members during 2014 & 2015: President Patrick Murray, Vice President Mary Crawmer, Secretary Kathy Wichowski, Chris VanderHeyden, Paul Eisen, Robert Golz, Jim Englebert, Melissa Rollins-Jump, Nick Kiley, Rebecca Nichols, and Teen Representative Kayleigh Kaminski.



# More than 15,000 visits each month

Library materials had greater use at the Elisha D. Smith Public Library when the economy slowed, but the overall trend over the past decade continues to be on the incline. Patrons checked out 459,934 items during 2014; 203,961 of those were children's materials.

Library users visited the library 187,365 times during 2014. That is an average of 15,614 visits per month or 3,600 visits per week.

The library's 30 public computers were used 31,129 times in 2014. Wireless Internet access was used 47,444 times.

Almost 18,000 books and audiobooks were downloaded by Menasha library patrons during 2014 from the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, and that number continues to skyrocket.

The library has 15,408 registered borrowers. Most live in Menasha and the Town of Menasha.

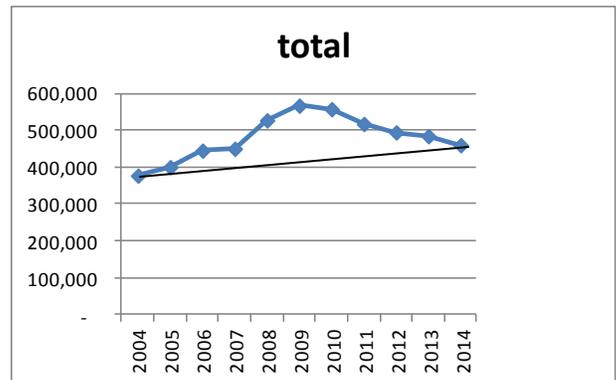
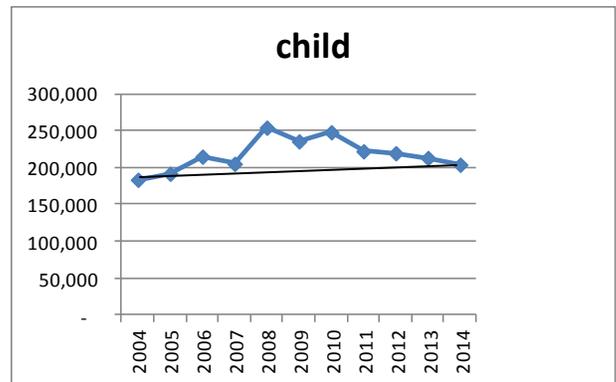
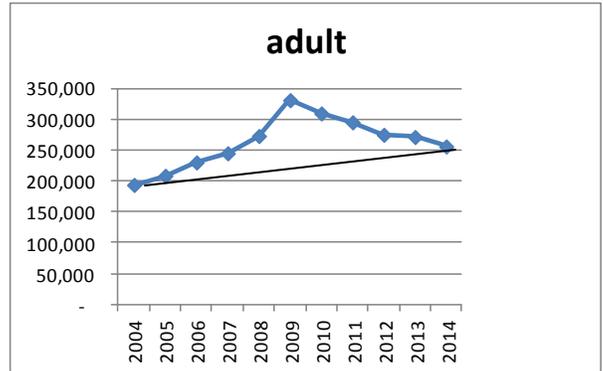
Almost 21,000 people attended a library program during 2014. Per capita, attendance at Menasha library events is highest among Fox Cities Libraries. Programs include those for children such as book parties featuring book characters, magic shows, story times, baby story times, music programs, and shows featuring dogs.

The library features great displays that change monthly. The art wall usually holds the work of local artists. A case next to the Circulation Desk is used to display crafts or collections shown by local experts. And the glass case in the lobby features something of interest to everyone, including local history, local services, and more.

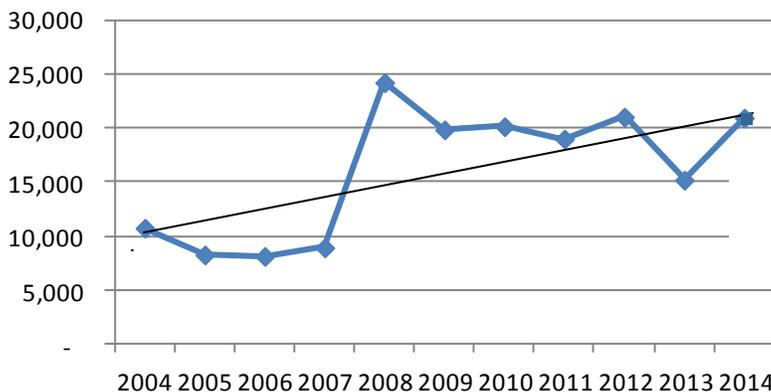
Library services include mobile printing, which allows the public to print in color or black and white from any device or computer—any device that can send an email message. Services also include a popular FAX service, photocopying, and a Notary Public. Notices informing patrons of overdues and holds that are available are sent by email or text message, or patrons are called.

Programs for families and adults include movies, programs on crafts, a program on the Hispanic immigrant experience, a bilingual conversation club, genealogy and history programs, listening sessions with local leaders, Fox Cities Book Festival authors, and free legal help. See the next page for special programs during 2014-2015.

**Library Circulation 2004-2014**



**Library Program Attendance 2004-2014**



## Elisha D. Smith Public Library

### Library Goals

#### 1. Provide Popular Materials

Nearly one million items are owned by the 30 public libraries that comprise the Winnefox Library System, and all are available to anyone with a Menasha library card, as are the thousands of digital ebooks and audiobooks from Wisconsin's Public Library Consortium.

The library has a new service to help patrons find their next great book, based on preferences gathered with a simple form. It is called Your Next Great Read.

#### 2. Promote Reading to Young People

A major goal of all public libraries is bridging the gap across economic divides so that all children have the same opportunity and access to lifelong education.

With that in mind, the library has purchased iPads for use in the Children's Room that will help preschoolers become familiar with iPads, apps, and skills related to reading, writing, and play. Some children have ready access to technology, books, and learning opportunities before they enter school -- and some do not. These Early Literacy iPad kits level that ground. They also showcase educational apps that parents may want to purchase for their children. Other services offered at the library to promote kindergarten readiness include classes for preschoolers and babies, a Happy Birthday Baby Club, and the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

#### 3. Promote Lifelong Learning

With a deliberate emphasis on services for job seekers, the library offers computer classes four times a year, one-on-one help with using technology, and several Job Seeker Saturdays, which are all-day events done in conjunction with the Fox Cities Workforce Development Center. Overall, the library provides equal opportunities for education for all.

#### 4. Be a Center of Community

In 2014, almost 21,000 people attended library-sponsored programs at the library. Organizations in our community used the library's meeting rooms 479 times. More than 77,000 people used a library computer or its wireless Internet access. The library brings people together to research and discuss new ideas.

#### 5. Maximize Library Funding

In addition to municipal and county funding, the library depends on generous donors such as Albany International, Target, Jeweler's Mutual, Franzoi & Franzoi Attorneys at Law, First Books, The Weathervane, Culver's of Neenah, Lake House Supper Club, Lemon Loves Lime Boutique, McDonald's, Stevie B's, The Revival, Pizza Hut, Sabre Lanes, Swimtastics, Texas Roadhouse, Third Street Market, Tom's Drive-in, Community Eyecare, SCA, Faith Technologies, the Ben & Debbie Adams Charitable Foundation, federal LSTA grants, Friends sales, meeting room donations, and significant memorial donations honoring Helen C. Chang and Nelda Kolosso during this past year.



## Special Programs

### Nefarious:

#### A Human Trafficking Discussion

September 10, 2014

In cooperation with Five Stones, an Appleton Police Officer, and a representative of the Fox Cities Sexual Assault Center, the library presented the film Nefarious followed by a discussion of the global crisis of human trafficking and its impact on the Fox Cities. The art wall display that month featured images that depict the consequences of the global trade of humans.

### Voices of Hope: Readers' Theater

November 18, 2014

Voices of Hope featured four actors telling the stories of several Latino immigrants. This theater presentation is based on interviews done by Peter Geniesse, author of the book *Illegal: NAFTA Refugees Forced to Flee*. It was sponsored by ESTHER, an organization of faith communities united for justice.

### Shen Yun:

#### Chinese Dance Presentation

March 1, 2015

Through the language of music and dance, Shen Yun weaves a tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking us on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture. This program was done in conjunction with a full theater production of Shen Yun at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

### Steps of Change:

#### Drugs & Addiction Series

Four Wednesday nights in June & July, 2015

This series of programs was for families and friends of those struggling with addiction. By the fourth night, more than 50 people were attending these programs that offered information, contacts, and speeches on drugs in our community and the legal impacts, treatment and recovery, addiction and the family, and awareness and prevention. Each session started with a Resource Fair that included refreshments. This series was coordinated by Wisconsin United We C.A.N. (Change Addiction Now) with funding provided by an anonymous donor through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

