

Crandall Public Library: 2021 Central Library Report

On August 25, 2022, the Crandall Public Library Board of Trustees adopted the 2022-2026 Central Library Plan of Service. Its central tenet comes directly from updates to New York State Education Law 273 where the following is envisioned:

A future where the system, the central library and member libraries work together to provide “free direct access for all system residents of all ages to an excellent library with a wide range of library materials in multiple formats and a wide range of services and programs designed to enhance lifelong learning and literacy.”

To implement this vision Crandall Public Library will continue to provide eligible materials and resources in a myriad of formats to SALS member libraries and we will continue to provide information services to benefit member libraries and the people who reside in Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties. We demonstrated our commitment to this vision in 2021 by achieving the following:

- In-house and WiFi penetration into City Park and roadside connections supported 13,942 unique clients.
- Programming was virtual in either synchronous (concurrent) or asynchronous (on-demand) modes. Staff coordinated 305 synchronous programs, 1,534 one-on-one synchronous sessions, and 132 asynchronous programs. Total attendance for synchronous programs was 7,359 people, with 1,534 attendees at our one-on-one sessions. Attendance at asynchronous programs cannot be accurately assessed but 1,449 views were initiated within 7 days of posting.
- Summer Reading activities served 423 youth and adults. Programs that were hosted in City Park drew 3,996 attendees, mainly children and their families.
- Total additions to holdings including electronic materials: 64,197.
- 34,110 Interlibrary loan items were provided (loaned) from the Central Library
- Central Library monies provide access to ~~the~~ eResources such as OverDrive and Ancestry.com/Heritage Quest Online for all SALS cardholders. For the duration of 2021 Ancestry was accessible from home, an acknowledgment that library access was interrupted by the pandemic. Use-The use of electronic content reached an all-time record, 123,421 uses.

The Library received about \$204,000 directly from Central Library Services Aid monies to implement the new Plan of Service. We would not succeed if we did not have the unfettered support of Sara Dallas, Director of SALS, and her staff, the SALS Board of Trustees, and the Joint Automation experts. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Library staff, and the Friends of the Library, it is our great fortune to work with SALS and member libraries.

Twenty-Two-One continued to provide uncharted challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, influencing all facets of operations. Although, by the end of the year we were able to return to a semblance of full services and surmount many obstacles, we were diminished in spirit. However, to borrow the words of Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate:

We will rise from the windswept northeast...
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Kathleen U. Naftaly, Director