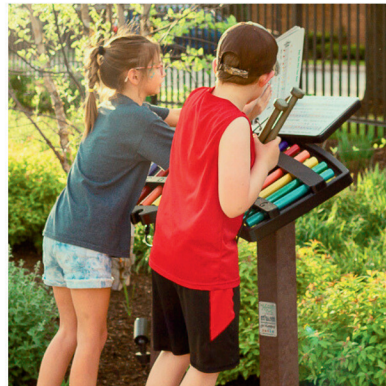
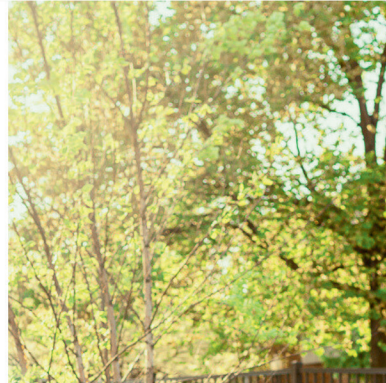




Annual Impact Report

2023



Discover • Explore • Share



“This library is a gem! I love the staff, I love the environment, I love the extensive resources, and of course, the many books available to us. When I first moved to the area, it was through library programs that I was able to meet other mothers and make new friends in a new town. Still today, I enjoy connecting with other women in our community even while my children are enjoying the many excellent children's programs offered each month . . . As a homeschool parent, the library affords us so many great resources to help in my children's education!”

“Slay after slay. I loved it as a kid and I love this library now, too. Great atmosphere and a lovely place to be.”

“Awesome movie selections and great reading materials and friendly staff and service and it's freeeee”

“I ran in today to pick up my library card after applying online. [Staff] were so genuinely helpful and willing to offer information. In what seemed like maybe 5-7 minutes, you made me feel welcome and like I should absolutely come back, because there's a lot more to find than just the digital services I was looking for. Thank you for being so positive!”

Our mission is to enrich the residents of Porter County through discovery, exploration, and the sharing of books and resources.

“New to Portage and my husband had to go print some paperwork, my toddler and I went to the kids area upstairs and had an absolute blast. So clean and organized, and the librarians upstairs and downstairs were so welcoming and sweet, will definitely be coming back and supporting our local library when we can!”

“I like this library. The staff is helpful and friendly. If you need to use a computer but don't have a Porter County Library card, they don't turn you away or make it hard for you. They give you a piece of paper with a temporary username and password on it so you can have access. This comes in handy if you don't want to use up all your ink at home and need to print out a number of pages.”

PCPLS IN 2023

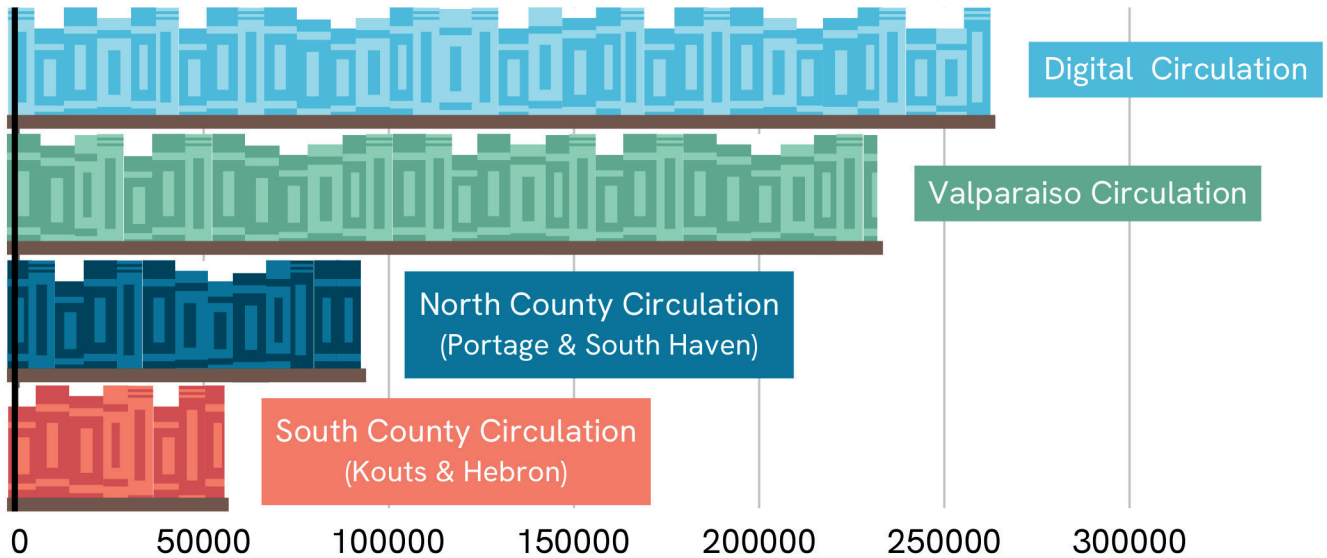
Total Branch Visitors in 2023: 405,136



- Valparaiso
- Portage
- South Haven
- Kouts
- Hebron

2023 New Patrons:
4731
Total Cardholders:
58,722

Circulation by Branch



“ I needed to make copies, I heard that I could get them done at the library . . . When I walked in, I was greeted by a very nice lady. I told her what I needed, and she actually made the copies for me, which was very helpful. I recommend this place if you need copies. They only cost 10 cents per sheet. ”



OUR SERVICES

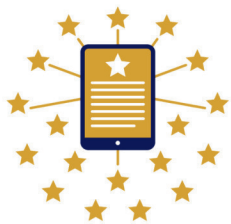
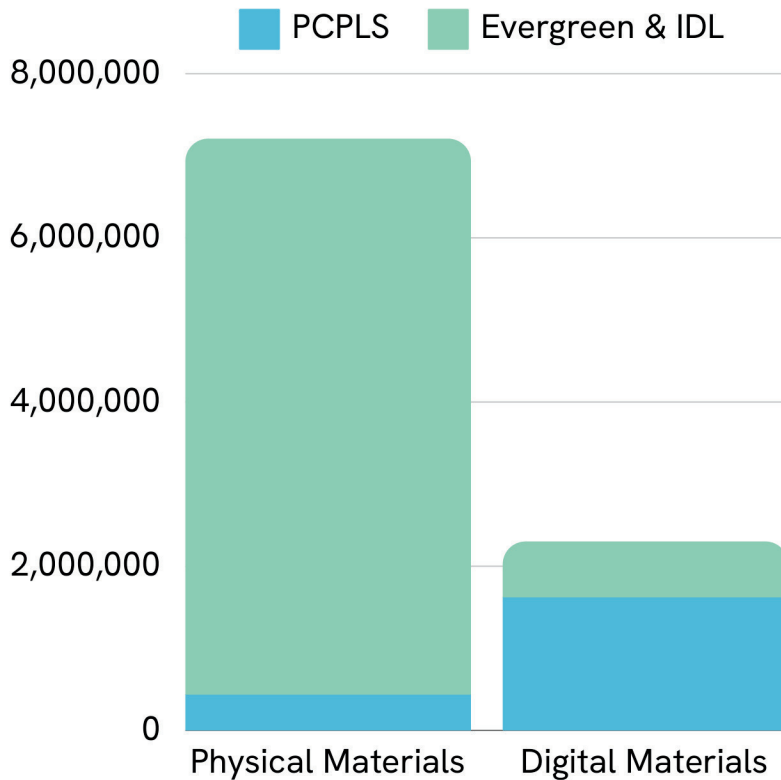
Did you know PCPLS offers all of these great services?

- Exam Proctoring
- Meeting Spaces
- Databases
- Copying & Faxing
- Notary Services
- Free Wi-Fi
- Computer & Laptop Usage
- Study Rooms

35,968
uses of
PCPLS
databases
in 2023

In 2023, PCPLS Patrons saved an estimated **\$39,613,245** by using their library. That's about **\$300** per person!

Total Available Materials



**INDIANA
DIGITAL
LIBRARY**



In 2022, PCPLS joined the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium and Indiana Digital Library. These partnerships have revolutionized our library services, enabling us to grant our patrons access to a library of materials larger than we could ever hold on our shelves. This maximizes the value of taxpayer funds by sharing resources with libraries across Indiana.

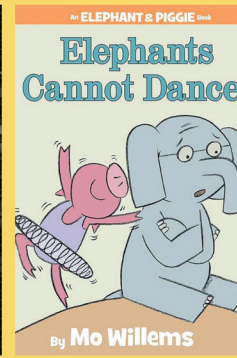
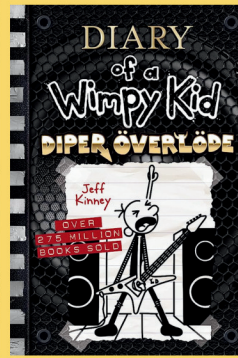
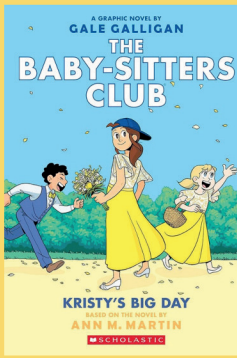


Great selection is available locally and from other libraries in Indiana in a short order time of usually only a few days.



Children Circulation

Top Children Books of 2023:



27,840

Children Books checked out

348,665

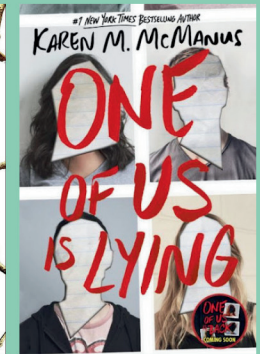
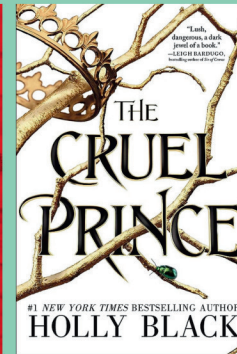
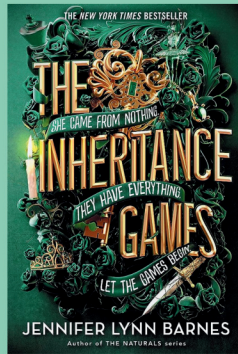
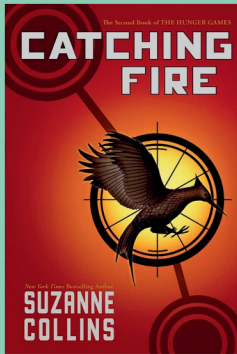
Children eBooks checked out

Children

make up 3.6% of cardholders

Teen Circulation

Top YA Books of 2023:



21,596

YA Books checked out

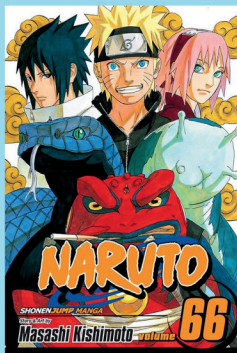
19,214

YA eBooks checked out

Teens make up 11.7% of cardholders

Adult Circulation

Top Adult Books of 2023:



262,387

Adult Books checked out

244,824

Adult eBooks checked out

Adults make up 84.7% of cardholders



We partnered with Valparaiso University to host the First Annual Dunes LitFest!



2023 Visiting Authors:

- Carole Boston Weatherford
- Jeffrey Weatherford
- Barb Rosenstock
- Juana Martinez-Neal
- Molly Idle
- Rob Harrell
- Kenneth Kraegel
- Rebecca Mullin

This community event celebrates reading, writing, and creativity by highlighting national award winning and local children's authors. Look for the return of this successful event in 2024!





LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY



- Dyslexia Friendly Text
- Large Print Materials
- Curbside Pickup
- Home Delivery
- Accessible Technology
- Multilingual Materials
- Mango Languages & Little Pim
- Accessible Valparaiso Rotary Library Garden w/ StoryWalk®
- Monthly OE Respite Visits

2023 INCLUSION PARTNERS:



alzheimer's association



PROGRAMMING

1,075
Programs

27,066
Program
Attendees

Average
90
Programs
Per Month



2023 Reading Challenges



Total Participants: 1,235
Pages Read: 1,335,230



Total Participants: 155
Minutes Read: 63,253



Total Participants: 371
Minutes Read: 130,504



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bringing the library to you!



Our StoryWalk® adventures can be found across Porter County at Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Butterfly Meadows Park and our Valparaiso Rotary Library Garden.

Our awesome staff members visit schools, preschools, Girl Scouts meetings and more through our Book a Librarian program. Our Teacher Toolkit also helps teachers bring library magic to their classrooms.

Year round we attend Porter County events to continue to grow our reach and positively impact every member of our community. Look for our blue tent and come say hello to our amazing library staff!

187
Book a
Librarian
Visits



44
Community
Events



6,334
Book a
Librarian
Attendees



21,127
Smiling
Faces





The Valparaiso Rotary Library Garden debuted in 2021, and since then has been a soaring success for community gatherings, class field trips, and library programs!

Exciting developments are underway at all our branches as we bring our library gardens to life! Thank you to the Porter County Government for the generous allocation of \$700,000 in ARPA funding for our gardens. The City of Portage has also gone above and beyond by contributing over \$1,000,000 towards the Portage Library Garden, debuting this summer. PCPLS is proud to supplement this effort by adding an extra \$140,000 of support. Stay tuned for the blooming transformation coming soon to a branch near you!

MAJOR GARDEN CONTRIBUTORS:



Portage Library Garden
Coming Summer 2024



South Haven Library Garden
Coming Summer 2024

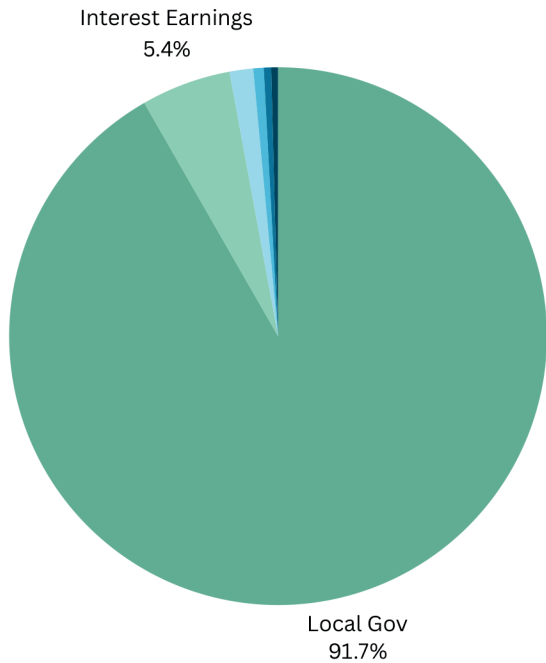


Kouts Library Garden
Coming 2025



Hebron Library Garden
Coming 2025

REVENUE

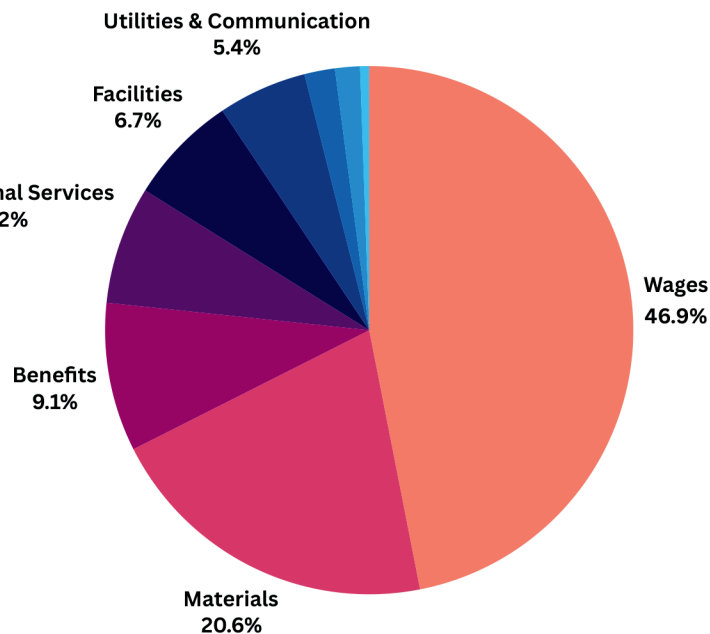


Local Gov.	\$6,954,466
Interest Earnings	\$409,073
Donations & Grants	\$107,611
Fees	\$47,441
Other	\$33,599
State Gov.	\$30,888

EXPENSES

\$40.49 per capita tax expenditure
\$42.96 per capita tax levy

Wages	\$2,898,223
Materials	\$1,275,583
Benefits	\$562,215
Professional Services	\$445,737
Facilities	\$416,531
Utilities & Communication	\$335,858
Furniture & Equipment	\$114,995
Supplies	\$94,314
Programming	\$33,261
Other	\$1,222



VOLUNTEER

In 2023, volunteers donated over 1590 hours of their time to PCPLS. We are grateful for our awesome team of volunteers at the Porter County Public Library System.

We also want to thank the 160 Friends of the Library members who donated their time to support our library. The Friends of the Library is a nonprofit organization that raises funds and promotes the library. In 2023, the Friends raised over \$38,000 through their Nelson's chicken fundraiser, Amazon sales, and book sale room.

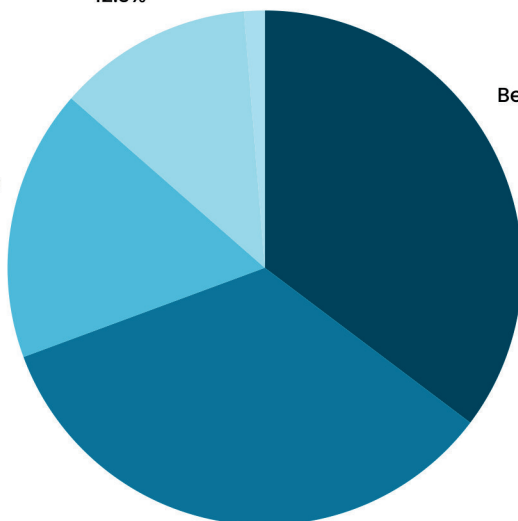


DONATIONS

Private & Individual
12.3%

Bequeathments
35.3%

Friends of the Library
17.1%



Grants
34.1%

Bequeathments \$35,786

Grants \$34,575

Friends of the Library \$17,324

Private & Individual \$12,435

Memorials \$1,316

Thank you to our 2023 Board of Trustees and our business and community partners for supporting PCPLS and the residents of Porter County.

2023 Business Donations



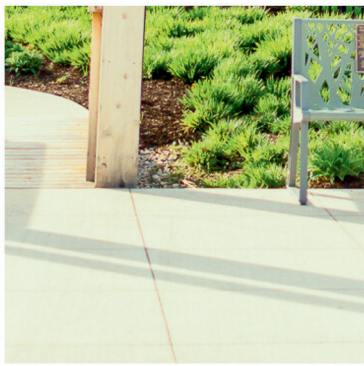
2023 Community Partners








**Thank you
for your
support of
our library
system in
2023.
We can't
wait to see
what 2024
brings!**





 (219) 462-0524

 103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383

 pcpls.org

 @portercountypubliclibrarysystem

 @portercolibrary