



**Atlantic**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

The Atlantic Public Library connects the community to information, resources, and each other in order to spark ideas and new connections.



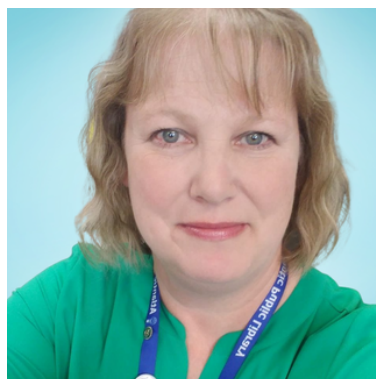
# THE VALUE OF THE LIBRARY

A local library is a vital part of community life, offering free access to knowledge, resources, and shared spaces that foster learning and connection. Libraries support people of all ages by providing books, technology, educational programs, and a welcoming environment where curiosity is encouraged. A library can bring neighbors together and ensures that everyone—regardless of background or income—has the opportunity to explore ideas and expand their horizons.

For our annual Cass County Library Trustee training in February 2025, state library consultant Misty Gray led trustees and librarians in a discussion of ways that libraries create value in and for their community. I have structured this year's report using those categories.

I am very proud of the services offered at the Atlantic Public Library and I'm excited to see what happens next.

Michelle Andersen, library director



# PLACE OF LEARNING

Libraries as a place of learning may be the most obvious way to think about its value; after all, libraries are synonymous with books. But let's not forget the programs and events that promote literacy or provide an opportunity to learn about a new hobby. Summer programs are full of learning opportunities. We also participate in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library which supports establishing early literacy skills for children under 5 years old and their families.



## KEEPER OF LOCAL HISTORY



Another role unique to the library is functioning as the keeper of local history. Did you know that the library has *Javelins*, Atlantic High School yearbooks, from 1899 through 2024? Or that you can access and search digitized Atlantic newspapers (1874-2022) from the library's website? We even keep a separate section of nonfiction books that have direct ties to Iowa. If the library staff can't answer a question, we house the Cass County Genealogical Society and maybe one of their volunteers can.

# COMMUNITY BUILDER

The library as a community builder is a new value that many communities are finding. We welcome the public to use the library as a space to meet with friends or discover new friends. We see relationships develop among event attendees, especially in regular, repeating programs like Toddler Time, Third Thursday Book Club, and VIP Connections. Those who can't visit the library can be served through monthly home delivery service or by accessing the digital library services. You will often see the library at community events like Produce in the Park, Cass County Fair, or the Festival of Trees at Christmas.

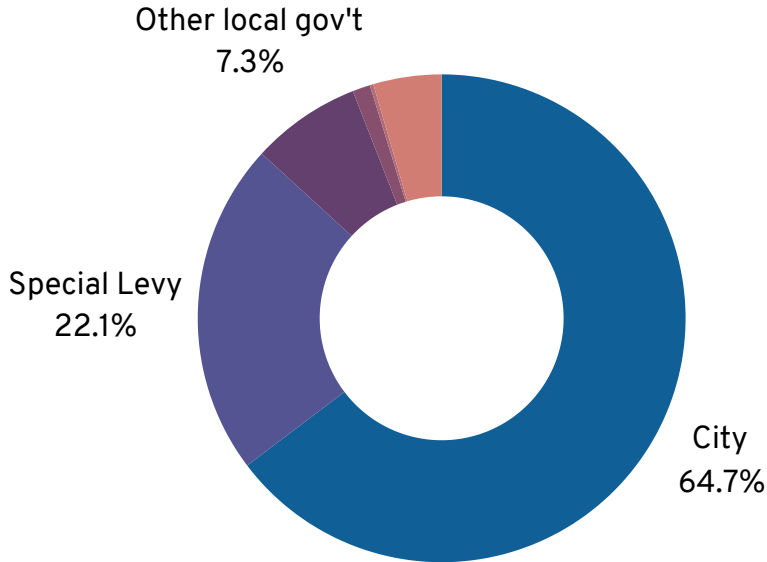


# SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE SHARER

At its core, all library services are supported primarily through public funding so, in a way, all library services are an example of sharing resources. Beyond just funding the library's existence, we share resources by participating in interlibrary loan, sharing book club kits, and offering public wi-fi (and public computers if you don't have your own device). Libraries often go beyond that like the seasonal Grow Another Row stand, the Mom's Sharing Shelf, and the free naloxone box which offer supplies for anyone who needs it.

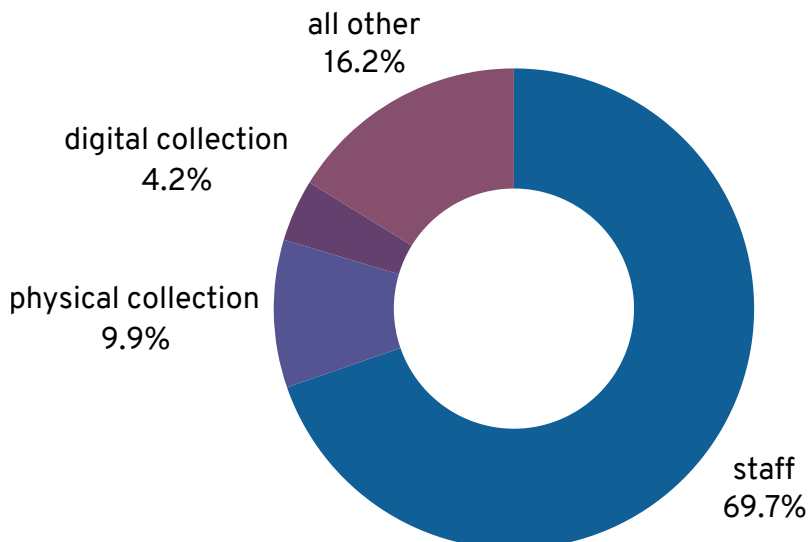


## Operating Revenue by Source



It took **\$476,833** to run the library in FY25, not including capital improvement expenditures to complete the elevator modernization and put on a new roof (\$168,168). We are very thankful that the city remains committed to providing for building and grounds needs as they arise.

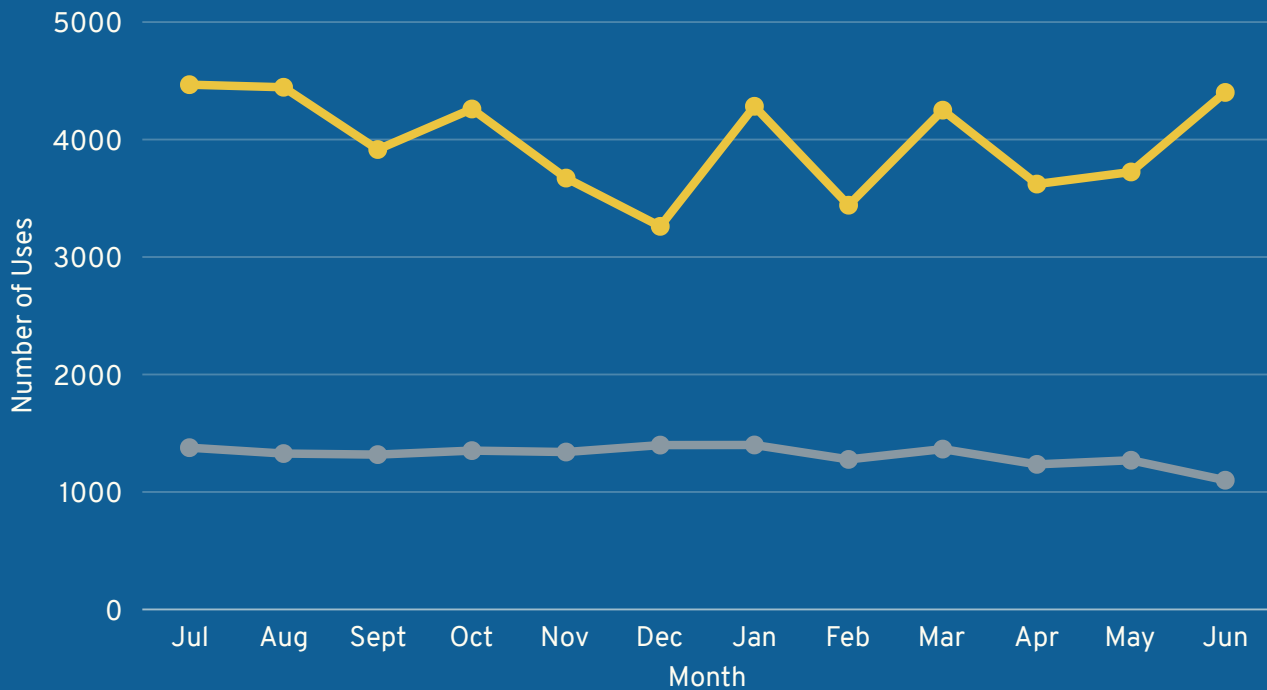
## Operating Expense by Type



YELLOW LINE: IN LIBRARY

GRAY LINE: ONLINE

### Library Checkouts



## IN THE LIBRARY

**47,740** total physical checkouts

**23,332** children's materials checkouts

**42,649**

library visits

## ONLINE

**15,760** total digital checkouts

**10,407** all other online services

**11,113**

website visits

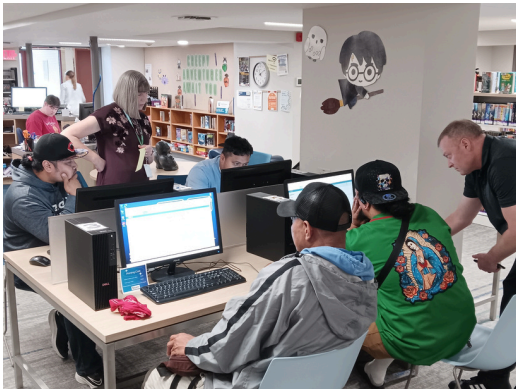
**38,498**

physical items  
available for  
checkout from  
the library



**14,218**

Wi-fi sessions



**3,106**

public computer sessions



**2,042**

Attendance at the 296  
events offered during the  
fiscal year



# STAFF

Michelle Andersen, director

Diane McFadden, adult service librarian  
 Jody Allumbaugh, adult services librarian  
 Crista Wiskus, public services clerk

Sue Petersen, youth services librarian  
 Sondra Marnin, youth services assistant  
 Gwendolyn Irlmeier, youth services assistant



# TRUSTEES

Greg Williams (2028), President  
 David Schwab (2030), Vice President  
 James Northwick (2028), Secretary  
 Buffy Barrs (2026)  
 Dianna Blake (2030)  
 Janice Dickerson (2028)  
 Donald McLean (2026)  
 Kat Niemann (2030)  
 Becky Osborne (2026)