



Indiana State Library and  
Indiana Public Libraries

# ANNUAL REPORT



**2023**



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[library.in.gov](http://library.in.gov)

# Letter from the State Librarian



## Jacob Speer

Indiana State Librarian

Hello,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2023 Indiana State Library Annual Report. This report is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff, the support of our library community and the ongoing commitment to providing valuable resources and services to library users throughout Indiana.

Throughout the past year, we have continued to strive for excellence in all areas of library service, from literacy programs to technological resources and everything in between. We are proud to share our achievements, challenges and vision for the future with you in this report.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the Indiana State Library. Your continued support is invaluable, and we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Speer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# INSPIRE Highlights

## What is INSPIRE?



INSPIRE is Indiana's Lifelong Learning Library for Hoosiers. INSPIRE is a collection of more than 65 online academic databases and other information resources that can be accessed by Indiana residents at no cost.

## 192,075,877 total searches



In 2023, users performed 192,075,877 searches for academic articles, images, current news, newspaper articles, world language resources and more.

## 2,971,472 full-text searches



INSPIRE is a critical academic resource, providing vetted research materials for k-12 students and higher education learners alike.

## 18,687 Rosetta Stone users



In 2023, more than 18,000 Hoosiers accessed level one of the Rosetta Stone language learning program via INSPIRE.

## Explora

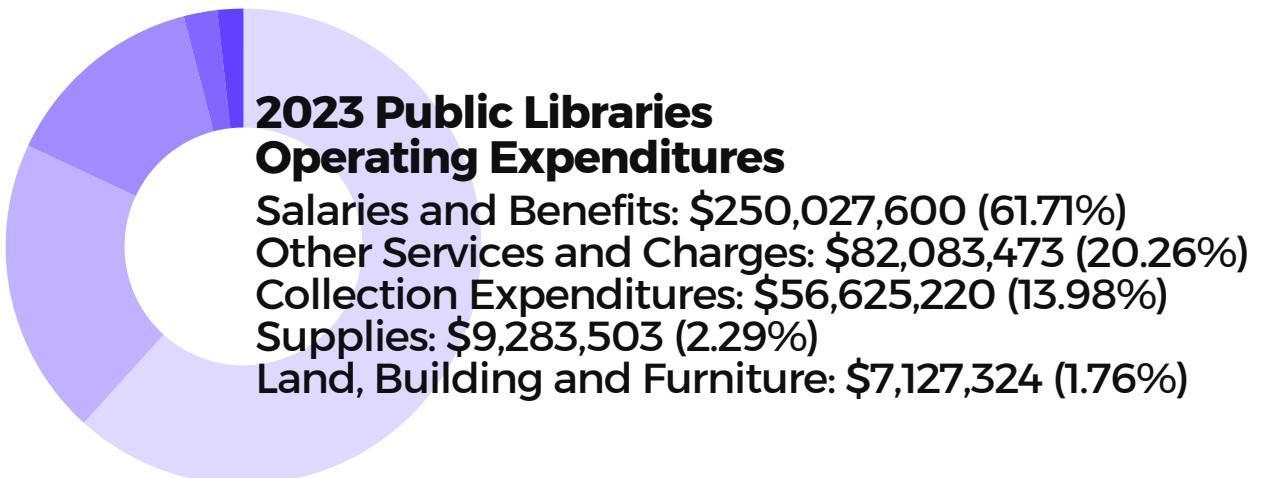
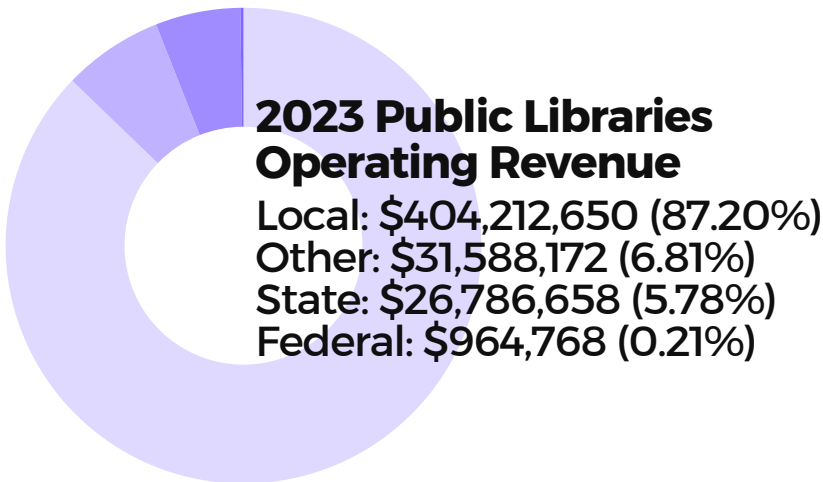
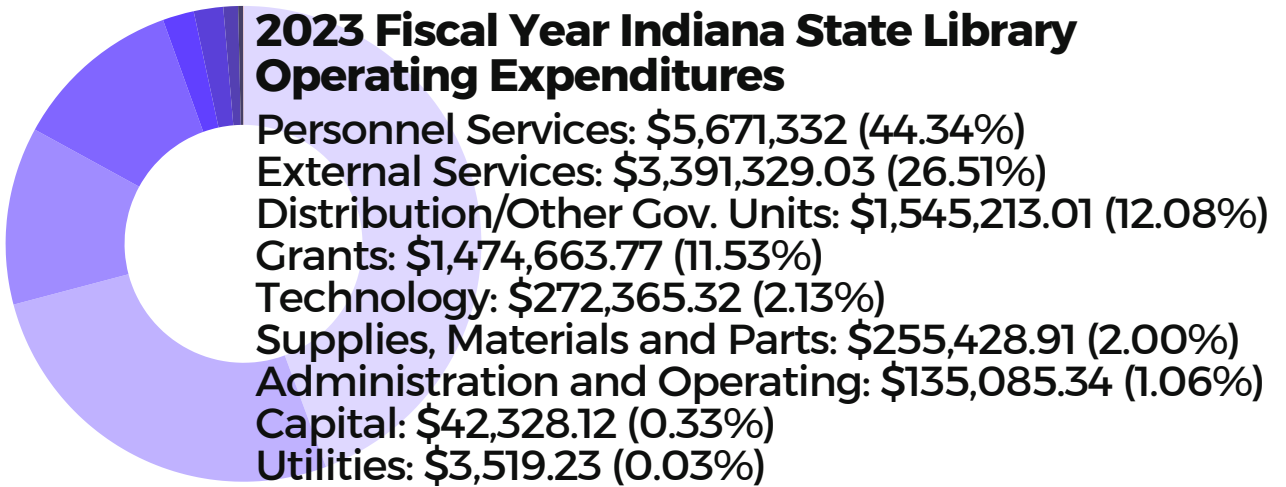


Explora is a search interface that provides a modern and efficient research experience designed specifically for schools and public libraries. Explora helps guide students directly to curated, high-quality content for their grade level. The interface is available for grades k-12.



[inspire.in.gov](https://inspire.in.gov)

# Financial Reports



# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



In January of 2023, Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced his ambitious Next Level Agenda, which included expanding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to all of Indiana. At that time, there were over 50 providers in the state who were paying for the cost of the program. Gov. Holcomb's proposal would include the state's share with the intention for statewide expansion.

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. It has become an impactful book-gifting resource that policy makers, funders, early childhood organizations and families trust to inspire a love of reading. A premier gifting program that mails free books to registered children every month from birth to age 5, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has granted more than 200 million free books since the program's inception. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More®.

In May of 2023, the Indiana General Assembly showed support for the statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library by extending a generous 50% dollar match to all of the existing and future Local Program Partners. The state would invest \$6M over the next two years to offer every eligible child a high-quality, age-appropriate book from birth to age 5 monthly, regardless of income.

In August of 2023, Gov. Holcomb announced the statewide launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana through the partnership with the Indiana State Library and The Dollywood Foundation. The Indiana State Library is the State Program Sponsor and assists in the coordination of the statewide program and governs the state match. The goal of the expansion is to make books available to every child aged birth to 5 in every zip code in every county in Indiana. At the time of the launch, 54 of Indiana's 92 counties offered the program.

In November of 2023, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana welcomed Melinda Brown as the State Director and Katie Mullins as the Community Engagement Coordinator. By that time, the Imagination Library had already added nine new programs that included 63 of the 92 counties. The program was serving 82,817 children at no cost to the families.

By the end of December, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was being offered in 70 of the 92 counties in Indiana. The year ended with the gift of a free Imagination Library book to 89,278 eligible Hoosier children. In 2024, the Imagination Library will be offered in more counties through community support from Local Program Partners.

The program's impact has been widely researched, and results demonstrate its positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills. To check to see if the program is available, enroll in this program, and learn more about it, visit [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com).

# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

→ 200 million books have been gifted since the program's inception in 1995. **200,000,000**

→ 2.7 million total children in the U.S. are enrolled in the program. **2,700,000**

→ More than 2 million books were gifted to children in 2023. **2,000,000**

→ One in eight eligible children in the U.S. are enrolled in the program. **12.5%**

→ One in five eligible children in Indiana are enrolled in the program. **20%**

→ A personal library of 60 books is gifted to children who are enrolled at birth. **60**



# Public Library Spotlight

As 2022 rolled into 2023, public libraries attempted to get back to pre-pandemic normalcy as library and program attendance were both on the uptick. As libraries stepped toward returning to a time without unprecedented adjustments, they were asked “What is something that your library accomplished in 2023 that you are proud of?” Below are some of those answers.

## What is something that your library accomplished in 2023 that you are proud of?



“Generous support from our community enabled the Veedersburg Public Library to create a welcoming outdoor space for our patrons. The area includes a pavilion with picnic tables, lights and outlets for charging devices. The public can now access the library’s Wi-Fi in a shaded environment. The pavilion has provided additional seating for programming, such as weekly storytimes and many fun ‘messy’ activities.” - **Covington-Veedersburg Public Library**



“Thanks to an American Rescue Plan Act grant, we’ve been able to provide vital resources to the community. We were able to take grant-funded laptops into the community and register just under 1,500 new library cardholders, many of them school-age kids. Also, we were able to enhance our digital literacy efforts by providing various library programs and engaging directly with the community through outreach efforts.” - **Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library**





# Public Library Spotlight



“The Brown County Public Library spent a total of \$394.54 in electricity costs in 2023. The 18,000-square-foot building received all its energy from the sun, thanks to 324 solar panels that sit atop a carport in the library parking lot. The only expense incurred for 2023 was a connectivity fee to remain tied to the grid.” - **Brown County Public Library**



“Thanks to grant funding made possible by the Indiana State Library, our library has been able to increase our community engagement with a new book bike. We have taken it to festivals, ridden it to the elementary school, ridden it in parades and taken it to a trunk or treat event.” - **Monon Town and Township Public Library**



“The Knox County Public Library received the Nonprofit of the Year Award from the Knox County Chamber of Commerce; two of the local newspaper's People Choice annual awards: Best Nonprofit and Best Place for Family Fun; and the Indiana Library Federation Collaboration award.” - **Knox County Public Library**



“A space at the front of the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library was transformed into a musical sensory garden. Instruments shaped like flowers, mushrooms and an evergreen were installed to create an interactive play area where visitors can create harmonious melodies.” - **Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library**

# Statistics

## Indiana public library and Indiana State Library highlights

**21,491,630**



annual public library visits, a 16% increase over 2022.

**1,345,174**



page views in Hoosier State Chronicles, Indiana's digital historic newspaper program.

**54,405,268**



total materials circulated in public libraries, a 10.22% increase over the previous year.

**73,218**



books and magazines downloaded through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.

**1,296,232**



total in-person children's program attendance at public libraries, a 30.26% increase from 2022.

**4,260**



total field trip and Indiana Young Readers Center program attendees at the Indiana State Library.

**2,267,559**



total in-person program attendance at public libraries, a 28.16% increase over the previous year.

**204**



member libraries in the Indiana Digital Library consortium.

**116,945**



programs were administered in public libraries in 2023, a 22.79% increase from 2022.

**129**



member libraries in the Evergreen Indiana consortium.

**15,117,656**



electronic materials circulated in 2023, a 31.38% increase from the previous year.

**13**



new historical markers were dedicated across the state by the Indiana Historical Bureau - a division of the Indiana State Library - in 2023.



Scan the QR code for the full 2023 Indiana public library statistics:

# Resources

## INSPIRE



INSPIRE is a collection of academic databases and other information that can be accessed for free by Indiana residents. INSPIRE is supported by the Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds, the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and in partnership with Academic Libraries of Indiana.

[inspire.in.gov/](https://inspire.in.gov/)

## Volunteer Program



Indiana State Library volunteers have the opportunity to work with the library's many historic collections. The library can accommodate almost any schedule. A background in library science or history is not necessary and the library will provide any training needed. Visit the library's website for information on available volunteer opportunities at the Indiana State Library.

[in.gov/library/about/volunteer/](https://in.gov/library/about/volunteer/)

## Indiana Library Passport



With 236 library districts - and more than 400 individual library buildings - Indiana provides all Hoosiers with a path to knowledge. From outdoor library gardens to gem collections to the Rolland Center for Lincoln Research, Indiana libraries showcase many unique learning opportunities. The passport features 170 main libraries and branches to explore.

[passport.library.in.gov/](https://passport.library.in.gov/)

## Indiana State Library Foundation



The mission of the Indiana State Library Foundation is to serve the citizens of Indiana through the support, enhancement and promotion of the activities of the Indiana State Library, their programs and collections and to aid in the development of programs benefiting individuals and libraries throughout the state.

Donate or learn more:

[indianastatelibraryfdn.org/](https://indianastatelibraryfdn.org/)

## Evergreen Indiana



Evergreen Indiana is a consortium of over 125 libraries located throughout Indiana that use the Evergreen integrated library system. Patrons of member libraries can use their Evergreen Indiana library card to view the catalogs and borrow materials from the other member libraries.

[in.gov/library/evergreen.htm](https://in.gov/library/evergreen.htm)

## InfoExpress

InfoExpress

InfoExpress is the statewide library courier service provided by the Indiana State Library. Public library districts and school districts - along with academic, institutional and special libraries - are eligible to participate in the InfoExpress courier program.

[digital.statelib.lib.in.us/infoexpress/](https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/infoexpress/)

# Contact Us

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