

MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

These are the top circulated (checked out) titles by category in 2023.



PROGRAMS



3,093
programs & events

76,763
attended programs

The Summer Reading Program and Winter Reading Program were available to patrons both in their local library and online through the Beanstack app.

12,973
children & teens
participated in
Summer Reading
Program



**FIND
YOUR
VOICE.**

2,678
teens & adults
participated in
Winter Reading
Program



**Read for a
Better World**
Winter Reading
2023

Many of the additional programs and events region-wide were storytime and book clubs. Also, we offered programs that were made possible with the Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Great River Regional Library Vision:
The Neighborhood Gateway: Inspiring Central Minnesota to shape the future through exploration, knowledge and connection.



BUILDING AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Great River Regional Library (GRRL) worked with Georgi Page of the Page Foundation to bring a pop-up banner version of the TESTIFY: Americana from Slavery to Today exhibit to GRRL and other library systems in Minnesota. The photo gallery exhibit displays selections of art and artifacts from The Diane and Alan Page Collection. The St. Cloud Public Library was the first to have the banners on display and invited library users to learn more about America's past during Black History Month.



EPIC (Exploring Potential Interests and Careers) partnered with GRRL to turn the EPIC event experience into a take-home kit, expanding the ability for kids and families within GRRL's service area to learn about career paths. GRRL's partnership with EPIC is supported through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. EPIC's Experience Career Kits include fun, experiential activities that are bundled together in a container. There are a total of 14 kits to represent different industries. The industries align with the Minnesota Department of Education career wheel.



This year, SCSU Survey Center held a survey by phone and email to library users. Over 5,000 library patrons responded to the library user survey. The top library locations used by respondents included St. Cloud, Elk River, St. Michael, Waite Park, Monticello, and Little Falls. Over half said they visit the library 11 or more times per year. Overall, satisfaction with the library was high, and the collection continues to be a main reason by people come to the library.

BY THE NUMBERS

The year 2023 was successful, as we reached a record-breaking number of Summer Reading Program participants and a new high for digital collection usage. Here is an overview:



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

County & City Agreements.....	\$7,729,118
Patron Receipts.....	\$114,749
Grants & State Aid.....	\$1,708,075
Interest & Other Receivables.....	\$399,227
Gifts & Donations.....	\$413,968
Cash Reserves.....	\$543,860
Total Revenue.....	\$10,908,999

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$7,646,510
Library Materials.....	\$967,370
Operating & Other Expenses..	\$1,016,046
Grant & Fund Balance.....	\$648,496
Capital Investments.....	\$79,504
Patron Programming & Communications.....	\$213,439
Total Expenses.....	\$10,625,541

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