

Southeast  
Steuben  
County

# Library

# 2014

## Report to the Community



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with term expiration dates

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Pauline Emery, Library Director

### Our Mission:

The Southeast Steuben County Library provides free and open access to collections, electronic resources and innovative services which anticipate, support and respond to the ever-changing informational, cultural and leisure needs of all people within our community.

### Our Vision:

*Informing, Inspiring,  
Enriching, Amazing* –  
Creating an environment  
that fosters lifelong  
learning and community  
connections



Dear Community Members,

Last fall the greater Corning-Painted Post electorate faced an important question. Would the community vote for a tax of \$786,000 annually to support the Southeast Steuben County Library? It was up to the community to ensure that current and future generations have access to the many opportunities to enrich the quality of their lives that libraries provide.

In October 2014, when the votes were counted, the library levy passed, 2,653 to 1,828 - 59% approving - with a high voter turnout. For the first time in its history the Southeast Steuben County Library was now, finally, an institution that can be counted on to serve the public for years to come.

In the fall of 2015, homeowners in the Corning-Painted Post School District will pay a library tax of about 38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The owner of a home valued at \$85,000 will pay less than \$33 a year, and the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay about \$38 a year. Funds collected by this levy in the fall of 2015 will be used for the 2016 library budget. This direct public funding mechanism is the most cost-effective and equitable way to pay for library services in our chartered service region, but it will not affect the library budget until 2016.

Meanwhile, the library is currently operating under tight budget restrictions. Due to the prior failed vote in 2013, the Library Board of Trustees reduced its tax levy request by \$174,000. That meant significant cuts were needed to the 2014 library budget. The library closed on Sundays, two full-time staff positions were eliminated, and we saw reductions in programming and materials. These austerity measures remain in effect through 2015.

Moving forward, the library is committed to providing quality services and conducting its operations in a financially responsible manner. Our funding sources will continue to include private donations, annual fundraising, Friends of the Library book sales, interest earned on our endowment, and public funds.

The library plays a critical role in supporting literacy, providing free and open access to information and technologies, creating a place for the exchange of ideas and cultures and making community connections. We want to thank all of our municipal partners, stakeholders, volunteers, donors, and of course, all of our community members. We are grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

- *Library Director Pauline Emery*

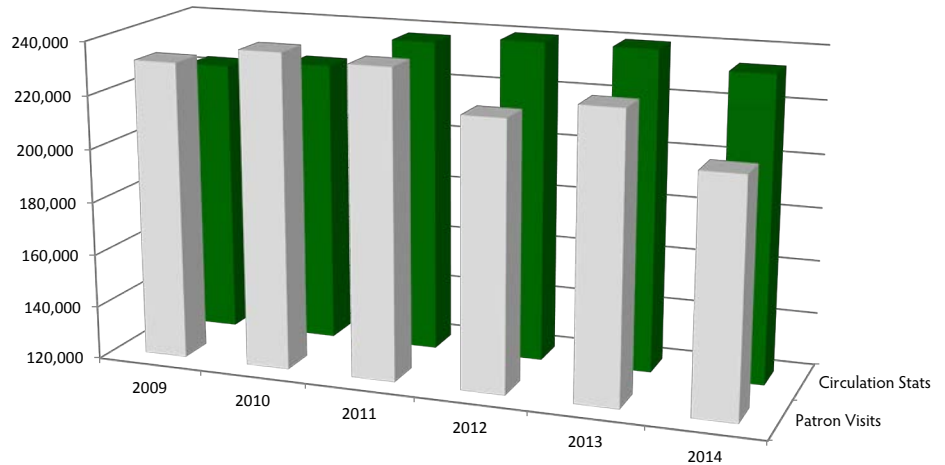
## Usage tracks: Statistics reflect budget cuts

Even with budget cuts including the loss of two full-time staff positions and implementation of a six-day service schedule, library use was strong in 2014, but not at peak levels. The library circulated nearly 234,000 items and welcomed 207,835 visitors.

Public computer sessions at our bank of 27 Internet-enabled PCs totaled 32,418. Pages on the library website (ssclibrary.org) were viewed 144,190 times during the year, an all-time high. Use of the library's popular 24/7 Wi-Fi hotspot continues to increase but was not tracked in 2014.

Overall, 28,865 community members attended fun and informative library programs in 2014, with 2,629 patrons benefiting from one-on-one digital literacy sessions and classes.

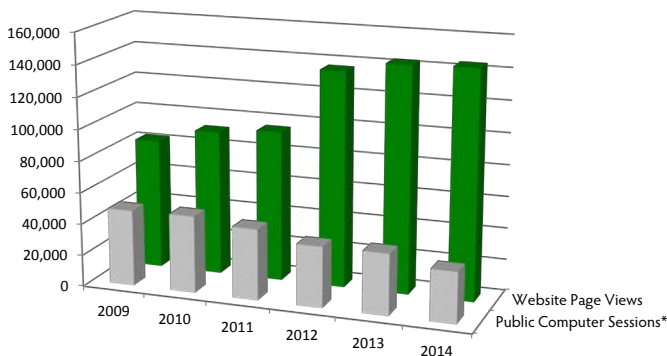
### Patron Visits and Circulation



### Six Years At-A-Glance

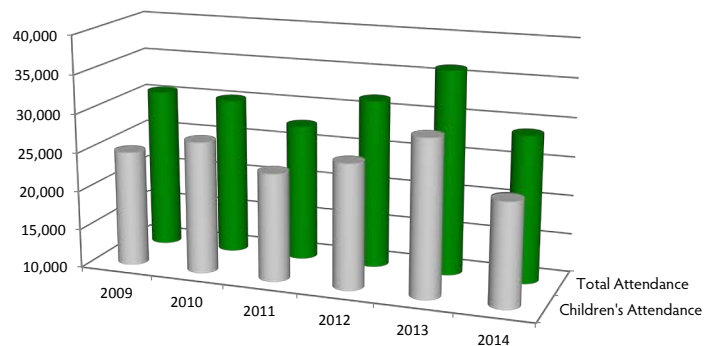
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Patron Visits	231,903	238,288	235,773	220,638	227,218	207,835
Children attendance	24,861	27,007	23,875	26,076	30,080	23,356
YA attendance	3,826	1,762	1,186	2,008	1,959	1,867
Adult attendance	1,936	1,475	2,566	3,611	4,176	3,642
Circulation stats	223,262	226,054	237,470	246,268	252,889	233,902
Internet sessions	48,584	49,030	45,099	38,716	38,965	32,418

### Computer Sessions and Website Use



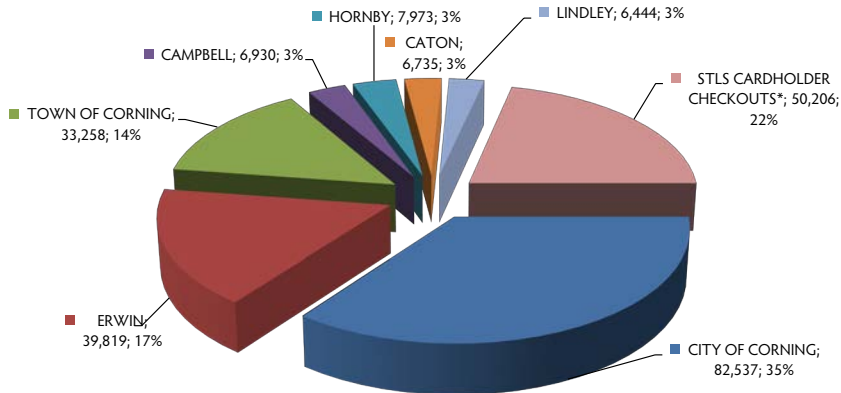
\*WiFi Use Not Tracked

### Program Participation



## Circulation and Computer Sessions by Resident Municipality

2014 Circulation by Municipality



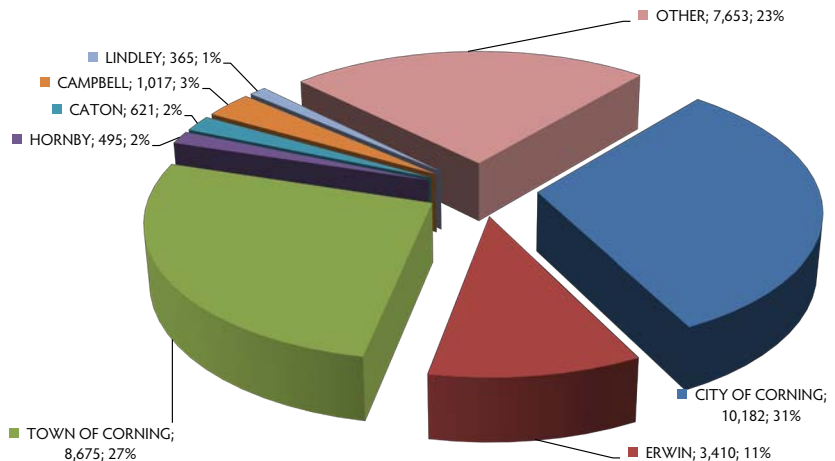
Total Circulation - 233,902

Southeast Steuben County Library borrowers come from all over our service area and beyond. Most non-resident borrowers reside or work within the Southern Tier Library System (STLS). Other non-residents pay an annual fee for library card privileges. \*The checkouts we make to STLS cardholders are reciprocated because our patrons have access to over 1.3 million items systemwide.



Fee-free public broadband access is essential for job seekers and all those without internet service at home. Visitors to the area rely on library PCs and Wi-Fi to keep in touch with friends, family and business associates. PC sessions at the library peaked in 2010. Use of library Wi-Fi is on the rise, evident from the number of laptops and hand-held devices seen. Due to technical limitations, Wi-Fi sessions were not tracked in 2014.

2014 Computer Sessions by Municipality



Total Sessions - 32,418

## Highlights of 2014:



### Voters OK Library Funding

After months of community organizing and grassroots campaigning by library supporters, 59% of voters said "Yes" to a \$786,000 annual library tax to fund the Southeast Steuben County Library. Starting in fall 2015, homeowners in the Corning-Painted Post School District will pay about 38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; less than \$33 for the average home valued at \$85,000. The tax will appear as a line in school district tax bills and will not begin to support the library until 2016.

### We Can See Clearly Now

Say goodbye to those worn-out windows! Thanks to funding from New York State's Construction Aid for Libraries Program, we were able to replace the library's 40-year-old condensation-damaged windows with energy efficient windows. Our new windows feature bronzed insulated double paned glass with argon filled airspace. We thank NYS Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano for helping to make this grant possible.



### Digital Literacy Evolves

In 2014 our digital literacy staff engaged with 2,629 people in job search & skills training, and in using computers & mobile devices. Expanding our resources with the help of volunteer computer wiz Brandon Smith (shown at left interviewed by a Time-Warner Cable reporter), the library introduced an open source GNU-Linux public workstation. On tap for 2015: a dedicated maker space with 3-D printers, creation equipment and more.

## Financials in Brief

In 2014, municipal funds made up 65 percent of the library's income, but covered only 55 percent of our actual expenses. Grants and donations contributed 32 percent on the income side. Service fees and scant investment earnings together covered 3 percent. \$173,397 in endowment earnings made up the difference between income and expenses.

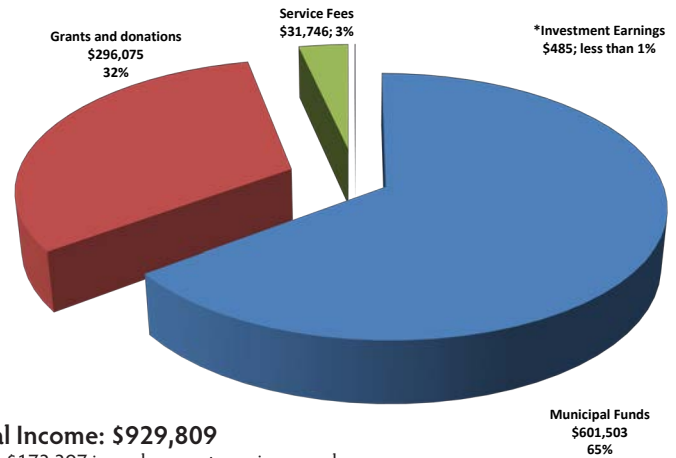
On the expense side, payroll and benefits accounted for 59 percent of our spending; facilities and capital improvement costs were 21 percent, library materials (books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, etc.) were 8 percent. General supplies, equipment and internet service accounted for another 9 percent of spending, with 2 percent in program-related expenses.

Municipal contributions to the library were reduced 10 percent in 2011 and remained flat through 2013. In 2014, the library received a 4 percent increase – still 6 percent less than 2010 municipal contributions.

First quarter budget cuts meant the loss of two full-time staff positions, a reduction in materials acquisitions, closing on Sundays and fewer library programs.

Endowment earnings were utilized in compliance with the library's Endowment Policy, ensuring continued growth of the fund.

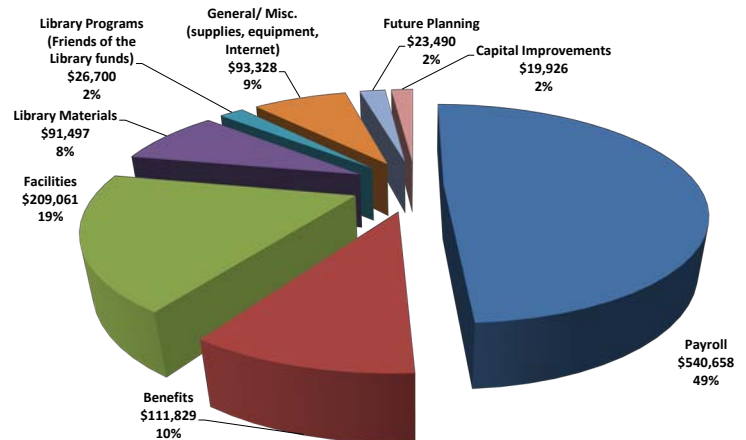
## 2014 Actual Income



**Total Income: \$929,809**

Note: \$173,397 in endowment earnings used.

## 2014 Actual Expenses



**Total Expenses: \$1,103,206**

## Library Objectives for 2015:

- Transition to a public funding model as approved by voters in 2014.
- Make the dark fiber connection for the widest public broadband access possible.
- Launch a public Maker Space with digital equipment and physical tools to inspire creativity.
- Revamp the library website for ease of use, organization and a new look.
- Meet endowment markers in accord with our Endowment and Spending Policy.
- Begin the strategic planning process for 2017 and beyond.

## 2014-15 Annual Fund Drive Thank You, Donors

### Trustee's Circle (\$2,000 and above)

Corning Incorporated Foundation  
James B. Flaws and Marcia D. Weber  
Kim Frock and Wendell Weeks  
Charlie and Trudy Craig  
James R. Houghton

### Leadership Circle (\$1,000 - \$1,999)

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**Continued on following page**

The Southeast Steuben County Library gratefully recognizes the individuals and organizations that have contributed to our 2014-15 Fund Drive. This year, 313 donors contributed \$63,122.

All gifts are very much appreciated and help make it possible to provide the innovative, patron-friendly services on which our community relies. These include creative children's programming and story times, public meeting rooms, writers groups, outreach services for homebound individuals, youth groups, summer & winter reading programs, and access to more than 1.3 million circulating items in the Southern Tier Library System.



## 2014-15 Annual Fund Donors

### Enrichment Circle (Continued)

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