



ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONNECT | LEARN | ENRICH



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

JAMIE WILLIAMS | DIRECTOR

What a remarkable year it has been! There is an undeniable energy and excitement that makes everything feel exceptionally special here at the library. There is much more to anticipate in the future. Being part of this journey has been an absolute delight, and I am eager to continue introducing new services, programs, and resources that provide extraordinary opportunities for our community. As I witness the positive impact we make each day, I am filled with pride over our library's achievements and am keen to address the challenges that lie ahead for both the library and the community.

Our annual report is replete with stories, statistics, and insights that offer a vibrant depiction of our current status and future direction.

As always, my primary mission is to make a significant difference through our services and programs. We also curate our collection and resources to support the unique needs of our community. The transformative effects of our work are evident daily as we adapt and tailor our offerings to meet our community's needs.

A major focus for our library staff and Board is determining how we can be even more attuned to our community. This ensures the continued success and positive impact of our efforts.

In FY25, our library embarked on an exhilarating journey of growth and community engagement. This was largely thanks to the generous grants received for Little Engines, youth programming, and our book bike. These projects have opened new doors for young readers, sparking a lifelong love for reading. With 104 outreach visits reaching 5,499 people, we've expanded our impact significantly. New initiatives, like the Teen/Tweens Advisory Group and Teen Book Boxes, have been instrumental in creating meaningful connections with our younger audience, offering them interactive and enriching experiences. Memorable events such as the Secret Garden Tea Party, Bingo, and ERICON have drawn diverse crowds. These bring a sense of wonder and surprise to our library. Programs have educated the community, enhancing awareness of the services we offer and fostering a sense of belonging. By championing well-being and connection through story times, stitch nights, and wellness activities like yoga and meditation, we've prioritized holistic growth. Guided by our strategic plan, we present our 2026-2031 Long-Range Plan in this report. This sets the stage for our 125th anniversary celebration in October 2026. This milestone promises a year filled with festivities that honor our rich history.

Cheers! ~Jamie

THE IMPACT

With a strong focus on our Library's goals we continue to accomplish more to impact our community and hope to continue this trend to FY26!

ACCESSIBILITY | CONNECTION | TECHNOLOGY GOALS



In fiscal year 2025, we advanced our infrastructure and enhanced our user experience.

Our firewall updates integrated threat detection to protect against cyber threats.

Server upgrades to scalable cloud-based solutions boosted data processing speed and reliability. We also upgraded computers to better serve our users.

With support from the Friends of the Ericson Public Library, we expanded Wi-Fi coverage by adding more hotspots to our collection for our patrons to check out. Our online library services now feature an intuitive web interface and a responsive catalog. We conducted outreach campaigns and organized technology tutor sessions for all ages, promoting digital literacy.

EDUCATION | LEARNING | WELLBEING GOALS

Libraries are vital community spaces, which promote education, connection, and personal growth through diverse programming. Libraries offer dynamic programs like book clubs, writers workshops, and wellness initiatives. This enriches lives for all ages. Programs such as Little Engines support early literacy and family engagement, preparing children for academic success and fostering a love for learning. These efforts enhance educational outcomes, strengthen community bonds, and inspire meaningful conversations. By raising awareness and participation, we significantly contribute to community development and well-being, creating a space where everyone can thrive. Looking forward to 2026, our 125th anniversary presents a unique opportunity to enhance community pride through historical and cultural programs. We look forward to collaboration with local historians and members sharing stories, past and present. Engaging with all ages to celebrate our collective identity and history is one of our FY26/27 goals!



SPACE GOALS

Our library is committed to providing a welcoming and functional environment for the community. We currently offer four reservable spaces for public meetings, which can be easily booked through our website. In FY25, we hosted 4,011 individuals in our meeting rooms. To ensure the library remains a beautiful and efficient facility, we are embarking on several capital improvement projects. These include updating HVAC controls and replacing flooring. Implementation will be phased over the next three to six years based on available funding. Additionally, we aim to enhance our outdoor space, fostering more programming and creating inviting community gathering areas.

LONG RANGE PLAN

2026-2031 Priorities and Goals of the Ericson Public Library

Priority: Community Outreach & Partnerships | Strengthen community connections and partnerships to collaborate, develop and promote resources and services both within the library and outside in the community.

Goal 1.1: Collaborate with social service agencies and providers to offer outreach programs to improve accessibility to these services for those in our community.

Goal 1.2: Engage with community organizations and groups to promote and provide a gathering space for personal growth, socializing, or discovery.

Goal 1.3: Seek out community partnerships to build opportunities to promote the library as a valuable resource.

Priority: Technology and Resources Access | Integrate more technology services, skills, and equipment to provide technology training and accessibility to resources. Leverage space, staff, and community resources and relationships to provide progressive services to help keep the library relevant.

Goal 2.1: Expand technology training to offer more technology classes and experts on a rotating schedule.

Goal 2.2: Develop staff training sessions to focus on learning technology skills and information for online resources to gain confidence and skills to assist patrons.

Goal 2.3: The community will have access to updated cutting-edge technology equipment to help meet their educational and informational needs.

Priority: Learning, Literacy & Collections | Invest in resources, collections, and services to promote learning and literacy in all forms (civic, educational, informational, technological, financial, and health).

Goal 3.1: Partner with experts and organizations for educational skill-building workshops to promote life skills for all ages. (Ex. Budgeting 101, Time/Organization management, using AI, communication, parenting, and grocery shopping).

Goal 3.2: Host a health and wellness program series, including topics such as fitness, nutrition, cooking, maintaining healthy lifestyles, and healthy trends.

Goal 3.3: Launch a digitization fundraiser to complete the BNR digitization project, 1925-2006

Priority: Programs and Staff Development | Develop a variety of enriching programs from art, culture, historical, creative, interactive, and trend-driven content to showcase local experts and talent while also investing in first-rate public service to support skilled staff.

Goal 4.1: Create and host study groups to hold monthly discussion forums on current and local topics of interest, aiming to increase social connection.

Goal 4.2: Facilitate local historical /cultural programs that engage Boone community pride and coincide with our 125th anniversary.

Goal 4.3: Empower staff development opportunities by facilitating funding for staff to attend more conferences, supported by grant funding or other funding avenues.

THE NUMBERS

28,274

Downloadable
Materials
Used



8,064

Public Computer
Sessions



Physical Materials Circulated



Website Visits



94,650
VISITS

5,700
REFERENCE
QUESTIONS



Electronic information
Used



Wi-Fi
Sessions

THE FUN



Program
Attendees



873
Total
Programs



797
Views of
program content
recordings



2,736
Hours open to
the public



5,249
Library
Card Holders

THE FINANCES

Income Sources

City of Boone

General Fund

Capital Income

Contract Cities

Boone County

State

Fines/Fees

Gifts/Grants

State grant funding

\$453,191

\$3,867

\$839

\$78,975

\$7,581

\$7,761

\$35,330

\$ 7,830

Operating Expenditures

Materials

Salaries

Benefits

Other Operational

Expenses

Capital Expenditures

\$60,045

\$354,918

\$167,050

\$140,335

\$9,617

THE STORIES

Impressive programs and library

"Many thanks to Ericson Public Library for coordinating this author talk event! This is a family-friendly library with something for everyone--even a large selection of cake decorating pans and supplies to check out!!" -Lois

"This library offers more than just books! They engage patrons with programs for all ages, like crafty workshops, book clubs, and author talks. Hosting sign language storytimes, fostering community and showcasing local talents. With a diverse selection of books they keep me busy reading too." -Daniel

"Thanks so much Ericson Public Library for hosting the Barnyard yesterday. We had an absolute ball answering questions and showing off our farm animals. The services offered by this library are too numerous to list!" -Barnyard Discoveries

Community and youth engagement

"The Ericson Public Library has been an EDGE partner since 2017, when EDGE began. One of the neatest projects the library has created is their story walk out at McHose Park. They put a new story in several times throughout the year and the super EXCITING news is the story walk during the month of March features Boone Community School District students' writing and illustrations!

Jamie Williams and Zach Stier have been wonderful to work with on this project and supported our Boone students' learning in so many ways!" -Boone Edge

Supporting our writers

"The members of our Writer's Workshop have been working SO HARD this year! Look at all the things they have had published thus far and it is only the end of JULY!

So, so proud of this group for working together almost every Saturday since last fall, pushing each other to keep publishing!

Congratulations on all of your hard work and success!" ~Candy

writer's
WORKSHOP



Thankful for the Library!

"Our preschoolers had a special treat when Mr. Z (and his feathered friend) came to visit and read Little Blue Truck! The kids loved hearing the story come to life and joining in on the fun with their favorite farmyard friends.

We're so thankful for community partners like the library who share the joy of reading with our students!"

-Trinity Lutheran School on Library Outreach visits



Grants and donations help us do more!

In fiscal year 2025 we accomplished several important things with the **\$43,160** in extra funding. Without this funding we would not be able to offer: Little Engines, Book Bike, AdventurePass, exciting and educational kids programming in the summer and throughout the year, snacks, Storywalk, books for wellness visits at the BCH, Hoopla, all digital resources, hotspots, and more! Funding all these services and projects is only possible through grants or donations.

We want to thank our **Friends of the Ericson Public Library, Boone Bank, Lowrey Foundation and the Fenton Trust, United Way of Boone County, Lions Club, Rotary, BooST, Kiwanis, State Historical Society, FORCE Board and of course all our generous donors!** What an impact this has made in our community!



THE TEAM

Our Staff is one of a kind!

The Library Staff is dedicated, caring, and creative with big ideas and big hearts! I am grateful every day that they show up ready to help and bring their best.

Thank you to the following full time staff members who are dedicated to this profession:

Andrea Williams, MLIS | Assistant Library Director | serving EPL for 12 years!

Zach Stier, MLIS, Ed.D | Children's Librarian | serving EPL for 14 years!

Grace Hanley, MLIS | Librarian | serving EPL for 1 year!

Ronda Kelley | Librarian | serving EPL for 12 years!

Tammy Troup, MLIS | Librarian | serving EPL beginning this year!

I also would like to thank our part-time staff who do so much to help and take care of our community: Melinda, Mindy, Megan, Rebecca, Norah, Noah,

AND Mike, who takes care of our beautiful, historical building so well!



Our Library Board is committed to the very best Library for you!

Made up of eight city residents and one rural resident, the Library Board city trustees are appointed by the Mayor with Council approval, and the rural trustee is appointed by the Boone County Board of Supervisors. Terms are six years.

Heather Frese (rural), 2028

Michael Carr, 2028 Sue Gradoville, 2028

Sarah Dvorsky, 2026 Lowell Davis, 2030

Levi Baber, 2030 Rachel McKeny, 2026

Barbara Rardin, 2026 Barbara Madson, 2030

A big thanks to the Library Board of Trustees who are always keeping the library relevant and supported in our community!

Friends of the Ericson Public Library!

Our Friends are wonderful volunteers that run their own nonprofit, 501(c)3 to fundraise for the library. Meeting quarterly to plan fundraisers and decide how to best support the library. They fund different library resources, programs and services that are above and beyond what our budget can support! This includes:

- Hotspots
- Baby books and packets for parents & newborns
- Annual Reading Programs
- Online research databases
- Book discussion books, large print books
- BRIDGES and other online resources



Our Volunteers

Not only do our Friends of the Library Board members volunteer, our Friends members volunteer and help with programs and fundraisers! They manage book sales, put together baby packets, and assist with fun events totaling hundreds of volunteer hours! We also had 26 community volunteers volunteer 202 hours in FY25.



Our City Leaders

City administration, department heads, staff, Mayor and City Council support and work with the library in different capacities from assisting with projects, building issues, programs, funding and more!



Our County Leaders

County supervisors and staff also support the library with funding, projects and programs.

Our Community Partners, Organizations and Businesses

We rely heavily on organizations like Aging Resources, Boone County Hospital, Boone Schools, Iowa Legal Aid, ACCESS, RSVP, ISU Extension, Fareway, BSVRR, Boone Bank, Chamber, Dutch Oven Bakery, Book Shoppe and many other local businesses to support us and we are SO grateful. We have over 50 partners and growing!