

2018

Report to Our Community



Located on Treaty 6
territory & the homeland
of the Métis.



Board Message

For more than a century, Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) has been the heart of our community, and while the world and our community changes rapidly, we must too. In 2016, through our Strategic Plan, the Board amplified our commitment to a vibrant, inclusive library system that anticipates and meets the diverse and complex needs of our community.

Aiming for our vision, “to change lives through community connections, engagement, and inclusivity,” we embarked on a journey involving a new service model, modernization and reconciliation. Though much work remains, SPL achieved a significant milestone in 2018, transitioning to a new organizational structure with many new roles, which enable the organization to be responsive to community needs and remain the heart of our community. On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your support and your feedback to date — we heard you and we will continue to listen. We are deeply heartened by your passion for SPL and commitment to a thriving library system for all in Saskatoon.

Sincerely,

Lisa Erickson

Chair, Board of Trustees

2018 Board of Trustees

Candice Grant, Chair

Lisa Erickson, Vice-Chair

Hilary Gough, Councillor,
City of Saskatoon

Robyn Robertson

John Thronberg

Cheryl Starr

Nicholas Kaminski

Venkat Subramanian

Sheena Greer

Carol Cooley, Director of
Libraries & CEO

Ex Officio

Mayor Charlie Clark

Saskatoon Public Library is governed by a volunteer library board and the Public Libraries Act (1996). Membership appointments to the Board are made by City Council. City residents interested in applying to sit on the Board can find more information by visiting saskatoon.ca.



Patrons saved

\$43,337,094

by using the library in 2018!

Total items borrowed: 3,330,204

Thank you for using the
Saskatoon Public Library.

.....
**Check how much you have saved at
the bottom of your receipt.**

CEO Message

On behalf of everyone at SPL who made the outstanding results contained in this report possible, I'm honoured to share our story as we contribute to the quality of life in Saskatoon. This report is an opportunity for us to reflect on the impact of our work, and to share with you the multitude of ways that the public library makes our community stronger.

Our focus on technology continued in 2018. We launched loanable technology, which allows SPL members to borrow educational technology with their library card. We completed a successful WiFi hotspot pilot project so that some of our members can access the internet at home with their library card. And thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Library, we were also able to invest \$30,000 into STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) technology for use at library programs across Saskatoon.

Last year we made significant progress towards our goal for a new central library. We reached out to the community to hear what your vision for a new central library is and how you would want to use it. We were

encouraged by your desire to see a modern and progressive vision and look forward to presenting our business case later this year.

With a focus on our goal to reduce barriers to library services, we waived nearly \$59,000 in fines through our Good Readance program, created new positions for Outreach Workers, and signed a strategic alliance between the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and Saskatchewan libraries.

While I have noted only a few of our achievements last year, this report is full of evidence that the demand for library services in Saskatoon has never been greater. I hope in reading this report you get as excited for the future as we are.

Sincerely,

Carol Cooley

Director of Libraries & CEO

SPL by the Numbers

With more than **1.6 million** visits and **3.3 million** items circulated, you made 2018 our best year yet! Whatever it is that brings you through our doors—whether it's to attend a program, use a computer, or some simple rest and readlaxation—we hope you enjoyed your visit and come back soon!

97,756

program attendees
(an 8% increase).

48%

of Saskatonians
are members.



1,661,386

visits.

132,401

members.

4%

INCREASE

in members.

1

strategic alliance with
Saskatchewan libraries
and the Office of the
Treaty Commissioner.

2

OUTREACH WORKERS

added to connect people
to community services.



528,470

WiFi sessions.
(a 4% increase)

425,090

computer sessions.
(a 56% increase)



594,700

materials in the collection.

3,330,204

items circulated.



Loanable Technology

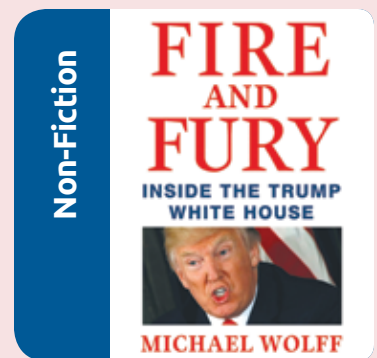
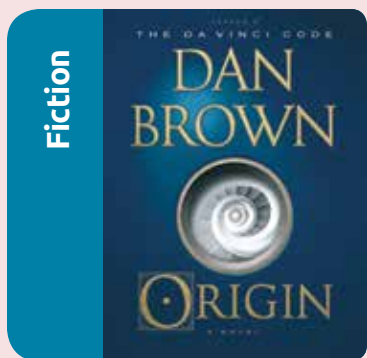
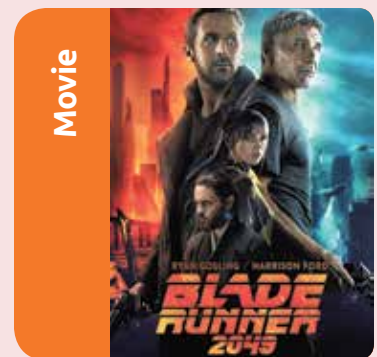
SPL began lending educational tech, and Saskatonians checked out Codeapillars, Makey Makeys, and Osmos more than **600** times.

To learn more about borrowing tech toys, visit saskatoonlibrary.ca/loanabletech or search **SPL Steam** in our online catalogue.



What You Loved

With more than three million items borrowed, there was lots of library love circulating throughout Saskatoon last year. But of the nearly 600,000 items that were vying for your affection, these ones caught the most eyes.



Top 10

Most circulated books by Canadian authors!



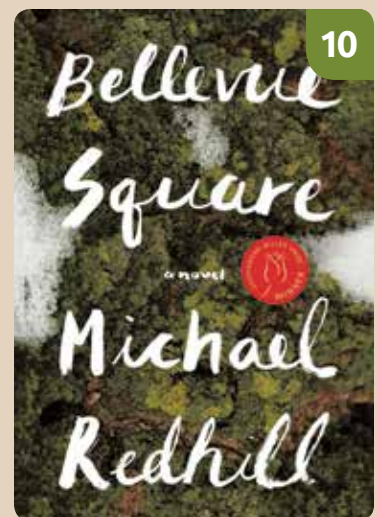
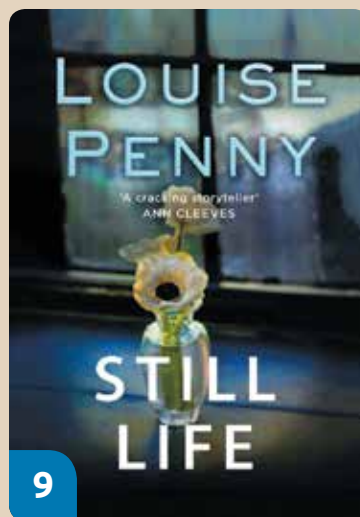
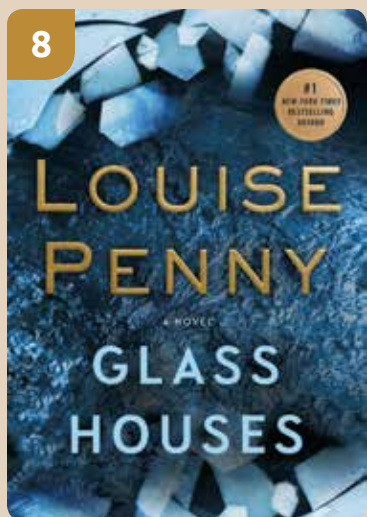
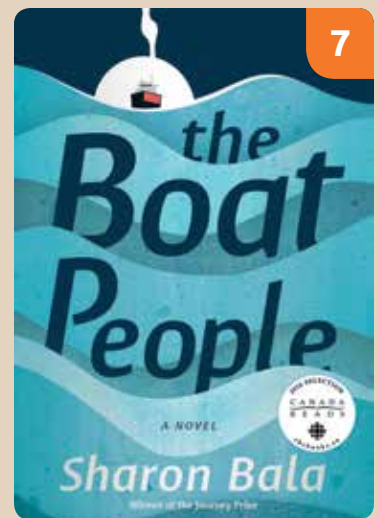
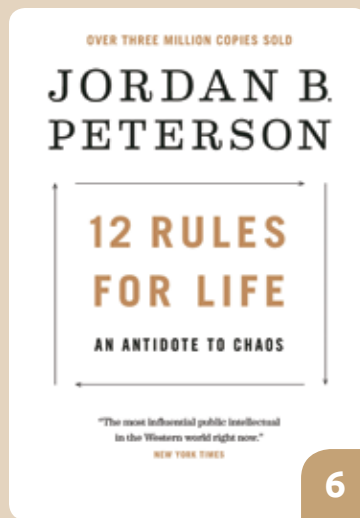
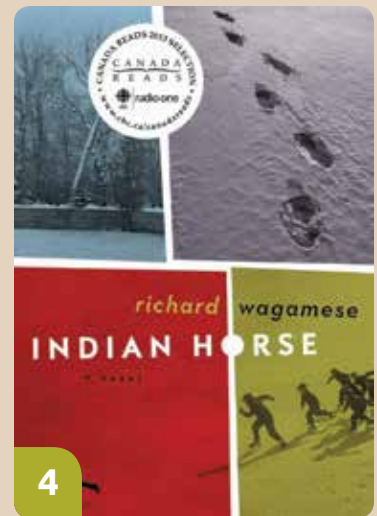
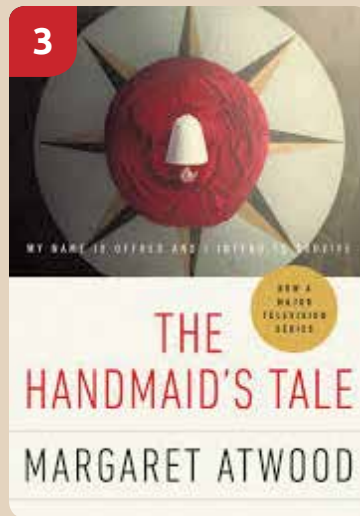
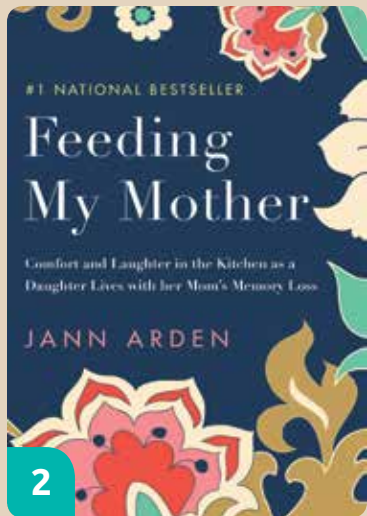
1

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES

The Illustrated Edition

PETER WOHLLEBEN

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Collections.

With nearly **600,000** items in our collection, and the ability to a playground for your imagination. Be anyone, go anywhere.



92,478
new materials added.



43,680
video game checkouts.



23,920
Indigenous materials
circulated.



2,251
photographs were scanned
in Local History.

50,451
**LARGE
PRINT**

books were checked out.
(a 26% increase)

182,
eBooks do



Connections.

Access many more throughout the province, SPL is the ultimate
place and do anything—just be back by the due date, please!



69,115
downloads on Hoopla.



95,129

songs streamed
through Freegal.
(a 24% increase)



29,445

songs downloaded
through Freegal.
(an 11% increase)



Hundreds of books were
single and ready to mingle
in February.



8,874

sessions on Lynda.com.
(a 28% increase)



17,534

magazines checked
out on Flipster.

495

downloaded.



LATE REASON #73

Playoffs.

We get it. Life happens.

So we made it easy to say good readance to late fines.

In total, **11,463** SPL patrons said good readance to **\$59,099.63** in fines by using the library during our fines forgiveness program.

**GOOD
READANCE**



KEYDANCE

New Central Library

We asked what Saskatoonians would like to see in a new central library. You answered, and we shared the results in the **What We Heard** report!

Read the report and learn more about the project at saskatooncentrallibrary.ca.



What We Heard

Saskatoonians share what they want in a new central library

SPLCONNECTS
November 2018



What You Did

Once upon a time, **97,756** Saskatonians attended more than **2,738** library programs. People of all ages flocked to SPL for storytimes, tech tutorials, to learn English, and much more. The end (kidding...we're just getting started!).



2,538

people sailed away
with us at 75
armchair travel
programs.

869

people gathered for
book clubs.



4,268

kids got their boogie
on at 131
dance parties.



198

people battled time and
bewilderment at 20
escape rooms.



23,584

kids attended 845
storytimes.

242

people channeled their
inner Picasso at 13
paint nights.



1,555

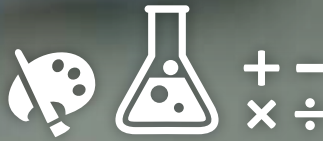
new Canadians practiced
English skills in our
conversation circles.



58

local organizations

partnered with us to make programs
for all ages and abilities possible.

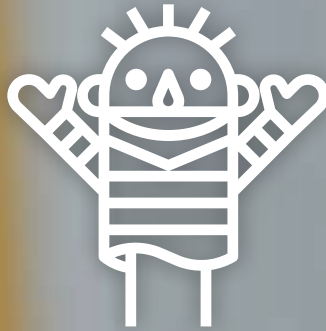


Full Steam Ahead!

5,128 people took part in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programs and over 9,000 people used the innovation lab and video game room at the Round Prairie Branch.

652

kids attended storytimes in **French, Chinese, Urdu and Hindi.**



1,300

people were mesmerized by our **puppet masters.**



56,363

books were read by 2,292 participants in the **TD Summer Reading Club.**

350

kids were visited during 32 trips to the Royal University Hospital's Pediatric Ward.

750

people were entertained during 40 storytimes held at **parks, pools and the zoo.**



709

kids let their creativity run wild at **Imagination Camps.**

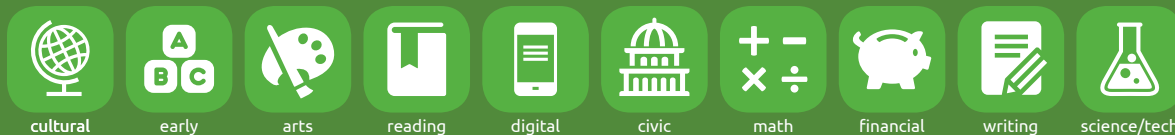
560

kids enjoyed books, crafts and games at **Book Camps.**

1,878

people were entertained at **Performers on Parade.**





knowlympics

2,480 people strove for glory in our second annual Knowlympics, a **150% increase** in participants!

Knowlympics is an all ages summer learning program! Participants register and receive a passport with over 100 challenges. You can play for medals or just for fun. Learn more at saskatoonlibrary.ca/knowlympics.



We enlisted the help of local celebrities and sponsors to help build excitement for the launch.

Left: Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark
Right (clockwise from top left): Saskatoon Blades mascot, Poke Check; C95 FM hosts Rob Suski and Shauna Foster; Leisha Grebinski, host of CBC Radio One's Saskatoon Morning Edition; CTV Morning Live's Mike Ciona with SPL employees Jennifer (middle) and Jody.



Thanks to Our Supporters

We'd like to give a shout out to our many wonderful sponsors who make the prizes possible!

Our friends at 21st Street Brewery also made a special beer, the Knew England Pale Ale, to celebrate our 2nd annual Knowlympics, with proceeds donated back to the library.

Report to Our Community



At Your Service!

Question: what do library tours for newcomers, deliveries to senior residences and Writer in Residence consultations have in common?

Answer: they're all awesome SPL services! In our quest to make the library as welcoming and accessible as possible, we're always looking for new and innovative ways to be at your service!

724

deliveries were
made through the
**Home Reader
Service.**



local artists
showcased their
work in The Gallery
at Frances Morrison
Central Library.

471

people received
advice from SPL's
**Writer in
Residence.**



40

WiFi Hotspots
were made available to
patrons who don't have
internet access at home.





632

**Book Club
in a Bag**

kits were
signed out.

6,086

kids were hosted
by SPL during 214
**school field
trips.**



58,240

items were loaned to
**correctional, senior,
and youth facilities.**

1,353

new-to-Saskatoon
patrons attended 82
library tours.



The Heart of Our Community

More than a place to borrow books or attend programs, SPL is deeply integrated into our community. Whether it's through parades, festivals or social media, we love connecting with you in many ways and places!

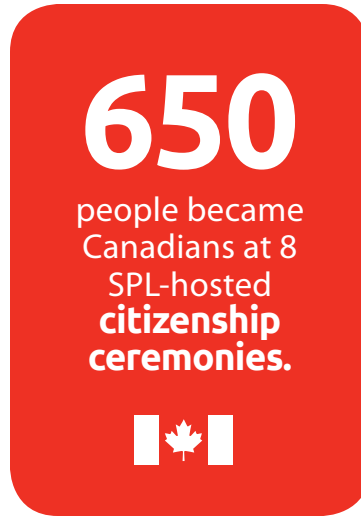
Here are just a few of the ways we participated in 2018...





Walk for Reconciliation

June



650

people became
Canadians at 8
SPL-hosted
**citizenship
ceremonies.**



Métis Days

September



6,735

Twitter followers.
(a 3% increase)



Orange Shirt Day

September



4,878

Instagram followers.
(a 35% increase)



Pride Parade

June



11,716

Facebook followers.
(a 27% increase)



The Word on the Street Festival

September



**SASKATOON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

saskatoonlibrary.ca

311– 23rd St East
306.975.7558

   [stonlibrary](#)