Better Than Ever

2016 Report to Our Community

31% INCREASE in program attendance.

35% INCREASE in active members.

15% INCREASE in circulation of digital materials.

Plus, the most borrowed titles of the year revealed!
Vision
We change lives through community connections, engagement and inclusivity.

Mission
We enrich communities by inspiring discovery, curiosity and creativity through the sharing of spaces, experiences and ideas.

Values

Intellectual Freedom
We support open and unrestricted access to information and protect individual rights to privacy and choice without fear of censorship or discrimination.

Free & Equitable Access
Everyone has equal access to library services regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, income, abilities or other barriers.

Innovation
We embrace change and view challenges as opportunities to encourage creativity, experimentation and the generation of new ideas.

Diversity & Inclusion
We strive to be a safe place and a safe place to be different and reflect the diversity of Saskatoon’s communities.
Welcome

It’s hard to know where to begin when looking back on 2016. From the new branch that opened in the Stonebridge neighbourhood to the many initiatives we undertook to honour SPL’s commitment to reconciliation, it was an exciting and eventful year.

In many ways, these initiatives were just the beginning. We released a new strategic plan to close out 2016 and are in the midst of a comprehensive service review, all of which is intended to modernize SPL’s digital, physical and cultural environments. We are striving to become a more vibrant and responsive library system, and to be recognized throughout the city for creating inviting, safe and innovative spaces.

As you will see within this report, we are well on the way to achieving these objectives — many of our most important metrics are trending upwards. But in today’s world, where technology evolves rapidly and our city’s cultural fabric is being continually enriched with newcomers, we know our work will never truly end. We must, as an organization, have the ability to be agile, proactive and ensure we are consulting regularly with you, our patrons.

Sincerely,

Candice Grant
Chair, Board of Trustees

Carol Cooley
Director of Libraries & CEO

2016 Board of Trustees
Candice Grant, Chair
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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.
In a world increasingly busy and borderless, public libraries are more important than ever. They are community living rooms and represent one of the few remaining truly democratic public spaces in society.

While the library’s values are permanent, we are continually evolving our services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community we serve. In many respects, 2016 was a year of change at SPL — we opened a new branch, became more digitally friendly and made significant strides in our commitment to Reconciliation. We also packaged our aspirations for the next five years in a new strategic plan. In committing to modernize our organization, we are also committing to help make Saskatoon a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community to call home.

While some have lamented the potential decline of libraries in today’s digital age, we beg to differ. Your library is better than ever — and we’re just getting started!
1,429,369 patron visits … thanks a million!

12,662 new library cards. Woohoo!

1 new branch.

453,331 reference questions answered.

551,939 materials in the collection.

3,273,528 items circulated.

94,545 shiny new materials.

106,107 wireless sessions. (a 32% increase)

31% INCREASE in program attendance.

92,939 program attendees.

2,800+ free programs.

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35% INCREASE in active members.

48% of Saskatonians are members.

126,131 members.

186,599 computer sessions.

106,107 wireless sessions. (a 32% increase)

3,273,528 items circulated.

94,545 shiny new materials.

12,662 new library cards. Woohoo!

453,331 reference questions answered.

Participated in 28 community events.

35% INCREASE in active members.

48% of Saskatonians are members.

126,131 members.

186,599 computer sessions.
Programs

From employment preparation and technology training to storytime for kids and support for English language learners, SPL’s programs enhance a range of literacies throughout our community and bring people together. Every year, thousands of programs are offered—something to inspire and engage citizens of every age and interest—and they’re all FREE.

Published three times a year, our Program Guide puts all the dates and details at your fingertips. Pick up a copy at any SPL location or browse it online at sasktoonlibrary.ca/programguide.

Thanks to our community connections

AIDS Saskatoon  
Alzheimer Society Saskatchewan  
Association des Parents Fransaskois  
Bright Horizons  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
City of Saskatoon  
Community Legal Assistance Services  
Saskatoon Inner City Inc.  
Conexus Credit Union  
Deaf Children’s Society of Saskatchewan  
Douglas & McIntyre  
Family Law Saskatchewan  
Frontier College  
GDC Saskatchewan North  
Goodreads  
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Saskatoon Downtown  
Jack Pine Press  
Law Society of Saskatchewan  
Library Archives Canada  
Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Inc.  
Live Five Independent Theatre  
Minds in Motion  
National Film Board of Canada  
OUT Saskatoon  
Paved Arts  
Prairie Birth Collective  
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan  
Public Legal Education Saskatchewan  
READ Saskatoon  
REEL Canada  
Remai Modern  
Rogalski Financial Services  
Sage Hill Writing Experience  
Saskatchewan Book Awards  
Saskatchewan Council of Women  
Saskatchewan Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services  
Bridging the Gap  
Saskatchewan Environmental Society  
Saskatchewan German Council  
Saskatchewan Library Association  
Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association  
Saskatoon Council on Aging  
Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo  
Saskatoon Health Region  
Saskatoon Open Door Society  
Saskatoon Public Schools  
Saskatoon Pride Festival  
Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra  
Saskatoon Writers’ Collective  
Saskatoon Zoo Society  
SaskTel  
Scotiabank  
St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program  
St. Thomas More College  
TD Bank  
The Canadian Bar Association Saskatchewan Branch  
The Writers’ Union of Canada  
Tonight It’s Poetry  
Toronto Public Library  
Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Saskatchewan Library  
Winnipeg Architecture Foundation  
The Word on the Street  
Write Out Loud  
Yorkton Film Festival
Teen Book Trailer Contest
57 Hollywood-worthy movie trailers created.
Look out, Scorsese.

TD Summer Reading Club
A record 2,512 kids read a whopping 71,821 books.

QUEER AS
229 people attended a film series sharing the strengths and struggles of the LGTBQ community.

Performers on Parade
Storytellers and musicians entertained more than 2,800 people.

Tween Task Force
76 tweens crushed missions such as making robots out of recycling and creating comics.

Blind Date With A Book
Be still, our reading hearts!
SPL played cupid for 737 booklovers, enticing them to get between the covers of mystery-wrapped reads.

Senior’s Writing Challenge
A record 102 pieces of writing submitted, reminding us the love of storytelling never gets old.

Book Clubs
1,051 people gathered for book clubs, and the Alice Turner Book Club celebrated 20 years.
Happy Book Club birthday!

Discover Documentaries
930 patrons discovered 32 documentaries.

Travel & Culture
1,845 armchair travellers heard tales from globe-hopping speakers.
No passport required.

Storytime
Once upon a time, 9,044 children went to storytime, building early literacy skills to help them learn happily ever after.

English Conversation
514 people improved their English skills.

We Dare You
Teens completed more than 1,000 fun dares for #WDY2016.

Storytime In Other Languages
870 people enjoyed Chinese, French and German storytimes.
Xiè xie! Merci! Danke!

iPad® Lessons
529 people learned how to use an iPad.
Take THAT, Siri!
Collection

Would you believe nearly 300 items are added to the collection every single day? That’s fact, not fiction! This includes books, of course, and digital offerings, too. With a library card, members can stream or download a huge selection of music and videos and expand their minds (and career prospects) with Lynda.com, which offers more than 100,000 skill-training video courses for free. And don’t forget you can check out eBooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines… eEverything!

It’s all about making sure you can access as many resources as possible. To learn more about all the digital resources available, check out saskatoonlibrary.ca/digital.

Most Popular Books of 2016

- **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins
  - Adults borrowed this 1,997 times

- **Deadpool’s Secret Wars**
  - Tops for teens! Sadly, Ryan Reynolds is not available for borrowing.

- **Pinkalicious and Planet Pink**
  - Kids borrowed this 278 times.
12,195 magazines checked out on Zinio

With 482 checkouts and who-knows-how-many recipes, Canadian Living was the most popular.

35,933 LARGE PRINT books checked out.

165,686 eBooks downloaded. Up 9%

9,031 materials in an ever-expanding Indigenous and Métis collection.

2,384 materials added in languages other than English.

36% INCREASE in e-audiobook downloads. That’s e-mazing!

27,405 searches in Local History.

5,509 sessions on Lynda.com. Keeping Saskatoon smart!

81,528 songs streamed and another 20,311 songs downloaded from Freegal.

Most popular eBook
Downloaded 261 times from Library2Go.

Most downloaded song on Freegal
Cheap Thrills by Sia. Cheap? More like FREE!

15% INCREASE in circulation of digital materials.
Services

Classroom visits, tours for newcomers, deliveries to seniors’ homes, Writer in Residence consultations, mobile device charging lockers… and these are just beginning when it comes to SPL’s many services. Whether you’re a new Canadian or long-time Saskatonian, avid reader or gaming enthusiast, we are always at your service.

**Video Game Holds**
Members can now place holds on video games. Score!

**Mobile Charging Lockers**
We added complimentary mobile device charging lockers at two branches.

**Laptop Bar**
We added a handy laptop bar at the central library so you can charge your devices while you work.

**Hot Titles**
We’ve added more copies and increased the loan period to 21 days, making it easier than ever to get your hands on the hottest, most popular titles.

**Outreach Workers**
SPL partnered with Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) to pilot an outreach worker program at the central library.

**Newcomers**
We have books and e-resources in many languages, as well as EAL book clubs, storytimes and other programs to assist English language learners.
local artists showcased their work in The Gallery.

18,498 kids and countless giggles filled our libraries during 311 field trips.

687 deliveries to personal care homes and residents through our Home Reader Service.

605 groups signed out 4,734 items using the Book Club in a Bag service. Up 12%.

59,071 items loaned to drop-in centres, senior homes and residences, youth homes and correctional facilities.

260 local writers received advice from the Writer in Residence.

300 adults participated in 31 library tours, with many becoming new members.

10 TOP 3 Book Club in a Bag Selections

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

Ru

Still Life

2012-2022
Outreach & Engagement

While there’s always a lot of excitement happening inside the branches, SPL staff and services are regularly out and about as well. From booths at festivals and tradeshows to daycare visits and partnerships with community organizations, our roots in Saskatoon run deep.

Outreach services not only help connect people to library services, they also give us an opportunity to hear and experience what’s happening throughout our city. This helps us plan more effectively for the future and ensure we’re offering the programs and services you need most. Win-win!

Where we were in 2016

Alzheimer's Conference
Art in the Park Festival
AvaLAWN afFAIR
Breaking the Silence Conference
Broadway Street Festival
Children’s Festival
CNIB Conference
Community Fun Days in the Park
Culture Days
Health Promotion Fair
Home-Based Educators Convention
Insight Conference
International Literacy Day
LUGO
National Aboriginal Day
NatureCity Festival
Nuit Blanche
OUTSaskatoon Prom
PRIDE
Riversdale Love Launch
Spotlight on Seniors
The Saskatoon Comic and Entertainment Expo
The Saskatoon Family Expo
Walk for Reconciliation
Wintershines
Word on the Street
YXE Connects
33rd Street Fair
18,000 books given away at community events.

200 early literacy promotion kits given to new moms for Mother’s Day.

2x a month we bring storytime to mothers and children at the YWCA Crisis Centre.

52 visits to daycares.

29 visits to the Royal University Hospital’s pediatric ward = countless laughs and smiles.

NEARLY 400 new Canadians were sworn in at eight SPL-hosted citizenship ceremonies. Oaths were said and happy tears shed!

37 storytimes entertained 866 book-loving people (and animals) at local parks, pools and the zoo.

200 early literacy promotion kits given to new moms for Mother’s Day.

Bikebrary hit the road delivering books and stories across the city. People wheely enjoyed it!
Better Than Ever

SPL is Better Than Ever—and what fun we had launching a campaign to show you why! With so many services and amenities available to you, we had plenty to tell you about in our branches, on mini-billboards, and with print, online and social media advertising. Here’s just a sampling:

**Book Club in a Bag.**
Free books. Because wine is expensive.
Reserve titles and we’ll have copies ready for your whole group.

**Download music.**
It’s free. It’s legal. It’s Freenegal.

**Binge watch for free!**
Borrow, stream or download TV & movies.

saskatoonlibrary.ca
#SPLBetterThanEver
We’ve got lots of new releases & bestsellers.

Happy saving (and sniffing)!

THREE WORDS:
New Book Smell
We’ve got lots of new releases & bestsellers.

Happy saving (and sniffing)!

eBooks, they return themselves.

It’s eMazing!

Download ebooks to your smartphone or eReader.

saskatoonlibrary.ca
#SPLBetterThanEver

Whatever you play, why pay?

Borrow new games!

PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Wii and Wii U.

Non-fiction.
We can’t make this stuff up.

New books? Check.
Comfy chair? Check.
Unlimited cheesecake? Nice try.

Non-fiction.
We can’t make this stuff up.
Round Prairie Branch Opens

The new branch in Stonebridge opened in December, full of sunlight and innovative, patron-friendly features. Check it out!

SPL has named this branch after the Round Prairie Métis to honour the critical role they played in building Saskatoon and to commemorate their former community. To learn more, visit saskatoonlibrary.ca/roundprairie.
A COZY fireplace and television in the reading area.

Gaming Room with three video game consoles. Xbox One S, Wii U, PlayStation 4

Innovation Lab
MacBooks with editing and design software, Makey Makeys, snap circuits, Little Bits, button making and more.

OVER 12,000 titles with more added daily.

Workspaces for individuals and groups.

Meeting Room
A bright space with modern technologies.

Google Chromebooks
Borrow one and work anywhere in the branch.

Charging outlets at every chair and table.

RFID scanners so you can check out a stack of books all at once.

Stroller parking in the children’s area.
2016–2021 Strategic Plan

Saskatoon Public Library’s Strategic Plan sets forth an exciting and ambitious vision of growth, modernization and cultural progress for our organization. With Saskatoon witnessing rapid expansion and technology constantly changing, this plan will help guide the critical and necessary evolution of your library over the next five years.

The strategic plan is available at saskatoonlibrary.ca/strategic-plan
Inspiring Learning, Discovery & Creation

Inspiring learning, discovery and creation for all Saskatonians through access to information, tools, technology and support services designed to help people develop literacies.

Honouring Indigenous Perspectives

Honouring Indigenous perspectives and advocating for reconciliation with sustained, strategic and deliberate actions to promote healing and understanding in the community.

Connecting Communities

Connecting with our community by engaging in conversations and collaborative initiatives that create opportunities for growth, learning and enjoyment.

Preparing for the Future

Modernizing to become a more dynamic, agile and responsive organization where future directions are informed by community consultations.
Our Commitment to Reconciliation

SPL is committed to reconciliation and is working to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action.

We are working with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations to respond to the Calls to Action on a national level, and have developed a local Indigenous Advisory Committee to guide and direct us.

Reconciliation Saskatoon Members

Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Centres of Saskatchewan
Affinity Credit Union
Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan
Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Saskatchewan
Canadian Roots Exchange
City of Saskatoon
City of Warman
CTV Television Network
Central Urban Métis Federation
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
Gordon Tootoosis
Nikaniwin Theatre
Great Plains College
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochk
Legacy Ridge Foundation
Mennonite Central Committee
Office of the Treaty Commissioner
PotashCorp
Quint Development

Reconciliation All Faith Gospel Jamboree
Roman Catholic Diocese
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority
Saskatchewan Indigenous Institute of Technologies
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Saskatchewan Seniors’ Fitness Association
Saskatoon Community Service Village
Saskatoon Food Bank
Saskatoon Health Region
Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre
Saskatoon Islamic Association
Saskatoon Native Ministries
Saskatoon Police Service
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
Saskatoon Public Library
Saskatoon Public Schools
Saskatoon Tribal Council

SaskTel
Saskatoon Open Door Society
Shift Developments
St. Thomas Wesley United Church
University of Saskatchewan
Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon
United Church of Canada
United Way of Saskatoon & Area
University of Saskatchewan
Wild About Saskatoon
A reconciliation book list was created and is available at all SPL locations and online.

Reconciliation Reading Area
Opened at the central library and is home to a growing Indigenous collection.

TRC Books on Display
Eugene Arcand, a residential school survivor and TRC representative, gave SPL a complete set of TRC books.

#79 BRANCH NAMING
Responding to call #79 we worked with Indigenous Elders to name the Round Prairie Branch and announced the re-naming of a branch in honour of Dr. Freda Ahenakew.

Storytelling Month
SPL participated in this provincial initiative, offering 11 programs to honour Indigenous language, culture and history.

Reconciliation Saskatoon Committee
Together we raised a reconciliation flag at City Hall and had over 2,500 people Walk for Reconciliation.

Photos: Eagle Feather News
Online Engagement

SPL’s social media engagements skyrocketed in 2016, and we had a lot of fun sharing information and connecting with our online community. Thanks for all those likes, loves, comments and, of course, smiley face emojis! 😊

Most Popular #Bookface Friday

[Image of a person holding a book]
We joined INSTAGRAM!

50% INCREASE in Facebook followers.

26% INCREASE in Twitter followers.

INCREASE in Facebook engagements.

19,496 Facebook engagements.
(likes, comments, shares, mentions)

163 Facebook likes.

Top Facebook Post
Round Prairie name announcement.
13,446 people reached
693 reactions, comments and shares

Top Tweet
4,377 impressions
217 engagements

50% INCREASE in Twitter followers.

412,701 users visited
saskatoonlibrary.ca
a total of
861,396 TIMES

Saskatoon Library @sstoollibrary
As always, the library is a safe space. Everyone is welcome.
pic.twitter.com/FXUdh4RPbT

Most Popular Instagram
Blowing up the Traffic Bridge #tbt

412,701

Timelines
Operating Budget

Total Revenue $21,881,600

Revenue
Property tax $20,964,100
Provincial grant $651,200
Sale of goods, fines & rentals $266,300

Expenses
Salaries & benefits $12,342,400
Operations & expenses $7,525,000
Maintenance & utilities $2,014,200

5% of your city taxes go toward funding nine SPL locations, while 54% goes to the City of Saskatoon and 41% goes to school boards.

Source: City of Saskatoon 2015 Annual Report to Citizens.
The Friends’ Shop is where withdrawn library materials find a second home. Proceeds are donated to SPL to support library programs and other initiatives. Friends of the Saskatoon Public Library is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to fundraising for the library.

Visit the library bookshop at the Frances Morrison Central Library or look for pop-up shops at the branches.

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### Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Fiction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback</td>
<td>$0.25 ea or $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover</td>
<td>$0.50 ea or $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Non-fiction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback</td>
<td>$0.50 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover</td>
<td>$1 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardcover</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographies</td>
<td>$1 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult Books</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback</td>
<td>$0.25 ea or $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Books</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback</td>
<td>$0.25 ea or $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel Books</strong></td>
<td>$1 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CDs, DVDs &amp; Video Games</strong></td>
<td>$1 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magazines</strong></td>
<td>$0.50 ea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Through the sale of withdrawn items, the Friends of the Library donated $41,700 for:

- Prizes for the TD Summer Reading Club
- We Dare You Summer Challenge for teens
- Teen book trailer competition
- Projector
- Computer lab retrofit

Thanks