

BOX

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Find Your
STORY



Mission:

To connect our communities to a world of possibilities.

There are numerous ways in which we strive to accomplish our mission. In 2015, we focused on increasing the quality of events and materials in our buildings, such as through the implementation of a SPELL grant (Supporting Parents in Early Literacy) which featured events and book kits for families with children ages 0-3.

Also in 2015, we said a fond goodbye to our award-winning Executive Director Amelia Shelley, and award-winning Board Member Bill Lamont who retired.

We hope you enjoy this report which highlights the numbers behind the work we do on a daily basis to support and empower our communities.



Balance

We continually strive to connect our communities with the materials and services which have the greatest impact. In 2015, we set out to discover exactly how the community felt about the services, buildings, and materials offered by our libraries. We conducted a satisfaction survey in both English and Spanish.

Percentage of those who answered
"Satisfied" and "Very Satisfied" with:

Staff Skills & Knowledge

97%

Website

89%

Selection of Best Sellers

84%





Community

Our libraries believe strongly in building our communities. We see on a daily basis how lives can be changed through access to free materials and events that bring people together.

We also know that resources are scarce and many people in our valley go hungry. This was the 8th year we've held the Food for Fines program, which has netted over 28,000 cans of food since its inception. All collected food is donated to LIFT-UP to distribute to families in need.

653,420
Visitors

57,226
Event Attendees



Empowerment

This year we focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning during our children's events which included Hour of Code, a global initiative to promote computer science in and teach foundational 21st century skills. We also expanded our maker events at multiple locations to foster hands-on learning and creativity for all ages.

The library's website continued to serve as our seventh branch. It is an important resource for members to find and request books, learn about events, and use databases like Ancestry to research genealogy or Mango to learn a new language.

63,820

Hours Public Computers Used

725,386

Items Borrowed

Excellence

Two of our librarians met with Colorado State Representative Bob Rankin during Library Lobby Day in order to share why libraries are important in our community and how critical state funding has been for our library.

In 2015, the Garfield County Libraries created a balanced budget. However, sales tax refunds related to the Noble Gas Settlement continued to impact the budget and reduced our income by another \$80,000. Despite setbacks like this, the libraries were able to continue operations without having to cut open hours.

51,540

Library Card Holders

\$5.49

Return Per Dollar Invested*

*ROI calculated by using data from the Library Research Service (www.lrs.org).





Innovation

In September, the libraries participated in Outside the Lines (OTL), a weeklong celebration demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. During OTL, the libraries created and distributed “Book Stops” at bus stops in Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, and Rifle. The Book Stops used upcycled newspaper stands to distribute free paperback books to people using public transportation. The program was so successful the Book Stops not only remained that week as planned, but are still at all locations to this day.

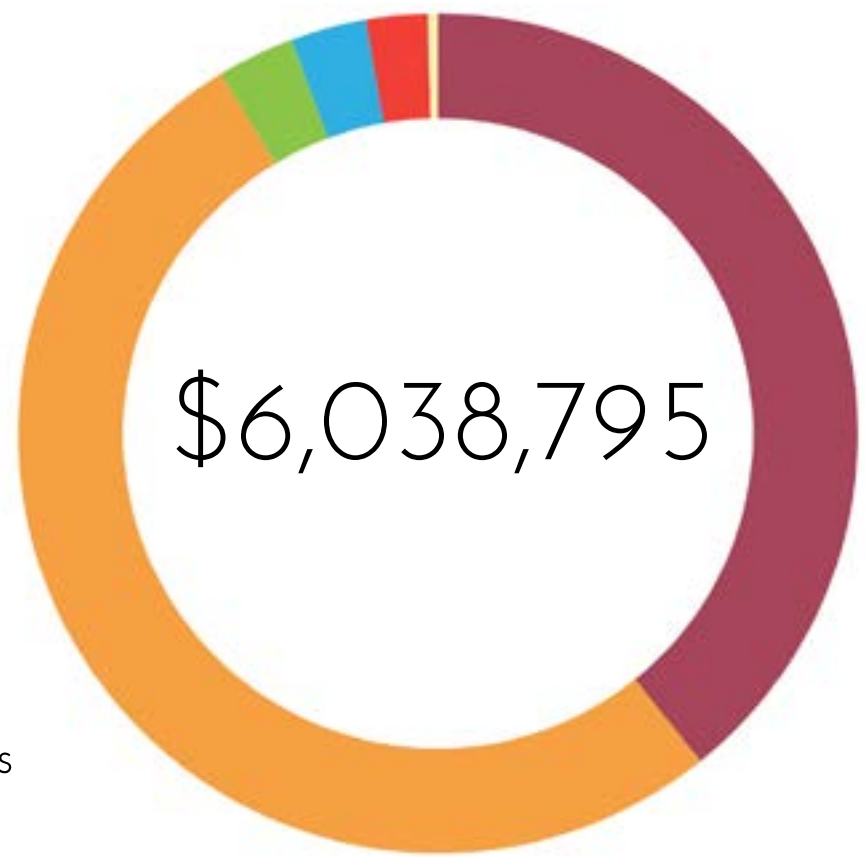
During 2015, the libraries also spearheaded a “Shop Local” movement in Garfield County by bringing together all the local municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, and other important community organizations. Together we formed a partnership to help raise awareness of the benefits of shopping locally. As the lead member in the partnership, the library created a website, marketing campaign, and planned free workshops for small businesses throughout the county.





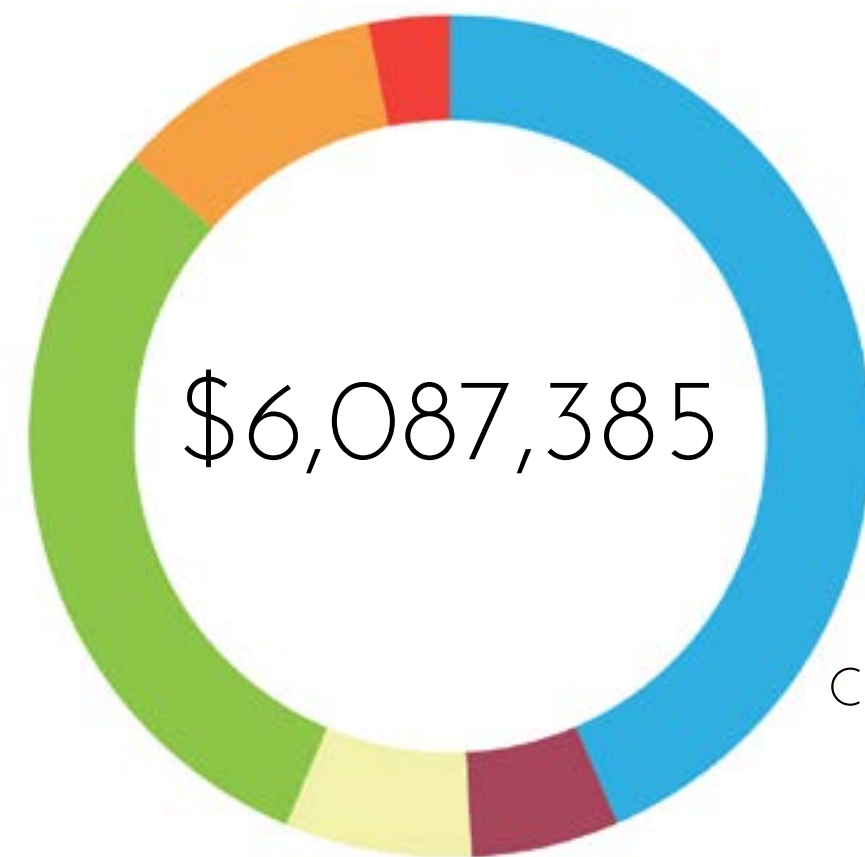
Revenues

- Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- SO Tax
- Fines & Forfeitures
- Grants, Etc.
- Interest on Investments



Expenses

- Debt Service
- Building Overhead
- Library Materials
- Employee Costs
- Cost to Receive Revenue
- Operating / Other





With Special Thanks to our Donors & Grantors

Alpine Bank
Amelia Shelley
American Library Association
Andrea Holland
Angie Anderson
Aspen Community Foundation
Barbara DeYoung
Caldwell Banker Mason Morse
Carbondale Rotary Club
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