



Mission Statement:

The Elkader Public Library provides the residents of the community and the surrounding area equal access to resources and services for information, continuing education, and recreation.

## FY 2019-2020 Annual Report

### Response to the Global Pandemic

After Governor Reynolds closed schools on March 15, 2020, in response to the growing concern for safety regarding the spread of COVID-19, the Elkader Public Library remained open to the public, but limited the number of users and the amount of time they could spend in the library. All library programs were also canceled in order to abide by the governor's proclamation prohibiting public gatherings.

After much consideration, and following the lead of other libraries in the state, the Elkader Library closed to public visits on March 23, 2020. Though the doors were locked, library business continued through a system similar to a restaurant's take-out service. Library cardholders could reserve items through the online catalog or by calling the library, and staff would check out the items, put them in bags, and set them out in the entryway to be picked up. From March 23-June 30, there were over 2,000 items checked out using this no-contact service!

In addition, patrons could download e-books and audiobooks from BRIDGES: Iowa's e-Library using their Elkader Public Library card. During the same period specified above, there were nearly 1,200 items downloaded from BRIDGES by Elkader Library patrons.

Because of the continuing threat from the virus and because young children find it difficult to adhere to social distancing, the Summer Reading Program was planned as a take-home, do-it-yourself program, complete with instructions, activities, and supplies. There were also optional Zoom sessions for participants. With help from the Friends of the Library, each registered child received several books to keep throughout the course of the program.

On June 15, 2020, the Elkader Public Library started taking reservations from the public for 30-minute visits to browse, check out items, use public access computers, or do any other regular library business. During the first three weeks, an average of six persons per day utilized appointments to visit the library.

## Users

Between July 1, 2019 and March 23, 2020, the library was visited 13,755 times. That's an average of over 1,500 visits each month!

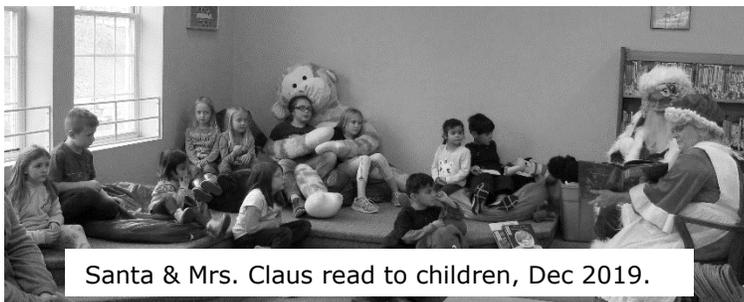
Current Cardholders: Elkader -1,158 Rural Clayton County - 1,034  
Contracting Cities (Elkport, Garber, St. Olaf) - 92  
Open Access, Out of State, Interlibrary Loan - 1,041

## Funding

The City of Elkader provides approximately 72% of the library's revenue. Appropriations from Clayton County make up approximately 22%. Revenues from overdue fines, fees for services (such as photocopying and faxing), the State Library's Enrich Iowa program, and contracts for library service to the towns of Elkport, Garber, and St. Olaf supply the remaining 6%.

## Resources & Services

Books, Magazines & Newspapers (12,823 check-outs)  
DVDs & Audios (1,925 check-outs)  
Puzzles, Cake Pans, Kits, Equipment (213 check-outs)  
BRIDGES Audiobooks, E-books, Magazines & Videos (3,539 downloads)  
Conference Room (used 109 times Jul 1-Mar 23)  
Website Including Online Catalog & Databases (accessed 4,409 times)  
Outreach & Programs for All Ages (2,082 people attended 183 programs)  
Public Computers & Wireless Network (used 6,512 times)  
Services: Faxing, Photocopying, Reference, Scanning, Tax Forms



"Libraries always  
remind me that there  
are good things in this  
world." ~Lauren Ward