How many times did we hear the word “unprecedented” in 2020?

While faced and challenged with unprecedented circumstances in 2020, the mission of the library remained steadfast and strong at Simpson Public Library. We adapted our service delivery methods to serve our community in March during a state-mandated three-month closure by focusing on our digital resources and reaching people through video, social media, and email.

We reopened our doors in June with alternative programming options for all ages including virtual programs, story time programs at local parks, and take and make art kits for children. Contactless holds pickup was developed, implemented, and is available upon request. Digital access cards were issued for borrowing electronic resources. Use of these resources skyrocketed with a 28% increase in the number of digital books downloaded compared with 2019.

The need and desire for library services remains strong with online usage, in-person visits, daily computer use, and borrowing books and movies for education and recreation.

Thank you to our community of readers for your flexibility and understanding during our closure and during our reopening.

Thank you to our donors who continued to support us financially throughout the year. The library and the Friends of the Library both had to modify or cancel fundraising events in 2020, so your generous financial support in 2020 was greatly appreciated.

We are grateful to the volunteers who have returned to their library duties which helps us keep daily operations moving smoothly. We appreciate the Board of Trustees for their support and leadership this past year.

Special thanks go to the library staff for their passion for library service, their willingness to change and adapt procedures and program options, their joy in the library being open, and delight at seeing familiar faces from the community again.

The combination of our volunteers, Friends’ Board of Directors, Library Board of Trustees, and library staff form a remarkable team at Simpson Public Library dedicated to public library service. My deepest thanks and gratitude to everyone for their resiliency in 2020.

Sue Erdman, Executive Director

Joseph T. Simpson Public Library
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2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

eBook and eAudiobook Checkouts

Most popular eBook at Simpson!
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

51,341 eBooks downloaded

24,060 eAudiobooks downloaded

28% More digital book downloads than 2019

SERVICES ADDED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Curbside Pickup
- Virtual Programming
- Take and Make Activity Bags
- Children's Programs in the Parks
- Digital Access Cards

800 Kids and caregivers attended programs in the park

148 Digital Access Cards Issued

908 Items Picked Up at Curbside in June

117,878 Visits to the Library

100 Virtual Adult Programs Offered

1,818 Virtual Adult Program Attendance

122 Virtual Children's Programs Offered

2,111 Virtual Children's Program Attendance

10,356 Reference Questions Answered

97,772 Visits to our Website

26,035 Simpson Library Cardholders
This library is amazing! The staff are so knowledgeable and ALWAYS willing to help!”
Patron from Mechanicsburg

“We still love online resources but miss[ed] the staff, programs, and getting books in person.”
Patron from Upper Allen Township

“It’s made my girls excited about reading and provided them with peer socialization and early learning activities in a safe, nurturing environment.”
Patron from Mechanicsburg

“There are a lot of movies [and] TV shows not streaming as part of a subscription that are at the library.”
Bethany F.

“We miss[ed] visiting the library. The magic of discovery and learning is somehow not the same online.”
Patron from Shiremanstown

Photos and Quotes from 2020