

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Unalaska Public Library

Mission: Unalaska Public Library educates, enriches, and inspires community members by connecting them to the world and each other.



**23,633**  
WIRELESS  
SESSIONS



**38,730**  
ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**12,173** LIBRARY VISITS



**641** VISITS  
FOR CURBSIDE  
CHECKOUT

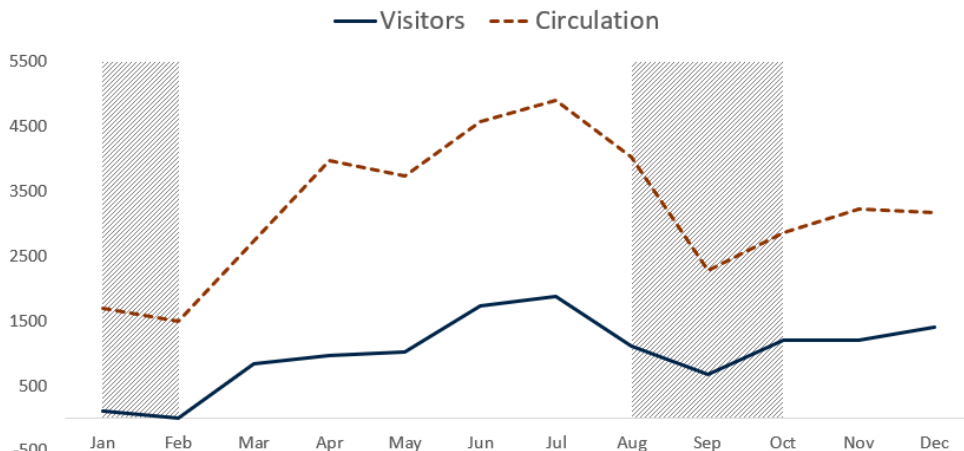


**2,148** EBOOK  
& AUDIOBOOK  
DOWNLOADS



**114** NEW  
CARDS

Library Visitors & Circulation, 2021



Shaded regions represent closures or appointment-only restrictions

### COMMENTS FROM LIBRARY PATRONS

"My love for the Unalaska Public Library runs deep and true. Our library is essential to the education, health, and well-being of residents and visitors alike, and I am grateful Unalaska supports this crucial social infrastructure resource, especially by proceeding with the Library Upgrades Project."



"The Unalaska library provides a wide range of services beyond what's usually expected from a library, for example sewing machines. The library did a great job offering services where it could during the height of the covid pandemic, which lasted a long time. Overall, the Unalaska library is a valuable asset that should continue to be a top priority for community support and funding."



"My little boys always enjoy Story Time and the reading programs. They love coming in and turning in their completed sheets of book titles! My parents are frequent visitors whenever they come to stay with us. I'm so thankful to live in a community with such a wonderful library! We are blessed to have our library - both the building and the staff members that work there!"

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## MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

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To: Unalaska Mayor and City Council Members  
From: M. Lynn Crane, Chair, Unalaska Public Library Advisory Committee  
Date: February 8, 2022  
Re: Library Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Mayor and Council, 2021

This year, the Unalaska Public Library continued to provide valuable services and resources to the community, and I am pleased to submit this report on Unalaska Public Library and Library Advisory Committee activities to the Mayor and Council. It covers the calendar year from January – December of 2021.

Library services and usage were again different in 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; however, with flexible and creative solutions, the library was able to expand upon services provided during the pandemic in the previous year. Throughout the year, the library was open to the public – first with curbside services, then by appointment, then with some restrictions in place, and finally working our way to pre-pandemic service levels by the end of the year.

As in 2020, library staff worked hard in 2021 to accomplish the library's mission to **educate, enrich, and inspire community members by connecting them to the world and each other** within ever-changing health and safety guidelines due to the ongoing pandemic.

- ❖ The library purchased extra copies of **eBooks and audiobooks** and worked with local media to educate patrons on how to access these services from home, work, the library parking lot, or anywhere with an internet connection. In 2021, **Unalaska patrons borrowed 2,148 eBooks and audiobooks**, representing a 7% increase over 2020 use of this resource.
- ❖ When the library was open by appointment only, staff provided the option of **Curbside Checkout** to safely give our community access to the library collection. The ever-flexible Library Assistants accepted requests by email, phone, and through the online library catalog and filled them for patrons to pick up in the library entryway. On request, staff assembled "**care packages**" of hand-picked items for patrons who missed browsing the stacks. **Staff filled 641 requests via curbside checkout** in 2021.

- ❖ The library's **online catalog** underwent a major upgrade, making it easier for patrons to access their accounts, renew items, search library holdings, and place holds at home.
- ❖ **Free wireless internet** was available throughout the year outside the building, as well as indoors starting mid-year. At the onset of the pandemic, staff boosted the signal for wider coverage and provided extra outdoor seating for patrons. In 2021, **the library hosted 23,633 wireless internet sessions**, an average of 65 per day.

Although library staff worked hard to provide services and accomplish the library's mission during Covid-19 restrictions and partial closures, the pandemic continued to severely impact library attendance and usage numbers, as shown in the table below. Towards the end of 2021, usage numbers started steadily increasing, and we are hopeful that this trend will continue into 2022.

	2021	2021 Daily Average <sup>1</sup>	2020	2019
Users through the door	12,173	34	15,366	49,725
Items checked out	38,730	108	43,634	83,487
Computer & Wifi Sessions	25,199	69	28,161	47,664
eBook Downloads	2,148	-	2,016	1,142
Curbside Checkout Patrons	641	-	211	-
Active Registered Users <sup>1</sup>	3,502	-		4,134

1. Card used to check out in the past 60 months

## Expansion and Renovation of the Library Facility

The Committee thanks the Mayor and Council for recognizing the need for an expanded and renovated library facility. The City of Unalaska initiated the project because the community has expressed a need for improvements in children's and teen spaces, meeting and study spaces, community event and learning spaces, and more room for seating and library materials.

The City postponed the expansion and renovation due to the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020. After considering whether to go ahead with the project, the City has recently signed a contract with F&W Construction to start work on the expansion in 2022. Work will begin in April 2022, with limited library services available in Burma Road Chapel during construction.

The Advisory Committee has played an active part in the public input portion of the Library Building Improvement Project, meeting multiple times with the project architects and providing input on topics like furniture and finishes, public art, and self-checkout, as well as giving general input on the direction and scale of the project. The Advisory Committee also appointed an Art Committee to solicit, evaluate, and select art installations for the project. When the City was considering whether to reboot the project after a Covid-related delay, the Committee advocated for it once again, citing broad community support.

The Committee continues to believe in the need for this project and is excited to see it through to completion in 2023.

## Committee Work

In 2021, the Committee met eight times. The Committee received information and gave advice to the City Librarian and the Director of Parks, Culture, and Recreation on the following discussion topics in 2021:

- Library Building Improvement Project
- Library Business Plan
- Library Annual and Long-Term Goals
- Library Services & Precautions during Covid-19 Epidemic
- Summer Reading Program
- Artwork for New Library Cards
- ARPA Grant for Libraries
- Library Policies Review & Input: Collection Development, Internet Use and Safety

## Library Advisory Committee Members

	Term Expires:
M. Lynn Crane, Chair	02/2024
Cyri Thompson, Vice Chair	02/2022
Debbie Hanson-Zueger	02/2023
Virginia Hatfield	02/2022
Cat Hazen	02/2024
Karen Macke	02/2024
Estkarlen Magdaong	02/2022

In summary, members of the Public Library Advisory Committee report that the library has had an unusual year full of opportunities for creativity in public service, and that the Unalaska community continues to use and value the library's resources, services, and programs. We look forward to discussing this report and answering any questions from Council members or City Administration on February 8, 2022.