

Total Registered Patrons	11,515	
Total Mat-Su Borough Resident Patrons	8,844	77% of patrons are not city residents
Total City of Palmer Resident Patrons	2,671	
Total new patrons registered in 2015	1,176	

Statistics:

Patron Visits	104,021		
Reference Questions	19,121		
Computer Sessions	28,458		
WIFI Sessions	13,605		
Computer Usage Total	42,063		
Circulation (Items Owned by PPL)	148,439		
InterLibrary Loans	87 Incoming	239 Outgoing	326 Total
Volunteers	72 Volunteers		1,599 Volunteer Hours

Programs:

Children’s Programs	192 Events	6,315 Participants
Class Visits	36 Events	1,012 Participants
Young Adult Programs	23 Events	353 Participants
Adult Programs	15 Events	286 Participants
Total Programs	266 Events	7,966 Participants
Community Events	164 Events	7,553 Participants
Total Programs and Community Events	430 Events	15,519 Participants

2015 Activities:

Grants:

- 2 Continuing Education Grants at \$1,500 for a total of \$3,000. Katie Schweisthal and Beth Skow attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Public Library Assistance Grant for \$6,500.00
- Competitive Early Literacy Mini-Grant for \$1,000.00
- E-Rate Equipment reimbursement for \$704.01

Achievements:

Beth was asked to speak at the Small Libraries Conference on Leadership and Growing Your Own. She was paid \$250.00 to speak for 2 hours. She in turn bought \$258.00 of books for the library from Fireside Books.

Training:

- Required 4 hours of Customer Service and Communications training by Cynthia Norvell from Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults was attended by all full time and part time staff June 12, 2015.
- All staff attended the MSLN yearly training day in April.

Obtained shelving from the Talkeetna Library and have been installing the shelving throughout library. All of the children early reading, juvenile non-fiction, juvenile audio books , and dvds are on new shelving. New shelving in the adult section was added for the westerns, new books, and audiobooks. The new shelving has enabled the library to grow without having to change the foot print of the building.

Awarded a Competitive Early Literacy Mini-Grant from the Dept. of Education & Early Development, for \$1,000. The grant provided the purchase of children's furniture and toys from the recommended list of items.

Programs:

2015 programming brought some variety and new endeavors to the Palmer Public Library. For example, we partnered with Alaska Career Information System out of Anchorage to provide hands-on information to both students and their parents regarding future planning. With interactive computer programs, participants were able to test a variety of career fields and get a feel as to what interested them. Parents were able to inquire about the multitude of options when it comes to career paths for their children. This program was very informative and resourceful.

Video Teleconferences (VTCs) continued to be popular. We were very excited to tune in with the International Spy Museum and get a good look at the history of spying and current gadgets and procedures. The audience loved it!

Among our teen group, it seems they enjoy movie nights the most. To offset movie nights, we coordinated programs that spotlighted our digital resources that were very informative.

Our youngest patrons continue to show up for Story Time and Baby Lap Sit. These two programs have grown! Feedback from adults suggests that both they and their children feel welcome, inspired, and excited to be here. In an effort to honor their consistent attendance, we designed a holiday break line up to appeal especially to our youngest patrons. As always, Santa visits us at the library and draws quite a crowd. New this past year, we hosted an evening Family Story Time. It felt a little enchanting to present holiday picture book classics by Christmas light. Participants were welcome to attend in their pajamas and stick around after for hot chocolate.

2015 Summer Reading Program at Palmer Library ran from June 1st to July 24th. With a superhero theme, we were able to welcome nearly 1300 participants. We were treated to visits by local heroes such as police officers and search & rescue team members. Partnership with various local businesses helped make Summer Reading a true community success.

In 2016, we will celebrate Summer Reading Program with the theme of Ready, Set, Read! With a physical activity-focused program, we are excited to team with various partners such as Healthy Futures to promote literacy and movement. We look forward to hosting some local celebrities to aid in promotion--namely popular

athletes and sport clubs. Though it's only January, I'm already inspired by the enthusiasm and support we have received. We can't wait to break our own records for participation in Summer Reading!

The CHILL Program was added January of 2015 in an attempt to reach older youth. CHILL is a once monthly pop culture focused program for high school and college ages, hosted by the Palmer Library and the Friends of the Palmer Library. 2015 was the first year for this program and it has successfully met its goals. These include: providing a free, safe, exciting place to gather as a learning tool and service; promoting specific library services, including testing and study data bases, new books, Summer Reading Program, JLC catalog holds, computer and Wi-Fi access, etc; introducing participants to others in their age group to nurture a sense of community; and drawing young adults into the library and Palmer community in order to facilitate increased participation in community based shopping, activities, and services. Visit chill.pplak.org, where you'll find the CHILL calendar and blog of our past activities. There are 49 different young adults participating in the program averaging 12 attendees each month.

Foreign Film night continues to pull in a variety of patrons, from school class language students, to the elderly patrons.

PPLAK.org Website:

New standalone library website was created March 2015. There have been 24, 836 visits to the new website in 2015 and 84,000 pages visited. Recently added items:

- On line registration for programs and reminder emails.

- Suggested purchase items, Inter Library Loans, and the City of Palmer feedback form are all in on-line format.

- New events calendar, searchable by event type.

- Staff library book picks.

- Friends webpage that includes Friends information and the ability to donate to the Friends of the Library using PayPal.