

Annual Report 2012



► Point Me In the Right Direction TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Message	3
Library Board	4
Carver County Commissioners	5
Our Mission and Our Vision	6
Our Achievements	7-8
Programming for All Ages	9-12
Community Partnerships	13-14
Volunteers	15
Photos	16-19
Kind Words Spoken	20
Friends of the Library	21-22
Library Foundation	23-24
Value of Services	25
Facts and Statistics	26-27
Patron Distribution	28-31
Library Locations	32

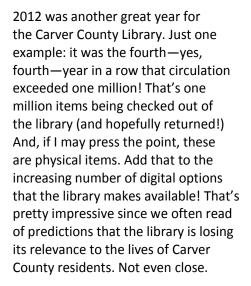


Point of View DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Nick Dimassis

Greetings,



How about the brick and mortar presence of library services? Well, building on previous success with the Victoria and Cologne Express Libraries, a third "branch" was opened in Mayer in September. At the city's request and with their incredible support, it provides 24/7 access for folks

to pick up the materials they requested via www.carverlib.org simply by indicating they'd like them delivered to that location. It's a great marriage between the physical and electronic—and it's been a wonderful success.

Another project is the Watertown Library Remodel. The project began early in the year and, after careful planning, gained steam in late 2012. The branch will be closing May 1 and reopening May 31, 2013. Both the City of Watertown and Carver County stepped forward with generous commitments. But the most satisfying was how individuals stepped forward in answer to a "\$30,000 in 60 days" fundraising campaign. When that last dollar rolled in, it was amazing! Watertown residents had guaranteed learning and development resources and services would be provided for generations to come.

What are those many resources and services—and so much more? Well, take a look through this annual report and you'll get a pretty good taste. We are listening to your feedback so that we can be guided on what to cook up next. We're here for you—to deliver what you want and need. Please let us know!

Nick Dimassis Library Director





Pointing the Way





Board members left to right: Gayle Degler, James Weygand, James Dodson, Joanne Johnson, Mark Peterson, and Richard Kvitek.

"2012 was a year of 'newness' for the County Library System. We welcomed our new Director and saw the hiring of a new Library Foundation director as well as other new staff members. New faces, new ideas and the new team organization of staff... all have been instrumental in 'providing access to new ideas, new experiences and materials' for the citizens of Carver County."

Joanne Johnson, Library Board Member

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need (Cicero)....Carver County's libraries offer opportunities to enjoy, teach, place to do business, learn a skill and much more."

Mark Peterson, Library Board Secretary "Since leaving the Board in December 2012 I have taken time to muse about my years on the Library Board. We have kept pace with the electronic era and actually enhanced the use of the many library services by embracing the challenges presented. I was privileged to witness many of these changes along with the rapid growth of our library system. The past few years have been more than challenging due to budget constraints, but we always remembered to keep service to the patron as our number one goal."

> James Dodson Former Library Board Member

► Another Point of View CARVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



"The Carver County Board appreciates the dedicated work and service that the library provides to county residents," said Board chair Tim Lynch. "2012 proved to be a very successful year with service extending to Mayer in the form of an Express Library, for the fourth year the library reached the impressive milestone of circulation over one million library items and work started on the library's strategic plan. The progress in 2012 will be built upon in 2013 and beyond as the library continues to provide outstanding service to its patrons. One thing's for sure, the library remains and will remain a vital asset to all residents of the county for years to come."

Carver County Library

Five public library locations; Law Library; Victoria, Cologne and Mayer express libraries; and outreach services serving a population of 92,104 in an area of 376.15 square miles.



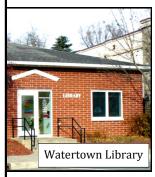
Carver County Library

Mission Statement

Connect people with information resources and services by anticipating and responding to changing community needs.

Our Vision

Be respected as a vital force in our community and its culture. Our professional expertise together with material and electronic resources, will inspire intellectual curiosity, effective decision-making and the joy of discovery.



Chanhassen Library



Waconia Library



Law Library

That's a Good Point OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Web and Social Media

The library launched its newly redesigned website in January, with increased access to our services for our remote users. The first year was highly successful:

- A "Contact Us" button that appears in the top-right corner of every page in the site generated 547 queries and comments, fielded by five library staff members.
- Our Facebook librarian posted 145 events, services, and alerts.
- The "Ask-a-Librarian" email service librarian answered 131 questions, many of them about e-books and e-readers.
- Participation in AskMN, a 24/7 chat reference cooperative, allowed our team of five dedicated librarians to produce 502 satisfied customers, from Minnesota and around the world.

During the second half of 2012, the Web & Social Media team created Twitter and Flickr accounts intended to generate conversation and knowledge sharing with and among our digital community.

Throughout the year, we made continuous improvements to our "virtual branch" based on user feedback and social media metrics.

"Contact Us" generated 547 queries

145 posts made to Facebook

"Ask-a-Librarian" answered 131 questions

AskMN assisted 502 customers





Growth of Express Libraries

Due to the overwhelming success of the Carver County Express Libraries opened last year in Victoria and Cologne, a third express library was opened in Mayer during October. These kiosk-style express libraries utilize lockers for delivery and return of materials for patrons who request service at those locations. The express libraries have been extremely popular with library patrons and usage continues to increase.



Express Library Usage 2012

Victoria Cologne Mayer*	-	378 patrons 95 patrons 56 patrons
Total	6,428 items	529 patrons

*Nov. & Dec. only



Technology and eResources

In March we launched cclib mobile, our free mobile app. cclib mobile users can search the library catalog, access their account, download ebooks, get information on events and classes, check facebook, and contact us from wherever they may be. Usage continues to grow with over 300 users now accessing cclib mobile each month.

Groundwork was also laid for the 2013 initiatives including installation of digital signage in all five libraries and web catalog enhancements.

Youth Services

Children begin learning language from the day they are born, and the youth service team weaves this concept into every program, activity and service they provide. Through early literacy storytimes, the summer reading program, and teen book groups, the library serves as a gateway to the world of reading enjoyment for children of all ages.

Tails for Reading

One may think that the library has gone to the dogs if you happen in on a Saturday. The library is the place that connects licensed therapy dogs and their volunteer owners to children from age 4 and up. As the children read to a gentle, attentive dog in a one-on-one reading experience, they build confidence and improve oral reading skills.



Storytimes

Storytimes are one of the things we do best. In addition to our always popular lapsit, toddler and family storytimes, we now offer musical storytimes. They are all designed to enhance language and cognitive development, creativity, school readiness and an enjoyment of books in children ages birth to six years old. These programs incorporate the six American Library Association Every Child Ready to Read skills and five practices that promote early literacy skill development.

Summer Reading

Designed to fight the summer slump and the backwards slide in reading skills that happens when school is out, the library summer reading programs combine performers, storytimes, reader's advisory, library tours, student volunteers, tween and teen programs to connect children and teens to reading.



Teen Book Clubs

New this year in all five Carver County libraries are teen book discussion groups incorporating the use of the teen discussion kits available to the public.

These teen book clubs are both an intellectual and social outlet for many of these teens and a great addition to the array of programs and services that Carver County Library offers this age group.

Manga/Anime Club

The Manga/Anime Club continues for the third year at the Chaska Library. Club members meet to talk, read and swap manga comics and DVDs.

Teen Fines

Teen fine waiver month continues to be a popular event encouraging teens to come back to the library. During October teens with library fines were encouraged to come in and receive a waiver of up to \$10 for fines on their cards.



1st Annual Bookmark Competition

A bookmark competition was a great success this year offering teens an opportunity to express themselves through art. People across the county voted for their favorite design from the finalists. 1,000 bookmarks were made with Lucy Bixby's winning design (below) and distributed in our libraries as part of Teen Read Month in October.



Adult Services _

Small Business Support

Small business workshops and legal workshops have been well attended this year. A Small Business Resource Center is being planned for Norwood Young America Library.

Writers' Groups

Chanhassen and Waconia Writers' groups promote lifelong learning. Author's Collective, River City Days Author Booth, live local author reads in coffeehouses, and Poetry Open Mike Night, all of which encourage literacy, writing skills and public speaking.

Art Exhibits

Monthly art exhibits at the Chanhassen and Waconia libraries featured local artists and photographers.



Focus on Seniors

Brain fitness awareness, memory games, and storytimes for those with adult disabilities; memory care storytimes; abbreviated book clubs for senior citizens; homebound services; deposit collections delivered to assisted living facilities; the Ridgeview Hospital book cart; summer and winter adult reading programs; and genealogy support all help our aging population maintain reading abilities.

Great Decisions Discussions

The Friends of the Chanhassen Library sponsored this year's Great Decisions discussions, organized nationally by the Foreign Policy Association and locally by the Minnesota International Center.

Eight interactive discussions were held and 109 interested attendees learned about topics including Cyber Security, The State of the Oceans, Middle East Realignment, Indonesia, Mexico, Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, Energy Geopolitics, and Promoting Democracy.

Law Library

The Carver County Law Library serves the citizens, bench, and bar of Carver County and focuses on materials useful to attorneys and self-represented litigants. Use of the Law Library collection is free.

A staff member is available to help access appropriate resources to meet the legal information and research needs of library patrons.

Usage of the Law Library continues to increase - up 9.5% in 2012. One major factor that may be affecting the growth in patronage is the economic downturn and resultant increase in self-representation.

The Law Library offered programs for the public, including:

- Criminal Expungement Clinic
- Bankruptcy Clinic
- Unmarried Parents Rights Program
- Estate Planning Program

Continuing legal education courses in conjunction with the 8th District Bar Association included:

- Digital Device Forensics
- Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Convictions

Computer Classes and Technology Support

Computer proficiency classes include basic skills, and partnerships with Science Museum of Minnesota (Word and Excel training) and Twin Cities Media Alliance. The library offers support at the Workforce Center Job and Education Fair, and offers students of all ages and their parents computers, study rooms, homework support, test proctoring, public Wi-Fi, and information. Drop-in Computer Help Desks, staffed by volunteers, are offered at two libraries. Senior Surf Days and on-site help loading e-Books and e-Audio materials are available.



► Match Point



Conversation Circles

The Chaska Library held monthly "Conversation Circles" for adults who would like to practice their English speaking skills. The library located a qualified moderator who helped lead discussions on a monthly basis.

This unique opportunity was advertised to the English Language Learner classes at the Carver Scott Educational Coop.

Two students in the School District 112 Capstone program joined the efforts to spread the word about this program, and they offer oversight and storytime programs for children of the attendees.

Tax-Aid Program

Carver County's Tax-Aid Program, a free face-to-face tax assistance and preparation service, provided confidential income tax counseling to over 1,525 taxpayers. Twenty trained volunteers assisted with the program.

The program is designed to assist low-moderate income individuals and families with special interest given to taxpayers age 60 and older. The program is a collaborative effort with Carver County Library, IRS, Minnesota Department of Revenue, and the AARP Foundation.

Tax-Aid had been an important part of a county-wide community service to residents for 30 years.

Promoting a Greener Environment

Carver County Library promotes a greener environment and improves personal and community outcomes through its Master Gardener partnership; Reduce-Reuse-Recycle employed during every book sale; and volunteer opportunities for service which maximize personal potential and economize services.

Legacy Programming



The Minnesota Clean Water, Land & Legacy amendment dedicates funds for Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds.

Under the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Minnesota's public libraries receive funding to help provide programming and services.

Carver County Library was awarded funding to be used for a variety of arts, cultural, literary, and Minnesota history programs.

Some of the events brought to our five library branches included:

- Author talks
- Solo musicians and musical groups
- Yoga and musical storytimes
- Magician
- Cartooning
- Bullying prevention
- Science Museum of Minnesota program

Additional amendment funding provided: *Club Book* events, bringing authors to metro area libraries, and *Live at the Library* grant funding that brought live music, theater and cultural performances to library audiences of all ages.

Partnerships that Benefited All Library Branches

Carver County Historical Society Baylor Park Carver County Sheriff's Dept

Carver County Sheriff's Dept School Systems/Community Education Carver/Scott Master Gardeners Chaska Police and Chaska Human Rights

Commission

Crown College

Office of Aging

Public Health & Environment

Public Works

Social Services

Court Services

IRS

MN Dept of Revenue

AARP Foundation

Local City Parks

Community Action Programs

Senior Aging Commissions

Volunteer Lawyers Network

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

Our School District Partners

District 108 Norwood Young America
District 111 Watertown-Mayer

District 110 Waconia
District 276 Minnetonka

District 112 Eastern Carver County

Schools



Always On Point OUR VOLUNTEERS



What Did Our Volunteers Do in 2012?

They taught computer classes for beginners, received special training and helped low-moderate income people with their taxes, brought library materials to library customers who were homebound, assisted with the Summer Reading Program and storytimes, worked with the Foundation and the Friends of the Library, and helped with on-going support at all five branches.

What Some of Our Volunteers Have to Say

"I enjoy the feeling of gratitude I receive from staff. They really appreciate what I am contributing. Volunteering makes me feel good inside and out and I have the sense I am really doing some good at my local library."

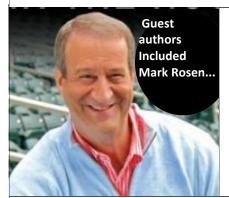
"The reason I volunteer is to share my time and provide a service to my community. I spent years gaining experience that can benefit others now, in my retirement. I enjoy working around people who are really interested in what's going on around us."

"I enjoy continuing to be creative. It's fun and worthwhile, and I get pleasure from making an impact at a local level. I've been a volunteer for a number of years and often say I've received far more than I've given. I've made friendships, gained knowledge and met many interesting people."









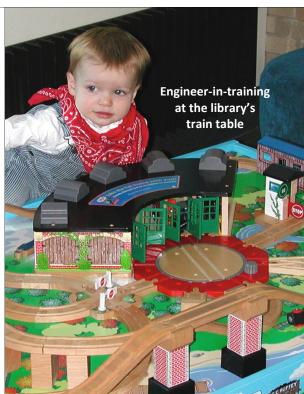














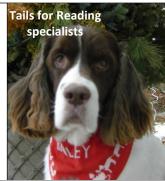








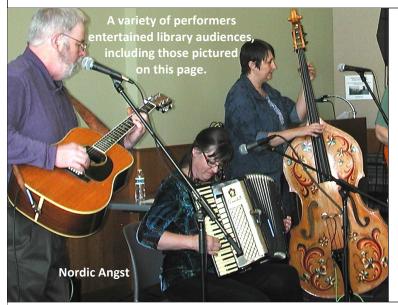


















► Talking Points KIND WORDS SPOKEN

Dedicated Staff and Satisfied Customers

Customer service is a high priority and daily goal of Carver County Library employees. When an appreciative comment is received it shows a job well done. As you can see by the faces of our staff, many comments we received made us smile. Read them and you will, too.

A sweet little girl came to the counter hugging a fairy book and exclaimed, "Look what I found. This is the best, best, best library in the whole world!"

"I love your Lucky Day Collection. You feel like you are getting a special treat when you find one."

"Our whole family uses your Interlibrary Loan service and we really appreciate this option for obtaining materials. Thank you so much!"



A patron asked," Who makes your coffee?". When told it is library staff he said with a smile, "Well, you make better coffee than my wife."

"Awesome! There must be a cajillion books In this place!" (Quote from a wide-eyed little boy getting his first library card.)

"We love the Tails for Reading! The dogs were the first 'people' my daughter would read aloud to. She loves them! She is Autism Spectrum, very high functioning, but feels so good with the dogs!"



► Fine Points FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Friends of the Norwood Young America Library

To encourage people to take time to enjoy the magazine area, the Friends of the Norwood Young America Library sponsor the NYA Coffee Nook. The Nook features individually brewed cups of coffee and, on special occasions, treats. It is open the two mornings a week that the NYA Library is open.

The Friends of the Norwood Young
America Library also provided support for:

- Summer Reading Program
- · Treats for adult programming
- Norwood Young America Chamber membership

Friends of the Waconia Library

The Friends of the Waconia Library sponsor a Friends Bookstore which had its beginnings in 2012 when the Friends received a donation of a number of first editions and rare books. After two book sales featuring these rare books, the Friends determined that, paired together with other books, they should be offered in a bookstore format. Old shelving was repurposed. A locked glass cabinet and cash box were purchased, and the bookstore became a reality.

The Friends of the Waconia Library also provided support for :

- Large print books
- Waconia Library Chamber membership
- Author presentations by Eric Dregni and Anne Panning
- Governor's Fishing Opener booth supplies
- Summer Reading Program
- Glass mounted sign holders and dry erase signage and other miscellaneous signage
- Bulletin board supplies
- Ipod and docking station
- Shopping cart (for seniors to store their book selections before they checkout)
- Children's program supplies such as die cuts and storage rack, ink and stamp sets, magnetic letters, no spill paint sets and toys for the lapsit programming

Friends of the Watertown Library

The Friends of the Watertown Library began in 2012 and are heavily involved in a 2013 fundraising campaign to raise funds for the remodel of the Watertown Library.

The Friends of the Watertown Library also provided support for:

- Summer Reading program
- Halloween Night treats (part of the downtown campaign)

Friends of the Chaska Library

The Chaska Library was delighted to offer its own "Lucky Day" collection with financial support from the Friends of the Chaska Library. Library visitors are happy to have the hottest books so accessible.

Friends of the Chanhassen Library

The Friends of the Chanhassen Library sponsor a Lucky Day Collection for the Chanhassen Library that began in January of 2012 and is now a successful ongoing program.

The Friends allocated \$3000 in 2012 for the purchase of high demand, best-selling books. The Lucky Day books are available first come, first served in a browsing collection near the Service Desk. New titles are purchased monthly. These popular items were borrowed 3,719 times in 2012.

The Friends of the Chanhassen Library also provided support for:

- Book Club Kits
- Hooked on Books
- Great Decisions Discussion Series
- Summer Reading Program
- CAP Agency Play and Learn
- New Train Table for the Children's area



Good Points Were Made

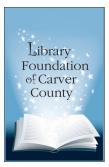




Foundation Board pictured: Mary Booth, President; Richard Scott, Board member; and Libby Fairchild, Secretary-Treasurer.

Library Foundation of Carver County

Since 2007 the Foundation has focused on funding the Summer Reading Program. Donations to the Foundation from local individuals, businesses, civic organizations and foundations provide the resources needed for performer programs, activity supplies and reading incentives that make the SRP so successful.



The Library Foundation of Carver County is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support system-wide Carver County Library programs and services not funded with tax dollars.

Contact Judith Grytdahl, Executive Director, if you have questions or would like to volunteer with the Foundation. 952-227-7604, lfcc@co.carver.mn.us.





23



Our Donors

Thank you to these individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations for their generous support. We are grateful for your contributions!

Over \$1500

Lakeview Clinic **Target Foundation**

\$500 - \$1,500

Chaska Lions Club Dennis and Shirley Gaarder Susan and Larry Schmid Waconia Lions Club Watertown Lions Club

\$250 - \$499

Katie Alley & Bryce Pierson Charles Dahlke **Everson Hardware Hank** Heidi Hoks KleinBank Waconia Norwood Young America VFW Richard and Deborah Scott

\$150 - \$249

Nick and Kristine Dimassis Judith Grytdahl Hamburg Lions Club KleinBank Chaska Koch School Bus Service, Inc. Mackenthun's Super Market Melchert Hubert Sjodin The Goddard School

\$100 - \$149

American Legion Edward Born Post 343 Sal and Kathleen Bognanni Mary Booth Melissa Brechon Barbara Colhapp Fieldhill Properties Richard and Mary Kvitek Jo Mihelich Alice O'Donnell State Bank of Hamburg David Thun and Mary Hershberger Thun Watertown Veterinary Clinic Watertown Willing Workers





Anonymous (2) American Legion Auxiliary Unit 150 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 343 American Legion Post 57 Douglas and Katie Bade Marty Bergland Chaska American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57

Gayle and Lois Degler Marti Dodd Libby Fairchild Jim and Joanne Johnson Bill Johnson Janet Karius David and Amy Logue Sara Matson Wavne and Katherine Mortensen

Norwood Veterinary Clinic Staff James and Susan Olson Bob and Kathy Roepke Roger and Linda Sauerbrev Christopher and Nancy Schulz William and Anne Tisel Gary and Barbara VanEyll Karen Wagner Jim and Joanne Weygand

Gifts received in memory of:

Lynn Wiatrowski

Marvin Bergland Chad Clay Anne Crystal Robert Durbin Dean Walter Gaarder Nick Haddad, MD Joan Janzen Lavonne Larson

To the Point VALUE OF SERVICES

Li

Total Value



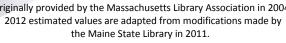
Customer

\$15,052,752

VALUE OF SERVICES			
ibrary Use	Library Service	Estimated Value	C
6,676	Books	\$17.00	\$4
0,573	Paperbacks	\$7.00	



This calculator is adapted from the Library Use Value Calculator originally provided by the Massachusetts Library Association in 2004. 2012 estimated values are adapted from modifications made by the Maine State Library in 2011.



Points of Interes FACTS & STATIS



Your Library... a Pretty Good Deal!

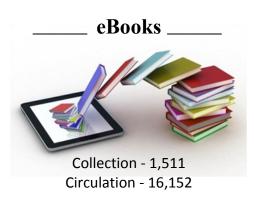
Library Budget \$3,002,125

Estimated Population 92,104

Investment per Capita \$33

Most Popular Books & DVDs of 2012

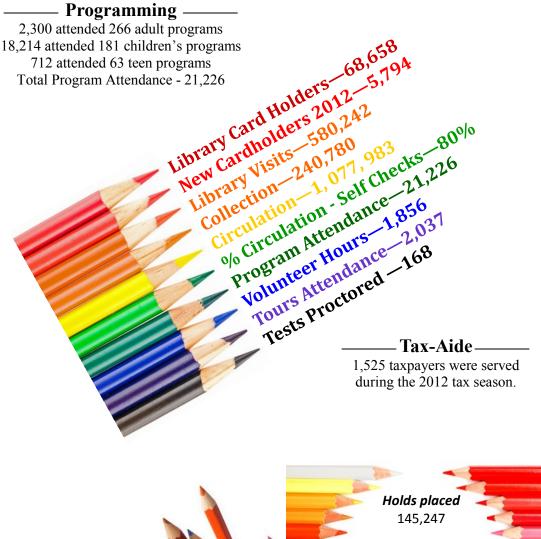
Fiction: The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks and Shock Wave by John Sanford Nonfiction: Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand and Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo Children's Books: Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney and Last Hero by Rick Riordan Teen Books: Hunger Games, Catching Fire and Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins DVDs: The Help, Moneyball, Midnight in Paris, Downton Abbey -Season 1





Our cardholders borrowed 8,817 items through ILL.

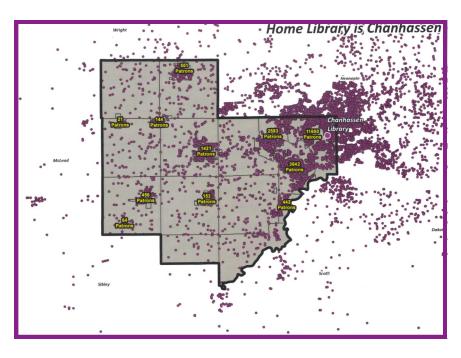
Carver County Library loaned 8,061 items to other library systems.



Holds placed 145,247 Holds placed online 98,669 6,248 items were delivered to 529 patrons at Carver County's 3 Express Libraries during 2012.

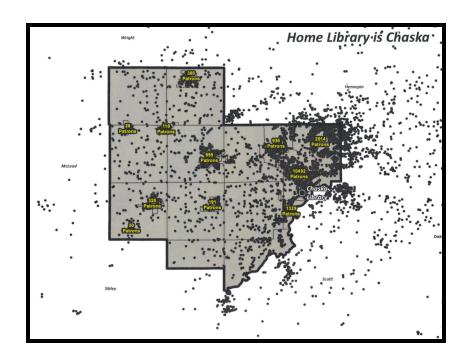
Exactly the Point PATRON DISTRIBUTION

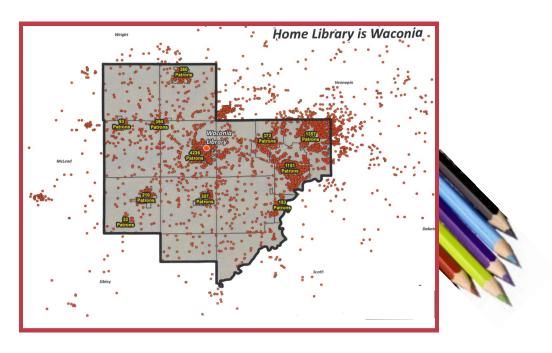
The following graphics show the distribution of patrons for each library branch. Dots represent the addresses of patrons who designated the branch as their "home library" when applying for a library card.

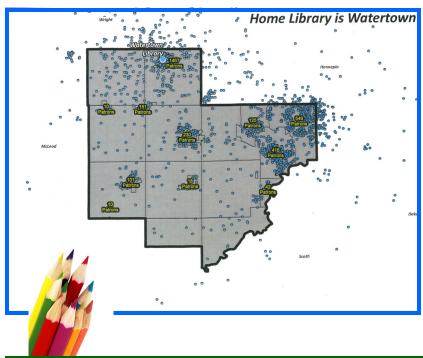


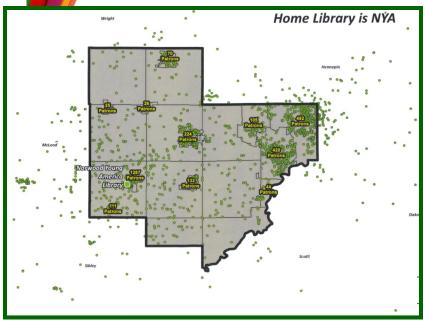


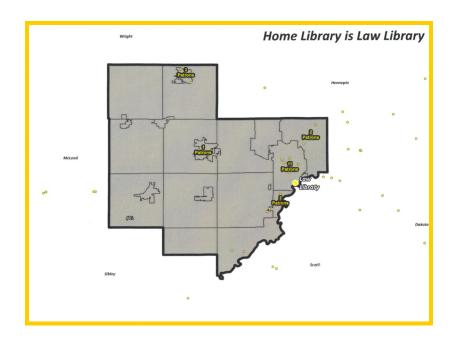














Carver County Library Locations

Chanhassen Library

7711 Kerber Blvd. P.O. Box 1130 Chanhassen, MN 55317 952-227-1500

Chaska Library

3 City Hall Plaza Chaska, MN 55318 952-448-3886

Norwood Young America Library

314 Elm St. W. Norwood Young America 55368 952-467-2665

Waconia Library

217 S. Vine St. Waconia, MN 55387 952-442-4714

Watertown Library

309 Lewis Ave. SW Watertown, MN 55388

Law Library

Carver County Government Center 604 E. 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318 952-361-1564

Cologne Express Library

Cologne Community Center 1211 Village Parkway Cologne, MN 55322

Victoria Express Library

Victoria Recreation Center 8475 Kochia Lane Victoria, MN 55386

Mayer Express Library

City Hall/Community Center 413 Bluejay Avenue Mayer, MN 55360

Carver County Library

Providing opportunity, enriching community.