



# THE CONTINUING NEED FOR DIGITAL MATERIALS

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HOW COVID-19 HAS  
IMPACTED THE WAY THE  
LIBRARY BUYS MATERIALS

LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT  
WINTER 2020-21

*Photo above: Use of digital materials has skyrocketed this year, especially among youth adapting to new ways of learning online.*

As Anchorage enters a second “hunker down,” the Library is striving to ensure that all patrons have a way to satisfy their unique reading habits. For many that means more eBooks and eAudiobooks.

What you may not know though, is that those digital resources cost more for libraries to purchase (ALA Press Release, 2019), and instead of just needing a few print copies, libraries must now buy the same title in print, eBook, eAudiobook and other popular formats.

This increased cost of digital materials and a stagnant materials budget presents quite a challenge for the Library's selection team, but they do an incredible job stretching the budget to meet everyone's needs - finding a balance of print and digital, popular and eclectic titles.

In this present climate, our librarians realize that digital resources are incredibly important and have worked to find new funds for digital books and online programs.

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**Not So Fun Fact:** According to the American Library Association, a library can buy a print book for \$14.99, while the same book in digital can cost up to \$84 for one license, which often only lasts for two years!



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# Digital Materials, cont.

To meet the new demand, the Library has shifted some existing funds from print to digital, and a CARES Act grant provided \$50,000 for new digital and print educational materials for distance learning. Your donations to the Friends and Foundation have also gone a long way toward adding more wonderful titles and materials for APL patrons to enjoy! We are very grateful for your financial support and advocacy to your Assembly Members to increase the Library materials budget! We couldn't do it without you!

**Fun fact:** Still don't see the print material you would like to check out? Interlibrary Loan is a great way to gain access to that material. You can check out a book from almost any library in the country for free! For more information, visit: [www.anchoragelibrary.org/books-plus-movies-plus-music/find-it/interlibrary-loans/](http://www.anchoragelibrary.org/books-plus-movies-plus-music/find-it/interlibrary-loans/)

## New Early Literacy Program

As a long-time leader in early education, Anchorage Public Library is pleased to launch a new early literacy outreach program in 2021. A grant from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund will launch a pilot project in January to distribute free books and teach care givers how they can encourage reading habits for their little ones.

And the new Municipal alcohol tax program will create an Early Literacy Outreach Librarian to reach families and caregivers who are not currently being served by the Library. We are grateful for this recognition of the importance of early literacy in building a healthy community!



Detach and mail to: Anchorage Library Foundation/Friends of the Library: PO Box 244714, Anchorage, AK 99524

## YES! I want to help the Anchorage Public Library build community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



I'd like to support the Library's immediate needs for materials and programs with a gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make check payable to: **Friends of the Library**



I'd like to support the long-term growth of the Library and new library initiatives with a gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make check payable to: **Anchorage Library Foundation**

I do NOT want a 2021 Library Champion Card

Please keep my name anonymous in recognition materials.

Please send me information on The Next Chapter Society.

# Your Investment at Work

## Library Highlights - You made this possible!

We all have our reason why we give - for some, it is to build community, and for others, it is to support local children or increase reading and literacy. No matter your reason, your donations have an impact on our Library and make our community a better place. Library staff love to put your donations to work and that makes for some very happy patrons! Here are some of the ways your support has benefited our community:



**Michele Lucas** I have been downloading ebooks from the APL for several years. It's easy to do, and I am absolutely delighted by the vast catalogue of books available in this form. Several times when I have recommended that the APL buy the license to an ebook I'd like to read, they have come through for me, and one day, out of the blue, the longed-for books magically popped up as available on my hold list! Thank you, APL, for enabling me to read mysteries, classic novels, and recently released bestsellers in the comfort and safety of my own home. During this time of so much disconnection, I am grateful to the APL for continuing to bring me joy by connecting me to the many wonderful worlds found in great books. I ❤️ the APL.



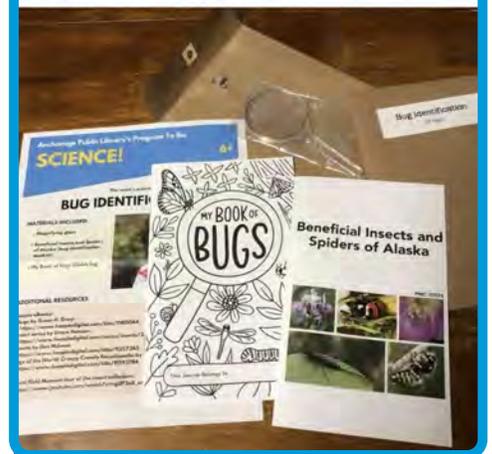
**Laura Hughes** Anchorage with Kids Community

Aug 18

Be sure to check the box to get a "Program-To-Go" kit when you schedule your curbside pickup for your library books.

The one we got last week was this really great Bug Identification kit! So fun! Free, and does not need to be returned.

Nice work Anchorage Library!



*"Having access to digital materials has been a life-saver during the hibernation, even more so than usual. Thank you all."*

- June, Library Patron & Donor



**Chuck Seaca** • 2nd  
Youth Programs Manager at Alaska Humanities Forum

1mo

About a year ago I posted about the free online photography classes I'd been taking through the Anchorage Public Library. Well, today I found out two of my photos were chosen to be part of the Anchorage Daily News Moose calendar! Featured for October and the back cover. Likely the pinnacle of my photography career - still stoked!



Mentions - alisha\_hilde 23m  
From Create Mode



*She's super excited to figure out these tangrams from @anchoragepubliclibrary. ❤️ My husband is a library ninja and always finds the cool stuff.*

*"I am overdue in thanking you and your staff for working to get me library materials during life in Covidia. I simply cannot imagine what my life would be like without the library."*

- Polly, Library Patron



P.O. BOX 244714  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99524

## LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT • WINTER 2020-21

# Library Educational Support During COVID

Over the past year, as COVID-19 upended our schools, the Library has become a critical educational component for thousands of families. APL librarians have been working hard to support students, teachers, and parents through this difficult time.

They created an online Student Resource Center with extensive resources for elementary school to college students, greatly increased physical and digital materials for distance learning and homeschool, provided support and guidance to teachers and school librarians, increased the STEM Kit collection and launched new services like Programs-to-Go kits, TumbleMath and BookFlix.

This is possible thanks to donors like you! Programs-to-Go, STEM Kits and increased digital materials have all been supported through donations, so on behalf of our entire library family, thank you for helping our local students!

*"Yesterday I picked up some books on hold, and since I had my grandchildren with me I was offered the activity packet...During these months of library closure, I so appreciate having engaging resources for my grandchildren. Many thanks to you and your staff for making our summer a little brighter." – From a pleased patron*



**Hilary Elizabeth** ▶ Alaskan Homeschoolers

34m · 📷

All of you seasoned homeschooling families probably already knows this, but for anyone new like me, the Anchorage Library has some great STEM kits and this plant cell one was a perfect addition to my sons' Bookshark Level D curriculum! It had a model with instructions and two non fiction books.

