2017 was a year of change and growth for North Central Regional Library.

I am proud to report that we remain committed to offering the valued resources our communities have come to rely upon. At the same time, we have begun embarking on a journey that will allow us to provide greater and more innovative opportunities to everyone who lives in our service area.

Our 30 community libraries continue to serve as centers of education and exploration. These physical spaces provide the opportunity for anyone and everyone - of all ages and backgrounds - to come read, learn, and discover the world. Our libraries are not only connecting people to books and information, but also to other people, new ideas, and the tools they need to accomplish their goals.

We also began a concerted effort to take information and services beyond our walls and out into our communities. Our staff participated in a wide range of outreach and community engagement activities at local schools, senior centers, chambers of commerce, area businesses, and more. By meeting people where they already are, we are finding new ways to partner with other organizations, discover unmet needs, and provide the best library service possible.

I firmly believe that our libraries will continue to be an essential part of our communities - bringing resources, engaging programs, and high-quality service to every resident in our service area for many years to come.

Everything we have accomplished in 2017 and everything we hope to accomplish in the future is and will be a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, the leadership of our board of trustees, and the continued support of our elected officials.

I hope as you read through this report, you'll be as inspired as I am.

Barbara Walters
Acting Director
### Technology
- 212,683 Digital Downloads
- 736,447 Visits to NcRLorg
- 325,391 Computer Sessions
- 156,437 Wireless Internet Sessions

### Materials
- 2,106,346 Items Borrowed
- 737,110 Items Owned
- 103,990 Items Sent through the Mail Order Library
- 66,322 People Who Borrowed an Item
- 6,549 Items Acquired through Interlibrary Loan

**Our Collection is Kind of Big...**

If you read and finished a book every day it would take over 1,580 years to read every book in our collection and if you spent 16 hours watching videos from our collection, it would take 30 years to watch them all!

### Revenues

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<thead>
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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charges for Services &amp; Fines</td>
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**Total Revenues**

$12,036,805
Celebrating Reading & Writing

Reading and writing are more than essential skills for success - they have the power to inspire curiosity, encourage self-discovery, and strengthen our connections to each other and the world.

Book Clubs
221 book club and book discussion group meetings were held in our libraries

Book clubs continue to thrive in our area with 197 public and private clubs meeting regularly to discuss books of all types and for all ages. We provided these clubs with book sets from our incredible and varied collection of 1,600 titles - proving that we really can provide a book set for every reading preference.

Storytimes
2,640 storytimes were held in our libraries for children and their families

46 storytimes were held in our libraries for adults with special needs

We offered storytimes for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, school-aged kids, families, and adults with special needs this year! We emphasized a growing number of bilingual (Spanish/English) and Spanish language storytimes, and even had a few “celebrity” storytimes performed by well-known members of our communities!

Literacy Fairs
1,791 people attended 12 Literacy Fairs in our communities

Designed to help young children and their caregivers get ready to read, our family literacy fairs include fun games and activities that spotlight early learning. Librarians got creative with themes like Safety Town, Halloween, and a birthday party for Dr. Seuss!

Teen Writers
123 poems were submitted by teen writers

2017 marked the start of a new summer tradition for us! We encouraged teens to submit creative work that we will publish into a book and place in our libraries for circulation. This year, we asked teens to submit up to two original poems. Our librarians paved the way by highlighting young adult poetry books all summer long.

Writing Groups & Author Programs
18 opportunities were provided to help local writers hone their craft and 26 author programs were held in our libraries

We connected with writers by providing write-ins, writing groups, and writing workshops in our libraries, and we celebrated local (and some not-so-local) authors by hosting readings, book signings, and Q&A sessions.
2,331 teens & adults had the opportunity to hear two-time National Book Award finalist Patricia McCormick speak about her nonfiction book Sold.

This fall, we encouraged students and teachers to read Patricia McCormick’s Sold and participate in classroom discussions on topics like human trafficking, culture in India, and the strength of the human spirit. Patricia McCormick then visited each participating school and juvenile detention site to speak about her investigative experiences in India and what it was like to write Sold and her other books.

We facilitated this opportunity by providing 1,400 copies of the book to students and teachers at 10 high schools and 2 juvenile detention centers in Chelan, East Wenatchee, Ephrata, Inchelium, Okanogan, Omak, Quincy, Republic, Tonasket, and Wenatchee.

We also hosted a free community-wide event at the Wenatchee High School Auditorium in which Patricia McCormick spoke to the audience following a screening of the movie Sold.
Over 700 community members heard Cheryl Strayed speak at the Numerica Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee.

Every year, we feature one book that we hope everyone in our five-county area will read and discuss, and then we invite the author of the book to our biggest free community-wide event of the year. This year’s book was Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, by Cheryl Strayed, and we were thrilled to find that it resonated with both outdoors enthusiasts and those that could relate to Cheryl’s transformation through grief along her journey.

In fact, this was our most popular One Book read yet! More people than ever borrowed the book from our libraries, and free tickets to the community event were claimed within hours. The night included a booth fair with 13 local community organizations who shared information with attendees on safe, fun, and free ways to enjoy the outdoors.

ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED
- A Book for All Seasons
- Cascadia Conservation District
- Chelan County Search and Rescue
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
- Complete The Loop Coalition
- Friends of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail
- Friends of the Wenatchee Public Library
- Leavenworth Mountain Association
- Run Wenatchee
- The Wenatchee World
- Wenatchee Outdoors
- Wenatchee Valley FIDO
- Write on the River
READING

Every summer we focus on encouraging children of all backgrounds to build reading skills in order to prevent summer reading loss and help them prepare for a successful school year. But it’s not just for kids! There are ways for people of all ages to be involved, track their reading, and stay connected to the library during the summer months.

7,659
Signed Up Participants
A slight drop of 496 sign ups from the previous year.

94,871
Total hours read
Roughly 2,500 more hours than the previous year.
Summer is our busiest time, and our librarians spend months preparing for the wide variety of programs we offer in our communities. These programs are designed to engage kids and families in having fun with learning - whether they’re watching a performance, creating something to take home, or enjoying a challenging STEM activity.

23,146
Total Program Attendance
An increase of 2,850 attendance from the previous year

886
Programs Offered
A slight drop of 18 programs offered from the previous year


**Building Siege Machines**

with Sarah Knox

Our STEM librarian had a ton of fun teaching children about catapults, trebuchets, and other devices! Then, kids got the opportunity to engineer their own catapults out of popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and spoons.

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**El Deafo**

performed by Book It Theatre

Literature met theater in this magnificent graphic novel come to life! These actors were incredible as they acted out the memoir by Cece Bell about trying to make friends while dealing with hearing loss at a young age. Kids learned about how they should treat people who are different than them, and even left practicing some signs!

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**Building Stories**

with author/illustrator Erik Brooks

Using his most recent picture books and a few works-in-progress, Erik shared the wide range of inspirations and details that can inspire stories and help them on the path to becoming real books. He created some brand new characters with the help of the audience, and gave kids different drawing challenges of their own.

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**Hands-on Bilingual Storytime**

with Deborah McVay

Our Bilingual Outreach Technician traveled to many of our libraries to perform interactive storytimes and teach kids about animals from all over the world.

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**How Power is Delivered to Your Home**

with the Grant County PUD

Kids learned how electricity is generated and delivered to houses, farms, and businesses - as well as how to be safe around power equipment! This interactive educational program was sponsored by the Grant County PUD.

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**It’s not Magic, It’s Science!**

with Sarah Knox

Our STEM librarian offered hands-on science shows that allowed kids to stick pencils through bags full of water, make fake snow, and explore surface tension with jars of water. She also demonstrated “elephant toothpaste,” and continuously added to a mountain of polyurethane foam.

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**Hands-on Energy Transfer**

with the Chelan County PUD

Kids got to experience energy transfer first hand with energy sticks, magnets, and other fun activities in this interactive educational program sponsored by the Chelan County PUD.

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**Mixed-Media Art**

with author/illustrator Elisa Kleven

Elisa spoke about what inspires her and showed kids examples of what her art looks like before it’s made into pages of a book. Kids then had the opportunity to make their own collage and mixed-media art!
Puppet Shows
Puppeteers Christina, Colin, Baillee, Mark, Brian, and Luke toured our libraries as well as farmer’s markets and summer schools all summer with engaging and hilarious puppet shows for kids and their caregivers.

Recycalypso
with Ian Dobson
Ian came from Seattle to show kids how music is made from all kinds of materials around the world. Kids even got to make their own instruments from recycled materials!

Volts and Jolts
with the Pacific Science Center
The Pacific Science Center was back this summer to illuminate electricity in a series of shocking experiments. Kids got to explore gadgets, like a Van de Graaff generator and a Tesla coil.

Wildfires
with Hillary Schwirtlich
Children learned about wildfires and fire safety in this educational program sponsored by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.
Learning is a powerful way to engage with the world, nourish curiosity, & promote individual creativity.

**Education & Technology**
48 opportunities were provided in our libraries for people to learn basic educational and technology skills.

58 programs were offered on history, wellness, financial stability, and language learning.

Access to educational opportunities and technology skills are crucial in today’s world, and we were proud to offer a variety of programs this year through community partnerships and the efforts of our librarians and volunteers. Learning opportunities included classes on filing income taxes, avoiding fraud, learning American Sign Language, gaining basic computer skills, getting a GED, and much more!

**Creativity & Engagement**
139 programs in our libraries focused on the arts, music, hobbies, and building community.

This year we provided more opportunities than ever for adults to create and engage with each other in our libraries. We offered a variety of programs about nature, gardening, and enjoying the outdoors, including events at our Seed Library in Ephrata, workshops with Master Gardeners and other local growing experts, eclipse viewing events, and nature documentary screenings. Creative programs included knitting, crocheting, and paper crafts; and we brought two folk music concert series to our communities, featuring musician Bradford Loomis and the group Hungrytown. We also encouraged people from all walks of life to engage with each other through special events like trivia nights, book bingo, artist receptions, spelling bees, and more.
Enjoying the Pacific Northwest

569 people visited their local library for one of the 23 programs we offered about living in and loving the Pacific Northwest.

In conjunction with our One Book program (celebrating Cheryl Strayed’s Wild), we offered a wide variety of programs from local experts on what makes living in the Pacific Northwest so wonderful. Two local residents spoke about their experiences hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, the Chelan County Search & Rescue team spoke about backcountry safety and how rescue operations work, a wildlife biologist spoke about living alongside Grizzly Bears, members of the Native Plant Society spoke about wildfires, and a mushroom expert led talks about finding and identifying choice edible mushrooms in our area.

Humanities Washington

356 people visited their local library for one of the 22 Humanities Washington talks we offered.

We are proud to partner with Humanities Washington’s Speakers Bureau to bring intriguing and inspiring talks to our libraries. Members of our communities had an opportunity to listen to and engage with scholars and experts as they spoke about a wide range of topics that included history, politics, music, philosophy, the environment, and more.

STEM

1,081 STEM programs were offered in our libraries for people of all ages.

Many of our communities asked for increased access to hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning opportunities, and we responded by developing a system-wide STEM initiative. We hired a STEM Librarian to develop programming and train our staff, and coordinated our efforts through the creation of a STEM team that also includes our STEM Outreach Technician and Associate Director of IT. Over the course of the year, our STEM Librarian provided 6 trainings for our staff and designed 23 STEM programming kits that were used by staff to host 960 programs in our libraries. Together, our STEM team provided an additional 121 programs in our libraries. Our STEM Librarian also acquired 153 STEM related puzzles, challenges, and games that circulate through our libraries.
Communities thrive when librarians reach out to serve people’s unique needs outside the walls of our library buildings.

**Bilingual Outreach**

27 locations in our communities received regular visits from our bilingual outreach staff each month.

As part of our commitment to promoting early learning and literacy in our communities, our bilingual outreach staff brought engaging and educational bilingual storytime programming to a wide variety of sites in 2017. In Grant County, staff visited special education classes, Inspire (Head Start) classrooms, Migrant preschools, and other area preschools. In Chelan County, staff visited Inspire (Head Start) classrooms, the Westside High School early learning daycare in Wenatchee, and other area preschools.

**Bookmobile**

10 remote public schools received regular access to public library materials through our Bookmobile.

Our Bookmobile provided an engaging public library experience for students and teachers in some of the most remote communities in our service area, including Inchelium, Keller, Nespelem, Omak (Paschal Sherman Indian School), Orient, Orondo, Palisades, Plain, Republic, and Wilson Creek.

During the summer, our Bookmobile continued serving people in our communities at five day camps, Small Miracles free lunch sites, the Rocky Reach Dam Summer Science series, the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council Summer Food and Fun program, and the Wenatchee Valley Farmers Market.
**Classroom Collections**

120 teachers received sets of books for students to use in their classrooms through our Book Club Library.

As part of our effort to partner with local schools, our Book Club Coordinator worked directly with teachers to provide sets of 25-30 copies of books for classroom use. Many school districts in our service area are not always able to provide classes with engaging newer materials, or enough copies of classic books. The books we provide are intended to supplement what is available to teachers through their school districts, and ensure that no class goes without the materials they need.

**Library Card Drive**

160 children received their first library card during our annual library card drive.

Librarians each chose one school-age group to target in September for our annual library card drive. They visited area schools to make new library cards while introducing children and teachers to the wide variety of materials and resources their local libraries have to offer.

**STEM**

170 STEM programs and activities were provided in local schools and at community events.

As part of a larger initiative to provide more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) opportunities in our communities, our STEM team hosted 162 programs and activities in local schools. They also brought STEM activities to preschools, area parks, fairs, comic-cons, Girl Scout troops, and other community events.
Top Items in 2017

**ADULT BOOKS**

1. A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman ................................................................. 302
2. Camano Island by John Grisham .................................................................. 288
3. Never Never by James Patterson .................................................................. 286
4. The Woman in Cabin 1 by Ruth Ware ............................................................. 285
5. Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance .... 281

**YOUNG ADULT BOOKS**

1. Sold by Patricia McCormick ........................................................................... 636
2. This One Summer by Mako and Jillian Tamaki .............................................. 127
3. Smile by Raina Telgemeier .......................................................................... 125
4. In Real Life by Cory Doctorow ................................................................... 110
5. Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys ................................................................. 89

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School by Jeff Kinney .................................... 365
2. Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts I & II by Jack Thorne ............. 329
3. Minecraft: Medieval Fortress by Craig Jelley .......................................... 283
4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down by Jeff Kinney ................................ 264
5. El Deafo by Cece Bell .................................................................................. 245

**AUDIOBOOKS**

1. Man Overboard by J.A. Jance ..................................................................... 165
2. The Whistler by John Grisham ................................................................. 144
3. Vicious Circle by C.J. Box .......................................................................... 141
4. Two by Two by Nicholas Sparks ................................................................. 140
5. 16th Seduction by James Patterson ............................................................ 132
MOVIES
1. Arrival ................................................................. 1447
2. Sully ................................................................. 1287
3. Passengers ......................................................... 1228
4. Hidden Figures ..................................................... 1213
5. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children .............. 1210

OVERDRIVE
1. Come Sundown by Nora Roberts ................................ 249
2. The Fix by David Baldacci ....................................... 232
3. The Medical Examiner by James Patterson .................. 231
4. Heartbreak Hotel by Jonathan Kellerman .................... 214
5. Camano Island by John Grisham ................................ 203

HOOPLA
1. Moana Soundtrack .................................................. 93
2. A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman ....................... 60
3. Into the Woods ...................................................... 51
4. Sold ................................................................. 46
5. Hidden Figures ..................................................... 40

RBDIGITAL MAGAZINES
1. OK! Magazine ....................................................... 110
2. In Touch Weekly ..................................................... 109
3. Backpacker .......................................................... 104
4. Food Network Magazine ......................................... 103
5. National Geographic ............................................... 93
A SUPER BIG

Thank You!

To our Staff, Board Members, Friends Groups, Supporters, Donators & Patrons.
We could not do it without you.