HOLMES PUBLIC LIBRARY
LONG RANGE PLAN
FY 2023 - FY 2027
**Contents**

Acknowledgements........................................................................................................... 3

Long Range Plan Committee ............................................................................................ 3

Library Staff ......................................................................................................................... 4

Board of Library Trustees ................................................................................................... 4

The Holmes Public Library ................................................................................................ 5

Mission Statement ............................................................................................................. 5

History ................................................................................................................................. 5

Our Community ................................................................................................................... 6

Library Values ..................................................................................................................... 8

The Long-Range Plan ......................................................................................................... 9

Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 9

Assessment of User Needs ................................................................................................. 10

Planning Methodology ....................................................................................................... 11

Long-Range Plan Strategic Initiatives ............................................................................... 14

Satisfy Curiosity – Lifelong Learning ................................................................................. 14

Know Your Community – Community Resources and Services .................................... 14

Make Informed Decisions - Health, Wealth, and Other Life Choices .............................. 15

Create Young Readers - Early Literacy .............................................................................. 15

Appendices .......................................................................................................................... 16

Appendix I – Online and In-House Library Survey Results ............................................. 16

Appendix II – Community Demographics ....................................................................... 24

Holmes Public Library Long Range Plan – Adopted September 14th, 2021 by the Board of Library Trustees
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Long Range Plan Committee

The Library Director and Trustees would like to thank the members of the Planning Committee for their hard work and for their enthusiastic, thoughtful approach to analyzing their community and the library.

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Rodney Hemingway
Working Community Representative
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Susan Vogt
Secretary

Madeline Flood

Kathleen Shiavone
The Holmes Public Library

Mission Statement

The Holmes Public Library is a welcoming and integral part of the community providing patrons with open and equitable access to informational, educational, cultural and recreational resources; to meet and interact with others in the community; to attain their educational goals; to find, evaluate and use information to make informed decisions and to continue to learn throughout their lives.

History

According to Guy Baker’s A History of Halifax, the first known library services offered in Halifax were those of Mrs. Richard Bosworth in connection with Cap’n Bos’ard’s Wife’s School of 1800. In 1876, the first free library was established in Halifax with a gift of $100.00 from Dr. Howland Holmes, the brother of John Holmes, a Halifax tin peddler. The new library was housed in the old Town Hall. In 1907, this building was destroyed by fire. The thirty-five books, which had been circulating to residents, became the nucleus of a new library collection established at a new site at the Congregational Church. In 1908, The Town appropriated $1000 for this new library.

Shortly thereafter, the J.L. Jones family donated an old schoolhouse to the town. It was moved to a Plymouth Street site and remodeled to serve as a post office and a library. After the post office moved from that site the library occupied the entire building. Two additions were made to the building, one in 1961 and the other in 1970. This alleviated some overcrowding and added a basement room for the children’s section of the library. The library soon outgrew both additions, and in 1993, a groundbreaking ceremony for a new public library was held for a new library facility to be in the
renovated kindergarten building on the elementary school campus. The new building was opened to the public in September 1994.

Throughout the years, control of the library was placed in the hands of a variety of individuals and groups: the selectmen, the school committee, resident ministers, priests, and physicians. In 1957, Town Meeting voted to elect their first board of five library trustees as the governing board of the library. A board of six elected trustees, is now the policy makers for the library.

The library has experienced a great deal of change over the years. Library service is now provided to the public in a modern, though somewhat cramped, one-floor facility. In January 1995, the Library became a full member of a regional automated network, which today is known as SAILS. Patrons have access to the collections of libraries in the Sails network and across the state via the Massachusetts Library System Delivery. Library staff provides a wide variety of technology training to our patrons, making their experience with e-books, databases, and library subscription access to specialized sources such as; Ancestry.com, Consumer Reports and Mango Languages more effective and fruitful. The library is a source of free, unfiltered public internet access and photocopying/fax service for a nominal fee.

The Library now houses a broad collection of approximately 43,559 volumes, including books, periodicals and material in audio and video formats. The Town of Halifax strongly supports its library. The library has 8 public internet access PCS, two OPACs, AWE children’s computer and has recently installed a projection system in the community room. The Library has 3,238 registered borrowers, and in Fiscal Year 21 circulated 37,198 items. It is well supported by active Friends of the Holmes Public Library volunteer organization.

Our Community

The town of Halifax is situated in Southeastern Massachusetts and considered the Heart of Plymouth County. It is located 28 miles from Boston and 12 miles from Plymouth. It contains 11,285 acres; 1700 of it is water and about 200 swamp. There is one pond in Halifax that is apt to be heard called by different names. One is Monponsett Pond. The word Monponsett is an Indian word meaning “near the deep pond”. The other is Twin Lakes, or East and West Monponsett Pond.

According to tradition, the first family to locate here was John and Mary Tomson erecting a log house on what is known as Thompson Street today. This would later become the first house burned by the Indians... as King Philip’s War. Samuel Sturtevant was one of the first settlers, establishing himself near Monponsett Pond. He is said to have built the first gristmill in the area off Furnace Street. Both families were very prominent in Halifax for many generations.

By an act of the General Court, the Town of Halifax was incorporated on July 4, 1734 (New Style). We are the only town in the Commonwealth to have this honor. It was formed from parts of the towns of Middleborough, Pembroke, and Plympton. It was named in honor of the Earl of Halifax, West Yorkshire, England. (Source: "Welcome to Halifax, MA." Welcome to Halifax, MA. Town of Halifax, n.d. Web. 25 July 2016.)

According to figures found on the town website, the total population of Halifax is approximately 7,896 in 2019. The median household income is $92,774. The typical value of homes in Halifax is $458,061(Source: Zillow). (Source: Census.gov estimates, 7/1/2019).
Grade K-6 children in Halifax attend the Halifax Elementary School, located adjacent to the Library. Older children attend the Silver Lake Regional School System, a union of the towns of Halifax, Kingston, and Plympton. The Youth and Recreation Commission sponsors a summer enrichment and theater program as well as programs during school vacations. Youth baseball, soccer, basketball, and softball are regular sports offerings. There are also many very active Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops.

The PTA and the Friends of the Holmes Public Library provide well-organized support for the school and Library respectively. The two organizations provide funding for programs, enhancement activities as well as many social events for members and others.

The Council on Aging (COA) offers a variety of activities of interest to seniors. The Council serves luncheons on weekdays, provides regular minibus trips, Meals on Wheels and referral services. The COA facility is housed in Pope’s Tavern, an historic landmark that can no longer meet the expanding needs of the Halifax Senior population. The Halifax Mobile Home Estates is a retirement community which also offers similar programs at their community center.

The Halifax Historical Society houses local history and some town records in the Museum, which can be accessed by the public by appointment. By working together, the Library and the Historical Society provide access to historical records through loans of materials to the library.
Library Values

Work Ethic
The staff takes pride in their work and the services we provide to our Patrons. Attention to detail is a priority whether it is putting a sticker on a book while cataloging, running story time, or Adult programs. All services provided must adhere to the high standards we put on ourselves.

Customer Service
We work together as a staff to provide exceptional customer service. A small building and staff facilitates communication so that we can find the best answer to your question or solution to the task at hand.

Good listening and thoughtful decisions
Everybody’s story is unique and there are two sides to every story. Our philosophy is rules are mostly made to be broken. We listen carefully to your story and make thoughtful decisions about the best solution.

Community Outreach
The staff at the Holmes Public Library enjoys the camaraderie of attending programs hosted by other town department and community groups. We make our presence known around the community. We provide program space for the Council on Aging who struggle with a small outdated building and Scout troops in need of a safe convenient space to hold meetings.

Living room of the Community
We value our place in the community and take our role as the center of our community very seriously. Everyone is welcome here and we strive to make sure patrons of all ages from 0 to 100 feel comfortable in our building, find answers to questions and solutions to problems. We welcome innovation and love it when the community inspires us.
The Long-Range Plan

Introduction

This plan was written using the Strategic Planning for Results authored by Sandra Nelson for the Public Library Association. The framework for our plan was built on three assumptions. The first is that excellence is achieved when library services match community needs, interests, and priorities. The second is that excellence is possible for both small and large libraries. It rests more on commitment than on unlimited resources. Lastly, when excellence is achieved it must be continually maintained. This plan will serve as a blueprint to guide library services in Halifax for the next five years. Annually, the Board of Trustees and Library Director will review the library’s goals and develop activities to achieve those goals for the following fiscal year.

The Holmes Public Library’s FY23-FY27 Long Range Plan does not vary greatly from the previous plan submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The service roles chosen for this plan by our Long-Range Plan Committee are very similar. The focus of this plan will be on Lifelong Learning, providing the resources residents need to make informed decisions and the library being the Center of the Community. In addition, based on library circulation statistics, the strength of our wonderful staff and LSTA Mind in the Making Grant Award, the Long-Range Plan Committee felt focus should also include Early Literacy and creating young readers.

Given the ever and fast changing climate of personal technologies, specifically in their relation to information and as an electronic resource for reading, the Holmes Public Library will slightly shift and focus on providing the appropriate resources to ensure that all community members can make informed decisions that affect their lives.

Aware of the positive survey results regarding the Library’s response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, discussion centered around continuing practices that worked well and received helpful patron feedback. Curbside pickup is beneficial for those patrons with infants in the car, patrons on the go, and patrons leery of coming into the building. Hybrid programs were also a well-received idea, especially for those patrons who may be working all day, and for those who are unable to visit the library. As the discussion continued and centered around more than half of survey respondents wanting Saturday Summer hours, an innovative idea was brought forward to create ways to bring the library resources outside both physically and virtually, essentially creating 24/7 hold pickups and library resources. This will be an exciting challenge.

The Committee focused on expanding programming, collection development and the Library as a community center. Programs should be focused on inclusiveness and intergenerational. Space in the building was a constant thread in our discussions as it hinders collection development, but all efforts should be made to make room for an updated Sci-Fi collection and Adult graphic novels.

The challenges of operating a small yet dynamic and technologically up to date public library are enormous and fulfilling. The Library staff is highly trained, versatile, professional and enthusiastically looking forward to fulfilling the vision outlined for them by the Long Range Planning Committee. The Town of Halifax takes pride in the Library and is generous both of its time and its monetary investment in support of the Library’s programs and services.
Assessment of User Needs

The Holmes Public Library’s Long Range Plan for FY23-FY27 began with the distribution of a survey designed primarily to receive feedback on customer and library services. Results of this survey indicate that the Library is an integral part of the community. Residents use the library as the place to go for books, media and information. Residents use library copy and fax services to conduct personal business and depend heavily on the public wireless computers. The Community Room is well used by local groups to hold their meetings. The Holmes Public Library continues to be the “living room of our community”. A gathering place to go to socialize, attend a wide variety of programs and find community information. Library Staff was given high praise for being helpful, knowledgeable, pleasant and creating a very welcoming environment.

After compiling and analyzing survey results, improvements that patrons would like to see at the library focused on expansion of our collection and a variety of program offerings. Respondents would like to see an increase in attendance at all library programs with continued efforts and focus on publicity. The library should always seek out new ways to serve more people. Public relations should be a priority always but especially given the strain the Covid-19 Pandemic placed on Town Officials, Library Staff and Community members. Contributions to the community should always be in the foreground. Explanations of Covid-19 protocols and restrictions should always be given with kindness and understanding so that patrons can feel safe using the library and know what options the library offers to best suit their needs.

In terms of library services responses, results from the survey were very similar to the opinions expressed by our Long Range Plan Committee during our two strategic plan meetings. It is clear that the library plays a major role in the lifelong learning, information literacy and is a TRUE community center for people of all ages. Positive recognition is given to library staff members who assist with locating and using materials, recommend recreational reading, interact with children and teens, and provide assistance with technology. 90% of survey respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Library’s response to the Pandemic. One respondent wrote, “The staff of the Holmes Public Library is going above and beyond during these challenging times”. Some expressed dissatisfaction that the Children’s Room remained closed. Also, the community looks to the Library to keep abreast of technology advances as well as provide training through one on one computer classes. 42% of survey respondents reported that they would like to come to the library for help with downloading e-books and help with ipad/iphone/tablet and 44% would like help on the basic computer programs such as Word, Excel and Google Docs.

Some other issues identified were the need for an increase in Saturday hours for working families who find it difficult to get to the library during the week. Two survey questions regarding library hours were asked to the community. 62% of respondents responded that they would NOT like to see the library opened more than two evenings a week. 74% of respondents responded that they would like to see the Library open Saturdays in the summer. The Strategic Planning Committee discussed this question at length. Given Staffing concerns and financial implications the Director was charged with the assignment of looking into locker pick up for holds essentially creating a 24/7 library. The library website is of high value to the community. 70% of survey respondents use the library’s website to find information and answered that it was the best way to know what is going on at the library. Only 5% do not use the library website. Over the last year there has been an increase in the use of the Library’s digital collection. 75% use this collection to download ebooks, 59% to listen to audiobooks. 25% access the collection of digital magazines and 10% use the collection for video watching and
to use the newly added Kanopy to the library collection. The library has responded to this need by increasing our purchase of Library Advantages titles of digital materials.

The Long Range Planning Committee met to participate in a community vision exercise facilitated by Library Director, Jean Gallant. The group painted a picture of Halifax being a safe close knit community that enjoys community events and has a lot of community spirit. Halifax needs to attract light industries and businesses to help support the tax base but must also preserve the home town feel. The group envisioned a library which was 24/7 in terms of access to holds and technology. Many would like to see sidewalks throughout the whole town. Many commented on the difficulties some families were facing with remote learning and other restrictions of the Pandemic. The roaring success of the newly built playground has led to some issues, such as complications from the increased use of library bathroom facilities and parking for both the library and other town events. The preservation of wetlands and walking trails was also a priority. The Town of Halifax is rich in history. The group would like to see the town continue to maintain the historical district and honor its history publicly. The Museum of Halifax stores many historical artifacts dating back to the Civil War. The library needs to play a key role in bringing this history to the community through local history programs and collaboration with the Halifax Historical Society. Also, it is important that the library continues to take the appropriate steps to be in a position to provide information and direction for people looking for Halifax History. Cleaning up the Lakes Region to bring back swimming was of paramount importance to the Committee. The Library can play a significant role in this major project by working with town officials to distribute education to the public and provide community space for public forums.

Throughout the planning process, a prevalent matter of concern for the Library and its community is space in the building. During the course of discussions, the issue of space in the building always seemed to hinder our opportunities to serve the community. The collection size is over double capacity for what the building was designed to hold, limiting expansion. Survey results show that 88% of people come in to the library to check out materials. The Community Room area is small making it difficult for wheelchairs to maneuver around during programs particularly, it was mentioned the Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. Storage limitations for book donations and merchandise to sell stymie the efforts of the Friends group to make money. The Holmes Public Library is a meeting space for the community creating a conflict for those people in need of more quiet space to work and those who use the library to tutor. The Town of Halifax formed a Building & Facility Needs Committee made up of Department Heads and Town Officials. This committee is tasked with touring all town buildings and creating a priority list of projects. While the library struggles with space issues it was made clear during meetings of this committee that a more pressing need in the community is creating a safe affordable place for our ever growing population of Senior Citizens and addressing a number of bigger needs in most of the other buildings.

The Library Director and Staff will work hard to meet the goals determined by the Long Range Plan Committee and our community. Special attention will be paid to keeping our collection updated and we are committed to continually weeding out old materials to make way for new. We will offer a wide variety of programs. Through individual and group workshop education, Staff is dedicated to bringing the latest in technology to our patrons. We will proudly serve as the liaison to Halifax Historical Society and as the conduit of information between the town and its residents on community projects.

**Planning Methodology**

The Holmes Public Library began the process for our FY23-FY27 in December 2020. It had been a number of years since a survey was distributed to the community. The Board of Trustees and Library Director decided that a good place to begin was to gather initial community feedback as to how the Library was doing in terms of customer and library services especially since we were navigating the unique experience of a global pandemic. After feedback and approval from the
Board of Trustees the survey was distributed to the community from January 14, 2021 thru March 31, 2021. This survey was available at the main circulation desk and distributed at various locations in town. The survey was also online via SurveyMonkey and directly linked on the library’s website, the Library’s Facebook page, as well as the homepage for the Town of Halifax’s website. In total, 99 people responded to this survey. Although this survey was posted twice as long as the survey for our previous long range plan, we received about half the responses. The Board of Library Trustees considered reduced hours and “Covid fatigue” as major factors in the reduced number of responses.

In April 2021, staff developed a fun activity to gather additional community feedback. Colorful bookmarks were created by the Technology Librarian celebrating National Library week. On the front of each bookmark was the question “What do you love about your library?”. Patrons were asked to write their answer on the back. Upon checkout patrons were given a bookmark and asked to place the completed bookmark inside the book when it was returned. Having received 31 bookmarks back we were happy with the return and even happier with the comments. Each day staff was excited to read the comments. Staff favorite was returned in a Children’s picture book with the simple response of “EVERYTHING”.

The search for a Strategic Plan Committee began in April, 2021. Information about the purpose and commitment of committee members was posted on the library’s website. Any interested parties were able to call the library or submit an online form directly to the Library Director via email. Seven of the ten Committee Members took advantage of the online submission form. Personal phone calls were made to members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectman inviting members to take part in the planning process. Unfortunately, in the current climate of the town nobody was able to make the commitment to the planning process. A member of the Board of Trustees and an officer of the Friends of the Library were asked and added to the committee. To complete the committee library staff had a brainstorming session looking for a committee advocate. Agreeing on the perfect person and making a personal phone call, a committee consisting of community representatives, Friends of the library and library trustees was assembled. Additional meetings discussing the Covid-19 Pandemic made it difficult for Town of Halifax Officials to participate in the planning process.

The Planning Committee met twice in the month of June 2021. Before the first meeting an email from the Library Director was sent to each committee member thanking them for their time and explaining the planning process using handouts obtained from the Massachusetts Library System Libguides. Also attached to the email was the Agenda and an explanation of the S.O.A.R. to be completed at the first meeting.

Library Director, Jean Gallant facilitated the meeting. The meeting began with welcome and introductions. Committee members were given an overview of Strategic Planning for Libraries and reviewed the Massachusetts Library System handout “Strategic Planning for Libraries What it is and Why it is so Important”. Director, Jean Gallant gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating where the Library is today. This included town demographics, programming, materials and 2021 survey results. The Committee members were broken into groups using a color coded handout system for the S.O.A.R exercise. Groups were given thirty minutes to discuss Library Strengths and Opportunities. Small groups were conducive to a more comfortable discussion. We then regrouped to share results. After a short break with light refreshments (donated by a community member) and some social time, the group resumed for a large group discussion of Aspirations and Results. The results of this exercise were summarized and shared with the Board of Trustees.

Staff completed a S.O.A.R exercise individually using a handout provided by the Massachusetts Library System and handed their feedback to the Library Director. A staff meeting was held and everyone shared their thoughts on the Strengths and Opportunities of the Library and what they thought was the future of the library. The results of Meeting One were shared to find many common threads. A discussion then followed about what we valued most about the library. Each staff member talked about how they felt they best served their patrons and how best the library served
their community. This discussion generated a set of shared values that guide our staff as we work with the community and with each other.

The Strategic Plan Committee met for a second time at the end of June to participate in a Community Visioning Exercise. This meeting had a full Agenda with summer fast approaching. This meeting involved a review of the library’s current long range plan and a review of the S.O.A.R. results. A brainstorming session was held to identify key community issues and how the library would fit in to have a positive impact on the community. Ideas were posted, reviewed and voted on to determine which community issues are most important to the group. The group then reviewed the library services responses to establish the links between the community’s needs, interests, and priorities and the programs and services that the library should offer in this plan. A handout of Figure 18 Library Service Responses was taken from “Sandra Nelson’s Strategic Planning for Results” was given to each committee member. After review of this document the committee decided upon 4 services responses that would best meet the set of well-defined community needs.

The group then reviewed Mission statements from the previous two long range plans. Definitions were checked and Mission statements from other institutions were examined carefully. The group wanted to make sure our Mission statement reflected the values of the Holmes Public Library. After a long meeting, final wording for all parts of the plan were accepted by the group.

The Library Director and Assistant Director met to review the survey results, results from the staff and committee S.O.A.R. exercises, community issues identified from the community visioning exercise and demographic information. Based on all of this information draft goals, objectives and actions were developed for the library to focus on over the next five years.
Long-Range Plan Strategic Initiatives

Satisfy Curiosity – Lifelong Learning
Residents will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Goal:
Patrons will have access to a diverse core collection in a wide variety of formats to achieve personal growth as well as have an inviting place to engage in social interaction, experience entertainment and explore topics of individual interest.

Actions:
- Review statistical data from SAILS and purchase and budget accordingly
- Review collection with attention to series making sure we have first two titles in series.
- Weed out materials that are obsolete or unused
- Make purchases according to an ongoing assessment of current events and new trends
- Promote the collection and resources through displays, handouts and electronic mediums
- Write a patron request policy to allow patrons to request certain items in the collection
- Provide patron training on use of the SAILS Catalog and E-book databases
- Evaluate the circulation of e-books/e-audio books and adjust budget accordingly
- Provide staff training in Reader’s Advisory to facilitate staff interaction with patrons in developing and promoting the collection.
- Add Genres to the collection according to the Long Range Plan survey and the recommendation of the Strategic plan committee.

Know Your Community – Community Resources and Services
Residents will have a central source for information about a wide variety of programs, services and activities provided by community agencies and organizations.

Goal:
Residents will enjoy a sense of community, feel connected and be informed about activities, programs, volunteer opportunities and resources in their community.

Actions:
- Hold an annual “Halifax Reads” to engage the community in an intergenerational book-centered discussion
- Develop a plan for the library to facilitate an online calendar of all community events
- Expand programs to include more book clubs, more inclusive and intergenerational programs
- Create a plan to reach people that cannot or do not use the library
- Establish a partnership with the Halifax Historical Society to facilitate a sharing of historical information and resources
- Seek grants from Local Cultural Council for cultural programs
- Investigate ways to maintain practices introduced as a result of the pandemic
- Work with the Friends of the Library to recreate the new resident welcome to the community information packet
Make Informed Decisions - Health, Wealth, and Other Life Choices
Residents will have the resources they need to identify and analyze risks, benefits, and alternatives before making decisions that affect their lives.

**Goal:**
The Library will provide appropriate resources to extend and enhance services to ensure that all community members can make informed decisions.

**Activities:**
- Explore ways people can access library services remotely
- Support Staff development programs that create a staff that competently and effectively use technology resources
- Work with the Town IT department to create a Technology assessment
- Create and maintain a dedicated local history collection and archive for research purposes
- Work with Capital Plan Committee to establish a schedule to update staff/public computers and technology equipment
- Offer one-on-one technology training to meet patron requests
- Keep current a collection of “How to reference” books
- Create informational display on current events at the library and via the monthly newsletter
- Subscribe to a varied collection of electronic collections

Create Young Readers - Early Literacy
Children from birth to five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

**Goal:**
The Library will address school readiness by providing all-inclusive play-and-learn spaces that address the social-emotional and developmental learning needs of our younger children ages 0-6.

**Activities:**
- Expand/update our Children’s collection to provide a developmentally appropriate avenue to promote diversity
- Create a fresh and inviting play space for our children birth to preschool
- Create an “Exploration Station” to provide high quality learning experiences for children PreK-K
- Establish a quiet reading area to promote caregiver and child interaction
- Improve our current marketing plan to ensure optimal participation in our new spaces
- Host weekly story times and special intergenerational events monthly
- Establish partnerships to ensure underserved families can visit the library
Appendices

Appendix I – Online and In-House Library Survey Results

**Question 1:** Overall, how satisfied were you with the Library’s response to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

- Very satisfied: 72%
- Satisfied: 18%
- Neither: 9%
- Dissatisfied: 3%
- Very dissatisfied: 2%

**Question 3:** Post pandemic, would you like the library to be open more than 2 evenings a week?

- Yes: 38%
- No: 62%
Question 4: Post pandemic, would you like to see the library open Saturdays in the summer?

- Yes, 73%
- No, 27%

Question 5: Do you understand the role of the Library Trustees and how to contact them with questions?

- Yes, 56
- No, 37
Question 6: Are you familiar with the Friends?

- Yes: 80
- No: 14

Question 7: Which of the following library services do you consider most important?

- Never use the library: 0
- Online databases/resources: 20
- Offering books for sale: 18
- Hosting events and programs for children: 53
- Hosting events and programs for teens: 10
- Hosting events and programs for adults: 23
- Providing meeting room space for community: 14
- Providing a social space for residents to gather: 19
- Providing WiFi: 10
- Providing computers/printers for public use: 42
- Offering downloadable eBooks, audio and video: 33
- Providing books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, etc.: 83
Question 8: If you use the Library's digital collection on Overdrive/Libby, what materials do you access?

- eBooks, 44%
- Digital audiobooks, 35%
- Digital magazines, 15%
- Videos via Overdrive or Kanopy, 6%

Question 9: When the Library returns to a full programming schedule which programs are you most likely to participate?

- I do not plan to attend library programming: 11
- Events for adults (author talks, bookclubs, concerts): 59
- Events for parents (talks, workshops, etc.): 14
- Computer instruction: 15
- School-age programs (grades 7 and up): 6
- School-age programs (grades 4-6): 14
- School-age programs (grades 1-3): 12
- Summer Reading Program: 19
- Infant Lapsit/Toddler/Preschool/Pre-K Storytime: 19
Question 10: When the Library returns to a full programming schedule which technology workshop would you be most interested in attending?

- Help with smartphone/tablet: 17
- Internet safety: 13
- Google Docs: 15
- Microsoft Office Word: 13
- Blogging: 9
- Job search basics: 3
- Social Media: 7
- Downloading eBooks: 22
- None of the above: 39

Question 11: Which of the following databases would you most likely use?

- Novelist: 22
- Mango Languages: 8
- Consumer Reports: 35
- Ancestry: 43
- None of the above: 30
Question 12: The Holmes Public Library’s adult/young adult book collection needs more books in these genres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not borrow from this collection</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>History books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biographies/memoirs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art, architecture &amp; photography books</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True crime</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home decorating</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic novels/Manga</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health/fitness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-help</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft/hobby</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science fiction/fantasy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science/nature books</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mystery, crime &amp; thriller</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics/current affairs</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer/technology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
Question 13: The Holmes Public Library Children’s collection needs additional titles in these areas.

- I do not borrow from this collection: 53
- Board Books: 3
- First Chapters: 7
- Easy Readers: 6
- Middle grade fiction: 9
- Nonfiction: 12
- Graphic novels/Manga: 4
- Music CDs: 2
- DVD: 3
- Books on CD: 3
- Kits (book/cd kits, games, etc): 8
- Other: 2
- Board Books
- First Chapters
- Easy Readers
- Middle grade fiction
- Nonfiction
- Graphic novels/Manga
- Music CDs
- DVD
- Books on CD
- Kits (book/cd kits, games, etc)
- Other
**Question 14: Why do you use the library website?**

- I do not visit the library website: 5
- To access information about the library (hours, phone number, policies): 61
- To watch Storytime's: 10
- To use digital resources (eBooks, databases, Kanopy): 33
- To access the library catalog: 52
- To find out about library programs: 65

**Question 15: What are your preferred ways to learn about the library’s programs and services?**

- Word of mouth: 18
- Local newspaper: 7
- Library Facebook page: 53
- Street sign outside the library: 31
- Subscribe to library email newsletter: 36
- Library website: 69
## Appendix II – Community Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>6,526</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,518</td>
<td>7,767</td>
<td>7,896</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>41.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>2,758</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Households w. Computers</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Households w. Broadband Internet</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
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<td>Income Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$37,197</td>
<td>$57,015</td>
<td>$77,905</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$92,774</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$15,233</td>
<td>$23,738</td>
<td>$34,617</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$39,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Commute in Minutes</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population by Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>56-65+</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-54</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20-55</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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