

About Norman Williams Public Library Today

- The NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY, INC. established in 1883 was incorporated December 19, 1989 as a Vermont Non-Profit Corporation, without capital stock, created for public library use.
- The NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY is a not-for-profit organization established under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY receives approximately 34% of its annual funding from public sources – Town of Woodstock, Town of Bridgewater.
- The NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY must raise the remainder of its operating funds each year.

Regular use of the library

- Patron visits are at an all-time high of more than 50,000 this year. The number of patron visits continues the trend of increasing between 3 and 11% per year.
- We currently have more than 3,600 active library cardholders
- 45,000 of our 55,000 books and information sources circulate annually
- Our reader advisory service and librarians' recommendations are rated as highly valued

Events and Programs

- All events and programs are offered free of charge. Last year NWPL offered 400+ free programs with monthly attendance often exceeding 1,000
- Programs range from book and poetry discussions to health and gardening classes. Traditional story hours coincide with book review discussions. Theater previews and performances are held in collaboration with local and national partners Programs are video-taped by WCTV for subsequent viewing on Channel 8 and Vimeo on YouTube
- Our facility is used by the community for meetings, workshops and art shows
- Close collaboration on annual festivals: Bookstock Literary Festival and the Woodstock Digital Media Festival
- The library provides a safe place for children to go after school as well as a showcase for a variety of school productions and art shows. Stem and the arts classes are planned and support STEM activities of Woodstock Elementary School
- Classes on memoir writing, history, poetry, the classics, religion and anthropology are offered at the library through the Woodstock Learning Collaborative and with local professors
- Children's Area offers Baby and Toddler Story Times. Craft programs engage our young crowd and movie afternoons engage older children
- Summer Reading Programs encourage over 100 children maintain the reading habit, year round
- The children's courtyard has a flowering "secret garden" with a newly installed rocking horse bench built by local craftsman Ken Woodhead.

Technology instruction / access

- Staff and volunteers offer one-to-one computer tutorials and digital literacy guidance
- In addition to our in-library network which is available inside the library as well as on the Village Green, we provide free wireless Internet access through Wireless Woodstock to Woodstock Village
- Free searchable databases include more than 600 indexed and 300 full text magazines
- Strategic planning initiatives includes an Innovation Lab/Impact Hub as well as a core of digital services
- Universal Class offers library card holders free access to over 500 free online courses
- Video conferencing if freely available

How Does NWPL Compare Statewide – Return on Investment for EDC grant funding

There are 4 libraries in Vermont with collections similar in size to Norman Williams: Fairfax, Springfield, Colchester, and Barre. There are 5 libraries with building square footage similar to Norman Williams: Brattleboro, Essex Junction, Middlebury, Montpelier, and Rockingham. Among these 10 libraries, only one library has lower annual salary and benefits expense than NWPL. The average annual staffing expense for these 10 libraries is \$433,257; NWPL's annual cost is \$252,870 (69% of the average). One reason that the NWPL is able to provide such a high level of services is the talent and generosity of our volunteers. Only Brattleboro had a greater number of volunteer hours than NWPL.

Of these 10 libraries, the average annual operating expense is \$594,745. NWPL's annual operating expense is \$452,534. These comparisons and numbers are based on the latest data from the State of Vermont.

Of this group of comparable libraries, NWPL and 2 others, Barre and Montpelier are incorporated rather than municipal. These 2 libraries receive significantly greater funding from their respective municipalities. NWPL received \$189,200 as compared to \$357,000 for Barre and \$424,816 for Montpelier. These libraries received between 1.9 and 2.5 times greater municipal funding than NWPL.

All indications from Vermont State Library Statistics indicate that NWPL manages its resources exceptionally well compared to libraries with similar building and collection sizes.

