On September 14, 2014, Ames Public Library returned home to 515 Douglas Avenue. Since the Grand REopening, the Library has been as busy as ever.

**over 1.25 million items checked out**
(That’s like each Ames resident checking out 21 items!)

**over 130 visitors per hour** on average

**about 400 Library card signups** per month
The 2014 renovation and expansion includes:

**60% more space**—nearly 79,000 square feet.

**5 public meeting rooms**—including a greatly expanded Auditorium—and a large, kid-friendly Storytime Room.

**8 study rooms** (over twice the pre-expansion options) plus The Studio for quiet study, small meetings, tutoring, etc.

Over **350 seats** from comfortable wingback chairs to colorful cushions and playful animals for children.

**Did you know?**

Through the renewal project, the 1904 and 1940 sections of the Library were renovated, and previously covered portions of these buildings are now featured inside the lobby.

An **Automated Materials Handling System**, which checks in items and sorts them into bins. That means a faster trip from drop box to shelf and more staff available where you need them!

and much, much more!
Rediscover

Today’s public library is more than a collection of books. It is a gathering place for people and ideas. Have you discovered all that Ames Public Library has to offer?

Almost **47,000 e-books** and downloadable items are available for checkout.

Over **1/4 million physical items** are available.

Card holders checked out about **331 items per hour** the Library was open last year!

**1/2 million youth items** were checked out, for an average of **73.9 per capita** (youth population). Imagine trying to buy and store over 70 children’s books in your home! Now imagine doing that **every year**!

**Over 600,000 items** for general audiences were checked out for an average of **11.8 per capita** (adult population).

**Check it Out!**

The Library brings you ideas in many formats: video games, movies on DVD and Blu-ray, music, magazines, e-magazines, graphic novels, manga, toys, puppets, books, audiobooks, e-books, and more.

**Items Checked Out**

- **Downloadable Materials**
- **Videos, CDs, DVDs, Audiobooks, etc.**
- **Books/Magazines (Print)**

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[Graph showing items checked out in 2014 and 2015]
A separate space for teens was added in the renewed building. Open after school and on weekends, this area is staffed primarily by the teen librarian and is a safe and welcoming area for local teens to connect, learn, and engage.

The space is also used for many teen programs as well as the Library’s Teen Advisory Group meetings.

The renewed Library allows for room to grow. The Youth Area is designed with inviting areas for all age groups from babies to teens. Toys and fun furniture inspire curiosity and augment the early literacy learning environment.

Almost 3,000 youth, teens, and adults registered for Ames Public Library’s Summer Reading Programs.
53 computers for the public were used nearly 130 times per day.

The Library’s 10 new iPads were checked out over 700 times.

The 4 early literacy computers were used over 3,000 times each.

The Library added 7 self-checkout stations where cardholders can checkout, pay fines, and renew items. Two are located in the youth area for ease of use by parents.

Card holders used the Library's online resources 66,000 times. This includes research databases, online tutoring, and other services usually available only through a subscription.
Ames Public Library strives to be the heart of our vibrant community. Many community organizations have found a comfortable and welcoming place to have a meeting at the Library. Other organizations have partnered with the Library to present lectures, workshops, and more.

Outside of the main Library building, the Bookmobile takes books, movies, and music for all ages to neighborhoods throughout Ames.

Ames Public Library also reaches out to groups with specific needs. Project Smyles, the Library's early literacy outreach program, takes books and the storytime experience to children in daycares and preschools. Staff also deliver rotating collections of books to retirement homes and residents who have difficulty leaving their homes.

On average, over 13 meetings a day are held at the Library with annual attendance over 12,000.

The Bookmobile visited over 10,000 people. That's almost 20 people per hour it's open!

Project Smyles presented 630 storytimes to children in daycares and preschools.

The Library made about 970 deliveries of books and materials around the community.
Our thanks to the Ames community, Ames City Council, and City of Ames Staff for outstanding support. This beautiful Library is a fitting testimonial to the vision Ames citizens have for a literate, welcoming, and engaged community.

The last year would not have been possible without the dedicated and hard-working staff and volunteers of the library. Library staff and volunteers stepped up and took on the monumental task of moving the Library from the temporary space to the renovated building.

Volunteers have continued their tremendous support with over 100 assisting the Library on a weekly basis!

The Board of Trustees has provided leadership and support through the building project with integrity, foresight, and an incredible vision.

The Ames Public Library Friends Foundation has worked tirelessly to raise money to support the library renovation as well as provide funds for special projects.

Thank you!

This year, 434 volunteers contributed over 11,000 hours of assistance.

That’s an average of 40 hours per day!