Raymond A. Whitwer
Tilden Public Library

2016 - 2017
ANNUAL REPORT

“I love my library!”

“Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.”

~ Lady Bird Johnson
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCREDITATION

The purpose of public library accreditation is to encourage excellent library service in Nebraska communities. Accreditation:

• establishes minimum standards for library service
• ensures that libraries adhere to certain standards
• offers libraries benchmarks
• offers libraries evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected

Library Accreditation is valid for three years. In order to apply, the library must:

• have submitted the annual state statistical report
• meet twelve minimum qualifications
• have an up-to-date and approved strategic plan

Accreditation and levels of accreditation are based on a system of accrued points. For each guideline on the application, a library earns a number of points. The library must earn at least 175 points to be accredited at the lowest, Bronze level. Accreditation at the Silver level requires 200 points, and at the Gold level, 250 points.

**After completing the accreditation process in October 2015, The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library achieved a “Gold” rating, the highest level of accreditation, valid until September 2018.**

The Library Director and library staff are certified and must fulfil the state required 45 continuing education (CE) hours for each 3 year certification period through seminars, webinars, presentations, classes, workshops and meetings.

**Library Meetings, seminars, workshops attended by Director and/or staff:**

• Antelope County Library Association (ACLA) bimonthly meeting
• Madison County Library Association (MCLA) bimonthly meeting
• Norfolk Library Expansion Project meetings, representing Madison County, qrtly meeting
• Tilden Library Board monthly meeting
• Tilden Library Foundation quarterly meeting
• Antelope County Supervisors’ meeting - annually
• Madison County Commissioners’ meeting - annually
• Tilden City Council meeting - when necessary
• Three Rivers Library System Workshops - as scheduled
• Misc Workshops, Webinars, and CE Training throughout the year
THE LIBRARY BOARD

The Tilden Public Library Board, certified by the State of Nebraska Library Commission, is made up of five members of the community whom attend regular monthly meetings, governing the operation of the library and working for library objectives. They are engaged in a diversity of interests and occupations, with an understanding of the communities needs and resources. The Library Board is required by the State to participate in and submit 20 hours of CE training, collectively, during each 3 year certification period through webinars, seminars or presentations.

Members of the Tilden Library Board:

Anne Dexter - President
Maggie Rutjens - Vice President
Autumn Paden - Secretary

Lisa Meyer - Trustee
Georgia Wyatt - Trustee

TILDEN LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mission Statement

To solicit and receive gifts from private individuals, associations and corporations; to accept gifts, devises and bequests and to hold and administer the same for the use and benefit of the Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library.

The Tilden Library Foundation is made up of 7 community members whom attend regular scheduled quarterly meetings. As required by the Nebraska Library Commission, Foundation members must include 2 Library Board members. Aside from collecting and maintaining donations, gifts and endowments, the Foundation promotes, assists and funds programs, events and fund-raisers.

Current members of the Foundation:

Janelle Oelsligle - President
Sue Peterson - Secretary
Lisa Meyer - Financial Secretary

Maggie Rutjens - Treasurer
Arlene Hofmann
Vernel Zwingman
Lori Herbolsheimer

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library is made up of a dedicated group of individuals from the community who volunteer whenever they are called upon to support the library, assisting with events, fund-raisers and activities.

Anyone and everyone is invited to become a Friend of the Library.
LIBRARY SERVICES

The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library offers the community a variety of services. And while not all services require you to become a library member, it is required for all borrowing privileges. Becoming a member is easily done by completing a card at the circulation desk where you will receive your Patron Privileges document explaining borrowing rules and information.

Reading and Movies

• Books, books and more books! We are continually adding popular, best sellers, and new release books in all genre, including local Nebraska Authors and stories, for children, youth, young adults and adults. And because of our additional shelving space, we are able to keep many older and classic books of all types in our inventory.

• Magazines – We carry a large selection of magazines for men and women covering a variety of interests and topics.

• Newspapers – The library carries current editions of the Tilden Citizen, the Omaha World News and the Norfolk Daily News for in-house reading.

• eBooks - The library belongs to Nebraska Overdrive, the Nebraska library consortium for eBooks. Library members with a library card number can access eBooks for free using this service. For additional information about Overdrive or procedures for your e-reader device, see our website page for eBooks

• DVD’s & Movies – We offer a large inventory of new release and popular movies for all members of the family. This is especially beneficial for those who are without TV or Cable.

• Adult Coloring Books and Puzzles - Relaxing activities for individuals who need a place to wait or linger.

Research

• The library genealogy section includes the Tilden Citizen newspaper on Microfilm & print and a Microfilm reader with attached computer for printing out information; a large selection of donated scrap books, old meeting logs & records from past organizations, school yearbooks, recorded obituary information, and our vertical file containing photos, articles and an abundance of information associated with the history of Tilden. Ancestry.com-Library edition is available on all of our computers in the public access computer lab for anyone wishing to research family and friends.

Outreach

• It is important to us that the elderly and those not able to come to the library on a regular basis still have the opportunity to enjoy the selection that the library offers. Each month library personnel picks-up and delivers a selection of books to Westwood Homes and Prairie View Assisted Living Center. Upon request, the library will also offer the same service for the home-bound.

Meeting Spaces

• The library offers two areas to meet the needs for public and private functions, meetings, workshops, seminars, home schooling and community events.
LIBRARY SERVICES

Equipment

• **WiFi** - Two public WiFi networks are available throughout the library and auditorium to accommodate those who wish to work on their laptops and other electronic devices.

• **Projector & Screen** - Available for use in the Auditorium. Mobile screen also available.

• **Other Services** - The library can also assist the public with services such as copies & prints; sending & receiving faxes; scanning images & documents for print, digital, or email purposes; Laminating, and the use of our AccuCut. A look-up tablet is also accessible and linked to our online catalog.

• **Computers**

  - The library has a computer lab equipped with ten public internet access computers for use by ages 7th grade or older. The computers are installed with Windows 7 OS and MS features, Microsoft Office 10 programs including publisher, Skype, webcams, and easy access links to informational databases such as Nebraska Access, Nebraska Memories, Ancestry.com/Library edition, P4A Antique Database., A to Z Travel and A to Z U.S.A, both available on location or mobile access.

  - **Children’s Computers** - Three computers without internet access are available for children in the children’s section. They are installed with numerous entertaining and educational games along with the available of more games on CD

Even with the installation of internet services throughout the city, it is still not affordable or accessible to everyone, so there are many in our community and surrounding areas who utilize our computer lab for a variety of needs. We have a number of regular customers, young and old, who spend time on the computers playing card and video games, using email and social media, searching the web, and other less vital and more entertaining activities.

But we have also noticed an increase in people searching for jobs and completing online employment applications, accessing various benefits and records, setting up email accounts, searching for specific products and online ordering, completing and submitting taxes, Homework and other school related projects, accessing the Wi-fi, and other essential matters that affect their lives.

And we are a safe and comfortable place where mentally challenged individuals are able to enjoy their time both in the computer lab and the library, some on a daily basis.

**Computer and Wi-fi usage during Oct 2016 - Sept 2017: 1,961**
It is the responsibility and pleasure of the library to bring to the community a variety of activities, programs and events on a regular basis. Although the Lied Auditorium allows for the majority of programing, many other activities take place inside the library. Off site and outreach programs help to accommodate those who are at times unable to attend library functions.

Funding for programming is provided by the Tilden Library Foundation, Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska along with other grant opportunities, and various private donors.

Monthly Library Programs

**Fireside Chat Book Discussion Group**
For those who like to read, and like to discuss books in a relaxing and informal setting with others who like to read, the library offers the Fireside Chat Book Discussion group. This group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in the library by the fireplace. Copies of books for discussion are available for check out at the library throughout the month. In order to check out a book, a library card will have to be obtained.

**Jammin at the Library**
A free musical “impromptu” program held twice a month from 2 - 5 pm in the Lied Auditorium featuring musicians from Tilden and other cities, towns and villages in the region.

**Pee-Wee Readers Story Time**
This fun reading program is designed for the pre-school age and day care children in the community and is scheduled two Wednesday mornings a month from 10:15 - 10:45 am with either one of the library staff or a volunteer reading. There are times when Story Time is held at Little Lambs Day Care due to weather conditions.

Other Library Programs and Activities
The library offers numerous adult and children’s programming opportunities throughout the year including holiday events & activities, raffles, book signings, recognition open houses, Summer Reading program, and a variety of presentations.

Community Sponsored Events and Private Functions
In additions to our own programs, we continually provide resources and a venue for many community efforts and activities such as the American Red Cross blood drives; Girl Scouts and other community group and private meetings; Registration for sports programs; City Council meetings; Food drives; Informational programs for medical, health & welfare, ESU workshops & training, as well as private parties, celebrations, and family gatherings.

Over 60 community & private events were held at the library during Oct 2016 - Sept 2017.
November 19, 2016 - Family Fun Holiday Concert: Held in the afternoon this free event featured The String Beans, one of Nebraska’s favorite entertainers for pre-school through elementary-aged audiences, not to mention parents, teachers and communities. The String Beans performed a wide variety of original, family-friendly songs about all the things kids love: animals, cartoons, food, science, sports and lots more with catchy tunes designed to get the audience dancing and singing along. Funding for the concert was made possible with support of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and was sponsored by the Tilden Library Foundation, along with support from the Friends of the Library.

March 30, 2017 - All About Community. This was an informational evening program/forum which featured representatives from seven community organizations in the area who spoke about what they do and how their organizations benefit the community. Attendance was good and the program well received.

April 25, 2017 - Georgia’s Love Affair with Herbs: Presented by local Tilden resident and long-time gardener Georgia Wyatt. Georgia, who has always had a passion for herbs, shared about some of the history and folklore surrounding herbs, discussed various uses for them, and explained basic growing ideas during this afternoon program.

April 28, 2017 - Flower Seed Lending Project at the Library: Through a seed sharing program sponsored by the company Select Seeds, the library was able to obtain 150 packets of free flower seeds featuring 32 varieties. Library members, and those who became members were able to “check-out” up to 3 seed packets of their choice, which also included a 9” garden marker indicating that their seeds came from the library. Our hope was that people who checked-out the seeds would plant them in pots, nurture them, and be willing to take them downtown for the Prairie Days weekend, which many did.

August 21, 2017 - Eclipse Live Stream: For those who were unable to travel further south to view the Solar Eclipse in person, the library held a Live Stream Solar Eclipse event in the Lied auditorium, projecting the entire event on a large screen from the NASA.gov site. We offered snacks & beverages, set up tables and encouraged participants to bring lunch, which many of them did. Eclipse glasses were offered and shared among the participants who wished to also view outside, and the afternoon turned into an enjoyable social gathering.

September 7, 2017 - Field Trip: Members of our Fireside Chat Book Discussion group, along with two library staff traveled to the John G. Neihardt State Historical Site in Bancroft so they could gain a better understanding of the book Black Elk Speaks, Nebraska’s One-Book-One-Nebraska book of 2017, and the book the group would be discussing. The trip also prepared them for the presentation held at the library on Sept 28th by UNL Professor Emeritus Timothy G. Anderson titled “Walking With A Dream: John Neihardt’s Preparation for Black Elk Speaks, after which Mr. Anderson stayed for the group book discussion.
HOLIDAY CONCERT

FEATURING

THE STRING BEANS

FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

SATURDAY • NOV 19 • 3-4 PM

TILDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIED AUDITORIUM
202 S. CENTER STREET IN TILDEN

Funding for this concert is made possible with support of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Sponsored by the Tilden Library Foundation, along with support from the Friends of the Library.
All About Community

Join us for this Informative Presentation to hear representatives from local organizations share what they do and how they benefit the community.

Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 pm

Raymond A. Whitwer
Tilden Public Library
Lied Auditorium
202 South Center Street in Tilden

Refreshments Served

Sponsored by the Tilden Library Foundation
“Georgia’s Love Affair with Herbs”
presented by Georgia Wyatt

Tuesday, April 25 at 2:00 pm
The History, Uses and Basic Growing Ideas for Herbs

Raymond A. Whitwer
Tilden Public Library
Lied Auditorium
202 S. Center Street

Sponsored by the Tilden Library Foundation
FLOWER SEED LENDING PROJECT

Free flower seeds for library members.

Mix 'em up
Maximum 3 packs

Grow your flowers in pots to display downtown during Tilden Prairie Days!

Compliments of
SELECT SEEDS
Eclipse LiveStream
Tilden Public Library

View the 2017 Solar Eclipse in the Lied Auditorium
LIVE STREAMED from NASA beginning at 11am

Follow the path of totality as it moves across the U.S.
See views from aircraft, balloons, satellites & telescopes.
Listen to reports from key areas, including Beatrice, NE.

Bring your lunch or snacks, or just stop in at your leisure.
Coffee and bottled water will be available

A Safe Alternative for Viewing the Eclipse
“WALKING WITH A DREAM: JOHN NEIHAARDT’S PREPARATION FOR BLACK ELK SPEAKS”

presented by

Timothy G. Anderson
UNL Professor Emeritus

Thursday, Sept 28 at 5:00 pm
Tilden Public Library Lied Auditorium

Nebraska Author John G. Neihardt and Oglala Lakota Visionary & Healer, Nicholas Black Elk, hit it off the first time they met. In a sense, both men had long been preparing for this meeting. Black Elk knew white storytellers from traveling with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, and Neihardt had spent years interviewing elderly Omaha tribal members near Bancroft, Nebraska. This allowed them to forge a bond that produced a 20th Century religious classic, Black Elk Speaks.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Humanities Nebraska (HN) provides major funding for this program. HN receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations.

Sponsored in part by the Tilden Library Foundation
LIBRARY PATRONS

The total number of registered Library patrons is 1,403. This number accounts for city and counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Antelope Rural</th>
<th>Antelope City</th>
<th>Madison Rural</th>
<th>Madison City</th>
<th>Boon County</th>
<th>Pierce County</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>192</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>554</td>
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Between Oct 1, 2016 - Sept 30, 2017 there were 66 new registered Library Patrons.

LIBRARY VISITORS

The total number of Library visitors from Oct 1, 2015 - Sept 30, 2016 was 11,354.

- Adult visitors: 8,026
- Juvenile visitors: 3,328

LIBRARY CIRCULATION (including ebooks)

The total number per items circulated or used by patrons from Oct 1, 2015 - Sept 30, 2016:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A / YA - Fic / Non-Fic (Audio &amp; Print)</td>
<td>5,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>E / JUV - Fic / Non-Fic Books</td>
<td>4,501</td>
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<td>Magazines / Serials</td>
<td>783</td>
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<td>Movies (DVD/ VHS)</td>
<td>3,324</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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<td>Other (In-House, Research)</td>
<td>486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet Computer / Wifi Usage</td>
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**e-book STATISTICS**

Our library subscribes to a consortium through the Nebraska Library Commission known as Nebraska Overdrive, which is made up of participating Nebraska public libraries, allowing us to bring library books to our patrons through their e-reading devices.

**From Oct 1, 2016 - Sept 30, 2017:**

- Number of e-books checked out: 1,508
- Number of new registered e-book patrons: 7
- Overall number of registered e-book patrons: 132
COLLECTION STATISTICS

As per the Nebraska Library Commission’s State Accreditation guidelines, 3% of the library’s collection material shall be weeded (removed) from the collection each year. This is typically out-of-date, worn, or no longer in demand material.

The amount of material which was removed for fiscal year 2016 - 2017 was 766

The Monetary value of our entire collection as of September 30, 2017 is $407,002.56

The total number of items in our collection as of September 30, 2017 is 24,801 and include the following:

- **Books - Audio/ Print**: 21,317
- **Vertical File (Historical information)**: 97
- **Videos including DVD and VHS**: 1,852
- **Magazines / Newspapers** (Includes current & back issues): 1,431
- **Music CD’s**: 41
- **Puzzles / Games / Coloring Bks**: 63

Other items in the library:
- Various Scrap books and Photo Albums
- Microfilm of local Newspapers from 1918 - 2000
- Hard copies of local Newspapers from 2000 - current
- Artifacts, collectables, art work

LIBRARY AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The library has memberships and affiliations with the following:

- The American Library Association (ALA)
- The Nebraska Library Association (NLA)
- The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC)
- The Nebraska State Historical Society
- The Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)
- The Madison County Library Association (MCLA)
- The Antelope County Library Association (ACLA)
CIRCULATION STATS: OCT 1, 2016- SEPT 30, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Non-Fiction</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Magazine</th>
<th>Video</th>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>Computer WiFi</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>New Patrons</th>
<th>Misc</th>
<th>In-House</th>
<th>TOTAL CIRCULATION</th>
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<td>Juvenile</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>Juvenile</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<td>148</td>
<td>66</td>
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Other funding sources which help support the library’s needs:

- Madison County
- Fund Raisers / Programs
- Antelope County
- Used Book Sales
- Private Donors
- Fines, copies/faxes, services
- State Aid
- Retail items
- Tilden Library Foundation
- Grants
LIBRARY STAFF

Cindy Simeon - Library Director
Hella Bauer - Head Librarian
Jeannie Dahl - Librarian
Jean Marie Shermer - Librarian
Michelle Lockwood - Janitorial Services

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the central purpose and role of Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library to provide each individual with equal and adequate access to informational resources, providing valuable information and opportunities, constructive and enjoyable programming & events, and a place for learning and discovery.

Visit our website at: www.tildenlibrary.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library
202 S. Center St
Tilden, NE 68781