NOPL announced early last year that on March 2, 2015, the library would stop charging overdue fees on materials for children and teens. Fines can deter children and teens from borrowing items, and may discourage them from reading. The change was welcomed by parents, families and teachers alike who saw it as an important step to promote literacy and help children become readers.
## 2015 Highlights

**582,725**
Total Items Circulated

**40,924**
Total Public Computer Users

**15,444**
Questions for Our Reference Librarians

**241,743**
Total Library Visits in 2015

**1,134**
Programs

**18,957**
People Attended

**3,037**
Children in Summer Reading Program

**10,181**
WiFi Users

**1,786**
# of One-on-One Tech Help Attendees

**96 LBS.**
LibraryFarm Food Donations to Pantries

**$5,000**
The LibraryFarm has water thanks to a $5,000 grant from the CNY Community Foundation.

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**Energy Upgrades**
Fueled by a grant from the NY State Public Library Construction Grant Program, NOPL at Cicero reduced energy consumption by making efficiency upgrades to the HVAC system, and installing solar shades, fans, and LED lighting.

**Completed**
In 2015, NOPL at North Syracuse’s outdoor patio area was properly furnished with tables, chairs, umbrellas, landscaping and Wi-Fi.
NEW TO NOPL

CICERO FARMERS MARKET In 2015, a new iteration of the Cicero Farmer’s Market was launched on the grounds of NOPL at Cicero. From May through September, local farmers, food producers and artisans sold their wares on the library’s spacious property, providing an opportunity for the community to support local businesses and obtain fresh, organically grown produce and other goods.

CREATIVE PLAY AREA NOPL at Brewerton continued its transformation in 2015 by adding the Creative Play Area, with spaces for both children and teens. Each space is equipped with age-appropriate explorative, scientific, and imaginative instruments of play. The Creative Play Area was made possible thanks to a grant from Senator John A. DeFrancisco.

PRESERVATION STUDIO This exciting addition to NOPL at Brewerton opened in late 2015. The space houses digitization technology to convert VHS tapes to DVD and save photographs, negatives and slides as digital copies. More information can be found at nopl.org/pstudio.

DISCOVERY DEN The doors also opened at NOPL at North Syracuse’s Discovery Den in 2015. Inside are self-guided “mini-make” projects (hands on activities that anyone can participate in) designed to educate, inspire, and engage. Each month there are different themed activities.

WEBSITE NOPL launched an updated website design for nopl.org in June of 2015 to improve the way the site is organized, make navigation easier, increase the functionality, and enhance the overall user experience.

FINANCIALS

2015 Expenses $2,686,554

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>1,439,793</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities - Operation and Maintenance</td>
<td>379,144</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collections, Technology and Programs</td>
<td>371,491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>319,000</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative/Other</td>
<td>124,326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement</td>
<td>52,800</td>
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</table>

2015 Revenue $2,686,554

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Public Funds</td>
<td>2,368,829</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance Transfer</td>
<td>203,294</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fines &amp; Fees</td>
<td>60,678</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Aid &amp; Grants</td>
<td>46,738</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (gifts and investment income)</td>
<td>7,015</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Average Library user **SAVED** $836 in 2015*

* Average found using the *Library Calculator* values for items checked out and the number of active borrowers in 2015.

**Were you one of them?**