

BECK BOOKMAN LIBRARY

Bookman Library was established in 1897 by the first Holton literary group, The Bookman Club, which organized the preceding year. The young women were the sole support of the library. Members acted as volunteer librarians.

A collection of 50 books in 1897 has grown to 135,809 items including books, magazines, audiobooks, movies, TV series, music, downloadable e-books, hotspots, puzzles, pickleball equipment, gaga ball pit, laptops and Chromebooks. As a member of NEXT, the online shared catalog of the North East Kansas Library System, patrons are able to access more than one million items. Printing, faxing, notary, computer and wifi access are available along with a myriad of other services.

Beck Bookman Library is governed by a seven-member board. The current staff includes Amy Austin, director, Andrew Berns, page, Katie Dodd, library associate, Debby Knouft, library associate, Roselyn Lemus, library associate, Jillian Mandala, PRN associate, Susan Schirmer, library associate, and Jackson Truelove, library associate.



Shown above, left to right, are Jillian Mandala, Amy Austin, Roselyn Lemus, Katie Dodd, Andrew Berns and Susan Schirmer. Not pictured are Jackson Truelove and Deb Knouft.

The library is supported by municipal, county and state funds as well as charitable gifts and trusts. The library has obtained grants, memorials, FOBBL (Friends of Beck Bookman Library) fund-raisers, the BBL Fund-raising Committee and gifts working towards a goal of \$2 million for the Expansion and Renovation Project. The plan is to begin the physical work in the spring of 2026.

Anyone interested in donating a little, or a lot, please contact Amy at 785-364-3532. Naming opportunities and permanent recognition for rooms and areas are available. Beck Bookman Library has 501(c)3 status.

