



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



antwerp  
bangor  
bloomington  
covert  
decatur  
gobles  
lawrence

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

---



Van Buren District Library entered 2020 feeling optimistic. In the fall of 2019, VBDL stopped assessing and collecting overdue fines. Research conducted by many of our fellow libraries indicated that overdue fines discourage library use and penalize those least able to afford them. We had recently drafted a

new strategic plan and were eager to get started making improvements to the Library and the services we offer. Our stakeholders, the Webster Memorial Trust, wanted to refurbish Webster Memorial Library's Community Room, as it is used by the public for so many Library events and classes. Additionally, the librarians of the Bangor and Bloomingdale branches have been wanting to make some alterations to our facilities in those communities.

Our plans progressed through January and February until March arrived and COVID-19 changed everything. By order of the Governor, Van Buren District Library closed from mid-March through early June. During that time, the Library was not allowed to offer in-person services, loan items, or even begin our renovations. Fortunately, in the preceding years, VBDL had made significant investments in online services we could offer to our patrons. These include eBooks through Overdrive, and additional eBooks, plus downloadable and streaming films and television shows, through hoopla. In fact, during the state mandated stay-at-home order, VBDL doubled the number of hoopla items individuals were able to borrow each month from 10 to 20 (currently 15). VBDL also made investments in person-to-person online tutoring and job search assistance through the Princeton Online Tutoring Center, and foreign language instruction via Rocket Languages. In 2020, VBDL facilitated 490 person-to-person tutoring sessions for students. Also, due to the generosity of ProQuest, VBDL was able to offer our patrons remote access to Ancestry.com for the very first time, thereby allowing our users to conduct genealogical research from home. This service was used 9,706 times in 2020.

During the state mandated stay-at-home order, VBDL staff began creating online events via Facebook and YouTube for viewers of all ages, including story times, art projects, and craft tutorials. From March through December 2020, the Library produced 165 video programs for our patrons.

When VBDL facilities reopened at 25% capacity in early June, VBDL became the very first library in southwest Michigan to open its doors to library patrons, and also the first to open for its regular schedule of hours. However, we were unable to

offer use of public meeting rooms to patrons or in-person events. As a way of serving our community through the crisis, VBDL temporarily began offering ten free photocopies and five free fax sheets per customer, per day.

After we were permitted to reopen and allow workers into the facility, we began our long percolating renovation of Webster Memorial Library in Decatur. This renovation is funded by the Webster Memorial Trust, the Van Buren District Library, and by a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. In addition to the previously mentioned refurbishment of Webster Memorial's Community Room, the Library is also completely replacing the carpet and flooring, renovating the bathrooms, moving the children's section to a safer location within the building, lowering the book shelving for enhanced accessibility, and creating a public computer alcove. In 2021, we will also begin the aforementioned upgrades to the Bangor and Bloomingdale branches.

Toward the end of 2020, Van Buren District Library installed permanent 24-hour wifi access points on the outside of six of our seven facilities: Antwerp, Bangor, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence, and Webster Memorial in Decatur. These wifi access points are mounted near our parking lots so our patrons may utilize high speed Internet with their mobile devices anytime day or night, whether the Library is open or closed.

This has certainly been an unusual year. In my 28 years working in public libraries, I have never encountered a situation like the one we currently find ourselves in. Unfortunately, as much as we would like to return to business as usual, I suspect the current situation will continue through the remainder of 2021 at a minimum. Having said that, I may confidently say 2020 demonstrated Van Buren District Library's ability to function and continue offering services and value for money, even in the most unexpected and trying circumstances. I am exceptionally proud of the Library's hardworking, innovative, and courageous staff for their efforts and bravery over the past year.

Sincerely,

Dan Hutchins  
Director

Van Buren District Library

# VOLUNTEERISM @ VBDL

## Volunteer Feature: Phyllis Graham

If you have ever made a purchase at a Friends of the Van Buren District Library's used book sale, you not only added a great book to your home library collection, you were also a direct recipient of Phyllis Graham's dedicated community service to VBDL.

One of VBDL Webster Memorial Branch's most prolific volunteers, Graham was born in Decatur and returned to the town about 20 years ago. She has been volunteering at the branch for the past four years.

Graham, who is also a Friends of the Library Trustee said, "I love books and I love to read, so volunteering for the Library was the natural next step."



When volunteering at the Library, Graham assists Amber Blauer, VBDL's Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, with donated books and titles withdrawn from the Library's collection. Books that are eligible for resale are available for purchase by the community during the Friends of Van Buren District Library's used book sales. Prior to the sales, Graham sets up and organizes the books and, when the sales are complete, she helps clean up and remove the remaining items.

Withdrawn titles that are in poor condition or not suitable for resale are eligible to be sent to Better World Books, an organization that will either sell the books and return a portion of the profits to the Library or recycle them. Graham scans, packs, and sends the titles to the organization, thereby helping the Library's discarded titles find a new life and purpose once they are retired from VBDL's shelves.

"As the liaison to the Friends of VBDL for the last two years, I have truly enjoyed working together with Phyllis," said Blauer. "She has spent countless hours volunteering her time, scanning, organizing and boxing books for VBDL book sales and Better World Book donations. And she loves doing it, which makes working with Phyllis something that I always look forward to."

Graham also enjoys working with animals and she has volunteered at two local organizations - the Al-Van Humane Society and Animal's Best Friend Fund, an organization that partners with local veterinary clinics to provide spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats in need.

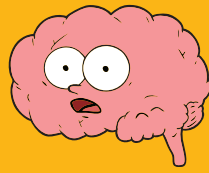
When she is not volunteering, Graham can be found outdoors hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and gardening. She has recently begun weaving and needlepointing.

Graham is a great asset to VBDL and the Library is profoundly grateful for her years of volunteer service.

"In my over three years at VBDL, Phyllis has been a constant presence at Webster Memorial Library," said Van Buren District Library Director Dan Hutchins. "In fact, she is here almost as much as I am! Rarely in my library career have I met a more dedicated individual!"

## 2020 VBDL VOLUNTEERS

Sandra Ackerman  
Sal & Denise Campagna  
Katrina Chan  
Kristin Colgren  
Wendy Estrada  
Laura French  
Michele Gateley  
Katheylynn Gold  
Jonathon Gingerich  
Bette Glindmeyer  
LaDonna Golden  
Phyllis Graham  
Emma Haken  
Jeff & Theresa Heaton  
Bryce Hummel  
Karen Jensen  
Natalie Kelley  
Cailin Kessen  
Clay Kessen  
Kira Kessen  
Angie Moe  
Kelly O'Leary  
Sue Putt  
Emma Pratt  
Madison Pratt  
Anna Pride  
Clara Pride  
Linda Read  
Tamiko Rehagen  
Edward Sichterman  
Nolan Stratton  
Kat Subramanian  
Bonita Suter



Go from this...



to this...



tutor.com™



With a VBDL card,  
you have **ACCESS** to

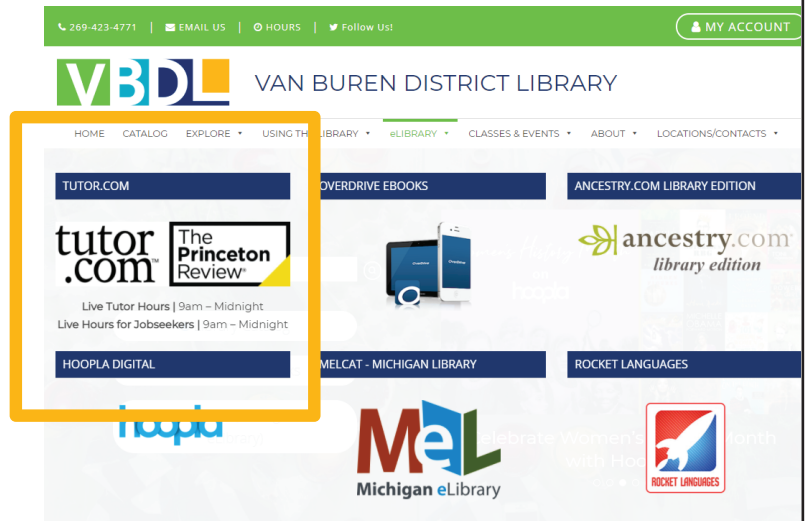
Don't have a  
card? Stop into  
your local branch  
to find out how!

- LIVE tutors & homework help from 9am-10pm
  - Math | Science | Writing | English | Spanish | ESL/ELL | Social Studies
- Research paper review & writing skills help
- AP, ACT, SAT, Grad School test prep
- Skills practice: quizzes & worksheets, drop off a math question
- Resume review & access to Career Coaches

## How to Access

[www.vbdl.org](http://www.vbdl.org)

- > Hover over eLibrary
- > Click on tutor.com
- > Login with your library card number



**We have 7 branches to serve you!**  
**Antwerp | Bangor | Bloomingdale | Covert**  
**Decatur | Gobles | Lawrence**



# 2020 VBDL BY-THE-NUMBERS

## Events & Classes



## People



## Items



## Computers



## Collection Size by Format



## Circulation by Collection



In-person  
Events & Classes  
**353**

In-person  
Attendance  
**4,194**  
*Children's event attendees 3,141*  
*Adult event attendees 1,053*

Online Events  
& Classes  
Non-Summer  
Reading Program  
Videos  
*89 children's program videos with 12,457 views*

*58 adult program videos with 5,213 views*

Summer Reading  
Program  
Attendance  
*Children: 23 children's program videos with 3,497 views*

*Adults: 4 adult program videos with 784 views*

Total Online  
Events & Classes  
**174 total program videos with 21,951 views**

Service  
Population  
**44,265**

Number of  
Visitors  
**80,403**

Total Active,  
Registered  
Cardholders  
**16,817**

New  
Cardholders  
in 2020  
**552**

Items  
Checked-Out  
**169,722**

Items Loaned  
to other  
Michigan  
Libraries  
**5,484**

Items  
Borrowed  
from MeLCat  
for VBDL  
Patrons  
**6,822**

Number of  
Public  
Computer Uses  
**7,663**

Number  
Wifi Uses  
**22,819**

Ebooks, films,  
television,  
and music  
streamed or  
downloaded  
**40,177**

Collection  
Size by Format  
**1,042,445**

Digital  
(ebooks,  
e-audiobooks,  
streaming  
films, etc.)  
**889,479 or 85%**  
*hoopla 866,487*

*OverDrive 22,992*

Books  
**127,159 or 12%**

DVDs  
**14,862 or 1%**

Storage,  
Professional  
Collection, &  
Microforms  
**3,844 or .4**

Magazines  
**3,708 or .4%**

Audiobooks  
**3,393 or .3%**

Children's Books  
**93,415 or 32%**

Adult Books  
**52,577 or 18%**

Adult DVDs &  
Audiobooks  
**46,977 or 16%**

Special  
Collections  
**35,943 or 12%**

Digital Books,  
Audio Books,  
Films, etc.  
**29,957 or 10%**

Misc. Items  
Loaned to Other  
Libraries  
**17,701 or 6%**

Children's DVDs  
& Audiobooks  
**11,463 or 4%**

## Comparative Branch Circulation - Total Circulation = 169,722 items

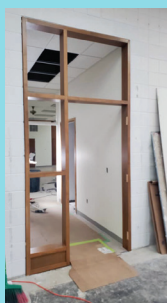
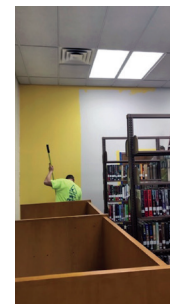
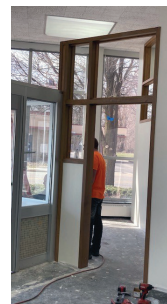
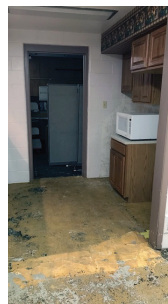
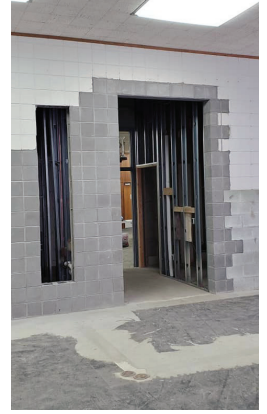
Antwerp **46,568 or 27%**  
Webster **37,163 or 22%**  
Digital Items Not Associated With  
A Specific Branch **21,643 or 13%**

Bangor **16,260 or 10%**  
Lawrence **15,356 or 9%**  
Gobles **13,946 or 8%**  
Bloomingdale **9,582 or 6%**

Covert **9,304 or 5%**  
Loaned to Other Libraries  
**5,484 or 3%**

# Webster Memorial Library Renovation

In early 2018, the Webster Trust, the non-profit organization that owns Webster Memorial Library, approached Van Buren District Library administration regarding improvements to Webster Memorial Library's Community Room. After consulting with Library staff, it was determined that there were other things within Webster Memorial Library in need of updates, including carpeting and removal of asbestos tile. Additionally, goal #3 of Van Buren District Library's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan states "Update Library Facilities to Better Meet the Needs of the Community."







After further discussions with the Van Buren District Library Board, it was decided to proceed by applying for grant funding through the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Van Buren District Library was awarded \$45,000 and was therefore able to move forward with the renovation project as a partnership between The Webster Trust, Van Buren District Library, and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Renovations began in November 2020 and are expected to conclude in April 2021.





Now you can enjoy **hoopla** in even more ways

**androidtv**

**apple tv**

**Roku**

**amazon fireTV**

 **Chromecast**

 **amazon alexa**  
coming soon



**hoopla**

Instantly borrow eBooks, audiobooks, comics, movies,  
music, and more, 24/7 with your library card.


**hoopladigital.com**


 Download on the  
**App Store**

 GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

 Available at  
**amazon**

Available on  
**Roku** Players  
& TVs

 **Chromecast**

 **amazon alexa**  
coming soon

**hoopla** is the digital library service of **MIDWEST TAPE**  
LIBRARIANS OF MEDIA SOURCE

Follow us on Social Media



# Meet hoopla and OverDrive!

Disney+, HBO Max, Peacock, Paramount+, Apple TV+... 2020 was the year of streaming services. But did you know that Van Buren District Library offers its own streaming services to Library users? Meet hoopla and OverDrive!

hoopla offers Library users access to films, television shows, music, audiobooks, eBooks, graphic novels, and comic books on a variety of devices including smart TVs, stream boxes, smartphones, tablets, and computers. Each Library user may stream or download up to 15 films, television episodes, albums, or books per month using their VBDL card. Visit [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com) to enter your library card number, create an account, and get started.

Overdrive specializes in eBooks and audiobooks. While hoopla offers instant streams and downloads on demand, Overdrive functions much more like a traditional public library; some books are available for immediate check-out while others are able to be placed on hold while the title is in use by the current borrower. Overdrive works on most computer browsers or through the Libby app. Libby may be downloaded to smartphones, tablets, and Windows 10 computers through either Google Play or the Apple App Store. Library users then search for Van Buren District Library and enter their library card number to get started.



## The digital library is always open.



## Read on Libby.

The one-tap reading app  
from our library.



# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	INDIVIDUAL LIBRARY MAJOR FUNDS				
	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	LIBRARY AS A WHOLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-FULL ACCRUAL BASIS
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
TAXES	\$1,893,754	-	\$1,893,754	-	\$1,893,754
STATE SOURCES	35,025	-	35,025	-	35,025
PENAL FINES	139,133	-	139,133	-	139,133
FEES AND BOOK FINES	10,409	-	10,409	-	10,409
INVESTMENT INCOME	32,720		32,720	-	32,720
LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER	172,540	3,748	176,288	-	172,310
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,283,581	\$3,748	\$2,287,329	-	\$2,283,351



## 2020 DONORS

Mary Cardinal  
 Jay & Ming Chen  
 Kevin & Ann Darling  
 Holly Dickerson  
 Johanna Ekstrom  
 Barbara Farris  
 Decatur Study Club  
 Friends of the Antwerp  
 Sunshine Library  
 Friends of the Bangor Branch Library  
 Friends of the Bloomingdale  
 Branch Library  
 Friends of the Gobles Branch Library

Friends of the Lawrence  
 Branch Library  
 Friends of the Van Buren  
 District Library  
 Girard Fritz  
 Dan & Cheryl MacLean  
 Bonita Martin  
 Kathleen Mazza  
 Karen Miller  
 Michele Miskiv  
 Michigan Humanities  
 Doug Milne  
 Daniel & Sharon Rosaschi

Elizabeth Sandford  
 Ray Sandford  
 Mary Ryan-Zanotti  
 Terry Sandford  
 Wendy Sandford  
 Charlotte Siemens  
 Southwest Michigan Library  
 Cooperative  
 Sturgis Bank and Trust  
 Mike & Pam Stamm  
 VFW Auxillary 6248  
 Ernest & Marilyn Wadeson  
 Kim Welch

**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

LIBRARY AS  
A WHOLE  
STATEMENT OF  
ACTIVITIES-  
FULL ACCRUAL  
BASIS

EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES:	GENERAL FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL-MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS	GASB NO. 34 ADJUSTMENTS	
SALARIES	\$1,098,407	-	\$1,098,407	\$1,315	\$1,099,722
PAYROLL TAXES	82,253	-	82,253	-	82,253
INSURANCE (HEALTH, LIFE, DISABILITY, W/C)	74,256	-	74,256	-	74,256
PENSION	188,168	-	188,168	(214,662)	188,168
OFFICE AND LIBRARY SUPPLIES	9,809	-	9,809	-	9,809
POSTAGE, PRINTING, COPYING	6,422	-	6,422	-	6,422
GAS AND OIL	1,725	-	1,725	-	1,725
JANITOR SUPPLIES	8,976	-	8,976	-	8,976
PROFESSIONAL FEES	58,165	-	58,165	-	58,165
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	30,731	-	30,731	-	30,731
UTILITIES	50,422	-	50,422	-	50,422
TELEPHONE	15,298	-	15,298	-	15,298
TRAVEL	4,215	-	4,215	-	4,215
PROMOTIONAL AND READING PROGRAMS	20,089	-	20,089	-	20,089
GENERAL AND VEHICLE INSURANCE	6,106	-	6,106	-	6,106
MAINTENANCE	42,545	-	42,545	-	42,545
CONTINUING EDUCATION	3,230	-	3,230	-	3,230
CAPITAL OUTLAY	219,872	-	219,872	(184,737)	219,872
AUDIOVISUAL, BOOKS, AND PERIODICALS	234,053	-	234,053	(165,949)	234,053
INTERNET FEES	10,753	-	10,753	-	10,753
MISCELLANEOUS	493	-	493	-	493
GRANT	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	195,073	195,073
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ EXPENSES	\$2,165,988	-	\$2,165,988	\$ (368,960)	\$1,797,028
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>	\$117,593	\$3,748	\$121,341	\$364,982	\$486,323
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN(OUT)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>	\$117,593	\$3,748	\$121,341	\$364,982	\$486,323
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION-BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	2,024,054	200,389	2,224,443	706,084	2,930,527
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION- END OF YEAR</b>	\$2,141,647	\$204,137	\$2,345,784	\$1,071,066	\$3,416,850

# LIBRARY LOCATIONS & HOURS



## WEBSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY DECATUR

District Administrative Offices

200 North Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045

Phone: 269.423.4771 | Fax: 269.423.8373

[www.facebook.com/VBDLWebsterMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/VBDLWebsterMemorial)

### HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.\*

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

\* Webster Memorial Library closes at 7:00 p.m.,

Monday – Thursday, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

## ANTWERP SUNSHINE LIBRARY

24823 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071

Phone: 269.668.2534 | Fax: 269.668.5332

[www.facebook.com/VBDLAntwerp](http://www.facebook.com/VBDLAntwerp)

### HOURS:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday & Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## BANGOR BRANCH LIBRARY

420 Division Street, Bangor, MI 49013

Phone: 269.427.8810 | Fax: 269.427.0588

[www.facebook.com/bangorbranch](http://www.facebook.com/bangorbranch)

### HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## BLOOMINGDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

109 East Kalamazoo, Bloomingdale, MI 49026

Phone: 269.521.7601 | Fax: 269.521.7614

[www.facebook.com/VBDLBloomingdale](http://www.facebook.com/VBDLBloomingdale)

### HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## COVERT BRANCH LIBRARY

33680 M-140 Hwy, Covert, MI 49043

Phone: 269.764.1298 | Fax: 269.764.0433

[www.facebook.com/covertbranch](http://www.facebook.com/covertbranch)

### HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## GOBLES BRANCH LIBRARY

105 East Main Street, Gobles, MI 49055

Phone: 269.628.4537 | Fax: 269.628.0362

[www.facebook.com/GoblesBranchVBDL](http://www.facebook.com/GoblesBranchVBDL)

### HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## LAWRENCE BRANCH LIBRARY

212 North Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064

Phone: 269.674.3200 | Fax: 269.674.3704

[www.facebook.com/lawrencecommunitybranch](http://www.facebook.com/lawrencecommunitybranch)

### HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

---

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARIANNE ABBOTT	Bloomingdale
DENISE CAMPAGNA	Lawrence
BRUCE CUTTING	Antwerp Twp., Chair
DAVID VLIK	Decatur
SANDRA HANSON	Van Buren County, Secretary/Treasurer
CATHERINE HULIN	Gobles
BETTY MARKEL	Bangor
WAYNE RENDELL	Covert, Vice-Chair

Download or Stream eBooks, Audiobooks,  
Films, and Television Series Directly from  
Our Website

It's easy to access downloadable content  
from your phone, tablet or eReader.

Visit us online  
**[www.vbdl.org](http://www.vbdl.org)**

