

# **Wilmette Public Library Director's Report – January 21, 2025**

## **Library Activities for November 2024 - January 2025**

Anthony Auston, Director

### **Welcome Desk & Shelving (Manager Patsy deVuono)**

The library saw 21,070 visitors in November, and 22,401 in December, averaging over 800 users each day. Due in part to the winter finals season for the area high schools, door traffic was significantly higher in December than the previous 5 years, with some days seeing nearly 1,100 visitors.

The Welcome Desk answered 409 phone calls in November. Of those, 274 were direct transfers, 24 were directional questions, and 111 were reference questions. In December, there were 361 total phone calls. 258 of those were direct transfers, 22 were directional questions and 81 were reference questions that we were able to answer.

The Welcome Desk gets a lot of in person questions as well. In November, there were 506 directional questions asked and 291 Reference questions answered. In December, 375 patrons asked us for directions and 213 patrons had reference questions.

Each morning, the Shelving team empties the RAILS delivery bins brought from ILL. In November, we handled 273 of them. In December, there were 256 bins to processed, even though we were closed for three days.

The Shelving team continued to work on several collection projects at the end of the year. While the fireplace was being repaired, staff shifted the new nonfiction collection over so the shelves were empty. Once the fireplace was completed, the shelves were shifted to give more room to the new large type books. Each shelf along the wall in Recent Arrivals now has room for a display.

Aarin Olson put in new shelves at the end of the existing CD shelving. Staff are pulling more CDs for weeding and expect to gain at least one more unit for regular shelving. When that project is finished, the boxed set CDs will be shifted to those shelves. This will room across from the Adult Services office to be used for other displays.

The audiobooks on CD have been weeded again, giving us room to shift the Great Course/Teachers Series collection from the north wall to the end of the Non-Fiction books on CD. The shelving under the windows in that area are now open.

Staff continues to pull zero circ carts for Adult Services. We are also pulling in the 300s, 600s, and 900s. The shelves are beginning to reflect our presentation guidelines in most areas. With forthcoming collection maintenance in the 600s complete, we should be able to finish the nonfiction shifting and move the 900s out of their current space.

In the Youth Services area, staff continues to read the shelves and keep them orderly.

Collen Reese has been organizing the J and J Chapter books and putting the series in order. Nora Reese went through all of the J/Y Playaways to check for batteries.

In November, we charged 371 WonderBooks and Vox books. December was again busier with 508 charged. In November, we cleaned 7 CD and Audio Discs, in December that number went up to 37.

## **Collections / Technical Services (Manager Jessica Thomson)**

### **Physical Collections**

Cataloging librarian Carly Stauss continues to work on numerous tasks including the lost items report, 6 months past due report, updating Dewey numbers in the youth collection including LGBTQ titles, emotions, compost, entrepreneurs, organization/personal grooming, dinosaurs, child psychology, mindfulness and meditation, and eggs.

TS assistant manager Shanti D'Costa worked with The Book Stall to create an account to ease the issues we are currently experiencing with fulfillment issues with Baker & Taylor.

TS assistant Emma Standard rewrote the newspaper procedures and began the annual significant withdrawing of outdated periodicals.

Technical Services manager Jessica Thomson worked with CCS to create a report which provided data for usage of the Hot Picks collection. Jessica also created reports of top circulating titles for the physical collection in 2024.

Processing assistant Laura Krimsin-Morales and acquisitions assistant Megan Brown processed copies of Wilmette Reads books.

Megan Brown set up a trial low-cost replacement program for grubby Harry Potter Playaways. Full price replacements normally cost \$89.99 but under this program, they can be replaced at \$24.99.

We added additional and replacement copies of popular Library of Things items, and added a new board game, Codenames, in December.

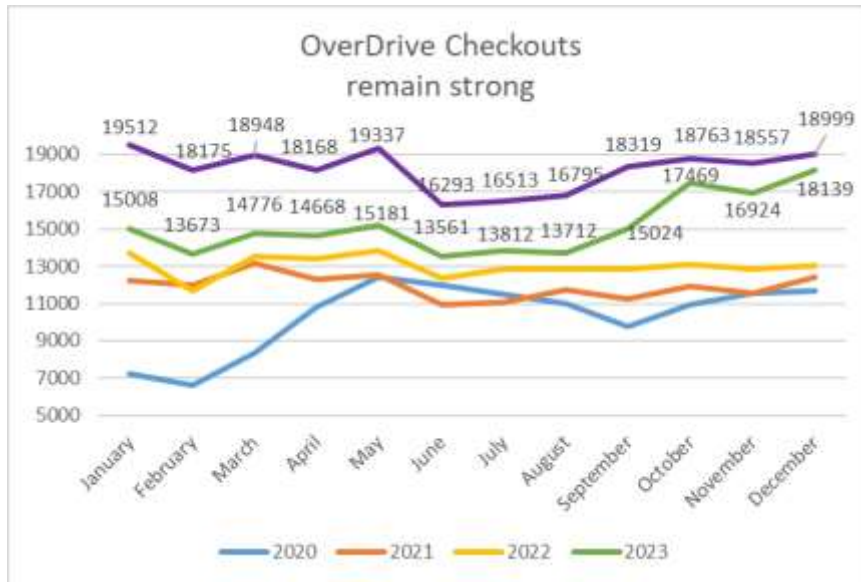
## Digital Collections (Digital & Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly)

In November, Digital & Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly worked with PressReader to add *The New York Times* to the platform at no additional cost. This full image edition has the most recent 3 months of issues with no usage limits.

### Online Resources Highlights

- Consumer Reports, saw the highest usage of the year in November, with 1673 page views. Patrons may have been researching Black Friday deals or potential holiday gifts.
- Kanopy saw the highest usage ever in a single month in December, with 1214 videos played. Patrons were perhaps cozying up and watching films over the holidays!
- Wall Street Journal also had the highest usage ever in a single month in December, with 919 documents accessed, up from an average of 690 the rest of this fiscal year. Patrons may be looking for financial news as we approach a new presidential administration.
- Pressreader usage increased in December, likely due to the addition of the New York Times. We saw 701 issues read, up from an average of 583 the rest of the fiscal year.
- The end of the year gave an opportunity for reflection on OverDrive circulation. Every month in 2024 saw more checkouts of eBooks, digital audiobooks, and digital magazines than the highest number of 2023. There was a 20% increase in checkouts between 2023 and 2024, with no signs of slowing down.

### OverDrive



NOVEMBER - 18,557 checkouts

- 9,451 ebooks (50.9%)
- 6,329 digital audiobooks (34.1%)
- 2,777 digital magazines (14.0%)

Top eBook titles by checkout:

1. Funny Story by Emily Henry (eBook) - 55
2. The Women by Kristin Hannah (eBook) - 53
3. The God of the Woods by Liz Moore (eBook) - 33
4. First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston (eBook) - 32
5. Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty (eBook) - 31

Top eAudio titles by checkout:

1. The Women by Kristin Hannah (eAudio) - 39
2. Funny Story by Emily Henry (eAudio) - 36
3. The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt (eAudio) - 27
4. Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver (eAudio) - 24
5. The Life Impossible by Matt Haig (eAudio) - 23

The most popular magazines:

1. The New Yorker - 466
2. The Week - 136
3. Us Weekly – 120

DECEMBER - 18,999 checkouts

- 9,965 ebooks (52.5%)
- 6,385 digital audiobooks (33.6%)
- 2,649 digital magazines (13.9%)

Top eBook titles by checkout:

1. The Women by Kristin Hannah - 68
2. Funny Story by Emily Henry - 52
3. The Wedding People by Alison Espach - 36
4. The God of the Woods by Liz Moore - 32
5. James by Percival Everett – 31
6. Hot Mess by Jeff Kinney – 31

Top eAudio titles by checkout:

1. The Women by Kristin Hannah - 46
2. Funny Story by Emily Henry - 34
3. The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt - 30
4. Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver – 25
5. Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty - 24
6. All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker - 24

The most popular magazines:

1. The New Yorker - 502
2. Us Weekly - 136
3. The Week - 99

Full summary of digital items added in the past three months:

Collection	November	December	2024 Totals
eAudiobooks	756	1465	14058
eBooks	2859	2823	32037
eMagazines	37	5	1146
Hoopla items	947	947	11096
Total:	4599	5240	58337

Full summary of digital items withdrawn in the past three months:

Collection	November	December	2024 Totals
Hoopla	428	349	9369

The complete July to-date FY2024-25 digital resource statistics are appended to this report.

**Technical Services Statistics**

Full summary of materials added in the past three months:

Collection	November	December	2024 Totals
Adult Fiction	297	231	5107
Adult Non-fiction	304	263	4388
Teen Fiction	23	6	337
Teen Non-fiction	8	3	73
Youth Fiction	303	208	4507
Youth Non-fiction	72	63	1014
Adult Magazines	359	409	5287
Youth Magazines	42	39	436
Adult Multimedia	76	107	1316
Youth Multimedia	22	40	545
Other (Library of Things, etc.)	25	27	393
Total:	1531	1396	23403

Full summary of items withdrawn in the past three months:

Collection	November	December	2024 Totals
Adult Fiction	161	404	8245
Adult Non-fiction	557	1037	12970

Teen Fiction	53	197	<b>470</b>
Teen Non-fiction	0	38	<b>56</b>
Youth Fiction	53	544	<b>6280</b>
Youth Non-fiction	1768	845	<b>8051</b>
Adult Magazines	561	423	<b>6973</b>
Youth Magazines	0	202	<b>460</b>
Adult Multimedia	8	236	<b>8151</b>
Youth Multimedia	89	311	<b>851</b>
Other	3	2	<b>43</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3253</b>	<b>4239</b>	<b>52550</b>

### **Circulation (Manager Matthew Hoffman)**

The library welcomed 128 new patrons in November and 116 in December.

Matthew and assistant manager Mark Cegielski completed the final stage of the National Change of Address (NCOA) project. In partnership with the postal service and order to keep library records current, staff periodically removes library accounts of those patrons who have moved out of Wilmette/Kenilworth.

Circulation welcomed Susan Karol to the team in November. Susan started her training on November 13, and will be filling in as a substitute. Susan is a Wilmette resident and a long-time library patron.

Rebecca Vrana-Naquin and June Bowe have volunteered to serve as representatives for the 2025 Staff Day. We look forward to having them share their ideas and enthusiasm with other members of the committee. Rebecca also serves on the Hospitality committee.

ILL staff Amy Jung and Megan Noone are assisting in the processing of holds for the New Trier high school account to accommodate the school's new book club.

We have temporarily downsized the Library of Things collection, having suppressed some of the seasonal items in the catalog.

Circulation/ILL completed the last of the quarterly RAILS surveys for 2024. During the week of Nov. 18- Nov. 22, we filled 63 bins of outgoing materials containing 2,122 items.

On December 4, Matthew Hoffman participated in the Marketing and Outreach Strategies training that was offered through *Library Journal*. This was particularly useful for the Community Engagement Committee. The four-hour training consisted of 5 speakers who discussed a range of topics that dealt with identifying the public's needs

(and barriers to those needs), creating narratives that tell a story, online marketing through social media and an action plan to create community engagement.

On December 6, we welcomed Gabriela Mansera (Evanston PL Circulation Manager) as she had requested a tour of our Circulation Department. Evanston is considering RFID and had questions about how we use the technology at Wilmette.

In recent months, we’ve noticed an issue with our Library Connect software, which is installed on all of our Bibliotheca RFID equipment. Despite working properly, unexplained error messages were appearing. We determined it’s not a network issue but rather a software issue/update. Bibliotheca tested all the machines on New Year’s Eve. Michael Pocrnich spoke to Bibliotheca and identified the opportunity for us to update our software to a new version, which may change the patron interface on the stations. We plan proceed with the update and test on one device in January before determine whether to deploy the update to all equipment.

**Current and Past Physical Circulation by Fiscal Year**

	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>
<b>July</b>	33,804	59,462	59,742	60,736	58,994
<b>Aug</b>	50,795	21,368	59,932	62,545	56,891
<b>Sept</b>	55,261	64,184	53,587	49,229	44,457
<b>Oct</b>	55,820	50,538	53,994	55,226	59,304
<b>Nov</b>	46,631	53,720	54,850	52,926	53,810
<b>Dec</b>	35,822	51,141	51,452	53,499	51,956
<b>Jan</b>	31,822	53,798	57,424	56,360	
<b>Feb</b>	32,640	49,767	52,127	54,534	
<b>March</b>	52,239	55,073	61,616	58,430	
<b>April</b>	52,875	53,537	54,517	54,773	
<b>May</b>	54,781	51,235	53,990	51,671	
<b>June</b>	56,560	55,012	56,630	56,941	
<b>Total YTD</b>	559,050	618,835	669,861	666,870	325,412

November to-date FY2024-25 circulation statistics are appended to this report.

November 2024

<b>Wilmette Public Library Monthly Statistics as a Whole For 11/2024</b>	
<b>Total Checkins</b>	<b>30,105</b>
Checkout Stations	19,456
Leap Checkout and Renewal	10,539
<b>Total Checkouts</b>	<b>30,000</b>
Auto-renewal	22,917
Power PAC Renewal	276
Leap Checkout and Renewal	185
Checkout Stations	253
<b>Total Renewals</b>	<b>23,810</b>
Number of your Library's items checked out system-wide	29,512
Holds Placed through your interface	5,839
Holds placed for/by your patrons	6,541
Holds Held	7,067
Holds Checked out	6,137
Holds Cancelled	1,190
Holds Unclaimed	913
Number Of Items Currently Out	34,710
<b>Unexpired Patrons on file</b>	<b>16,981</b>

<b>Wilmette Public Library 24/7 Pickup Lockers Monthly Statistics For 11/2024</b>	
<b>Total Checkouts</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Wilmette Cardholder</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>CCS and/or Reciprocal Borrower Cardholder</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Holds Held</b>	<b>345</b>
<b>Holds Unclaimed</b>	<b>38</b>



December 2024

<b>Wilmette Public Library Monthly Statistics as a Whole For 12/2024</b>	
<b>Total Checkins</b>	<b>29,362</b>
Checkout Stations	16,822
Leap Checkout and Renewal	9,828
<b>Total Checkouts</b>	<b>26,652</b>
Auto-renewal	24,356
Power PAC Renewal	369
Leap Checkout and Renewal	200
Checkout Stations	159
<b>Total Renewals</b>	<b>25,304</b>
Number of your Library's items checked out system-wide	26,121
Holds Placed through your interface	5,650
Holds placed for/by your patrons	6,185
Holds Held	6,607
Holds Checked out	5,703
Holds Cancelled	1,188
Holds Unclaimed	860
Number Of Items Currently Out	33,911
<b>Unexpired Patrons on file</b>	<b>16,938</b>

<b>Wilmette Public Library 24/7 Pickup Lockers Monthly Statistics For 12/2024</b>	
<b>Total Checkouts</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>Wilmette Cardholder</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CCS and/or Reciprocal Borrower Cardholder</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Holds Held</b>	<b>392</b>
<b>Holds Unclaimed</b>	<b>46</b>

## Adult and Teen Services (Manager Cathleen Blair)

### Service Model Refinement

Early December marked a notable change in the delivery of Adult Services functions on the public floor. For many years, specialist reference and collection assistance was offered from twin access points, Reference and Recent Arrivals, in the most active sections of the first level. With the opening of The Studio late last year and the accompanying relocation of public computers, the Reference desk was recast to be a shared service point with Digital and Maker Services.

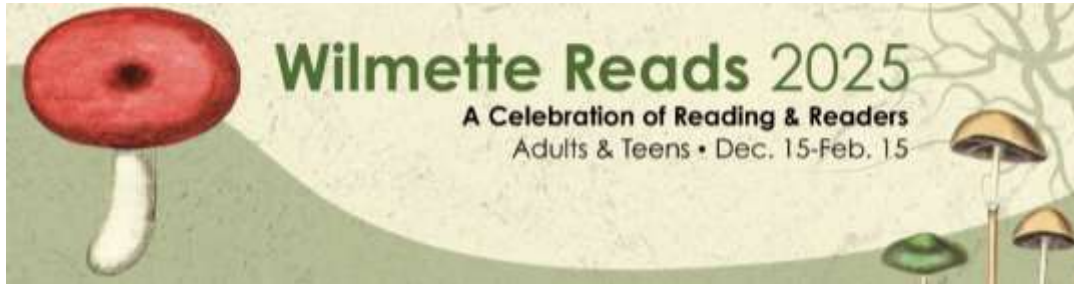
This month we entered a new iteration, one in which Adult Services staff and functions have been consolidated now to be delivered from a single, rebranded Adult Services desk. This change was not made lightly. Though it presents additional challenges in distance from collections, activity and sound levels, and reduced workspace, ultimately it is to our visitors' benefit to draw clear distinctions between service roles and locations. Staff have risen to the occasion with aplomb, and patrons have smoothly adjusted to the change, an indicator that this configuration is in many ways more intuitive.

### Wilmette Reads 2024-2025



Building on the success of the inaugural Wilmette Reads initiative in early 2024, one that merged the traditional community read program with adult and teen winter reading, we are excited to launch the encore with new enhancements. One change is to open the start date before the first of the year so that eager participants might begin reading during holiday seasons with more leisure time, which led us to host a kick-off meet-and-greet in the library vestibule on December 15.

The combination of this pop-up opportunity, an attractive lobby display, and artful teaser publicity from Communications & Events, all served to introduce the pair of featured 2025 titles: *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make our Worlds, Change our Minds & Shape our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake and *Ghost Music* by An Yu. These works were selected to be in conversation with each other as well as to spark dialogue about interconnectedness – be it among community, the natural world, and/or in shared human experiences. Early response has been invigorating, and the quirk factor of choosing a motif of mushrooms seems to have made an initial impression beyond what we might have hoped.



Throughout the Wilmette Reads season, a strategic variety of collection spotlights will be displayed on the service floor, illustrating the wealth of gateways and thematic connections that are evident in the selected titles and in the season. Examples thus far include topics of December, Short Books for Short Days, Winter Reads: Cozy Up (for Teens), and Cooking with Mushrooms.



## Department Activities: Outreach

After several months of conversation and planning for a newly structured partnership, the Women's Club of Wilmette was delighted to welcome Assistant Manager Rachel Garcia as the featured presenter of their November 14 event. Tapping into traditional end-of-year 'best books' excitement, Rachel presented a roster of appealing reads representing different interests and genres, spotlighting what might make each the right fit either for gifting or for personal indulgence. The group engaged throughout, asking questions and sharing their own ideas, and they expressed hope for a return visit in the new year.



On November 20, John Amundsen was invited to speak at the final Business for Breakfast networking event of the year. The event had roughly 50 attendees representing enterprises in all five of the communities in the two hosting chambers' service areas, including Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Northfield, and Glencoe. John highlighted the full range of services libraries on the North Shore offer local business communities, including resource curation, 1:1 research support, makerspaces, and business-focused programming, with a special focus on Wilmette's efforts in these areas.

Expanding on the enhanced partnership established in October, Teen Services Librarian Krista Hutley initiated the process of setting up a school library card on behalf of New Trier High School faculty librarian Susan Peterson. This protocol enables WPL Interlibrary Loan staff to assist in procuring book club books for two New Trier extracurricular book clubs as needed.



As an expression of esteem and appreciation for our delivery patrons, Senior Services Librarian Jillian McKeown and Librarian Nancy Wagner decided to craft seasonal bookmarks to be included in December deliveries. Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl assisted Jill in creating the items in The Studio, and the charming results succeeded in bringing a little extra joy to the recipients.



### **Department Activities: Programs and Events**

On November 8, Business Librarian John Amundsen hosted the final “Donuts & Databases” of 2024 - the liveliest one yet, with a great deal of interaction among the attendees and active Q&A following a presentation on upskilling resources. The series will resume in February 2025 under the new branding “Coffee & Business Conversations” to emphasize the networking aspect of these programs and to promote attendance, though the structure and value will remain consistent.

On November 20, Professor Judith Levi illuminated “The Identity Paradox: How Our Multiple Identities Both Divide and Unite Us”, challenging participants to look for commonality and enrichment even among those who may espouse starkly different points of view. Drawing upon her decades of experience working in German-Jewish dialogue and reconciliation, and acknowledging the event was taking place mere weeks after a divisive national election, attendees were inspired by both her insights and the opportunity to engage in small group conversations.



Teen Pizza Study Night on December 16 was a boisterous affair, with an estimated 100 New Trier High School and Loyola Academy students taking a well-earned break from preparing for semester exams. Teen Services Librarian Krista Hutley expertly facilitated the food and environment to offer a genuine welcome, demonstrating to those in attendance that the Library values our teen visitors. Key to the event’s success was the support and proactive assistance of Facilities and Safety staff Jim Kaspari and Al Frumkin, who helped ensure smooth delivery, service, and cleanup among the active teens.

## Department Activities: Collection and Advisory Services

Collection highlights are designed to celebrate promising materials in a rhythm of informative, escapist, serious, and lighter frames. We also strive to amplify perspectives and representation for those who are not offered the same platform as others. In November displays drawing attention to Native American Heritage Month were actively engaged in both adult and teen areas.



As the weather chilled and activities multiplied, displays on group or comfort viewing were much in demand, and items from the Gatherings spotlight were regularly chosen for take-home.



To correspond with the long-awaited return of The Shakespeare Project to Wilmette Public Library programming, an assortment of contemporary Shakespeare reinventions was offered for discovery. A nod to the pop culture phenomenon of *Wicked* in movie theaters sparked an “Are you a Glinda or an Elphaba?” array of books, one that prompted one admirer to remark, “That may be the best thing I’ve seen at this library.”



**Statistics of Note: Outreach Activities**

Date	Event	Audience	Location	Interactions/ Impact	AS Staff
11/1	North Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) Site Visit	Young Adults	WPL	2 groups	K Hutley
11/14	Women’s Club of Wilmette	Adults	Women’s Club of Wilmette	16	C Blair, R Garcia
11/20	Business for Breakfast (Winnetka-Northfield-Glencoe and Wilmette-Kenilworth Chambers of Commerce)	Local Business Leaders	North Shore Senior Center	50	J Amundsen
Nov	Delivery Service	Older Adults	[various]	31	J McKeown, N Wagner
12/12	Delivery Service	Older Adults	[various]	16	J McKeown, N Wagner
12/12	Short Story Discussion	Older Adults	Mather Place	17	J McKeown
12/26	Delivery Service	Older Adults	[various]	11	J McKeown, N Wagner
12/27	Technology Assistance Drop-In	Older Adults	Mather Place	1	J McKeown

## Staff Activities and Special Projects

In November we were excited to welcome Rachel Rothe to Adult Services as part-time librarian. Formerly of Circulation Services, Rachel has successfully transitioned to new responsibilities in a professional role, including early contributions as an advisory specialist in curating reader suggestions via Book Picks personalized requests, website postings, and collection displays.

Librarian Suzanne Arist authored the article “You’re Never Too Old for the Library: Senior Services at Three Illinois Public Libraries,” featured in the December 2024 issue of *ILA Reporter*. A copy is appended to this report.

Assistant Manager Rachel Garcia and Librarian Rachel Rothe attended Adult Reading Round Table’s annual ARRTCon, hosted by Naperville Public Library on December 6. The all-day conference featured guest speakers, author panels, and breakout sessions on an array of readers’ advisory topics.

Due to the ongoing success of the Teen Take & Make series and its profile on the website ([wilmettelibrary.info/services/teens/takeandmake](http://wilmettelibrary.info/services/teens/takeandmake)), Teen Services Librarian Krista Hutley occasionally fields requests from fellow professionals to share project materials, tips, and resources to help librarians duplicate projects in their communities. Recently Krista was contacted by representatives from both Duluth Public Library in Minnesota and Westlake Porter Public Library in Ohio to offer strategies and samples, and a common theme in their responses was the admiration they expressed for the activity selections as well as for the skill with which the instructions were presented.

Additional program details and statistics are appended to this report.



## Youth Services (Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson)

### Collection Management

To reach our weeding goals, in 2024 Youth Services selectors reduced the size of our print collection by over 10% by removing over 14,000 print books that were not circulating, outdated, or in poor condition. We plan to use the real estate we have gained on the second floor for more face-out displays and additional seating and study space.

### Youth Services Programs

In November Youth Services offered 63 events, both staff-led and self-directed, which were attended by 2,355 patrons. In December, Youth Services offered 42 events which were attended by 1,715 patrons. Other self-directed activities include the Hibbard Park StoryWalk, a Winter Reading Club scavenger hunt, and a bulletin board activity called Gratitude Tree.

### **Winter Reading Club: Slide Into Reading**



Our winter reading encouragement program kicked off earlier this year, on December 15, to allow patrons to participate over the school breaks. Participants pick up a reading log, track 20 days of reading or suggested activities, and turn in the completed log to choose a prize book.

Prize books are funded by the Friends of the Library. YS staff decorated the Youth Services Desk area to elevate interest in the program. YS staff created a new video featuring our library mascots, Minty and Marshmallow, to promote the program. It was featured in our social media and on the library's [YouTube channel](#).



## Strengthening LGBTQ+ Youth

On November 7, Community Engagement Librarian Sarah Jo Zaharako hosted the program **Strengthening LGBTQ+ Youth** presented by licensed clinical social worker Jess Levine. This virtual program, part of the Let's Learn Together Queer Aid series, was well received by attendees. Feedback included the following comments:

- "Thank you so very much. This was useful and a wonderful resource for both of us" (caregiver who attended with her child)
- "Thank you for this program. I'm a parent who just wants to support and am just trying to find resources"
- "Thank you to Jess and the library for hosting. It's always good to hear how to keep doing better"

## Little Dabblers: Foil Leaf Prints and Baking Pies

In the weekly Little Dabblers programs, young patrons created leaf prints using foil, washable markers, and water spray. It involved 3 steps: coloring, spraying, and lifting the leaf image. Participants experienced drawing on a new texture, aluminum foil, practiced fine motor skills by spraying a water bottle, and observed color mixing. Later in November, Little Dabblers participants made and baked "pies." They practiced fine motor skills with paint dotters and took turns baking them in cardboard ovens.



## Diwali Celebration

On Saturday, November 9, the library hosted a Diwali Celebration in collaboration with the South Asian Families of Wilmette, led by community member Shefali Nathan. Our program began with Culture in Motion dance studio founder, Reemlee Chowdhury, leading a fantastic Bollywood dance class. More than 200 people joined us afterwards for diya painting, fireworks painting, stories, rangoli coloring, paper lantern making, and mehndi provided by Henna By

Parvin, followed by delicious treats. This event was coordinated by School Engagement Librarian Eti Berland and supported by youth volunteers and helpers who helped run the variety of stations.





## Open Books, Open Minds

In the November Open Books, Open Minds program, Community Engagement Librarian read *My Brain is Magic: A Sensory-Seeking Celebration* written by Prasha Sooful and illustrated by Geeta Ladi, and talked about how we use our senses to experience the world. We learned that sensory inputs like touch and sound feel unique to each person's brain. Kids and their grownups worked together to create sensory buddies using cotton balls, sandpaper, felt, foil, and textured paper.

## Istvan & His Imaginary Band

The Saturday after Thanksgiving, 82 patrons rocked along with Parents' Choice award winner Istvan & His Imaginary Band in the Auditorium.



## Raina Telgemeier Event

Fans of Raina Telgemeier in grades 3-6 were invited to a Fandom Party on December 6 to celebrate their love for all things Raina with crafts, comics tutorials, and giveaways in anticipation of our Illinois-wide virtual visit with her on December 10, 7-8pm. Raina is the author and illustrator of the graphic novels *Smile*, *Drama*, and *Sisters*, all #1 New York Times bestsellers.

### Classic Snow Globes program

Youth Services Librarian Sheri Reda led 14 tweens in a snow globe art activity which was messily delightful!



### Crafternoon

Youth Services Associate Diane dos Santos offered another Drop-In Crafternoon on November 25. In this open-ended and environment-friendly program, 75 crafty kids and parents made whatever they like with leftover art materials from Youth Services programs.

### Caldecott Club

From September through December, we hosted a monthly Caldecott Club program. The Caldecott award is given out every year by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. Eti Berland wrote about [who Wilmette kids chose as their winner](https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/posts/winner-2024-caldecott-club) on the staff blog. [<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/posts/winner-2024-caldecott-club>] You can find out the winners of the Caldecott award - and the other children's book awards - at the Youth Media Awards livestream on Monday, January 27, 2025, 9:00am CST.

### Tabletop Game Collection

The in-house circulating board game collection continues to be a big draw for patrons in Youth Services, especially during breaks as the weather gets colder. 34 games were checked out in November and 29 games were checked out in December.

### A Year with Minty and Marshmallow!

It's been a year since library mascots Minty and Marshmallow joined our community! They now have new winter coats, made by Sarah Jo, so they can be comfortable on school visits and a winter wonderland in their display case made by Preschool Outreach Librarian Ruth Bell.



## Gratitude Tree Activity

We hosted a Gratitude Tree activity throughout November and early December, created by Youth Services Associate Ann Santori. Patrons wrote what they were grateful for on leaves which we added to our vibrant, colorful tree. This activity was inspired by *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, by Traci Sorell and Frané Lessac, as a tie-in with Native American Heritage month, and included a link to a Book River with reading recommendations. More than 200 leaves were added to the tree.

## Outreach

### November 2024

0-5 outreach events	11	Attendance: 136
K-8 outreach events	5	Attendance: 310
Teacher outreach events	1	Attendance: 12
<b>Total outreach events</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Total attendance: 458</b>

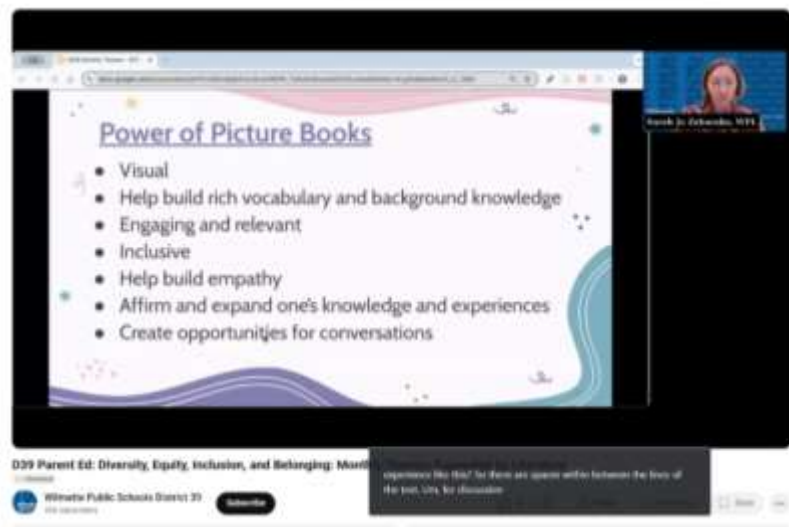
### December 2024

0-5 outreach events	5	Attendance: 65
K-8 outreach events	9	Attendance: 2180
<b>Total outreach events</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Total attendance: 2245</b>

Preschool Outreach Librarian Ruth Bell arranged for 14 deliveries of picture books and learning materials to our partner preschools in December.

## District 39 Parent Education Webinar

On November 6, Sarah Jo Zaharako participated in a District 39 parent education webinar titled *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Monthly Themes Supported by Literature*. The presentation, with Romona principal Cindy Anderson, Highcrest principal Kelly Jackson, and Romona librarian Alicia Weichert, explained the D39 DEIB initiative, and how children’s literature supports monthly themes about identity and belonging.





### McKenzie K-5 Visit

On Monday, November 11, Eti Berland and Ann Santori hosted McKenzie’s kindergartens for their highly-anticipated kindergarten field trip, which included 4 library tours and storytimes, with a total of more than 80 children and their teachers and chaperones.



### St. Francis Xavier 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Field Trip

All of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Francis Xavier (totaling more than 64 visitors) visited the library on November 13 for a field trip to learn about how to research national parks, including tools for evaluating accuracy and currency of information, accessing print and digital resources, and inquiry-based skills. They then had a fun experience having a personalized scavenger hunt to learn the names of different national parks in the library.



### Central School Special Ed Field Trip

Sarah Jo Zaharako hosted three special education classes from Central Elementary. Students and their staff helpers enjoyed reading Pete the Cat and touring the library to collect Pete’s groovy buttons.



**Romona School's Family Reading Night**

Eti Berland attended Romona School's Family Reading Night on Wednesday, November 13, sharing library resources, spotlighting programs, answering questions, hosting a Minty and Marshmallow themed craft, and giving away library swag.



**Winter Reading Club School Visits**

For the first time, the Youth Services department, led by School Engagement Librarian, Eti Berland, coordinated and hosted December school visits to promote Winter Reading Club program. Presenting to over 2,000 students and teachers, Eti shared an engaging, informative, and joyful presentation about the importance of reading during the winter, ways to participate in the club, and short booktalks to help young readers find stories just right for them. Of course we brought along our library mascots, Minty & Marshmallow – and premiered our original Winter Reading Club video, which you can see in the library's YouTube Shorts. Many children and caregivers eagerly visited the library after the presentations to get their reading logs, sharing how they learned about winter reading from their visit. Some children even sought out copies of the books the librarians booktalked in their school library the same day!



### **Avoca West Winter Reading Club Visit**

Eti visited Avoca West Elementary School, along with Frani Sherman, Outreach Librarian from Glenview Public Library, on December 4, and shared presentations for around 352 students and teachers.



### **Joseph Sears School Winter Reading Club Visit**

Eti and Sarah Jo visited Joseph Sears School on December 5 and shared presentations for all students in kindergarten through fifth grade, around 337 students and teachers.



### **Romona Elementary School Winter Reading Club Visit**

Eti and Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Lee visited Romona Elementary School on Monday, December 16, along with Glenview Public Library, to share Winter Reading Club presentations during recess for around 60 students.

### **Central Elementary School Winter Reading Club Visit**

Eti and Youth Services Associate Amanda Jacover visited Central Elementary School on Tuesday, December 17, for all students in kindergarten through fourth grade, around 442 students and teachers.

### McKenzie Elementary School Winter Reading Club Visit

Eti and Youth Services Associate Hannah Stenback visited McKenzie Elementary School on Wednesday, December 18, for all students in kindergarten through fourth grade, around 444 students and teachers.

### Harper Elementary School Winter Reading Club Visit

Eti and Youth Services Librarian Sheri Reda visited Harper Elementary School on Thursday, December 19, for all students in kindergarten through fourth grade, around 365 students and teachers.



Harper Elementary posted about this exciting visit on their Instagram:



Romona Elementary also posted about the Winter Reading Club visits:



### Central Elementary School Book Fair Family Night

Youth Services Associate Laura Florian attended Central School’s Book Fair Family Night, hosted by the PTA, on December 11, sharing stories, bookmark crafts, library swag, and program information, with around 50 kids and their families.

### Joseph Sears School Kindergarten Visit

On Monday, December 9, Eti and Youth Services Associate Diane dos Santos hosted all of Joseph Sears School’s kindergartens for their highly-anticipated kindergarten field trip, which included two library tours and storytimes, with a total of more than 50 children and their teachers and chaperones. Interestingly, Sears School’s interest in kindergarten visits last year is what helped launch this outreach effort to meet the demand for community experiences that demonstrate the connection between school, home, and the library.



## District 39 Wilmette Junior High School & Highcrest Middle School Staff Meetings

For the first time, the Youth Services department collaborated with District 39, led by Tony DeMonte, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Safety, to host teacher staff meetings at the library, accompanied by library information sessions.

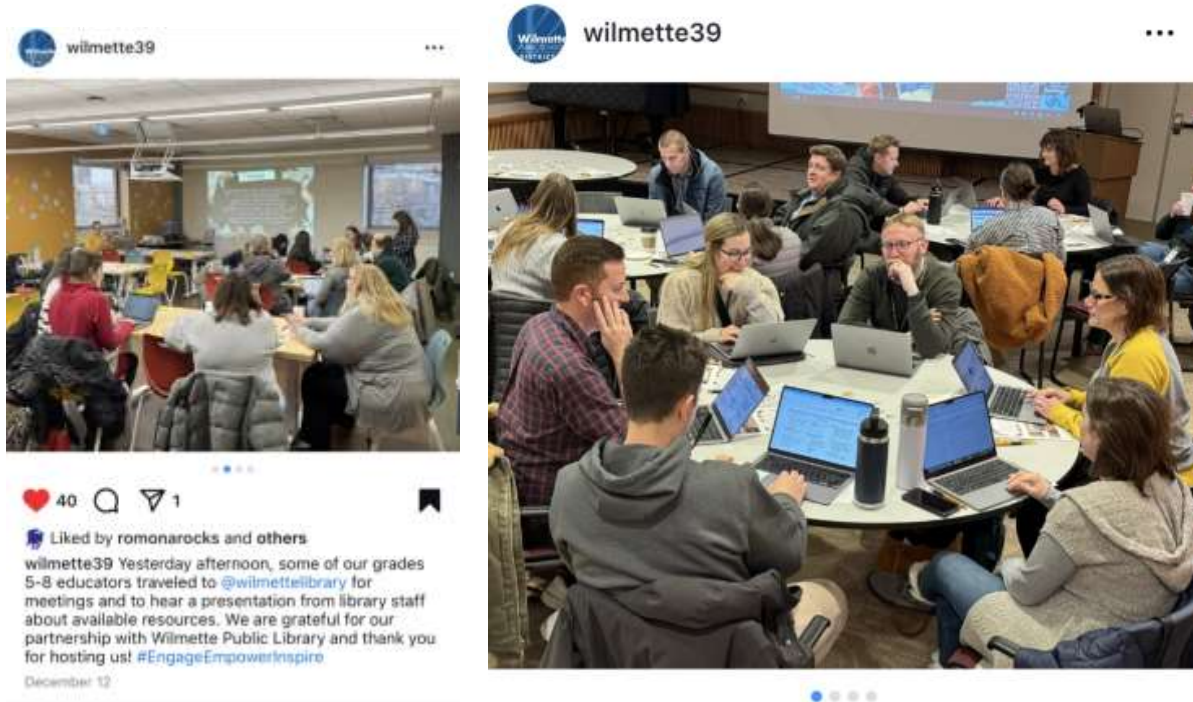
The first meeting was with 5-8 English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science Teachers from Wilmette Junior High School and Highcrest Middle School. Youth Services Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson, School Engagement Librarian Eti Berland, Community Engagement Librarian Sarah Jo Zaharako, and Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Lee shared engaging, information-rich presentations about the resources available to teachers, their students, and families, based on survey feedback they received from teachers. Preschool Engagement Librarian Ruth Bell also offered tours for those who were interested, as well as assisted with hosting the meeting.

More than 80 teachers attended this staff meeting. Several teachers have since reached out to library staff to request teacher bags. One teacher shared in the email: "I want to thank you for the presentation you all did for Highcrest Middle School last Wednesday! :) I was not aware of the amazing ways we can work together." D39's Superintendent also shared how much they appreciated this event.

The library will continue to offer staff meetings and library presentations this winter and spring for the elementary school teachers.



D39's Communications Director Leo Krause attended this meeting and shared posts spotlighting this experience on D39's Instagram:



## Teacher Pick-Ups

Our Teacher Pick-up service at the Welcome Desk continues to be a successful addition to outreach efforts. 14 teacher bags were picked up from the Welcome Desk in November, and 19 in December.

## Book Displays

Youth Services displayed stories and non-fiction materials to spotlight Native American Heritage Month in November.

In December, we displayed books about winter and wintry activities and staff picks that would be great for gifting.

We also shared books to support the District 39 DEIB themes “Our Families Are Important” in November and “Our Traditions Are Important” in December.



## Special projects

On November 1, Sarah Jo co-organized a LACONI leadership event on the intersection of social work and librarianship. The event, titled *Serving Patrons in Unique Circumstances*, took place at the Evanston Public Library and was attended by library workers from across Northern Illinois. Presenters included library social workers, professors of social work, and library leaders from Highland Park Public Library, Oak Park Public Library, Aurora Public Library, Addison Public Library, Aurora University, and St. Francis University.



Keynote speaker and first session panelist. Left to right: Diana Alvery, Yesenia Benavidez, Dr. Cary Rositas-Shefel, and Rob Simmons.



Second session panelist. Left to right: Joyce Kraus, Krista Danis, Alli Schuck, and moderator Sarah Zaharako.



## Digital & Maker Services (Manager Lauren Kelly)



Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl ran the **Maker Garden** in November and December. The November theme was “What Falls in the Fall.” Patrons were invited to examine and make designs with sticks, pinecones, acorns, monkey balls, and other autumnal tree litter.

The December theme was: “Solstice Log,” which is intended to mimic a log burning in a fireplace and also requires little maintenance over the holidays while staff are out.

### Program Highlights

- In November Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl ran “Holiday Cards with Silhouette Cameo,” which had a mix of ages attend, including teens and adults. Patrons designed and cut a beautiful holiday card using cardstock and the Silhouette Cameo cutter.



- Digital & Maker Services Associate Ethan Herdrich ran a program called “Making a Patch Demo (Virtual)” on Wednesday, November 6. This was a new structure of program for the DMS team, where the staff member demonstrated the process virtually, then created a kit of materials for participants to come in to complete the project at a time of their own choosing. Ethan had 12 patrons attended on Zoom. This format is a good model to show off future projects in The Studio.
- Digital Services Assistant Alex Barzallo led the program “What is AI?” virtually in December, with 22 patrons attending. This high attendance shows patrons are very interested in the topic of AI. Many patrons asked questions and expressed interest in learning specific AI tools such as Chat GPT.

- Janet Piehl also ran two sessions of Secret Gift Workshops in collaboration with Youth Services staff member Ruth Bell. Both sessions had 17 attendees. The Secret Gift Workshop started as a monthly event to provide kids a chance to make gifts for their families, for special events year-round, without the recipient’s knowledge. (It can be hard for kids to find privacy at home for making gifts, or to buy them on their own!) Last year we scaled back to December only and continued this year. Janet feels that it’s our special public service to the families of greater Wilmette—we make sure that kids are able to give their families gifts, and that those gifts are homemade and thoughtful. Kids had the opportunity to make scarves, shadow lanterns, friendship bracelets, and free-form designs with popsicle sticks and notions. Everyone left with at least one wrapped gift. One mom of two SGW regulars sent Janet an e-mail before the event: “They love all of Wilmette Library’s events but this is their favorite. Many thanks to you and your team for all the time, energy, creativity and thoughtfulness you put in organizing these fun events for the kids. We appreciate it.”



## The Studio

In November the Studio team had 794 reference interactions in the space, and 465 in December. The Studio was closed for a Re-Energizing Recess from December 22 through January 2. We were especially busy during Thanksgiving week, as schools were closed and many families came as an activity to keep their kids busy.

We saw many patrons utilize the Studio to make holiday gifts in December, especially custom embroidery and heat transfer designs.

### Studio Projects and Patron Stories

- Local graphic novelist, library patron, and Cub Scout leader Lucy Knisley brought her den to the Studio to embroider badges and name tags. Lucy came to the Studio to design and embroider the nametags ahead of the visit. She designed special mini badges and Janet helped her prep them. During the visit, the Scouts got a tour of the Studio, then rotated through stations: embroidery, making buttons, and visiting the Youth Department.





- A grandmother and her grandkids came into the Studio this month looking for something to do. They noticed Ethan’s leaf display and asked if they could make that. He got them set up on the Silhouette software and helped them find similar leaf images. He then brought out the fancy card stock he used for his own, and they picked out some patterns they liked. They created some nice looking fall leaf cutouts and said they were going to make a wreath out of them.
- Various Studio staff members worked with a couple who came in the space once a week for a few weeks in a row to use the Silhouette Cameo and Embroidery Machine to create shirts saying, “1, 2, 3 BLAST OFF!” The shirts were a Christmas gift to their family, so they had many shirts of various sizes. The saying was a joke that a toddler in the family once said when asked how old she was. Very cute!
- A teacher used the space to make lettering for a class display.
- A millennial patron stumbled across the Studio one Friday evening in November and was so charmed by the space that he decided to stay and make a paper cut birthday card as a gift to a friend. He was delighted and effusive about how cool the space was.
- A young patron made stickers to customize water bottles as party favors for her birthday party. Such a unique gift!



- Senior Services Librarian Jillian McKeown used the Studio to make custom bookmarks for patrons at Mather Place.



- A young patron used the Studio to make a quilt! He is a regular user of the space, and a sewing enthusiast. What a beautiful creation!
- On a busy afternoon before Thanksgiving, a grandmother came in with her granddaughters. Some members of the group were not confident about their computer skills. They pushed through and were able to design and decorate two sweatshirts, using the Silhouette Cameo and the heat press. The grandmother returned to the library and left a note thanking Janet for her patience and service: "Ceci wore her sweatshirt on Thanksgiving and three days in a row!" It sounds like the Studio project was really meaningful for this family and Janet was touched by their feedback.
- An architect who grew up in Wilmette and worked in a fab lab in Mexico stopped by to say how excited she is about our space.
- Two young patrons used the Studio to work on a "goddess dress" for an extracurricular project. They were not allowed to ask for help from their parents!
- A patron dealing with grief told us the Studio is one of her "happy places."



- A Patron came in asking about the process to make paper lanterns as listed in our "gift ideas" section in the newsletter! So awesome!
- A young patron made voter turn-out buttons for a school class.
- A parent of longtime Youth Services regulars commented "Now I get to have the fun!"
- A patron used the embroidery machine to monogram her autistic son's shirts for school. He loved seeing his initials on the garment!



### Studio Updates

- Patron Tere S. led a training on the serger for Studio Staff on 12/12. Tere, a sewing expert in our community, donated the serger to the Studio in October. The machine sews and trims fabric at the same time, creating durable, stretchy seams that cover raw edges to prevent fraying. It can aid sewists in completing intermediate to advanced projects. Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl is planning for its implementation in the Studio in late January or early February.
- DMS partnered with Adult Services and Youth Services on Wilmette Reads and Winter Reading Club, respectively. On each reading / activity log is an option for patrons to make something in the Studio, including the option to use a template to make a themed craft – a penguin bookmark (Winter Reading Club) or a mushroom bookmark / sticker sheet (Wilmette Reads).





- Over the holidays the Studio was busy! Wilmette Public Schools’ Thanksgiving break was especially busy. On at least one (maybe two) occasions, we hit the record number of patrons, 18 or 19, in the Studio simultaneously. Many patrons used the Studio to make Christmas and Hanukkah presents; they started almost as soon as Halloween passed.
- This month Ethan made a new poster for the Studio that explains the 3D printing process to patrons.
- Teen volunteers returned to the Studio for several busy shifts in November, as well as one program.
- Ethan created the November Silhouette Cameo display with a theme of “Autumnal Vibes” and Janet made the December display, with a theme of “Holiday Gifting”

### 3D Printing

- November Patron Prints: 156
- December Patron Prints: 130

Both November and December were busy months for 3D Printing in The Studio, as the average number of submissions we get is about 60. Both months had more than double that number.

### Technology Desk + DMS Department

- In November, DMS Staff had 674 interactions at the Technology Desk. December had 831 interactions. Help topics included: 1Password app, printing on cardstock, getting mp3 files from disc to USB stick, using NextDoor app, Android basics including Google Wallet, storage, and screenshots, and more.
- In November, 3715 pages were scanned at the Scan Station, and December had 3940. This is up from an average of 2400 pages in other months this fiscal year.



Scan to Email	1741	44.2%
Scan to Fax	1294	32.8%
Scan to Smart Phone	2	0.1%
Scan to USB	726	18.4%
Scan to Copy	176	4.5%
Scan to Restore	1	0.0%
Total	3940	100.0%

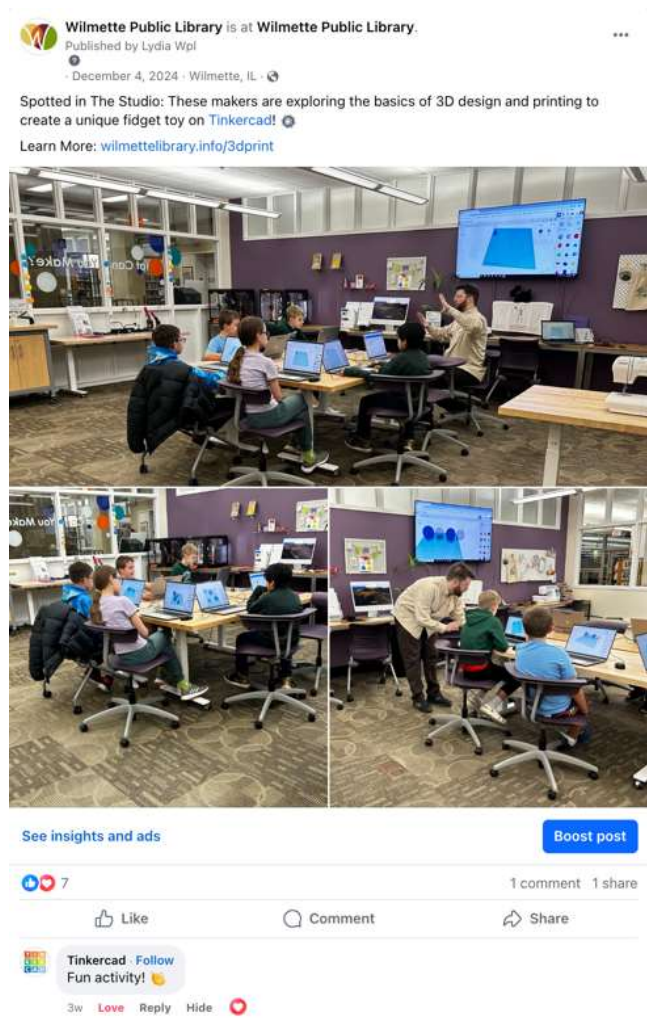


Scan to Email	1165	31.4%
Scan to Fax	1473	39.7%
Scan to USB	901	24.3%
Scan to Copy	176	4.7%
Scan to Restore	1	0.0%
Total	3715	100.0%

- The TBS computer management system also allows for usage reports. In November we had 1421 computer bookings and December had 1304 bookings (all locations), which is very slightly lower than our typical usage.
- After one year of sharing the Reference & Technology Desk with Adult Services, we updated our service model and realigned the departments to just one desk each. As of December 6, Digital & Maker Services is now the only desk staffing the newly renamed Technology Desk, with Adult Services staffing the Adult Services Desk by the fireplace. This has been a positive move that alleviates confusion about who can provide different

types of service.

- Along with this realignment, the copy machine was relocated to the Technology Area of the library. This has been a wonderful move, as it centralizes tech equipment in one space and allows DMS staff to help patrons immediately if they have issues with the machine.
- On December 17, DMS Manager Lauren Kelly worked with IT Manager Michael Pocrnich and the CVI team to deploy new patron PCs and catalog stations throughout the building. The installation went seamlessly, and patrons are thrilled at the speed of the upgraded machines. We also made some updates to the computers, including enabling right click, reorganizing the File Explorer, installing screen reader software, and enabling microphone access for speech-to-text input (these last two being championed by DMS Associate Ethan Herdrich).
- Digital Services Assistant Alex Barzallo presented the second of two staff Lunch & Learn sessions on the topic of AI. There were six attendees, with a mix of staff from various departments in attendance. Alex walked everyone through the presentation, answered questions, and showed live demo of ChatGPT. These discussions demonstrated the staff's desire to remain up to date on new developments in technology and how they affect library services.
- Alex completed the instructions for the Wolverine Reels 8mm film Digitizer. We are looking to make this device available for patrons in January.
- This month, Linnea Lundberg and Lauren Kelly crafted a script for the Microsoft 365 Training video for staff. Linnea has begun to record audio and generate graphics and screen captures for the video, to be deployed to staff in late January via Talent.
- Digital Services Assistant Sabrina Nizzi resigned from her position in December. We wish her all the best on her next endeavors!



Additional program details and statistics are appended to this report.

## Communications and Events (Manager Sarah Beth Brown)

### November Programs

Mark Dvorak returned for another folk concert with us, featuring music and prose of Woody Guthrie. The concert packed the room with 99 patrons, many of whom sang along word for word throughout the concert. Mark brought backup singers with him, and it was definitely a feel-good event for the community.

A major highlight of the month was the return of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Back in person with a full season for the first time since pre-Covid, this series, which is funded by the Friends of the library, has long been a staple of our programming calendar. They returned with a staged reading of *Measure for Measure* with 92 patrons attending. We had many calls for information and comments that patrons are thrilled their programs are resuming.

We hosted a new presenter, Jane Oneail from Culturally Curious for *Creating a Nation: The Founding Fathers in Art*. 36 patrons joined us via Zoom, and comments in the post-survey included:

*Question: How could the library improve this type of program?*

- It. Was perfect. Wow.
- It's difficult to improve on perfection.
- These kinds of art programs are wonderful. Thank you for being a part...Jane is outstanding!
- This was wonderful. Thank you!

Registration for Make Needle Felted Gingerbread House filled in five minutes. We strive to offer crafting programs for adults both in person as well as projects they can complete at home either with a Zoom class, self-guided tutorial or using a library resource such as Creativebug to provide opportunities for everyone. This type of event makes hands-on crafting accessible to patrons of all ability, as well as introducing audiences to our valuable online resources.

### December Programs

Our annual early New Year's concert was a big success totaling 110 patrons with a full auditorium as well as overflow seating by the elevator. Wilmette resident and local favorite trumpeter Bobby Lewis led a trio with Andy Brown on guitar and Stewart Miller on bass. The audience was a varied mix of patrons: those who regularly attend our concerts, some who came for the first time, and some who make it a point to attend the annual early new year's concert.

Armchair Travels this month took us all the way from to Bermuda to European Christmas Markets to Africa and Malta. Wild West Africa with presenter Brian Michalski and Malta with Jeff Klapes were just about tied with 34 and 33 Zoom attendees respectively. Comments included appreciation that we offer varying virtual programs, and that it was fun to virtually experience warmer climates in December. Patrons also appreciated having high-quality

programming that they could access virtually during bad winter weather. Almost 5 years into our virtual programming experiment, the platform remains a vital way to reach many of our patrons!

Through our partnership with Illinois Libraries Present and other area libraries, our patrons had the chance to enjoy a pre-recorded, virtual showing of Little Women: The Musical. 77 patrons took advantage of this opportunity over 3 days.

### November and December Communications

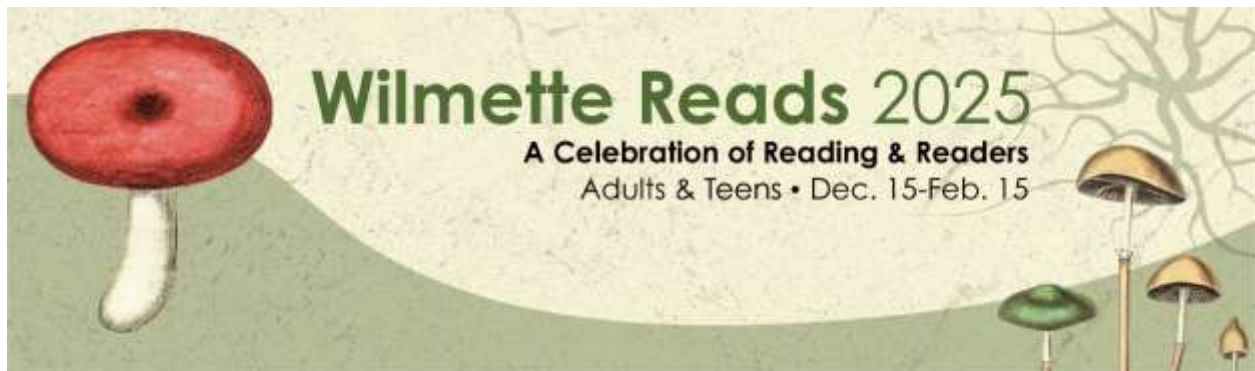
Our communications team organized several major projects as well as the regular flow of communications to close out the year.



### Wilmette Reads

Entering our second year of Wilmette Reads, the C&E team spent a huge amount of time prepping for this community reading series. We have a great partnership with Adult Services, and the planning period leading up to the launch of the series was both productive and fun. This year's selected titles both featured a mushroom theme, and graphic designer Sarah Rose created a beautiful branding package to highlight the

themes and visuals of this year. C&E manager Sarah Beth Brown worked closely with AS to develop written materials to promote the series to the community, and communications coordinator Lydia Fair ensured that all of our communications channels were updated and ready to promote this great series! The entire package put together by C&E included reordered and updated swag giveaway items for this year, posters, written collateral, display materials, and online promotions. We are particularly excited about our finisher prize this year, an enamel pin designed by Sarah Rose. We're hoping to produce a similar pin each year that community members can collect and display. Wilmette Reads is a huge amount of work, but something we hope is growing in Wilmette and embraces the spirit of community connection that we want to foster.



### January-March Newsletter

One of two 16 page newsletters each year, the winter newsletter highlights youth Winter Reading Club, adult & teen Wilmette Reads, provides a preview of our Annual Report, and highlights three months' worth of programs for all ages. Coordinating the newsletter is a major project, but after many years, the process is quite smooth and streamlined, and all the various departments are efficient and capable of contributing work to make this a consistently high-quality newsletter. The 16 page issues are a particularly fun puzzle to put together, as they need to remain relevant all the way through winter into spring, promote major reading series, and be attractive enough to display for three full months.



### Year in Review Email

This year, after discussion with director Anthony Auston, we decided to update the way we shared our annual report information with the Wilmette community. For many years, we have produced one large document, highlighting our financial and statistical information alongside fun highlights of the year and most read books. This year, we decided to break the report into two halves: a fun email that would go out at the end of the year as a “Wilmette Wrapped,” and a more informational print document that would go out in January. We put together the Year in Review email to send on December 31, and it was a highlight reel of our year. The most exciting part was the top books and media circulated in Wilmette—we always look forward to seeing these lists, and we shared them both in the email and on our Instagram page. Many thanks to Technical Services manager Jessica Thomson and Digital & Maker Services manager Lauren Kelly for compiling circulation numbers, and particularly to Jessica for doing the math many times to figure out which print book actually came out in first (it was *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*!) The more numbers-focused Annual Report will be made available to patrons in print in late January.

Other projects the C&E team worked on in November and December include:

Sarah Rose’s primary focus was Wilmette Reads in the last months of the year, but she also kept busy in the rest of her time with a number of projects and regular work.

- Worked with Youth Services to create signage and graphics for their Winter Reading Club, including two large mounted evergreen WRC banners
- Produced, created, updated and/or replenished a number of printed materials such as The Studio equipment list
- Created new name badges, door signs, and more for new staff and replacements
- Provided graphics, files, swag pricing, and design consulting as needed across many departments
- Created signage for The Studio closure
- Created signage for the patron computer update, copier relocation, and more
- Designed Holiday closure signage and graphics



Lydia was also quite busy in November and December, supporting the major projects outlined above as well as keeping up with the regular flow of communications, including:

- Wrote evergreen copy for use in the elevator signs, digital slides, and homepage including promotions of the LoT, Notary Services, and Libby
- Shared books and films in our collection in celebration of Native American Heritage Month on social media and in our enewsletters
- Compiled our holiday programs and wrote promotional copy for the Village’s Holiday Event Preview enewsletter (11/26)
- Took photos at the D39 teacher visits on 12/11
- Updated the Wilmette Reads and Winter Reading Club webpages, sent an enewsletter launching winter reading on 12/16
- November-December published 4 posts to the staff blog
- Continued to share our book discussions/author events with The Book Stall

### Email, Social Media, and Communications

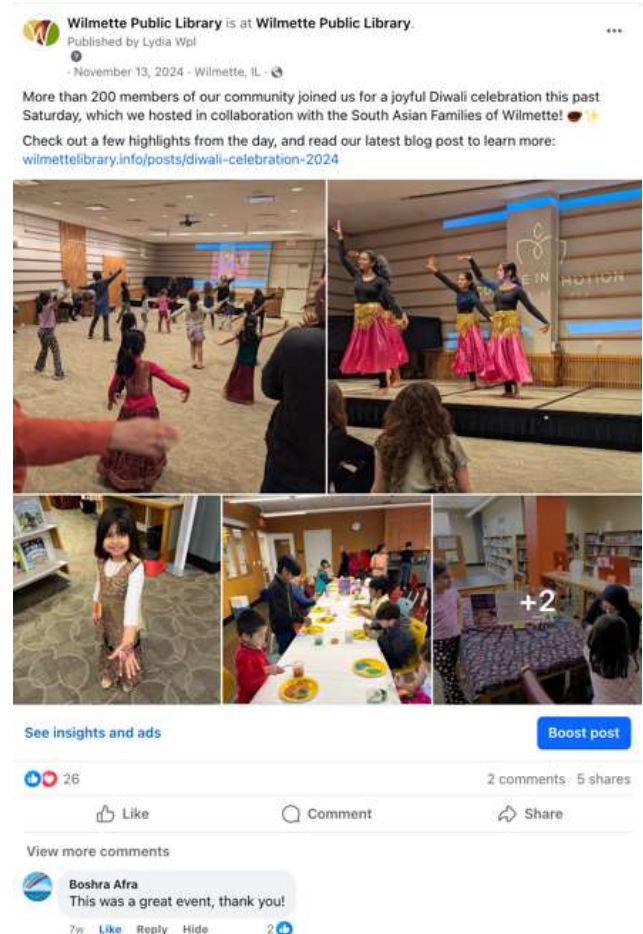
In November and December, Lydia sent out our regular events and Youth Services emails, as well as a business email in conjunction with business librarian John Amundsen. Starting with the November 17 weekly enewsletter, we began incorporating RA from Adult Services or a spotlight on our online collections/resources to provide more general interest content. Lydia has been working with Adult Services on this content, which is intended to use our most active communication tool to deepen patron connection to the collections. This feature will replace for now our reader’s advisory email, as we like to knit together all the types of work our librarians do, and move away from just featuring programs or readers advisory in a given email.

Email newsletter statistics from November:

- 64,301 Sends
- 1,296 clicks

Email newsletter statistics from December:

- 109,274 Sends
- 1,479 clicks



Highlights from our social media:



wilmettelibrary  
Original audio

wilmettelibrary Children's Winter Reading Club is here! Kids of all ages are invited to track 20 days of reading and activities and report by February 15 to receive a prize book. 📖 🐼 Minty and Marshmallow, and their new friend, Penguin, are excited to join the fun and slide into winter reading. Check out their latest adventure, and visit the Youth Desk to pick up a reading log!

Winter Reading Club is generously supported by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library.

Edited · 3w

susansarasota Wonderful video!  
2w · 1 like · Reply

View insights Boost reel

Liked by wilmettelibraryteens and 34 others  
December 16, 2024

Add a comment...



wilmettelibrary  
Wilmette Public Library

wilmettelibrary The library is the perfect place to be on a rainy day! ☔ Stop by to find books for all ages celebrating Native voices and stories, from vivid picture books to stirring novels.

7w

View insights Boost post

Liked by wilmettelibraryteens and 34 others  
November 18, 2024

Add a comment...



**wilmettelibrary**  
Wilmette Public Library

Here are 5 ways to make the most out of your Wilmette library card this holiday season! 📖

- Digitize photos for loved ones at the Digitization Station
- Check reviews on Consumer Reports before you shop
- Explore our holiday collection in Youth Services
- Borrow your favorite festive movie
- DIY a gift in The Studio & more!

3w

**taylorabuse** 🙌🙌🙌  
3w · 1 like · Reply

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

👍🗨️📌

Liked by jillie\_\_mae and 51 others  
December 10, 2024

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)



**wilmettelibrary**  
Wilmette Public Library

Wilmette Reads—our community reading series for adults & teens begins today! 📖 Now through February 15, we're reading the novel Ghost Music by An Yu and Merlin Sheidrake's nonfiction Entangled Life. Join us to explore themes of connection and entangled lives at events throughout the winter!

To get started, visit the Adult Services Desk to pick up an activity log and a free tote bag or winter hat! You can fill up your log with the activities of your choice, collecting limited-edition badges as you go. Bring your completed log back to the desk to receive a prize!

Wilmette Reads is generously supported by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library.

3w

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

👍🗨️📌

Liked by jillie\_\_mae and 37 others  
December 16, 2024

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)

## **Information Technology (Manager Michael Pocrnich)**

In November, we implemented KnowBe4's Phish Alert Button for staff email management and an additional layer of cyber security. The Phish Alert Button is a better option for staff to report suspicious emails without forwarding them directly to IT. When staff click on the Phish Alert Button it allows them to report in one of three classifications: 1) Phishing or Suspicious, 2) Spam or Junk, or 3) Unknown (if a staff member is unsure how to classify the email). The Phish Alert Button integrates into our Outlook desktop application as well as web Outlook. Staff feedback has been positive and they appreciate having this simple method to report suspicious emails.

In December, we implemented our new Zendesk ticketing system for IT and Facilities support requests from staff. Ticketing systems help to enhance internal communications and address routine maintenance across departments, but one of the added benefits of implementing this ticketing system is for both departments to better document and track issues in an effort to work more effectively and efficiently. This system ensures no issues will fall through the cracks, and both departments will be able to respond in a timely manner, setting clear expectations and outcomes for stakeholders. Staff are also able to check the status of open tickets on an individual basis which also allows for more transparency to keep all staff updated so they are never wondering about the current status of an issue.

In addition to the internal ticketing system, we also implemented asset management software for both IT and Facilities that ties into the new Zendesk ticketing system. This way, in addition to tracking and organizing assets, we can attach tickets to these assets which will help identify and document any recurring issues. Both departments are also able to manage vendors through this software and plan for regular maintenance on assets as well.

### **Computer Replacement Project**

The majority of our project implementation has taken place since November. The patron PCs and catalogs were all replaced with the new systems in mid-December. Feedback from patrons has been very positive, noting the improved responsiveness of our updated equipment. We've also automated management of the catalog PCs with the update. Catalogs are now set to turn off 15 minutes after library closes, and will turn on in the morning 15 minutes before opening.

To assist with the phased deployment of the new staff equipment in late January, CVI began replacing staff monitors earlier this month. These monitors have greater control over brightness and contrast and have a built-in blue light filter. Feedback from staff has been very positive as well. Staff PCs are planned to be replaced the week of January 27 by department over the course of 3 days. Concurrent with the deployment of the new hardware, staff will begin training on a set of staff-led video and in-person courses in support of our new Microsoft 365 cloud-based office productivity software. Developed by DMS staff and deployed through our Talent training platform, we expect to have staff complete this series by the middle of February. We're excited to see staff begin to apply and take advantage of the the benefits of our new resources this winter.



## Facilities & Safety (Manager Marcos Levy)

In April 2024, a representative from Go Green connected with three different staff about our fireplace. Their concern was that the flames were set too high and were needlessly “adding contaminants into the air.” After a thorough inspection of the fireplace, it was determined the current natural gas unit had reached its service life and the interior brick work and electrical components for the igniter of the fireplace were in need of extensive repair. We had hoped to address the scope of the repairs as part of a renovation project this year, but the chill of winter weather motivated us to address the restoration of the fireplace without deferral in November. To support our strategic plan initiatives in alignment with sustainability, we looked into replacing that natural gas fireplace insert with an electric unit that would support Go Green’s concerns while reducing reliance on fossil fuels and reducing costs. We identified a solution to satisfy our patron’s request and confirmed the cost to convert to electrical was less than restoring the fireplace with gas unit. So far, the response from patrons has been positive.



This month, in the Youth Services junior high area, Marcos and assistant manager Aarin Olson added a fresh coat of paint to the room’s walls this month. While working on the project, they creatively came up with an idea to improve the popular light board and enhance the visibility of its content when turned on. They removed the board and painted the outline of the board with high gloss black paint that would give the illusion of a neon board when patrons use the neon markers. The idea was a success!



### **Cleaning Contract Update**

In the past few years post-pandemic, our cleaning vendor has not met our expectations in cleaning the facility each night. After several meetings with the company and reviewing their contract, we noted their inconsistent pattern of service but have not seen sustain improvement or course correction. As a result, staff are determined evaluate alternative options for our cleaning services contract for 2025 and beyond.

In November/December, Marcos conducted a comprehensive evaluation of available vendors and identified and invited several companies to submit quotes to service our building in support of the guidelines of our scope of service. He provided a detailed outline of our expectations for floor care, restrooms, public spaces, offices, equipment and products used, training of staff, inspections, sustainability standards, and more to ensure our prospective vendors understand our desired outcomes.

We expect to complete evaluation of our applicants in the coming weeks and make a recommendation for contract approval at the February 18 board meeting. With board approval, the library and selected vendor can commence service in March.

## **Human Resources (Manager Michael Boone)**

### **Recruiting Activities & Personnel**

#### **2024 Turnover**

Overall for calendar year 2024, our turnover rate was a little over 6%. This was a small but welcomed decrease from the 8.5% turnover rate we experienced at the end of 2023. Our turnover rate has been steadily decreasing since the pandemic a few years ago where our rates ranged between 12% - 14%, primarily due to retirements. During this past year we saw 6 staff members leave the organization. The majority of the resignations were part-time staff who found full-time work at other agencies.

#### **Circulation**

In early December, we posted for a part-time Circulation Assistant position for about 11 hour per week. We received 25 applications for this position which was very encouraging. We have narrowed the group down and are in the process of interviewing 4 candidates and are excited for the prospects that we have.

#### **Digital & Maker Services**

Digital Services Assistant, Sabrina Nizzi, has resigned from her part-time position. Sabrina started back in January of 2024, and has received several patron comments regarding her outstanding customer service. Sabrina was also one of our resident experts on Apple and iOS related technology. In collaboration with Senior Services Librarian Jill McKeown, Sabrina provided vital technology assistance to seniors at Mather place once a month.

As a result, we posted for a part-time Digital Services Assistant position back at the end of December. Digital & Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly and myself have narrowed the pool down and are scheduling interviews. We have some strong candidates and are excited in bringing a new member to the team.

#### **Youth Services**

Hannah Stenback has resigned from their part-time Youth Services Associate position. Hannah joined us back in February of 2024, and during their short time here, Hannah has supported several library programs and outreach events in the community, as well as provided support to the selectors for the weeding project. Hannah also presented two mindfulness-theme story times.

We have also posted for a part-time Youth Services Associate at the end of December. We have about 6 candidates so far but are still in the application collection phase of the process.



## **Policy**

### **HR Policy Review**

As most of you know, Director Anthony Auston and HR Manager Michael Boone rolled out the comprehensive update of the HR policy and employee manual in May 2024. Since then, there have already been some revisions need to be made in order to remain compliant with state and federal regulations. There have been additions in protected classes in regards to workplace discrimination that need to be added to our Anti-Discrimination policy and EEOC statement. Our policy regarding reasonable accommodations needs to include pregnancy as a condition we could make accommodations for per the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act. There are also updates needed for our Bereavement policy, Personnel Record & Review policy, as well as updates in the accrual process for the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act policy. We are in the process of updating our policies and procedures now and will send out notification to staff when this is complete.

## **Trainings/Conferences**

### **Employment Law Conference**

On November 7, HR Manager Michael Boone attended HR Source's Employment Law Conference out in Naperville. This one day conference offered seminars on inclusion and accessibility, equitable pay practices, and navigating terminations under FMLA and ADA circumstances. Keynote speaker was Samyuktha Neera, the State Association Relations Manager for the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiologist, who is also a podcast host and author, who spoke about the societal and work environment challenges little people still encounter on a day to day basis. HR Source Chief Legal Counselor, Kelly Hayden, ended the day with employment law updates on some of state and federal regulations, such as, additional protected classes under the EEOC, Wage and Pay Transparency Act, Wage Payment & Collection Act, and Personnel Record & Review Act revisions.

## **Benefits**

### **2025 Open Enrollment**

2025 Open Enrollment occurred from October 28, 2024 through November 8, 2024. Only two participants made changes to their coverage level and 12 staff participated in the Flexible Spending Accounts. This was the first year that there was a slight increase to dental premiums as well as medical premiums. The last increase to dental coverage was back in 2017.

## **Special Projects**

### **Holiday Gathering**

The Hospitality Team is planning a belated winter Holiday Gathering celebration for staff

on Thursday, January 23. We're planning to provide pizza, soup, and salad, and asking folks to bring a dessert to share. Excited to kick off 2025 with some good food and good company!

**November & December Work Anniversaries**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u>Years</u>
Sidney Allen-Simpson	Adult Services	11/02/2022	2
Megan Noone	Circulation	11/30/2021	3
Marcos Levy	Facilities & Safety	11/16/2020	4
Krista Hutley	Adult Services	11/06/2017	7
Ruth Bell	Youth Services	11/18/2015	9
Shanti D'Costa	Technical Services	11/03/2008	16
Colleen Reese	Shelving	11/28/2008	16
Emma Standard	Technical Services	12/29/2020	4
Jennifer Bartel	Communications & Events	12/22/2017	7
Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Youth Services	12/03/2018	6
Robin Sindelar	Youth Services	12/08/2017	7
Sheri Reda	Youth Services	12/22/2014	10

**Select Staff Meetings & Workshops**

Staff regularly attend conferences and developmental webinars, and are actively cultivating new skills through dozens of programs and workshops on a diverse range of topics, including:

Select Staff Meetings and Trainings

- November: LACONI Webinar - AI Ethics & Uses (Ethan Herdrich)
- November: Once & For All: Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (All Staff)
- December: Microsoft Office 2024 essentials course on LinkedIn Learning (various DMS Staff)

- 11/1: Serving Patrons in Unique Circumstances, LACONI Recharge (Andrea Vaughn Johnson, Sarah Jo Zaharako)
- 11/1: Lindsey Cormack, Ph.D. and Heidi Stevens, How to Raise a Citizen (and Why It's Up to You to Do It), Family Action Network (Eti Berland)
- 11/6: D39 Parent Ed: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Monthly Themes Supported by Literature (Eti Berland)
- 11/6: Collection Managers Meeting
- 11/7: Collaboration: Women's Club of Wilmette (Cathleen Blair)
- 11/7: UW Course Module: "A Chatbot Is Not a Search Engine" (John Amundsen)
- 11/8: AI Lunch & Learn led by DMS Assistant Alejandro Barzallo
- 11/8: RAILS MakerSpace Networking Group, virtual meeting (Janet Piehl)

11/12: RAILS webinar: Cataloging children’s materials: tips and best practices (Carly Stauss)

11/13: Building Bridges: Democracy, Peace, and Conflict Resolution in the Modern World, ALA Think Tank (Sarah Jo Zaharako)

11/13: Charmm’d Foundation “Leading with Heart: The Power of Empathetic Leadership” (Linnea Lundberg)

11/13: D39 Parent Ed: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Monthly Themes Supported by Literature (Susan Kaplan-Toch)

11/13: OCLC linked data users group webinar: Making us of the long liminality (Carly Stauss)

11/14: By the Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land, Family Action Network (Eti Berland)

11/14: CMC webinar: The case of cataloging kits (Carly Stauss)

11/14: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Youth Services networking group meeting, RAILS (Eti Berland)

11/14: IDEA Committee Meeting

11/14: PIC Managers Meeting

11/14: Young Adult Services Forum (Krista Hutley)

11/15: ATLAS Middle Managers Round Table (Jessica Thomson)

11/15: LACONI: “All About Tween/Teen Library Services” (Krista Hutley, Jennifer Lee)

11/18: Pushing Back on Misinformation: The Role of the Library (Susan Kaplan-Toch)

11/19: Phone Training Lunch & Learn

11/20: CCS Governing Board Meeting (Anthony Auston)

11/20: RAILS ELSUM Networking Group Meeting (Lauren Kelly)

11/22: ALA's Sara Jaffarian Award Presents Freedom Walk: New Programming to Celebrate Our Freedom to Read, ALA (Eti Berland)

11/22: Navigating Slumps in Reading Motivation, Donalyn Miller (Susan Kaplan-Toch)

11/20: WNGCC/WKC Business for Breakfast (John Amundsen)

11/22: Collaboration: WKCC Executive Director (John Amundsen)

11/22: Collaboration: SCORE mentor (John Amundsen)

11/25: AI Ethics and Uses, LACONI, (Susan Kaplan-Toch)

11/25: Collaboration: Girl Scout Gold Award Project (Krista Hutley)

11/26: Bibliographic standards committee webinar: Cool things we cataloged (Carly Stauss)

12/3: All Staff Meeting

12/3: Improv Open Workshop, Piven Theater (Diane dos Santos)

12/4: Library Journal’s Marketing and Outreach Strategies to Engage Your Community (Lydia Fair, Matthew Hoffman)

12/4: ILA North Suburban & Chicago Library Legislative Breakfast (Anthony Auston)

12/5: Community Engagement Committee Meeting

12/6: Adult Reading Round Table ARRTCon (Rachel Garcia, Rachel Rothe)

12/6: Programming for Seniors in Public Libraries RAILS Group (Jillian McKeown)

12/9: Welcome to Autism-Ready Libraries: Early Literacy Services for Autistic Children

and Their Families, ALA e-Learning (Sarah Jo Zaharako)  
12/12: BIPOC Mental Health Summit, BIPOC Library Workers Group (Jennifer Lee)  
12/12: Midwest Tape webinar: The 2025 Box Office: What's to Come and Where We are Headed (Jessica Thomson)  
12/13: Circulation/ILL Advisory Meeting (Matthew Hoffman)  
12/13: LACONI Recharge networking event (Sarah Jo Zaharako)  
12/13: Phone Training Lunch & Learn  
12/15: LIRA First Amendment and Censorship (Anthony Auston)  
12/16: Data Analysis Essentials Using Excel (Megan Brown)  
12/16: Public Services Managers Meeting  
12/16: RAILS Post-Staff-Engagement Survey: Analyzing Data and Action Planning (Anthony Auston)  
12/18: Electronic Content Consortium Governing Board Meeting (Lauren Kelly)  
12/23: Webinar: "Reflecting on AI in Genealogy: 2024's Lessons and 2025's Pathways" (EvaAnne Johnson)

## Attachments

- "You're Never Too Old for the Library: Senior Services at Three Illinois Public Libraries" by Adult Services Librarian Suzanne Arist, as published in *ILA Reporter*, December 2024
- November/FYTD program statistics
- November/December circulation statistics by item and material collections
- November/FYTD online resource statistics by title and category



Library hold shelves were especially packed during the winter holiday season



# You're Never Too Old for the Library: Senior Services at Three Illinois Public Libraries

One of the best things about public libraries is that they serve the whole community at every life stage. This article is a celebration of the joy of senior services at Illinois public libraries and is the culmination of a survey of senior services librarians conducted in spring of 2024. Illinois libraries provide a vast range and variety of services for their senior patrons. There are libraries that collaborate with senior housing facilities to provide storytimes and book drop-offs. At least one library loans mechanical cats and dogs from a Memory Care Collection to help seniors relax or feel comfortable in group programs. Other libraries offer multilingual programming. While we had several responses, this article focuses on three Illinois public libraries, Jerseyville Public Library, Fremont Public Library, and Gail Borden Public Library, to offer a snapshot of the variety of services Illinois' senior residents can find at their public library.

## JERSEYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jerseyville Public Library (Jerseyville Library) serves the City of Jerseyville, population 8,357, and is about 80 miles southwest of Springfield, IL. Jerseyville Library has 2,407 card holders—2,100 residents, 307 non-residents—and annually circulates 67,762 items including physical and electronic materials.

Beth Smilack, Marketing and Communication Specialist, oversees Senior Services at Jerseyville Library with Library Director Judy Pruitt. Smilack began her work with senior patrons by creating a new Senior StoryTime program along with providing digital literacy courses after receiving a Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive through the Public Library Association and supported by AT&T.

Beth and Judy regularly visit three assisted living facilities in the community to conduct storytime programming and provide materials to these facilities and to home-bound patrons.

At the new Senior StoryTime programs, Smilak and Pruitt read a story, lead a group sing-along with ukulele and piano, and do a craft with the seniors. Depending on which facility they're at, there are usually between 10-20 attendees.

Beth says, "We love it when they help each other find what song we are on by pointing it out on the song sheet and when they assist each other in making the crafts. We love the camaraderie and the chance for them to interact with each other when otherwise they might just be in their rooms by themselves and not socializing."

The vision and hope for the future of Jerseyville Library's senior services is "to continue to provide StoryTimes, digital training, and providing materials both educational and entertaining to those who are not able to get out easily in their golden years." Jerseyville Public Library's ultimate goal is library access for all.

“We love the camaraderie and the chance for them to interact with each other when otherwise they might just be in their rooms by themselves and not socializing.”



Judy Pruitt leads a Senior StoryTime session.



## FREMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Fremont Public Library District (Fremont Library) provides similar services to Jerseyville Library and more. Fremont Library serves parts of Mundelein, Grayslake, Hawthorn Woods, Round Lake, and Round Lake Park. It serves a population of 38,792, with 12,494 cardholders. The library's physical item circulation the last fiscal year was 349,684.

Zoe Stein is the Adult Services Librarian who oversees Senior Outreach. She became a Senior Outreach Librarian “through a love of helping [seniors]” when she discovered her most fulfilling work was with the senior population. Her favorite example is a seniors’ book club called Senior Connections.

Senior Connections meets once a month at the Fremont Library to discuss fiction and nonfiction. Since Stein has started moderating Senior Connections, participation has increased by 240%! She reports that participants “are opinionated and love to talk about the book whether they loved it or not.” A surprise was the huge success of the discussion of *All Boys Aren't Blue*, the second most challenged book in America in both 2022 and 2023 according to the American Library Association. *All Boys Aren't Blue* is George M. Johnson's memoirs about growing up black, queer, and nonbinary. Initially nervous for the discussion, attendees had “fantastic insights and were happy to discuss all the things they learned.”

Fremont Library hosts programs for active seniors such as sessions on Medicare and Social Security, movie screenings, and flower arranging classes.

Stein has begun collaborations with senior residences. She recently started a program “The Librarian is In.” Accompanied by Circulation Department staff, she goes to retirement communities and independent living communities to bring books, offer on-site readers’ advisory, provide tech help and library app tutorials, and sign-up patrons for library cards. Forty-nine people attended her first program. Stein hopes to add an assisted living and memory care facility currently being built at the time of writing to Senior Connections’ rounds.

Stein's hope for the future is “to cultivate a thriving and vibrant community at the library for senior patrons.” She wants “to meet them where they are, whether that is hosting pop-up librarian services at more senior centers, or other places they frequent like local coffee shops.” Also on her agenda is building a collection of activity kits, which would help Alzheimer’s patients, in particular.

## GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Like Fremont Library, Gail Borden Public Library District (Gail Borden) has a wide array of services and programming for seniors. The library serves 149,907 residents of Elgin, South Elgin, parts of Hoffman Estates, Streamwood, and Bartlett of which 90,693 residents are cardholders. Gail Borden sees 1,003,210 visitors annually and serves the fifth largest library population in Illinois after Chicago, Aurora, Rockford, and Joliet.

Glenna Godinsky is Gail Borden’s Life Enrichment Manager. She oversees services for seniors in the community, outside the walls of the library. Glenna has a team of twelve senior volunteers who assist at over twenty-five memory care, assisted living, developmental, skilled care, supportive living, and independent living locations. They conduct programs; lead craft activities, songs, and poems; and drop off donated library materials. The Life Enrichment Team not only serves the seniors, but offers staff support for how to use the library materials in programming.

Life Enrichment hosts an Elgin Area Memory Café for patrons with dementia and their caregivers while *Cafecito entré Amigos* serves the Spanish-speaking population in this demographic. Both programs were established in 2018. Participants hear educational speakers, do crafts, converse, and play games to connect and socialize. A Memory Care Collection has been added to the library’s collection and includes medical information, memoirs, and books written for adults living with dementia.

Elgin was the fifth city in Illinois to get a Dementia Friendly Designation from Dementia Friendly America. Godinsky is a Certified Dementia Practitioner which allows her to train business people, first responders, and organizations on dementia awareness. She provides resource materials and information to memory cafés in the community that speak English, Spanish, Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese.

On July 9, 2024, the library celebrated its fifth year as part of Dementia Friendly Elgin Area with Mayor Dave Kaptain. Elgin Memory Café members, *Cafecito entré Amigos* members, and Chinese Mutual Aid Association members participated. A social event for the three groups has also been planned for September 2024 to help grow trust and strengthen connections.

A surprise success has been the purchase of both a Hasbro Toy for All Animatronic cat and dog. Godinsky uses the cat to help residents feel comfortable leaving their rooms, attending a program with the toy in their lap. The toys help reduce anxiety “quite well.” Several of these robotic toys have since been purchased and now circulate widely through the library’s Home Services Department in a library-of-things style.



Dementia Friendly Elgin Area (DFEA) Advisory Council

The library-of-things collection for senior patrons has grown in general at Gail Borden. Specifically, Godinsky grew the Memory Care Collection which now includes puzzles, bingo games, and wooden locks and latches. She states that these items can help “reduce anxiety and help people ‘live in the moment’ while spending time together.”

Godinsky says Gail Borden is “on the cusp of reaching exponentially more people who are at the highest risk of developing dementia—the people of color in our culturally-diverse library district.” Also, the library has “reached the goal of serving each senior/developmental care community in our district with library programs every other month” with “access to library services through Life Enrichment, Home Services, and the Technow Mobile (which circulates technology such as Wi-Fi hotspots, provides instruction, circulates books, and other items).”

The most popular programs for seniors are on topics relevant to participants when they were teens. Examples are Elvis Presley, big band music, and drive-in movie theater history. Programs on nature such as butterfly migration and ice castles are also popular. For more active seniors, there are programs on investing, downsizing, home health services, and more. Many programs for general audiences also attract a lot of seniors, such as Gail Borden’s Sunday night concert series and craft programs. These are conducted by the library’s Community Engagement Team.

The library is also:

- reaching seniors who live in care communities and seniors who are aging in place at home;
- partnered with multiple agencies in the district who serve seniors; and,
- empowering both active seniors and seniors who need extra care to be volunteers for their community through their library.

For the future, Godinsky says, “We must continue to uphold the trust that we have built in seniors throughout our community as we listen to them and design future programs and services.”

Senior Services will continue to thrive at Jerseyville, Fremont, Gail Borden, and other Illinois public libraries with librarians such as Smilack, Stein, and Godinsky leading the charge. Through innovations such as Smilack’s addition of sing-alongs with ukulele and piano to storytimes, Stein’s book discussions about current fiction and nonfiction, and Godinsky’s programs about Elvis Presley and emphasis on memory care, seniors will continue to be engaged and develop a passion for their libraries. This article is a testimonial to the rich services available for one of our most respected populations.

A special thank you to all those who responded to the questionnaire to share their experience.





## November 2024 Program Statistics

Dept	Contact	Title	Virtual/In-	Date	Start time	Reg. #	Attend #
AS	John Amundsen	Donuts & Databases: Upskilling	In-person	11/8/24	9:00 AM	5	7
AS	EvaAnne Johnson	Comparing the Big Four (Virtual)	Virtual	11/9/24	1:00 PM	106	79
AS	Jillian McKeown	Dementia Caregiver Support Group (Virtual)	Virtual	11/11/24	7:00 PM	10	8
AS	Rachel Garcia	Classics & Contemporary Book Discussion	In-person	11/12/24	10:30 AM	2	10
AS	Jillian McKeown	Alzheimer's, Dementia, and the LGBTQ+ Community (Virtual)	Virtual	11/13/24	7:00 PM	14	4
AS	Jillian McKeown	Death Cafe	In-person	11/18/24	6:00 PM	14	12
AS	Cathleen Blair	The Identity Paradox	In-person	11/20/24	2:00 PM	14	13
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Film Screening: Gather	In-person	11/1/24	1:00 PM	N/A	15
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Opera Lovers Lecture Corps (Virtual)	Virtual	11/4/24	7:00 PM	35	30
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels: To The Top of the World	In-person	11/7/24	1:00 PM	N/A	11
CE	Jennifer Bartel	At Home Film Series (Virtual)	Virtual	11/12/24	7:00 PM	6	4
CE	Jennifer Bartel	The Life & Songs of Woody Guthrie	In-person	11/15/24	7:00 PM	N/A	99
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Shakespeare Project of Chicago	In-person	11/16/24	2:00 PM	N/A	92
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Honoring the Dead (Virtual)	Virtual	11/19/24	7:00 PM	16	16
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Holiday Tips & Tricks with Chef Art Smith (Virtual)	Virtual	11/20/24	7:00 PM	56	27
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels	In-person	11/21/24	1:00 PM	N/A	12
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Creating a Nation (Virtual)	Virtual	11/25/24	7:00 PM	41	36
DMS	Linnea Lundberg	Staff Picks: Online Library Resources (Virtual)	Virtual	11/5/24	6:00 PM	12	8
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Making a Patch Demo (Virtual)	Virtual	11/6/24	6:30 PM	19	12
DMS	Doug McGillivray	Intro to PyGame	In-person	11/8/24	5:30 PM	6	2
DMS	Janet Piehl	Holiday Cards with Silhouette Cameo	In-person	11/11/24	6:30 PM	8	6
DMS	Sabrina Nizzi	Open iPhone Q & A Group Discussion	In-person	11/12/24	10:00 AM	7	5
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Minecraft Club	In-person	11/18/24	4:30 PM	10	7
DMS	Janet Piehl	Private Studio Event	In-person	11/18/24	5:00 PM	N/A	18
DMS	Alejandro Barzallo	Intro to Android Phones	In-person	11/22/24	2:00 PM	6	4
DMS	Janet Piehl	Place Cards with Silhouette Cameo	In-person	11/26/24	10:30 AM	5	4
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Let's Design a 3D Printed Dice Tower	In-person	11/7/24	6:30 PM	4	5
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Dungeons & Dragons	In-person	11/9/24	1:00 PM	6	6
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Name Change 101 (Virtual)	Virtual	11/12/24	6:00 PM	0	0
TEEN	Krista Hutley	TikTok Ghost Painting	In-person	11/21/24	7:00 PM	3	1
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	11/1/24	9:30 AM	N/A	85
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Mandarin Storytime	In-person	11/2/24	10:00 AM	N/A	4
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Stories in Russian	In-person	11/2/24	2:00 PM	12	17
YS	Ruth Bell	Building with Bits and Bobs	In-person	11/3/24	2:00 PM	N/A	43
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	11/4/24	9:30 AM	N/A	46
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/5/24	9:30 AM	N/A	55
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/5/24	10:00 AM	N/A	53
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Story Explorers	In-person	11/5/24	4:00 PM	N/A	10
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	String Art	In-person	11/5/25	7:00 PM	12	11
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/6/24	9:30 AM	N/A	57
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/6/25	10:00 AM	N/A	54
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Pajama Storytime	In-person	11/6/24	6:30 PM	N/A	5
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/7/24	9:15 AM	N/A	23
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/7/24	9:45 AM	N/A	34
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Art for Big Feelings	In-person	11/7/24	4:00 PM	9	9
YS	Eti Berland	K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore	In-person	11/7/24	6:00 PM	N/A	12
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Strengthening LGBTQ+ Youth (Virtual)	Virtual	11/7/24	7:00 PM	0	10
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	11/8/24	9:30 AM	N/A	70
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/9/24	10:00 AM	N/A	17
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Bollywood Dance Lesson	In-person	11/9/24	1:00 PM	50	45
YS	Eti Berland	Diwali Celebration	In-person	11/9/24	2:00 PM	N/A	200
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Chess Drop-In	In-person	11/10/24	2:30 PM	N/A	8

## November 2024 Program Statistics

YS	Sarah Zaharako	Safer Sex for ALL! (Virtual)	Virtual	11/11/24	6:00 PM	0	0
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/12/24	9:30 AM	N/A	54
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/12/24	10:00 AM	N/A	41
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Story Explorers	In-person	11/12/24	4:00 PM	N/A	27
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/13/24	9:30 AM	N/A	52
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/13/24	10:00 AM	N/A	58
YS	Jennifer Lee	STEAM Lab: Snow Storm in a Jar	In-person	11/13/24	4:30 PM	14	13
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/14/24	9:15 AM	N/A	39
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/14/24	9:45 AM	N/A	27
YS	Jennifer Lee	Hungry Crafters: Personalized Mugs	In-person	11/14/24	7:00 PM	12	13
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	11/15/24	9:30 AM	N/A	48
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Lego Club	In-person	11/15/24	4:00 PM	24	21
YS	Jennifer Lee	Little Play Cafe	In-person	11/16/24	10:00 AM	N/A	31
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Spanish-English Bilingual Storytime	In-person	11/16/24	2:00 PM	N/A	3
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	11/18/24	9:30 AM	N/A	42
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/19/24	9:30 AM	N/A	54
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/19/24	10:00 AM	N/A	53
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Story Explorers	In-person	11/19/24	4:00 PM	N/A	12
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/20/24	9:30 AM	N/A	37
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11/20/24	10:00	N/A	33
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Wings of Fire Club	In-person	11/20/24	7:00 PM	13	7
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/21/25	9:15 AM	N/A	19
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	11/21/25	9:45 AM	N/A	11
YS	Eti Berland	Caldecott Club	In-person	11/21/24	4:00 PM	5	4
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	11/22/24	9:30 AM	N/A	35
		Open Books, Open Minds: A Let's					
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Learn Together Program	In-person	11/23/24	10:00 AM	N/A	27
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	11/25/24	9:30 AM	N/A	62
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Crafternoon	In-person	11/25/24	2:00 PM	N/A	75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	11/29/24	9:30 AM	N/A	100
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	11/30/25	9:30 AM	N/A	50
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Istvan and His Imaginary Band	In-person	11/30/24	2:00 PM	N/A	40
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Istvan and His Imaginary Band	In-person	11/30/25	3:30 PM	N/A	42

## Decemberr 2024 Program Statistics

Dept	Contact	Title	Virtual/In-	Date	Start time	Reg. #	Attend #
AS	Rachel Garcia	Classics & Contemporary Book Discussion	In-person	12/10/24	10:30 AM	5	17
AS	Jillian McKeown	Dementia Caregiver Support Group (Virtual)	Virtual	12/18/24	7:00 PM	11	10
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Wild West Africa (Virtual)	Virtual	12/2/24	7:00 PM	36	34
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Make a Needle Felted Gingerbread House for Adults	In-person	12/3/24	12:00 AM	22	25
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels	In-person	12/5/24	1:00 PM	N/A	11
CE	Jennifer Bartel	At Home Film Series (Virtual)	Virtual	12/10/24	7:00 PM	9	5
CE	Jennifer Bartel	The Magic of Raina Telgemeier (Virtual)	Virtual	12/10/24	7:00 PM	43	41
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Malta (Virtual)	Virtual	12/16/24	7:00 PM	40	33
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels	In-person	12/19/24	1:00 PM	N/A	18
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Little Women: The Musical. An At Home Experience (Virtual)	Virtual	12/20/24	2:00 PM	77	77
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Little Women: The Musical. An At Home Experience (Virtual)	Virtual	12/21/24	12:00 AM	0	0
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Little Women: The Musical. An At Home Experience (Virtual)	Virtual	12/22/24	12:00 AM	0	0
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Bobby Lewis, Andy Brown and Stewart Miller Jazz Trio	In-person	12/30/24	7:00 PM	N/A	110
DMS	Linnea Lundberg	Password Management	In-person	12/2/24	2:00 PM	10	12
DMS	Doug McGillivray	3D Design a Fidget Toy in Tinkercad	In-person	12/3/24	5:30 PM	6	5
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Minecraft Club	In-person	12/9/24	4:30 PM	10	9
DMS	Janet Piehl	Metal Stamping	In-person	12/9/24	5:30 PM	6	5
DMS	Sabrina Nizzi	Understanding Apple Cloud Services	In-person	12/10/24	10:00 AM	7	5
DMS	Janet Piehl	Secret Gift Workshop	In-person	12/14/24	1:00 PM	20	17
DMS	Janet Piehl	Secret Gift Workshop	In-person	12/14/24	3:00 PM	20	17
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Let's Design a 3D Print	In-person	12/18/24	5:30 PM	10	3
DMS	Alejandro Barzallo	What is AI? (Virtual)	Virtual	12/20/24	5:00 PM	30	22
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Teen Take & Make: Hot Chocolate Spoons (Take-Home Kit)	In-person	12/6/24	12:00 AM	33	33
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Teen Pizza Study Night	In-person	12/16/24	7:00 PM	N/A	100
YS	Ruth Bell	Building with Bits and Bobs	In-person	12/1/24	2:00 PM	N/A	36
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	12/2/24	9:30 AM	N/A	46
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/3/24	9:30 AM	N/A	51
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/3/24	10:00 AM	N/A	54
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Story Explorers	In-person	12/3/24	4:00 PM	N/A	11
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/4/24	9:30 AM	N/A	58
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/4/24	10:00 AM	N/A	26
YS	Jennifer Lee	STEAM Lab: Snow Storm in a Jar	In-person	12/4/24	4:30 PM	13	15
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	12/5/24	9:15 AM	N/A	23
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	12/5/24	9:45 AM	N/A	43
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Art for Big Feelings	In-person	12/5/24	4:00 PM	14	15
YS	Eti Berland	K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore	In-person	12/5/24	6:00 PM	N/A	12
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	12/6/24	9:30 AM	N/A	61
YS	Eti Berland	Raina Telgemeier Fandom Party	In-person	12/6/24	4:30 PM	19	13
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/7/24	10:00 AM	N/A	25
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Chess Drop-In	In-person	12/8/24	2:30 PM	N/A	
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/10/24	9:30 AM	N/A	53
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/10/24	10:00 AM	N/A	56
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Story Explorers	In-person	12/10/24	4:00 PM	N/A	14
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Classic Snow Globes	In-person	12/10/24	7:00 PM	16	14
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/11/24	9:30 AM	N/A	40
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12/11/24	10:00 AM	N/A	16
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	12/12/24	9:15 AM	N/A	20
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	12/12/24	9:45 AM	N/A	21
YS	Eti Berland	Caldecott Club	In-person	12/12/24	4:00 PM	8	5
YS	Jennifer Lee	Hungry Crafters: Upcycled Gift Wrap	In-person	12/12/24	7:00 PM	12	11

## Decemberr 2024 Program Statistics

YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	12/13/24	9:30 AM	N/A		40
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Lego Club	In-person	12/13/24	4:00 PM		21	16
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Mandarin Storytime	In-person	12/14/24	10:00 AM	N/A		28
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/19/24	9:30 AM	N/A		100
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/20/24	9:30 AM	N/A		100
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/21/24	9:30 AM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/22/24	12:30 PM	N/A		50
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/23/24	9:30 AM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/26/24	9:30 AM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/27/24	9:30 AM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Spanish-English Bilingual Storytime	In-person	12/28/24	2:00 PM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/29/24	12:30 PM	N/A		50
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/30/24	9:30 AM	N/A		75
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	12/3/24	10:30 AM			51
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	12/4/24	10:30 AM			53
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	12/10/24	10:30 AM			55
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	12/11/24	10:30 AM			42
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	12/19/24	9:30 AM	N/A		100



12/01/2024

**Wilmette Public Library District  
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations  
Monthly Statistics For 11/2024**

Material Type	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio
AV equipment	4	26	0	26	26	0	0	6.50
Bag	544	400	272	672	672	0	0	1.24
Blu-ray	1,643	233	167	400	442	42	77	0.24
Blu-ray New	105	111	11	122	128	6	6	1.16
Book	148,346	19,416	18,213	37,629	39,127	1,498	2,255	0.25
Book Hot	879	1,151	4	1,155	1,155	0	0	1.31
Book New	5,455	2,938	1,772	4,710	5,299	589	331	0.86
Boxset	1	17	5	22	22	0	16	22.00
Boxset New	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	0.00
Cassette	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
CD	12,098	527	290	817	1,065	248	118	0.07
CD Audiobook	3,906	177	177	354	384	30	45	0.09
CD Audiobook New	169	75	76	151	161	10	6	0.89
CD New	196	67	28	95	102	7	11	0.48
DVD	12,586	1,895	1,039	2,934	3,191	257	373	0.23
DVD New	233	293	41	334	339	5	14	1.43
eAudiobook	66,513	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eBook	87,089	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eMagazine	5,498	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
ILL Material	0	30	8	38	38	0	0	0.00
Kit	11	9	0	9	9	0	1	0.82
Large Print	5,625	338	299	637	749	112	55	0.11
Large Print New	388	100	61	161	229	68	13	0.41
Magazine	3,621	284	624	908	908	0	1	0.25
Magazine New	183	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.01
Mobile Hotspot	20	26	0	26	26	0	0	1.30
MP3 Audiobook	0	3	3	6	6	0	3	0.00
Multimedia Kit	28	13	2	15	15	0	13	0.54
Newspaper	838	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Online Resource	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other	21	327	2	329	329	0	1	15.67
Other Audiobook	0	1	2	3	3	0	1	0.00
Playaway	2,129	345	333	678	699	21	22	0.32
Playaway Audio New	57	37	26	63	70	7	7	1.11
Record	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Scores / sheet music	0	4	4	8	8	0	4	0.00
Seasonal AV	137	29	2	31	31	0	2	0.23
Seasonal Book	2,359	585	11	596	599	3	3	0.25
Special Collection	156	108	5	113	113	0	11	0.72
VHS	148	0	2	2	2	0	0	0.01
Videogame	1,078	361	326	687	711	24	30	0.64
Videogame New	101	71	5	76	85	9	3	0.75
Totals	362,252	30,000	23,810	53,810	56,746	2,936	3,424	0.15

Item Count is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Charge is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Renewal is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Lender is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY and the Station\_Library not = Item\_Library

Borrower is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owing Library not = Station\_Library

12/01/2024

**Wilmette Public Library District  
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations  
Monthly Statistics For 11/2024**

<b>Collection</b>	<b>Number Of Items</b>	<b>Local Charges</b>	<b>Local Renewals</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total + Lender</b>	<b>CCS ILL Lender</b>	<b>CCS ILL Borrower</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Auto Renewal</b>
Fiction	44,948	5,002	2,960	7,962	8,850	888	807	0.18	2,843
Magazines	3,865	198	409	607	607	0	0	0.16	408
Multimedia	28,546	2,912	1,572	4,484	5,080	596	658	0.16	1,508
Nonfiction	54,562	3,611	3,880	7,491	8,244	753	750	0.14	3,687
Online	151,750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Other	721	895	284	1,179	1,179	0	2	1.64	254
Teen Fiction	2,797	350	457	807	847	40	98	0.29	393
Teen Multimedia	83	18	17	35	39	4	1	0.42	16
Teen Nonfiction	487	33	67	100	105	5	10	0.21	58
Teen Online	2,911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Fiction	42,783	12,890	10,537	23,427	23,879	452	816	0.55	10,198
Youth Magazines	777	87	215	302	302	0	1	0.39	215
Youth Multimedia	6,029	1,324	950	2,274	2,340	66	93	0.38	929
Youth Nonfiction	17,502	2,659	2,462	5,121	5,253	132	187	0.29	2,408
Youth Online	4,455	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Other	35	21	0	21	21	0	1	0.60	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>362,252</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>23,810</b>	<b>53,810</b>	<b>56,746</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>22,917</b>

Item Count is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Charge is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Renewal is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Lender is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY and the Station\_Library not = Item\_Library

Borrower is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owing Library not = Station\_Library

The number of Auto Renewals is included in the numbers found in the Renewals Column

01/01/2025

**Wilmette Public Library District  
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations  
Monthly Statistics For 12/2024**

Material Type	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio
AV equipment	4	10	0	10	10	0	0	2.50
Bag	542	298	283	581	581	0	0	1.07
Blu-ray	1,615	243	215	458	507	49	83	0.28
Blu-ray New	114	120	3	123	134	11	11	1.08
Book	146,278	16,544	19,317	35,861	37,280	1,419	2,196	0.25
Book Hot	841	1,077	5	1,082	1,082	0	0	1.29
Book New	5,264	2,740	1,861	4,601	5,166	565	385	0.87
Boxset	0	17	11	28	28	0	17	0.00
Boxset New	0	1	3	4	4	0	1	0.00
Cassette	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
CD	12,085	429	345	774	1,012	238	76	0.06
CD Audiobook	3,766	170	233	403	430	27	30	0.11
CD Audiobook New	171	66	51	117	131	14	3	0.68
CD New	216	76	34	110	134	24	13	0.51
DVD	12,391	1,971	1,180	3,151	3,386	235	392	0.25
DVD New	250	293	48	341	347	6	20	1.36
eAudiobook	67,812	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eBook	87,621	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eMagazine	5,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
ILL Material	0	36	1	37	37	0	0	0.00
Kit	11	6	2	8	8	0	2	0.73
Large Print	5,609	325	293	618	730	112	39	0.11
Large Print New	413	123	58	181	261	80	14	0.44
Magazine	3,418	328	581	909	909	0	0	0.27
Magazine New	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Mobile Hotspot	20	31	0	31	31	0	0	1.55
MP3 Audiobook	0	1	4	5	5	0	1	0.00
Multimedia Kit	25	1	12	13	13	0	1	0.52
Newspaper	937	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Online Resource	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other	21	303	1	304	304	0	0	14.48
Other Audiobook	0	1	2	3	3	0	1	0.00
Playaway	2,037	306	347	653	664	11	18	0.32
Playaway Audio New	49	20	23	43	48	5	2	0.88
Record	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Scores / sheet music	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0.00
Seasonal AV	137	32	14	46	46	0	8	0.34
Seasonal Book	2,358	607	12	619	620	1	8	0.26
Special Collection	160	83	13	96	96	0	1	0.60
VHS	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Videogame	1,072	322	346	668	694	26	32	0.62
Videogame New	137	72	4	76	82	6	6	0.55
Totals	361,346	26,652	25,304	51,956	54,785	2,829	3,360	0.14

Item Count is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Charge is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Renewal is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Lender is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY and the Station\_Library not = Item\_Library

Borrower is where the Station\_Library = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owing Library not = Station\_Library

01/01/2025

**Wilmette Public Library District  
Activity At WLK Branch Stations  
Monthly Statistics For 12/2024**

Collection	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio	Auto Renewals
Fiction	44,776	5,079	3,103	8,182	9,076	894	787	0.18	2,984
Magazines	3,921	258	438	696	696	0	0	0.18	436
Multimedia	28,403	2,853	1,847	4,700	5,268	568	579	0.17	1,723
Nonfiction	53,787	3,541	3,994	7,535	8,322	787	693	0.14	3,756
Online	153,642	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Other	723	755	285	1,040	1,040	0	0	1.44	265
Teen Fiction	2,606	315	401	716	761	45	75	0.27	374
Teen Multimedia	97	22	15	37	39	2	1	0.38	12
Teen Nonfiction	452	33	54	87	95	8	11	0.19	52
Teen Online	2,909	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Fiction	42,444	10,214	11,213	21,427	21,775	348	723	0.50	10,886
Youth Magazines	615	70	143	213	213	0	0	0.35	139
Youth Multimedia	5,758	1,186	985	2,171	2,253	82	80	0.38	960
Youth Nonfiction	16,723	1,982	2,556	4,538	4,633	95	211	0.27	2,515
Youth Online	4,454	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Other	35	9	2	11	11	0	0	0.31	2
Totals	361,346	26,317	25,036	51,353	54,182	2,829	3,160	0.14	24,104

Item Count is where the Item Owning Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Local Charge is where the Station\_Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Local Renewal is where the Station\_Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Lender is where the Item Owning Branch = YOUR BRANCH and the Station\_Library not = Item\_Library

Borrower is where the Station Branch = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owning Library not = Station\_Library

Auto Renewal numbers are included in the numbers in the Renewal column



Product	Metric Captured	Category	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec-23	FY24-25 YTD	FY 24-25 Avg	FY 23-24 YTD	FY23-24 Total	Cost per Use
AP Stylebook	Page Views	General Reference	6	30	0	0	0	0	4	36	6	60	152	\$ 2.21
Brainfuse	Database Usage	Online Learning	30	27	43	64	108	19	178	291	49	459	659	\$ 14.20
CLCD: Children's Literature	Results	General Reference	0	180	0	81	0	0	0	261	44	360	995	\$ 1.21
Consumer Reports	Page Views	General Reference	1414	1193	1131	1289	1673	985	1150	7685	1281	8368	16507	\$ 0.17
Consumers' Checkbook	Logins	General Reference	3	6	1	7	9	0	0	26	4	12	39	\$ 8.49
CreativeBug	Total Views	Online Learning	83	58	66	14	37	46	74	304	51	301	1125	\$ 0.73
DLIL eBooks	Checkouts	eBooks / AV	7988	8586	9630	9841	9451	9965	9571	55461	9244	51924	110816	\$ 2.32
DLIL audiobooks	Checkouts	eBooks / AV	6412	6335	6301	6551	6329	6385	5751	38313	6386	32926	69106	\$ -
DLIL magazines	Checkouts	Periodicals	2113	1874	2388	2371	2777	2649	2817	14172	2362	10191	25552	\$ 0.03
EBSCO Database Package	Total Requests	General Reference	10	56	44	35	149	117	12	411	69	124	378	\$ -
Encyclopedia Britannica	Documents + Media	General Reference	42	24	51	64	65	80	177	326	54	437	1847	\$ 0.32
Explore More Illinois	Uses	General Reference	4	13	0	0	9	4	0	30	5	30	53	\$ -
Facts on File (Infobase)	Total Views	General Reference	5	16	13	26	24	25	21	109	18	57	346	\$ 9.17
Find My Past	Total Views	Genealogy	14	32	132	68	116	41	44	403	67	208	869	\$ 0.94
FirstSearch (OCLC)	Total Searches	General Reference	100	104	164	170	159	56	67	753	126	1914	3189	\$ -
Gale Courses	Course Logins	Online Learning	1	2	7	10	17	20	2	57	10	60	117	\$ 48.80
Gale Business Insights	Searches	Business / Finance	0	0	0	2	24	0	0	26	4	3	60	\$ 65.77
Gale Business: Demographics Now	Retrievals	Business / Finance	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	8	13	\$ -
Gale Business: Entrepreneurship	Searches	Business / Finance	6	0	0	4	0	14	4	24	4	19	34	\$ 139.97
Gale Business: Plan Builder	Searches	Business / Finance	44	0	0	15	0	21	0	80	13	18	106	\$ 11.72
Gale Directory Library	Searches	General Reference	15	0	1	0	7	2	0	25	4	9	37	\$ 71.07
Gale eBooks	Retrievals	General Reference	14	1	16	6	13	0	21	50	8	39	126	\$ 27.50
Gale General One File	Searches	General Reference	1	10	59	25	34	38	29	167	28	127	350	\$ 29.67
Gale Peterson's Career & Test Prep	Sessions	Online Learning	13	13	0	0	7	5	5	38	6	0	0	\$ -
Gale UDemj	Lectures Completed	Online Learning	73	71	118	70	79	118	99	529	88	720	1641	\$ 3.80
Hoopla	Circulations	eBooks / AV	1553	1645	1538	1548	1567	1590	1424	9441	1574	8785	18269	\$ 1.10
Kanopy	Plays	eBooks / AV	1097	951	1019	887	907	1214	922	6075	1013	5293	10731	\$ 0.52
LexisNexis (NexisUni)	Documents Accessed	Periodicals	114	65	7	94	92	6	102	378	63	692	1423	\$ 4.51
LinkedIn Learning	Total Videos Viewed	Online Learning	164	70	182	235	202	68	88	921	154	752	2176	\$ 2.99
Local History Digital Collection	Page Views	Genealogy	3560	1456	2648	6514	3042	6147	2506	23367	3895	37137	62852	\$ 0.07
Mango Languages	Total Sessions	Online Learning	87	150	178	140	98	73	61	726	121	498	871	\$ 3.11
Mergent Archives	Pages Viewed	Business / Finance	3	3	0	9	3	0	6	18	3	22	57	\$ 22.21
Mergent Intellect	Pages Viewed	Business / Finance	40	33	134	62	35	35	39	339	57	387	736	\$ 12.83
Morningstar	Record Views	Business / Finance	91	298	126	37	84	54	272	690	115	1295	2542	\$ 4.10
Newsbank Chicago Community Collection	Full Text Views	Periodicals	35	28	6	70	29	30	5	198	33	102	311	\$ 13.06
Newsbank Heritage Hub	Full Text Views	Genealogy	28	25	101	18	31	2	0	205	34	61	246	\$ 4.85
Newspaper Archive	Total Page Views	Periodicals	118	38	66	99	102	99	8	522	87	209	836	\$ 4.20
New York Times Digital Edition	Usage Sessions	Periodicals	1678	1549	1630	1824	1503	1596	576	9780	1630	4638	10046	\$ 0.16
Niche Academy	Total Views	Online Learning	22	40	22	23	23	35	23	165	28	186	393	\$ 4.54
Novelist	Total Requests	General Reference	58	158	289	175	270	279	294	1229	205	864	1848	\$ 0.47
Oxford English Dictionary	Total Item Investigations	General Reference	41	14	6	47	35		56	143	24	194	382	\$ 5.16
Pebblego and Pebble Go Next	Article Views	General Reference	55	0	1	1794	208	74	0	2132	355	10	387	\$ 0.80
PressReader	Issues Opened	Periodicals	645	611	492	586	558	701	614	3593	599	5774	10711	\$ 0.63
ProQuest: Ancestry Library Edition	Total Documents	Genealogy	244	1075	412	253	411	365	146	2760	460	5671	7566	\$ 0.39
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune	Total Documents	Periodicals	135	204	228	249	227	69	355	1112	185	2058	2824	\$ 3.17
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune Historical	Total Documents	Periodicals	134	116	300	338	345	197	244	1430	238	1343	3023	\$ 1.44
ProQuest: CultureGrams	Total Pages Viewed	General Reference	23	30	5	0	68	18	6	144	24	54	2209	\$ 0.62
ProQuest: Fold3	Total Documents	Genealogy	19	172	9	0	45	38	1	283	47	135	537	\$ 1.85
ProQuest: Heritage Quest	Total Documents	Genealogy	37	11	5	14	12	5	27	84	14	137	2252	\$ 0.34
ProQuest: Newspapers.com	Total Documents	Periodicals	122	105	244	118	65	186	41	840	140	1145	1888	\$ 4.10
ProQuest: New York Times	Total Documents	Periodicals	615	605	80	121	108	62	102	1591	265	470	753	\$ 2.87
ProQuest: New York Times Historical	Total Documents	Periodicals	13	18	16	119	22	14	13	202	34	158	318	\$ 11.67
ProQuest: Research Library	Total Documents	Periodicals	57	87	55	116	137	161	110	613	102	682	1315	\$ 4.40
ProQuest: Wall Street Journal	Total Documents	Periodicals	639	650	703	734	725	919	787	4370	728	3635	6090	\$ 0.15

Record Information Service (Public Record)	Total Visitors	General Reference	169	161	163	168	159	144	159	964	161	1162	2169	\$ 0.29
Reference Solutions (Reference USA)	Total Searches	Business / Finance	38	25	133	105	123	55	66	479	80	379	859	\$ 8.82
Scholastic Teachables	Documents	General Reference	381	105	16	55	152	289	21	998	166	413	1065	\$ 0.58
S&P Net Advantage	Total Usage	Business / Finance	207	200	130	195	95	91	142	918	153	1462	2935	\$ 5.17
Statista	Result Clicks	Business / Finance	21	221	106	11	23	11	15	393	66	96	222	\$ 13.10
Tumblebooks	Book Views	eBooks / AV	8	19	20	9	30	37	16	123	21	295	565	\$ 1.63
Value Line	Logins	Business / Finance	480	456	497	477	506	546	558	2962	494	3008	6234	\$ 0.55
Weiss Ratings	Page Views	Business / Finance	13	4	4	4	4	4	6	33	6	186	237	\$ 33.27
World Book	Content Views	General Reference	34	8	13	77	17	45	5	194	32	69	460	\$ 3.64
											0	0		
OTHER														
App	Sessions	Library Technology	1545	1286	1382	1410	1575	1370	1350	8568	1714	7178		
Website	Sessions	Library Technology	17343	16826	16051	17564	17358	16812	15246	101954	20391	85201		
Scan EZ Scan Station	Pages Scanned	Library Technology	2058	2684	3399	2500	3715	3940	2422	18296	3659	10320		
Patron Computer Use	Sessions	Library Technology	1526	1652	1550	1519	1421	1304	1028	8972	1794	3182		

Category and Product	Metric Captured	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
<b>General Reference</b>								
AP Stylebook	Page Views	6	30	0	0	0	0	36
CLCD: Children's Literature	Results	0	180	0	81	0	0	261
Consumer Reports	Page Views	1414	1193	1131	1289	1673	985	7685
Consumers' Checkbook	Logins	3	6	1	7	9	0	26
EBSCO Database Package	Total Requests	10	56	44	35	149	117	411
Encyclopedia Britannica	Documents + Media	42	24	51	64	65	80	326
Explore More Illinois	Uses	4	13	0	0	9	4	30
Facts on File (Infobase)	Total Views	5	16	13	26	24	25	109
FirstSearch (OCLC)	Total Searches	100	104	164	170	159	56	753
Gale Directory Library	Retrievals	15	0	1	0	7	2	25
Gale eBooks	Retrievals	14	1	16	6	13	0	50
Gale General One File	Retrievals	1	10	59	25	34	38	167
Novelist	Total Requests	58	158	289	175	270	279	1229
Oxford English Dictionary	Total Item Investigations	41	14	6	47	35	0	143
Pebblego and Pebble Go Next	Article Views	55	0	1	1794	208	74	2132
ProQuest: CultureGrams	Total Pages Viewed	23	30	5	0	68	18	144
Public Records / Check Illinois	Total Visitors	169	161	163	168	159	144	964
Scholastic Teachables	Documents	381	105	16	55	152	289	998
World Book	Content Views	34	8	13	77	17	45	194
<b>Periodicals</b>								
DLIL magazines	Checkouts	2113	1874	2388	2371	2777	2649	14172
LexisNexis - NexisUni	Retrievals	114	65	7	94	92	6	378
Newsbank Chicago Community Collection	Full Text Views	35	28	6	70	29	30	198
Newspaper Archive	Total Page Views	118	38	66	99	102	99	522
New York Times Digital Edition	Usage Sessions	1678	1549	1630	1824	1503	1596	9780
PressReader	Issues Opened	645	611	492	586	558	701	3593
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune	Total Documents	135	204	443	249	227	69	1327
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune Historical	Total Documents	134	116	519	338	345	197	1649
ProQuest: Newspapers.com	Total Documents	122	105	481	118	65	186	1077
ProQuest: New York Times	Total Documents	615	605	53	121	108	62	1564
ProQuest: New York Times Historical	Total Documents	13	18	20	119	22	14	206
ProQuest: Research Library	Total Documents	57	87	84	116	137	161	642
ProQuest: Wall Street Journal	Total Documents	639	650	524	734	725	919	4191
<b>Genealogy</b>								





<b>OTHER</b>								
App	Sessions	1545	1286	1382	1410	1575	1370	8568
Website	Sessions	17343	16826	16051	17564	17358	16812	101954
Scan EZ Scan Station	Pages Scanned	2058	2684	3399	2500	3715	3940	18296
Patron Computer Use	Sessions	1526	1652	1550	1519	1421	1304	8972