

Wilmette Public Library Director’s Report – June 21, 2022

Library Activities for May-June 2022

Anthony Auston, Director

Strategic Plan Progress Updates

The Board and Leadership Team met for a Strategic Planning Retreat on Thursday, March 10, 2022 to officially kick off the next phase of the Library’s strategic planning. From late April through May 6, the Library conducted a community survey collecting feedback, which is currently being compiled and reviewed to help inform the next Strategic Plan. In the coming weeks, staff, trustees, and our community will continue to review past performance and evaluate future opportunities. We’ll reflect on emerging trends, conduct environmental scanning, meet together to learn about our operations and aspirations, and develop tools, questionnaires, and opportunities for community engagement and listening sessions. Stay tuned for more updates about this exciting process to build upon our legacy as we imagine our Wilmette Public Library of the future. Our current Strategic Plan (<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/about>) continues to guide us through fiscal year 2021-2022.

Objective 1.1: Beginning October 2018, expand provision of library materials and programs outside of the established library facility.

Librarian Alice Joseph promoted Summer Reading Club at the schools below. She talked to 1808 students about the program and distributed reading logs for every student. In total, Alice distributed 3,850 reading logs in Avoca District 37 and Wilmette District 39 schools including schools that did not schedule a presentation.

Date	School Presentation	# of students in attendance
May 24	St Francis Xavier School	112
May 26	Marie Murphy School	98
June 6	Central School	435
June 6	McKenzie School	190
June 7	Romona School	551
June 8	Harper School	422

May was also a busy month for preschool outreach! Outreach Librarian Ruth Bell made 11 deliveries of picture books and STEM activity kits and 16 visits presenting storytime and STEM activities to 215 children and teachers.

The picture book featured in May and June in Hibbard Park StoryWalk is *The Rescuer of Tiny Creatures* by Curtis Manley.

Objective 1.2: By February 2019, establish a committee to explore new outreach opportunities and deepen existing partnerships.

On May 5, John Amundsen joined up with the Skokie, Glenview, and Evanston public libraries to host “Help Grow Your Business with Alternative Funding,” a virtual program presented by the Chinese Mutual Aid Society’s Small Business Development Center. Attendees learned about funding sources beyond traditional banks for loans ranging from several hundred to millions of dollars.

On May 14, Krista Hutley hosted the first meeting of a STEM-focused club with New Trier High School student Elif O., who approached Krista about creating a club for girls in grades 6-8 through the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) national youth program, called SWENext. Elif ran the meeting with three students in attendance and her SWE sponsor, an engineer at Northwestern.

On May 19, Krista Hutley partnered with five other libraries to host an author visit with Hannah Templer and Vincent Kao, who write and draw comics for young adults. We had 25 people register for the program and have made the [recording](#) available on our YouTube channel.

Objective 1.3: By April 2020, host public forums for residents to explore and discuss community-wide issues or topics.

On May 11, with sponsorship from the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library, the Library hosted journalist and writer Alex Kotlowitz and Dawn Turner, the Library’s One Book, Everyone Reads author who wrote this year’s selection, *Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Story of Race, Sisterhood and Fate*. The author visit and Q&A were hosted on Zoom and it was well-attended. The Library partnered with the Book Stall, a local independent bookstore in Winnetka, who sold copies of Ms. Turner's book with signed bookplates.

Objective 1.4: Explore ways to connect local government, non-profits, businesses, and individuals with relevant community resources.

In May, Business Librarian John Amundsen worked with Adult Services Manager Jillian McKeown and Communications & Events Manager Sarah Beth Brown to finalize welcome packets for businesses moving or starting in the district. Using the monthly lists shared with the library from the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, the first batch of 20 packets were mailed out to new businesses on June 7.

On May 14, EvaAnne Johnson partnered with the North Suburban Genealogical Society to present a virtual genealogy program about researching your migrating ancestors. The speaker, Tina Beard, is well known in the local genealogy community, and there was a lot of interest in

her program, drawing over 55 attendees. Our strong relationship with the North Suburban Genealogical Society allows us to connect with the broader genealogy community, brings additional attendees to some of our programs, and raises awareness to the local genealogy community of the genealogy resources available at Wilmette Library. Eva will be partnering with the North Suburban Genealogical Society for another program in July.

Objective 2.1: By July 2018, create a “Library of Things” that circulates non-traditional library items.

On Tuesday, May 24, Adult Services Manager Jillian McKeown and Digital Services Assistant Manager Linnea Lundberg hosted an event with local author Adam Selzer called, “Ghosts of Northern Chicago” in which Mr. Selzer took the Zoom audience on a virtual tour of Sheridan Road north from Evanston. We had nearly 183 participants in attendance, the group was enthusiastic and highly engaged in the Q&A portion of the program. The [recording](#) is available on our YouTube channel. The program was also an opportunity to promote our recent launch of the Library of Things Ghost Hunting Kit.

Objective 3.3: Beginning April 2019, develop intergenerational opportunities for youth and adults to work together on a shared goal.

On May 3, Ruth Bell demonstrated metal stamping and button making to 17 children and parents for a church group field trip to the library.

The Library hosted 17 Maker Appointments in May, which were attended by 32 children, teens, and adults. Here are a few examples of projects patrons are working on:

- A student designed a project to be 3D printed for Romona’s 4th Grade Innovation Fair.
- Our most frequent patron finished making her Warrior Cat plushie and is now sewing an axolotl plushie for her sister.
- Two patrons worked on projects for end-of-the-year school celebrations. One made a photo print-and-cut magnet for her son’s preschool. Another made a photobooth prop, with lettering made on the vinyl cutter, for 5th grade graduation.
- A patron made buttons as favors for a wedding shower.

Objective 3.4: By August 2019, develop a comprehensive plan to integrate diversity into library programming, services, and staff.

Local language teacher Ling Liu presented Mandarin-English Bilingual Storytime on Saturday, May 14, to 3 attendees who enjoyed stories, songs, and fun in Mandarin and English.

In May, we also wrapped up our five-week virtual program series Chinese for Families where attendees learned words and phrases in Chinese and learned about Chinese culture.

In our three Math Adventures programs in April and May our presenter Amy Alznauer, the author of *The Boy Who Dreamed of Infinity*, told the story of Ramanujan, the influential math genius from India.

Objective 4.3: Beginning October 2019, implement emerging technologies and provide curated digital resources to improve the user experience.

In May, John Amundsen and Jillian McKeown researched and selected four new business research databases, including Gale Business: Plan Builder, Gale DemographicsNow, Udemy for Business, and Statista. John has developed a promotional flyer highlighting the new resources to be distributed in the business area as well as at Chamber meetings and in mailings to new businesses, and will be offering in-person and virtual demonstrations of these exciting new resources.

Digital Services Assistant Manager Linnea Lundberg worked on several projects that support this goal, including:

- Refining and optimizing the streaming experience for the Wilmette Public Library's board meetings on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WilmetteLibrary/videos>
- Linnea also partnered with Communications & Events Manager Sarah Beth Brown to update and streamline the Technology Classes section of the website so that it now has a list of classes, links to register, links to handouts, and also a form that patrons can fill out to give us feedback and suggest classes that they would like us to cover in the future: <https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/technology-classes>

Objective 4.4: By December 2019, equip staff with professional development tools and leadership opportunities, and support individual paths for career growth

Librarian Suzanne Arist's two year tenure year on the Illinois Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee is drawing to a close. Suzanne served as co-chair this past year, during which time the committee hosted such programs as: ILA Noon Network webinars, an interview with Civil Rights Icon Timuel Black, an interview with Nadine Strosser former head of the ACLU, an interview with Jayne Walters (the first openly trans librarian discussing spine labels with LGBTQ+ information), and a webinar on Fake News. We're grateful for Suzanne's support to ILA and representation of WPL.

Objective 5.2: Beginning November 2018, improve internal library communications and interactions across the organization.

Digital Services Assistant Manager Linnea Lundberg utilized the work management tool Monday.com to create a digital workspace for the Digital Services department to increase communication and collaboration within a small team whose schedule doesn't often overlap.

Linnea also partnered with IT Assistant Christine Hightower to cross-train 19 staff members across multiple departments on how to troubleshoot and utilize all the technology available in our programs room, including the auditorium, small meeting room, and youth program room.

Finally, Linnea cross-trained 14 staff members on the ins and outs of the Digital Services help desk, so we can ensure better coverage for the service point, as well as more consistent and excellent service for our community.

Welcome Desk

Welcome Desk staff greeted 5,376 patrons in May. We answered over 1,500 general calls to the library, routing the majority to Adult Services and Circulation.

Study Rooms officially re-opened in April, and the service remains a popular point of contact with staff. In May, 97 Wilmette Library cards were used to reserve the 4 study rooms on the second floor. We expanded access to these rooms to all library cardholders this month in order to better manage space usage around the building and to accommodate our community outside of the Wilmette borders, including all New Trier High School students.

To help promote sustainability, the Library hosted a “Bike to the Library Day” on Friday, May 20, where patrons could tell the Welcome Desk that they commuted to the library via a non-vehicle mode of transportation in order to obtain a prize.

Collections

Beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, Technical Services will launch a new feature to manage the acquisition of new library materials in our Polaris integrated library system catalog. The Acquisitions Module project is currently the most significant project in the department and is being spearheaded by Matt Womack. Staff made a lot of progress toward their goals in May, learning about the setup requirements and procedures. Staff is finalizing the details for a couple of supplier accounts and will enter the fund account information after the budget is approved in June. We have one more overview session with a peer CCS library (Grayslake). After that, staff will start practicing with some test orders in mid-June, giving us about 3 weeks to tinker with (and document) the process. We will also review the impact of the new Acquisitions workflow on our cataloging work.

Digital

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

Collection	March	April	May
eAudiobooks	1480	2839	4843

eBooks	1450	2291	2646
eMagazines	52	60	26
Hoopla items	950	927	945
Monthly total:	3932	6117	8460

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

Collection	March	April	May
Hoopla	296	517	1019

Year-to-date digital resource statistics are appended to this report.

Physical

To better meet the needs of users, staff relocated some collections this month. The New Large Type books have been relocated back to the Recent Arrivals area with our other new materials; they had been temporarily placed with the general Large Type collection to accommodate the increased volume of hold materials during the emergency phase of the pandemic response. Librarians have been curating special business and genealogy collections in the Reference area, which now include a number of periodicals that were recently relocated from the second floor Periodicals Room.

The new signs for the Media Room are now in place. The room is in much better shape. We are still getting many returned Television shows that need to be relabeled, but they are narrowing down. We expect delivery of the remaining display shelves and bookends for this area soon.

This month, shelving staff have been straightening and shelf reading the books on the lower level. They completed the non-fiction collections from the 000s through the 800s. While doing this routine but essential task of maintaining the order and presentation of the collections, staff also has an opportunity to clean up the shelves. They sometimes remove or replace old tape when it obstructs reading the labels, and check for books with damage. Staff may identify items in bad shape, which are then further evaluated by librarians. Some books may be reordered or replaced, sometimes in a new format, while others may simply be withdrawn due to condition, currency, duplication, obsolescence, or other factors. Regular maintenance helps to better organize and present the collections, supports promotion of resources, and helps to maintain the overall appearance of the building.

We have a new system for managing withdrawn materials, and we're pretty excited about. Last year, when we were discussing the implementation of the Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system, we asked our vendor if that same RFID system (which was designed to read

tags) could also be programmed to deactivate the same tags - a concept that was already in practice with our new staff RFID pads in the Technical Services and Circulation departments. The vendor was intrigued by our idea and took the suggestion back to their developers. After months of trial and error, “weed mode” (as we call it) works! Now, instead of staff bringing carts of culled items up to Technical Services for manual deactivation, collection librarians will bring the carts directly to Shelving for special processing using the AMH. These carts have special signs and procedures, so there is no confusion as to what needs to happen with them. Once staff finishes processing them through the AMH, we put a different sign on them and bring them up to TS for the final steps of de-processing. In the short time that this has been in place, we have already run multiple carts of weeded materials through the machine, with the promise of further saving a lot of manual effort and time.

Technical Services Statistics

Full summary of materials added in the past three months:

Collection	March	April	May
Adult Fiction	578	543	558
Adult Non-fiction	542	648	462
Teen Fiction	45	39	38
Teen Non-fiction	12	6	3
Youth Fiction	605	518	578
Youth Non-fiction	123	87	134
Adult Magazines	417	615	496
Youth Magazines	34	52	34
Adult Multimedia	209	162	234
Youth Multimedia	59	37	101
Other	38	60	41
Monthly total:	2662	2767	2679

Full summary of items withdrawn in the past three months:

Collection	March	April	May
Adult Fiction	674	751	1305
Adult Non-fiction	193	297	578
Teen Fiction	212	5	2
Teen Non-fiction	0	0	22
Youth Fiction	684	290	606
Youth Non-fiction	21	9	29

Adult Magazines	320	560	571
Youth Magazines	3	2	1
Adult Multimedia	651	773	1725
Youth Multimedia	85	31	8
Other	2	2	3
Monthly total:	2845	2720	4850

Technical Services staff sent 31 boxes of withdrawn books to Better World Books.

Circulation

During the first week of May, the Circulation department participated in the RAILS fine count. As per the Illinois State Library (ISL), each fiscal year, library staff will submit delivery volume counts as requested by the library systems. WPL submitted 55 bins holding 1904 items, averaging 35 items per bin. The final numbers were recently released for the fine count, and Wilmette had the second highest items sent out in our delivery hub (Wheeling), with Palatine sending out 2471 items.

Mark Cegielski worked with CCS to start the process for our National Change of Address (NCOA) patron verification. This process allows the library to verify that a patron still resides within the library district and is eligible for a card. Cardholders that have moved out of district have notes placed on their account that they might have moved out of district, prompting verification. This process starts with nearly 14,500 cardholders and ultimately only affects a several accounts. The remaining patrons' cards are valid until they move from their current verified address. This process has automated our prior manual method of address verification every three years.

Jessica Thomson, Louise Neidorf, and Kim Hegelund discussed our current lending practices of new materials with our peer consortium libraries. We meet the required updates to the CCS Sharing Policy and we are assessing how this change may affect the picklist and holds queue. The new CCS policy will be a good resource to patrons who are waiting in line for materials as the materials will arrive sooner than before since all 28 libraries are adopting this change, where previously each library was able to set their own procedures in sharing.

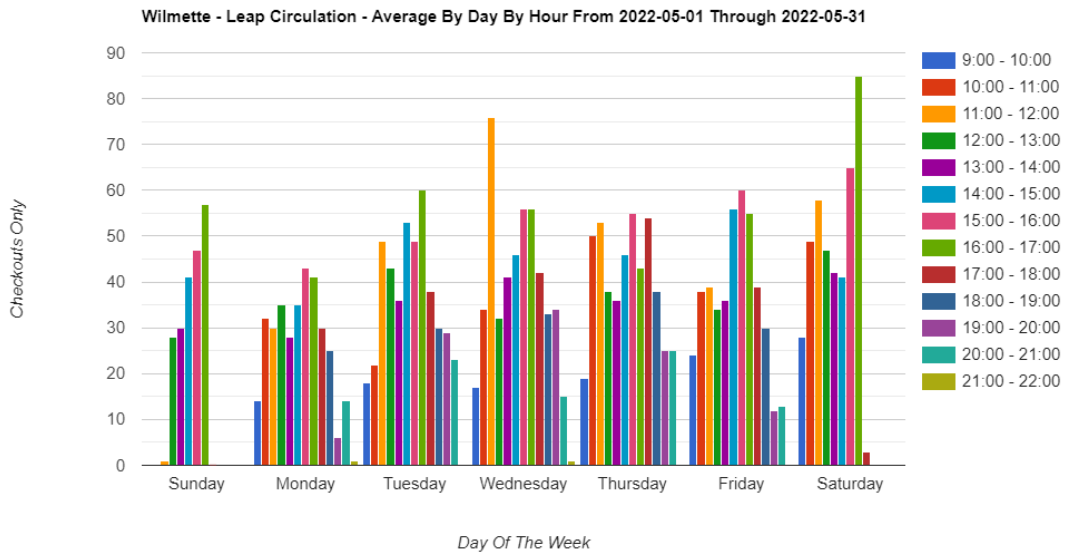
Circulation Statistics of Note

Parking Lot Pickup May saw 68 appointments, with 38 repeat patrons. While the numbers have been decreasing, the patrons utilizing the service have told us it is very helpful to them.

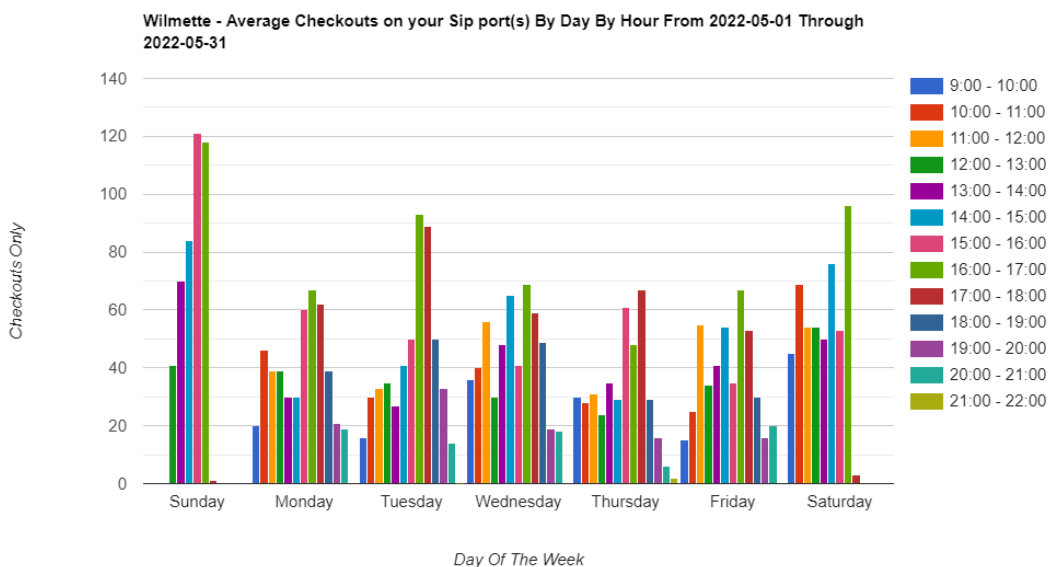
Circulation	2022	2021	2020	2019
May	51,235	54,781	87	59,032
April	53,537	52,875	28	59,323

March	55,073	52,239	29,435	62,305
February	49,767	32,640	57,932	56,946
January	53,798	31,822	61,130	60,403
Total YTD	263,410	224,357	148,612	298,009

The below bar graph depicts the average circulation over the course of the month by hour.

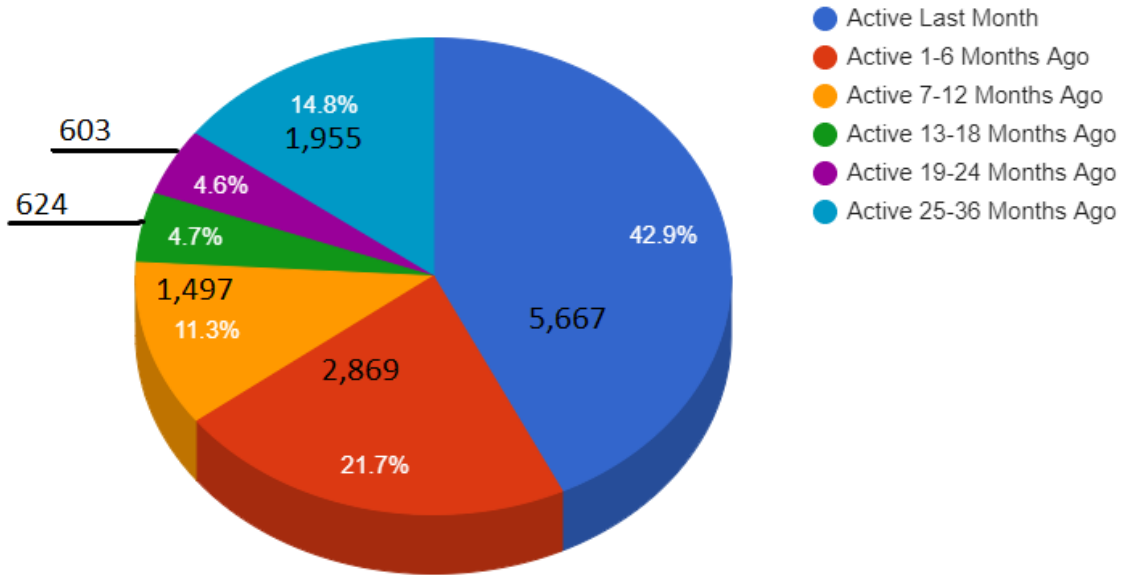


The next graph shows the average checkouts over the course of the month at our checkout stations.



The pie chart below gives a picture of how many patrons have utilized the library by accessing physical materials over a period of months. Of the 13,215 library cards that have been active in the last three years, 10,033 were used for physical materials from May 2021 to May 2022, which is 75.9% of our Wilmette card holders. We added 130 new cardholders in May.

Wilmette - Patrons By Last Activity Date As Of End-Of-Day Last Month



Year-to-date circulation statistics are appended to this report.

Summer Reading Club 2022



Get off the beaten path this summer and explore new worlds with our Summer Reading Clubs! Our reading clubs for all ages are a great way to expand your reading, connect with the library community, and make sharing books part of your routine. Adults, teens, and children of all ages can [join a Summer Reading Club](#) running through August 31.



Summer Reading Clubs are open to all! Reading Clubs are generously funded by the [Friends of the Wilmette Public Library](#).

Adult Summer Reading

Complete four suggested activities by August 31 to receive a free book. Your activities can be in any combination: read four books, attend four programs, or any combination that meets your interests! When you've completed your four activities, fill out and submit an activity log to receive a free book.

Teen Summer Reading

Teens entering grade 8 and up can complete the whole program online (Path A) and get a digital gift card to The Book Stall, or pick up a log at the library and do a combination of reading and attending library programs to get a free book (Paths B & C.) We have an amazing selection of new hardcover YA books published in 2022 as prizes.

Youth Summer Reading

Children of all ages can log their daily reading or complete literacy-boosting activities to earn free books. Pick up a reading log in Youth Services or download one [here](#). Read for as many minutes as you like, and all kinds of reading count: books, ebooks, comics, magazines, audiobooks... even books read to you by a grownup!

Youth Services

Summer Reading Club began June 1 and Youth Services spread the word in presentations at area schools. Librarian Alice Joseph visited six schools where she presented to 1,808 students. She also distributed 3,850 reading logs to Avoca District 37 and Wilmette District 39 schools including schools that did not schedule a presentation. Children of all ages can log their daily reading or complete literacy-boosting activities to earn free books. Kids who didn't receive reading log at school can pick them up in Youth Services or download one from our website. <https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/summer-reading-club>



Youth Services Programs

In May, Youth Services presented 39 programs which were attended by 824 people. May weather allowed the return of outdoor programs on the Library Lawn.

Early Childhood Programs

Youth Services presented 29 storytime programs which were attended by 460 children and caregivers. Weekly programs included Babytime, Family Storytime, and Big Kid Storytime, which were presented outside in good weather and indoors in the Auditorium in inclement weather. We also offered an evening virtual Pajama Storytime and Mandarin Storytime in the Auditorium.

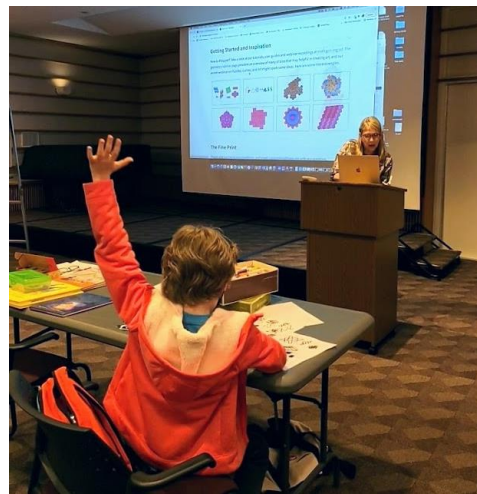
School Age Programs

Youth Services presented 10 programs for school age children in May, which were attended by 135 patrons:

5/2	Math Adventures with Amy Alznauer	14
5/3	May Flowers	5
5/3	Chinese for Families	6
5/4	Family Maker Project: Terrariums	19
5/5	K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore	22
5/10	Chinese for Families	4
5/12	2nd and 3rd Grade Book Discussion	14
5/18	Light-Up Flower	10
5/18	Graphic Novel Book Club	1
5/24	Bike Parade in Vattmann Park	40



Decorating for the Bike Parade in Vattmann Park



Math adventures with Amy Alznauer

Book Displays

In May, Youth Services curated displays of books to highlight springtime in the picture book area and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the Junior High Room and the second floor hallway display.

Special Projects

In May, patrons stopping at the Maker Garden arranged silk flowers in pots. The Maker Garden at the entrance to the Library is updated monthly with nature-based materials to explore. The Maker Garden was established in fall 2021 to offer a way for patrons of all ages to experiment with open-ended play. For young children, play with “loose parts” builds pre-literacy skills as it promotes creativity and cognitive development as they use critical thinking skills, problem solving abilities, and abstract thinking. Play with nature-based play materials is also known to be a source of stress relief! To explore more about the value of play with “loose parts” visit: <https://blog.teaching.com.au/loose-parts-in-the-learning-environment>



In honor of Pride Month in June, librarian Sheri Reda wrote a blog post to share books and community resources to learn about and support LGBTQ youth, teens, and adults.

<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/posts/pride-resources-all-year>

Communications and Events Programs

Virtual Programs:

- 5/5: The Great Migration and the Great War with Clarence Goodman; 36 patrons
- 5/9: Adult Take & Make: Nail Art kit and video tutorial; 40 kits taken and 27 video views
- 5/10: At Home Film Discussion: 1985; 8 patrons

- 5/17: Sakura Tales with Anne Shimojima; 24 patrons
- 5/23: Armchair Travels Presents: Great British Baking Tour; 21 patrons on Zoom

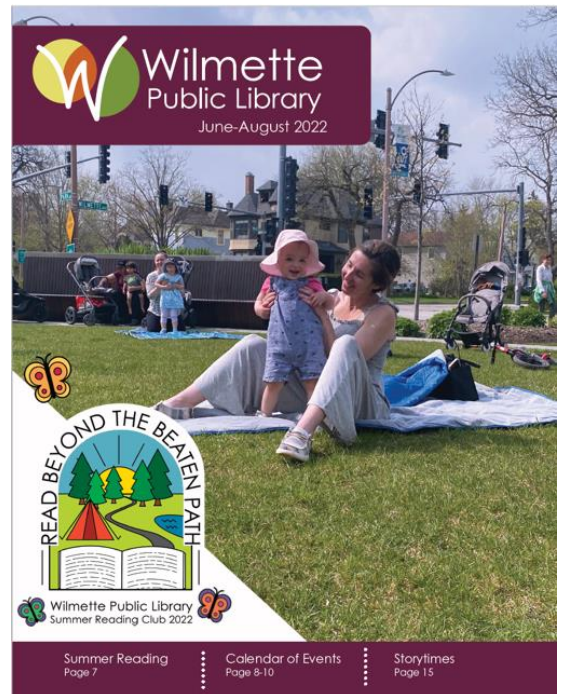
On-Site Programs:

- 5/5: Armchair Travels: Footloose in Wales with John Lynn; 16 patrons
- 5/12: All Season Gardening with Native Plants with Monica Buckley; 21 patrons
- 5/19: International Film Screening: God of the Piano; 6 patrons
- 5/19: Armchair Travels: Cultural Diversity with Jeanne Roppolo ; 13 patrons
- 5/20: John Erickson Jazz Trio Concert; 33 patrons

As our May program numbers reflect, we are back to full programming, both in numbers of programs and patron attendance. The combination of in-person and Zoom programs have been very successful, as we have developed devoted followings for each presentation style. In addition to the above programs, Communications & Events staff assisted with the One Book, Everyone Reads signature author event on May 11, featuring Dawn Turner and Alex Kotlowitz. We also featured authors Jessamine Chan and Emily Maloney on May 25 via our partnership with Illinois Libraries Present, a fruitful partnership over the past 5 months. Our May 18 ILP program with *Crying in H-Mart* author Michelle Zauner was postponed due to the author’s appearance on Saturday Night Live with her band Japanese Breakfast. It was fun news to share with the community that they could watch our featured author on SNL, and we look forward to Zauner joining the ILP programming community in late June for her rescheduled talk.

May Communications

Our Summer newsletter was delivered to homes in late May, providing information about programs for June, July, and August, as well as information about summer reading clubs for all ages. This was our second three-month issue since moving to our new newsletter schedule, which works well both for programming purposes and for how best to present information to patrons. A major change for this issue was moving to a new printer and mail house. After several years with our previous printer, we were ready to evaluate new proposals and decided on a print shop, Vogue Printers in Waukegan, that also prints newsletters for a number of area libraries and park districts. We were looking for improved print quality and communications, and have been very happy so far. The newsletter was mailed ahead of schedule and printed beautifully on slightly higher-weight paper, giving it a nice heft and excellent photo quality.



Along with putting together the 16-page newsletter, we had a large number of promotions going on in May:

- We worked with Adult Services for a final One Book promotional push, including an ad that we ran on Facebook.
- We produced a large amount of content in support of Summer Reading Clubs in anticipation of the June launch, including reading logs, web pages, banners, and more. We also, as we have done in years past, designed a custom WPL SRC shirt and provided it to all staff.
- We wrapped up our Community Survey the first week of May, gathering information about community needs to inform our upcoming strategic plan. A summary of that survey is included in this month's board packet. Sarah Beth worked with Leah and Anthony to identify trends in the survey and ways that we can respond, both with immediate action and in our long-range plans. A number of ideas came up that can be addressed with marketing and publicity, and we look forward to working with our public service departments in the coming months to better highlight initiatives that we already do, but which may benefit from additional or tweaked publicity.

In addition to these projects, Sarah Rose worked on a number of promotional items including updated directional signage and a banner that library staff carried in the Wilmette Memorial Day march, and which can be used for future community events.



Wilmette Library trustees, staff, and family participated in the May 30 Memorial Day March

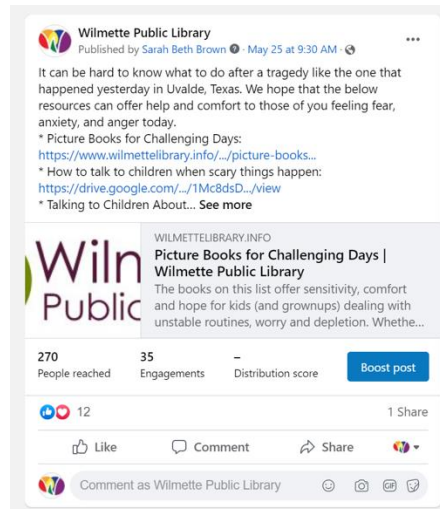
Email and Social Media

Email newsletter statistics from May:

- 81,089 sends
- 1,086 clicks (The most clicks went to registration for storytime information, a May 9 nail art program, and the registration page for our ILP event with Michelle Zauner)

We have been experimenting with more informational posts on our social media and fewer posts that have been tied to date-specific events. We want patrons who visit our page to be able to see a highlight reel of library activities rather than a list of events they can no longer attend. The current Facebook algorithm de-emphasizes event listings that are not hosted on the Facebook platform, so we are looking to maximize our impact on the platform and use the tool to our best advantage. For us now, our focus is on evergreen content like the posts below, and images that highlight our staff and programs and create strong community connections.

Highlights from our Social Media in May:



Technology

As part of our annual technology recycling and sustainability efforts, staff collected retired library equipment. CVI then picked up our discards and handled the recycling.

Fred Wallace and Christine Hightower completed a range of troubleshooting and system improvements for both the staff and public in April. Projects this month included: researching equipment updates and replacements, workstation and peripheral troubleshooting, relocation, configuration, installation, and network optimization. Throughout the month, Fred and Christine assisted staff with equipment installation and training, reconfiguring/relocating

workstations, coordination with CVI on resolution of open tickets, routine maintenance, equipment cleaning, and other updates.

Christine researched and purchased Jamf Now and Threat Defense for managing the staff and patron iPads. The new management software will ensure the security, management, and up-time of these devices.

Facilities

After a rainy start to the season, we were finally able to complete the planned replacement of the turf on the west and south sides of the building. Coordinated efforts allowed us to finish this project before our story times on the lawn began. Our native gardens have come back in full bloom, and are alive with pollinator activity from birds and insects. Chalet is preparing recommendations for areas that may not be thriving due to their current environment. The butterfly garden soil may be too shallow for current species to thrive. Wild grasses along the west public sidewalks are being evaluated to determine if they need replacement or if we should plant new native grasses that are more tolerant of the salt applications used on the sidewalks and adjacent streets.

Ragsdale Restoration repaired our first floor wooden handrails and the Auditorium door. We've applied their services in the past to help restore and beautify our wood surfaces, and we continue to be impressed by their results.

Human Resources

Retirements

After nearly 29 years of committed service, Fred Wallace has made the decision to retire from his IT Manager position at the Library. Fred started his career at the Library in September 1993, when he worked as a part-time Shelves. During his time at WPL, Fred has worked in several different capacities at the Library, including Switchboard Operator, Monitor, and Custodian in the Facilities Department. The Director at the time, Richard Thompson, knew Fred had a background in technology, and asked Fred to field questions and troubleshoot issues in the Computer Lab on a part-time basis. After juggling responsibilities as both a Custodian and Computer Lab Assistant for a while, they put Fred's technical talent to use and created a full-time position as a Technology Assistant in the Computer Room. When the manager at the time retired in 2011, they promoted Fred to Computer Services Manager, which was then responsible for both the Computer Lab as well as the overall IT infrastructure. In 2014, Fred transitioned to the IT Manager role when the organizational structure separated IT from Virtual Services, now known as Digital Services. In the past year, when we didn't have a Digital Services Manager for a while, Fred stepped in to manage operations of both IT and DS. Fred's diligence, hard work, kindness, and especially his patience, will truly be missed. Fred's

last day will be July 1, and he plans on spending more time with family, especially his grandchildren. We wish Fred all the best in this next chapter in his story!

Recruiting

Digital Services

On Monday, May 23, Lauren Kelly (they/them) joined the Wilmette Public Library Leadership Team as our new Digital Services Manager. Lauren comes to us with a wealth of Digital Services knowledge and experience. Lauren previously served as the Assistant Head of Digital Services at Niles-Maine District Library where they manage all digital resources including databases, OverDrive (Digital Library of Illinois), and streaming media. Lauren has also worked as a Digital Services Assistant at Barrington Public Library, and at Indian Trails Public Library, they were able to tap into their technical and creative skills as a Maker Space Coordinator. Lauren has also presented at ILA and participates in the RAILS ELSUM Networking Group. Outside of the library world, Lauren worked as a Coordinator of Program Development at the Adler Planetarium, and sold books at Women & Children First Bookstore.

Linnéa Lundberg was promoted to Digital Services Assistant Manager from her role as a Digital Services Associate. As the Assistant Manager, Linnéa continues to create and develop dynamic, digital-related curriculum, and also assists and support the Digital Services Manager, Lauren Kelly, with the operational flow of the department. Linnéa has certainly proven herself in the short amount of time she has been at WPL, delivering exceptional customer service to patrons while taking initiatives on key projects for both the department and the Library as a whole. We are certain that Linnéa and Lauren will make a great team that will continue the great level of customer service the department is known for.

Youth Services

We are excited to announce that Sarah Jo Zaharako will be our new full-time Youth Services Librarian. Sarah Jo started with us in September 2021 as a Youth Services Associate, and according to YS Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson, Sarah Jo has taken on updating several bibliographies and has written staff blog posts to share library resources with families. She recently completed a three-week Social Emotional Librarianship course to support her interest in helping patrons and staff who have experienced trauma. Sarah Jo also led a successful art program this spring for early elementary age children and plans to continue providing more art experiences for this age group. She is currently serving on the Association for Library Service to Children membership committee (ALSC) and is attending her first ALA Annual Meeting this month. Sarah Jo starts her new role on June 13, 2022.

We welcome Anna Upson (she/her) to the Youth Services team as our new substitute Youth Services Associate. Anna comes to us with several years of teaching experience and currently works as an English Teacher at Glenbrook North High School. Anna teaches reading, writing, and research skills to all level classes including 10th grade Honors English, 11th grade College Prep English, and 11th & 12th grade A.P. Language and Composition. Anna works every semester in the school library where she helps students navigate print and non-print research and reference tools. We are excited to have Anna share her skills and knowledge with our patrons. Anna's first day was June 10.

We also welcome Sally Battle (she/her) to Youth Services, Sally will also serve as a substitute Youth Services Associate. Sally has worked with children of all ages for several years, including her present job at Evanston Public Library where she works as an Early Learning & Literacy Library Assistant. She also worked as a Youth Services Assistant at Des Plaines Public Library. Sally says she loves to create and provide programs to the community such as baby story time, crafting (needle felting is one of her favorites), and STEM programs for all ages. We are certain Sally's experience and creativity will be a great addition to the team. Sally's first day was June 17.

Circulation

We are excited to welcome Heather Douek (she/her) to the Library as our new substitute Circulation Assistant. Heather has spent most of her career in special education as both a teacher and an administrator. She most recently worked at REACH in Skokie as a Special Education Teacher, and Heather said that one of her goals was to instill a love of reading in her students who have experienced challenges with reading. Heather was also a Learning Specialist at Forsyth School in St. Louis, Missouri, and served as the Director of Student Services at the Epstein Hebrew Day School. Making the transition to a public library setting was an easy decision for Heather as she is an avid reader and book lover. Heather's first day was June 9.

Select Staff Meetings & Workshops

Since March 2020, nearly all staff have been meeting virtually with one another weekly, regularly with their teams, hosting or participating in Zoom meetings, and keeping up with professional reading and training. Each quarter, the overwhelming majority of staff attend multiple developmental webinars and are actively cultivating new skills. The modified/remote environment has been especially conducive to professional engagement and future planning for the "new normal" of the foreseeable future. Staff have hosted and attended dozens of programs and developmental workshops on a diverse range of topics, including:

Events:

5/5: Library Journal Day of Dialogue (Sheri Reda)

5/6: Zena Sutherland Lecture sponsored by Chicago Public Library, University of Chicago (Alice Joseph, Susan Kaplan-Toch)

Webinars:

5/4: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions - Webinar - The 1950 Census Release (EvaAnne Johnson)

5/7: Society of Genealogists Conference: The Future of Genealogy: Young Genealogists at the Helm (EvaAnne Johnson)

5/11: Simon Kids Fall Preview (Jennifer Lee)

5/12: HarperCollins Children's Books Fall Preview (Alice Joseph)

5/16: Gender inclusion in the workplace (Jennifer Lee)

5/16: Fall 2022 Librarian Preview with HarperCollins Children's books (Jennifer Lee)

5/18: Knowledge is Power (Jennifer Lee)

5/24: STEM programs for Summer and Beyond (Jennifer Lee)

5/25: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the library: Introduction to trauma-informed library services (Kim Hegelund, Amanda Jacover, Susan Kaplan-Toch, Linnéa Lundberg, Sheri Reda, Leah White)

5/25: Building Trust: A Panel Discussion, The Charmm'd Foundation Leadership Academy (Andrea Vaughn Johnson)

5/25: Informing Parents and Families About Recommended COVID-19 Vaccines for Children, ALA (Andrea Vaughn Johnson)

5/31: Ready Set Read! Oakton Community College Ed2Go class (Diane dos Santos)

Meetings:

5/8: Best Fiction for Young Adults committee meeting (Krista Hutley)

5/6: Makerspace Networking Group meeting and tour (Amanda Jacover, Sarah Jo Zaharako)

5/11: Wilmette 150's Sesquicentennial Planning Committee Meeting (EvaAnne Johnson)

5/12: Young Adult Services Forum Professional Development Meeting (Krista Hutley)

5/16: LACONI Readers' Advisory for Circulation: Making a Big Impact in Little Time (Kim Hegelund)

5/20: ATLAS Middle Managers Roundtable (Jillian McKeown)

5/20: RAILS Technical Services Networking Group (Jessica Thomson)

5/20: Visiting Plainfield Public Library Lockers (Kim Hegelund, Jillian McKeown)

5/24: Visiting Park Ridge Public Library to see AMH and RFID process (Patsy de Vuono, Kim Hegelund)

5/25: CCS CAMM Technical Group Meeting (Carly Stauss, Jessica Thomson, Matt Womack)

5/25: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Metadata Networking Group Meeting (Jessica Thomson)

Jazz trio takes stage at Wilmette Public Library

chicagotribune.com/suburbs/wilmette/ct-wlm-jazz-performance-tl-0616-20220613-rqkfqsxs3vhu5hkpad37suewqq-story.html

Corey Schmidt



Wilmette

By Corey Schmidt

Pioneer Press

Jun 13, 2022 at 3:04 pm



Andy Brown, Petra van Nuis and Bobby Lewis perform at the Wilmette Public Library on June 10, 2022.
(Corey Schmidt / Chicago Tribune)

The Wilmette Public Library hosted trumpeter Bobby Lewis, vocalist Petra van Nuis and guitarist Andy Brown to a packed crowd on June 10. The trio brought in a crowd that overflowed the library's auditorium, forcing library staff to open the doors and set up chairs in the stairway atrium.

"The trio is fabulous and the main lead, the trumpeter, is phenomenal," concertgoer Phyllis Rothschild said. "He has given concerts pre-New Year's Eve. Over time I've attended one or two of them and enjoyed it so much that I bought one of his discs. I saw his name advertised and [now] I'm here."

The trio played tunes like Johnny Mandel's "A Time for Love," Jule Styne's "Make Someone Happy" and more. However, the main attraction didn't appear to be the pieces of music, but rather the performers themselves.

As the audience waited for the show to begin, the trio joked around with the audience members and engaged in conversation about topics such as different types of guitars, making it a personalized experience for library-goers.

Van Nuis loves performing at libraries, something she has missed since the March 2020 lockdowns began. During the performance, she recognized the Wilmette Public Library for opening their performances back up, which she said not all libraries are doing.

“I feel like the library concerts have been one of the slowest things to restart and reopen,” van Nuis said. “And because I used to do so many of them, it’s been kind of sad for me to feel like that hasn’t been happening.”

“I really hope that it resumes,” she continued. “It’s just really great to bring it back.”

Other than getting back to the library, van Nuis enjoys performing with her two colleagues. Brown is her husband and Lewis is “a local legend,” making it a positive experience for van Nuis.

Lewis has played with many household names, such as Tony Bennett — who he played with for 15 years — and Peggy Lee.

“Peggy is one of the great singers ever in entertainment and music and I started playing with her in 1967 ... [at] the Sherman Hotel in Chicago,” Lewis said. “It was a magical performance, the band was great, her show was great. It was right after she had recorded ‘Is That All There Is’ her famous tune. And I played with her every time she was in Chicago after that. And I got to be good friends with her.”

Eventually, Lewis’ journey with Lee evolved into being a music director and conductor, even taking him on the road to cities like St. Louis and Toronto. Despite every performance with Lee being “magical,” he will never forget one specific memory.

“She was sitting in this chair and we were hovering around and Champagne and so on so forth and she says, ‘I have a fly that travels with me,’” Lewis said. “[To that] we said, ‘yeah sure.’ She [then] stuck out her finger and held it out for a couple of seconds. And once you know it, a fly landed on her finger.”

The Wilmette Public Library puts on several concerts a year, which Rothschild has been attending since before the pandemic hit. The library lists these events on its [website](#).

Corey Schmidt is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

06/01/2022

**Wilmette Public Library District
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations
Monthly Statistics For 05/2022**

Material Type	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio
AV equipment	24	16	0	16	16	0	0	0.67
Bag	507	315	295	610	611	1	0	1.20
Blu-ray	1,410	174	132	306	345	39	46	0.22
Blu-ray New	68	98	2	100	100	0	8	1.47
Book	170,674	16,540	19,280	35,820	37,147	1,327	1,609	0.21
Book Hot	980	1,221	5	1,226	1,227	1	0	1.25
Book New	5,634	2,537	1,773	4,310	5,042	732	305	0.76
Boxset	0	12	14	26	26	0	12	0.00
Cassette	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
CD	16,512	884	570	1,454	1,661	207	342	0.09
CD Audiobook	6,144	289	282	571	629	58	44	0.09
CD Audiobook New	168	101	70	171	195	24	7	1.02
CD New	346	128	80	208	239	31	15	0.60
DVD	18,465	1,775	1,314	3,089	3,300	211	254	0.17
DVD New	373	518	59	577	600	23	25	1.55
eAudiobook	58,242	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eBook	87,937	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eMagazine	4,318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Equipment	18	100	0	100	100	0	0	5.56
eReader	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
ILL Material	0	48	7	55	55	0	1	0.00
Kit	0	2	2	4	4	0	2	0.00
Laptop	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Large Print	7,553	324	281	605	710	105	33	0.08
Large Print New	294	55	38	93	154	61	6	0.32
Magazine	4,453	266	493	759	759	0	4	0.17
Magazine New	267	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Mobile Hotspot	10	11	0	11	11	0	0	1.10
MP3 Audiobook	0	3	0	3	3	0	3	0.00
Multimedia Kit	28	7	4	11	11	0	7	0.39
Newspaper	659	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Online Resource	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other	1	1	2	3	3	0	1	3.00
Playaway	2,272	184	213	397	420	23	6	0.17
Playaway Audio New	63	33	24	57	66	9	2	0.90
Record	1,580	1	4	5	6	1	0	0.00
Scores / sheet music	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	0.00
Seasonal AV	324	6	0	6	6	0	0	0.02
Seasonal Book	2,370	44	1	45	45	0	0	0.02
Special Collection	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0.00
STEAM equipment	21	3	0	3	3	0	0	0.14
STEAM Kit	15	9	0	9	9	0	0	0.60
Tablet	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
VHS	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Videogame	989	210	371	581	582	1	13	0.59
Videogame New	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0.00
Totals	392,953	25,918	25,317	51,235	54,089	2,854	2,748	0.13

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

06/01/2022

**Wilmette Public Library District
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations
Monthly Statistics For 05/2022**

Collection	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio	Auto Renewal
Fiction	47,000	4,613	2,913	7,526	8,346	820	582	0.16	2,785
Magazines	4,784	193	329	522	522	0	4	0.11	328
Multimedia	39,870	3,483	2,100	5,583	6,166	583	738	0.14	1,876
Nonfiction	69,909	3,615	4,224	7,839	8,708	869	646	0.11	4,007
Online	142,243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Other	565	488	302	790	791	1	1	1.40	282
Teen Fiction	2,512	294	346	640	690	50	68	0.25	330
Teen Multimedia	57	3	10	13	13	0	2	0.23	10
Teen Nonfiction	380	41	84	125	134	9	9	0.33	82
Teen Online	3,216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Fiction	44,522	10,528	11,760	22,288	22,663	375	499	0.50	11,308
Youth Magazines	593	73	164	237	237	0	0	0.40	164
Youth Multimedia	8,960	940	1,033	1,973	2,017	44	48	0.22	962
Youth Nonfiction	23,250	1,634	2,052	3,686	3,789	103	150	0.16	1,996
Youth Online	5,056	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Other	36	13	0	13	13	0	1	0.36	0
Totals	392,953	25,918	25,317	51,235	54,089	2,854	2,748	0.13	24,130

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

Electronic Services to Patrons: July 2021 - June 2022

	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Total
GENERAL REFERENCE													
Children's Literature	5	0	15	2	0	0	16	0	6	0	0	0	44
Culture Grams	0	1	2	0	2	2	13	1	1	0	5	0	27
Facts on File	5	0	0	12	16	16	34	7	8	7	7	0	112
First Search	34	15	70	31	47	47	41	53	38	47	38	0	461
Gale Databases (ex. InfoTrac)*	79	14	27	81	25	25	71	47	19	26	26	0	440
Legal Forms	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	5	0	15	0	0	26
Novelist	39	22	51	201	98	98	91	34	32	38	28	0	732
PebbleGo	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	8
Reference USA^	46	21	27	29	22	22	31	37	23	17	19	0	294
World Book Reference Center	3	0	3	1	9	9	4	2	2	5	6	0	44
PERIODICALS													
Chicago Tribune	72	82	67	132	255	255	110	218	105	157	172	0	1,625
Chicago Tribune-Historical	273	159	181	491	262	262	315	135	190	159	489	0	2,916
Consumer Reports	87	64	90	70	89	89	112	65	75	66	100	0	907
Consumers' Checkbook	15	5	10	5	9	9	7	5	10	11	13	0	99
InfoTrac	9	3	9	4	0	0	5	1	6	4	4	0	45
Lexis Nexis	44	58	95	85	24	24	61	42	53	52	51	0	589
Mergent	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	23	6	10	13		
Morningstar	38	33	12	26	22	22	21	35	11	31	0	0	251
New York Times	38	45	46	19	41	41	50	46	36	191	252	0	805
New York Times-Historical	15	43	31	9	49	49	63	31	14	121	17	0	442
Newspapers.com	127	42	291	30	230	230	699	14	109	187	90	0	2,049
Press Reader	385	167	201	109	300	300	339	731	702	530	766	0	4,530
Proquest-Research Library	80	63	93	124	132	132	206	136	176	124	123	0	1,389
S&P NetAdvantage	180	139	20	6	340	0	73	253	261	260	93	0	1,625
Weiss Ratings	3	2	9	24	4	4	13	28	10	5	4	0	106
GENEALOGY													
Ancestry Plus	122	132	154	95	99	99	125	35	36	34	44	0	975
Heritage Quest	7	3	4	12	7	7	8	10	12	10	9	0	89
Fold3	0	0	0	0	0	65	52	23	48	6	32	0	226
HOMEWORK/STUDY													
Brainfuse	51	6	94	168	14	14	74	12	10	53	167	0	663

Gale Courses	4	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	0	15
Lynda Library	16	109	46	93	25	25	56	31	32	40	49	0	522
Mango Languages	39	21	33	37	51	51	62	24	38	45	57	0	458
Mosio - Chat/Text reference help	54	77	120	59	38	38	47	36	33	34	59	0	595
Muzzy Languages	0	0	0	0	2	2	9	102	4	2	0	0	121
Niche Academy	153	71	58	69	31	31	72	38	41	81	38	0	683
Email Reference	29	16	16	19	10	10	30	13	16	19	23	0	201
WPL Tech Classes - Attendees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WPL Proctored Exams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E-BOOKS/AV													
Hoopla	1,178	1,351	1,221	1,261	1,366	1,366	1,432	1,392	1,392	1,332	1,369	0	14,660
Kanopy	766	627	777	882	982	982	1,052	774	745	722	735	0	9,044
Digital Library of Illinois-eBooks	6,748	7,612	7,032	7,067	7,422	7,422	8,151	6,645	7,897	7,638	8,798	0	82,432
Digital Library of Illinois-eAudiobooks	3,851	3,820	3,556	2,718	3,797	3,797	3,910	3,480	4,044	4,037	4,408	0	41,418
Tumblebooks	25	3	16	66	97	97	48	23	48	52	16	0	491
Appointments	17	18	20	33	9	9	20	12	2	17	13	0	170
Subtotal Librarian Interface	100	111	156	111	57	57	97	61	51	70	95	0	966
Subtotal E-Book/AV Use	12,585	13,431	12,622	12,027	13,673	13,673	14,613	12,326	14,128	13,798	15,339	0	148,215
Total (All)	14,637	14,846	14,500	14,072	15,929	15,653	17,546	14,601	16,294	16,187	18,136	0	172,329
WEB SITE													
Visits (all)	15,585	12,301	15,347	15,752	15,752	13,775	16,611	13,505	14,599	15,251	15,450		163,928
Unique Visitors	7,987	7,296	8,612	8,579	8,579	7,310	8,269	6,965	7,627	8,192	8,149		87,565
Pageviews	26,255	19,288	23,714	31,329	31,329	24,085	28,615	23,602	24,735	25,375	26,106		284,433
PowerPAC (public catalog)-Visits	13,227	9,310	12,563	12,209	12,209	11,588	13,821	11,687	12,599	11,496	11,626		132,335
Library App	825	725	697	1,400	1,400	1,182	1,370	1,564	3,662	2,306	3,220	0	18,351
#Facts on File includes: FactsOnFile; Issues & Controversies; Today's Science; World Almanac for Kids; World News Digest													
*Gale Databases include: Business Insights; Directory Library; Literature Resource; Small Business Resource Center; Virtual Reference Library; Twain's Author Series, and													
^Reference USA includes: Residential; Business/Employers; Healthcare; Canadian; New Business; New Movers/Home; Consumers/Lifestyles													
**Subtotal E-Books/AV Use is Hoopla through Appointments													
Subtotal Librarian Interface is Mosio Text/Chat, reference email and appointments total													