

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For September 2025**

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	2024	2025
January:	4,028	3,974
February:	3,630	3,671
March:	3,934	3,976
April:	3,832	3,986
May	3,890	3,937
June:	3,750	4,669
July:	4,066	4,930
August:	3,723	4,022
Sept.	3,465	
October	3,569	
November	3,494	
December	3,572	
Totals	44,953	

Physical Circulation for September	22,007 (21,493)
Sept. Libby:	(3,465)
Sept. Libby Mags	(450)
Sept. Hoopla	(463)
2025 Monthly Total	
2024 September Total	(25,871)
New Cards	118

Library Director's Notes:

A reminder that we will be closed on October 15 for an all-day staff in-service.

So far the agenda includes active shooter training by Watertown PD, an overview of the Family Resource Center by Steph Curtis, department meetings, an invitation to the Mayor to join us to meet all the library team. Staff will also complete a survey for the strategic plan. We will also make time to complete marketing videos. Friends of Library will pay for lunch and snacks.

Tom and Donna Kohls attended the Library Trustee dinner in Johnson Creek. I also attended. It was a nice evening and entertainment was provided by Betsy Bleck, Deputy Director, at the Brookfield Public Library, regarding library advocacy information for the local, county, and state levels.

All cameras have been installed per the approved invoiced agreement. Installers also changed some camera angles for me. I would still like to add one more camera inside one of the Carnegie Study Room (the room where we had the recent incident). Because of other items located in the ceiling, the camera angle cannot be changed. I would like to put the camera in the room but not where we cannot view what someone has on a laptop or tablet.

John K. removed the Little Library on Labaree Street. This was our first little library and has fallen into disrepair. I haven't decided if it will be repaired or recycled.

Jamie and I were scheduled to speak to Rotary. Plans were changed so that Rotary could attend the Lunch and Learn, sponsored by the Watertown Chamber of Commerce. We will reschedule.\

Cari and I attended the city Leadership Team emergency operations meeting. The library would provide a supportive role in a city emergency.

We continue to struggle with some HVAC issues. John helped out while Tod was on vacation and Tod continues to monitor the units and contact our support agency.

As I noted in an earlier email, Jefferson County Finance has approved the 2026 budget request for all Jefferson Co. Libraries. I attended the meeting in Jefferson. If all goes as planned we should receive the amount I've shared with you in previous meetings. I believe a thank you at the end of the budgeting process is necessary to acknowledge and thank the County Board for the continued support.

Digital circulations to rural residents continue to increase. I believe this is due to the installation of broadband throughout the rural areas of the county.

Tod has reported that we will need to purchase a new snowblower. Our current snowblower is 10+ years old (purchased when Cliff still worked at the library). Tod will explore options.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

Adult Services staff tried out several new programs during the month of September, and I think all of them were a success! Regina started a romance book club that will meet third Wednesday of each month. Hannah is doing a cozy movie and craft night once a month during the fall months. Noah had a successful trivia night. I started a junk journaling club with the help of a volunteer that meets the third Thursday of the month. I attended both a Marketing Meet-Up in Waukesha and the virtual Strategic Planning kick off meeting. Peg and I are exploring the possibility of a website upgrade. It is almost 6 years since our current website launched, and we're looking for something more modern, easy to update and ADA compliant. One we really like is the New Berlin Public Library, if you're interested in taking a look at the vision we have. We've been managing without a coin change machine in the computer lab for about a month, and we're eager to get a replacement machine.

~Jamie

Children's:

September started off with a fun opportunity through Bridges by having our first ever field trip with the Bridges YS librarians and the Monarch YS librarians! We went to the Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan and then to the Mead Public Library to have lunch and do a "program swap" and tour, including their Children's area, their Makerspace and seeing the only Pick-Up Locker that has the back side of the locker indoors! I've been to both the Mead Public Library and Bookworm Gardens with my nieces when they were much younger and A LOT has changed, grown and expanded in the 9-10 years since I've visited. It was well worth the trip and I got a few good ideas that I brought back to Watertown with me. 😊

We also started back with Fall Programming in the Children's Department, which is always so nice to get back to after a busy summer and short break in August. We started off strong with some busy Little U Storytimes and Baby Bounce's, got back into school age programs with Club Lego, Crafty Kids Club and STEAM Team, as well as our drop in Kindergarten Ready weekly program. We have Reading with Rover year-round, but it's always fun having our furry friends visit the library twice a month! My staff has been busy getting Book Bags ready for teachers, homeschool families and childcare providers. We kicked off our first Homeschool Tuesday of

the school year with a Library 101 program and shared all the great digital resources we offer, in addition to the physical resources. I'm happy to say we saw a big jump in Tumblebooks usage this month, which I credit in part to that being featured for our homeschool families! We're going to continue to focus on these digital collections on social media as well, since there are many great options for kids and families as well to highlight.

Peg and I have had a few interviews but are still working on finding the right person to fill the opening in Children's. We also had our first Strategic Planning meeting and look forward to continuing to work on that process with the team. I had my first daycare and Head Start monthly visits of the school year and have my first library visit scheduled as well for a Kindergarten class that I read to each month. It's nice getting back into the "school year routine"!

~Tina

Circulation Department:

Happy Fall!

We found a nice display stand on the 3rd floor to display our library of things cake pans and cookie cutters! We have added several new library of things items recently so if you ever want to search for them in the catalog just type in "Café Library of Things". There is a new look on the cafe libraries website. We have been helping patrons to get familiar with using it. The display stand by the circulation desk features a fun display titled: Never too cool for school, which features movies and books that are school related. The tik tok book display continues to be very popular. The Journey of Dragons has ended and a Watertown patron was a prize winner.

~ Cari

Teens:

This month, teens had the opportunity to participate in a self-care day and another Crafternoon. At the self-care day, we made sugar scrubs, colored bookmarks, and painted nails. The sugar scrub in particular was very popular. The teens expressed that this was cool and they would come to more events like this. At our Crafternoon event, teens did diamond art and made suncatchers, which turned out beautifully! Besides that, we also did a take and make sticker art event and a guess-the-number game with Skittles for the winner.

~Tina