

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For July 2024**

Libby: Audio and Ebook Checkouts		
	2023	2024
January:	3,591	4,028
February:	3,274	3,630
March:	3,729	3,934
April:	3,210	3,832
May	3,484	3,890
June:	3,607	3750
July:	3,712	
August:	3,744	
Sept.	3,614	
October	4,044	
November	3,837	
December	3,836	
Totals	43,683	23,064

Physical Circulation for July	27,791
July Libby:	
July Libby Mags	
July Hoopla	
2024 Monthly Total	
2023 Monthly Total	30,398
New Cards;	171

Library Director's Notes:

Due to the timing of the August Board Meeting, I will not receive the monthly circulation information. I will send to you in a separate document before the August meeting.

July was a challenging month for all of the library team. Due to vacations and other life events, we were left with lean coverage throughout the month. Everyone pitched in to cover desk shifts (including nights and weekends), cover programs, interact with the teens throughout the facility to help maintain expected good behavior all with a smile and pleasant "can do" attitude! Lynn and I continue to monitor rolling work hours to remain in the parameters of allowable PT staff hours.

Fiber work has started. Conduit has been installed. Installers nicked the conduit for the driveway lights which caused water to get into the conduit, which cause water to bubble up at from the bottom of the light posts. Lights still work, repair was made and we now wait for the installation of fiber. It was reported to me that an extra conduit line was already in place...added with expansion. We may have to pay for conduit that did not need to be installed.

Miron sent a photographer here to take pictures of the facility. The pictures turned out well and we have permission to use them as needed.

We continue to have issues with the air conditioners transitioning into "offline. This past week it was the air units in the Community Room. We signed a contract with United Systems to monitor this! Kevin reached out to Gary. He replaced the computer in the IT closet (for free) hoping this will eliminate issues. Kevin will monitor.

Tina's report highlights summer reading numbers. I included 2023 numbers as a reference. A reminder that the children's program was supported by a grant from the Quirk Foundation.

A new book walk was installed at Brand Quirk Park. Kevin and Xander survived the onslaught of mosquitos!!

I asked Kevin to remove the tables and chairs at the south entrance to the building. For some reason, teens found this as a great place to hang out. Despite many attempts to reason with them, behavior did not improve. Behavior=swearing, loud inappropriate music for the library entrance, leaving trash, bikes in the walkway,

riding bikes in and around the area, at times, engaging patrons with not so nice comments, too much staff time focused on maintaining the entrance. Surprisingly, “things” have improved!

We continue to struggle to fill an open position in the Children’s Department. Interviews are held but candidates pull out for a variety of reasons.

A reminder to check that your Friends of the Library membership is up to date. Also, if you would know a local business or organization that would want to be a monthly coffee sponsor, your willingness to reach out on behalf of Friends is greatly appreciated!

New and Upcoming:

The toddler boardbook, bookcase has been well received inside the facility and also with online posts. We will continue to build this board book collection.

We will be adding and removing some of the play items in the TRP Center to keep the area fresh and provide new play opportunities. Donated funds will be used for this update.

Jamie and I will be working together to create an impactful book display area on the first floor. We want to keep it simple but eye-catching.

We keep adding new lights to the facility (I believe the library director likes lights!). We recently added some color changing curtain lights, on the east side of the facility-second floor, that display patterned designs.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

July has been a challenging month as wrap up the Summer Library Challenge while being short staffed and dealing with many behavior issues with teen patrons throughout the building. I will say that it is nice to work with a staff who is always willing to jump in and help wherever needed. The mystery book club that Laura started has really taken off, with a steady number of participants each month. I attended Danielle's jewelry making program, as a patron, and had a great time. Newsbank has been mostly unavailable all month, due to a technical issue on their

end. About a week ago they said they were starting to add content back to their database, but so far the Daily Times hasn't been added. A few patrons have inquired about it, but it has not caused much of an issue. I was approached by a new Watertown resident about starting a poetry group. She led one at her previous library, so starting in September we will be hosting a monthly poetry group called Word Wise. Folks can come read their original poetry or poems written by someone else. It will be a group about having a common appreciation and enthusiasm for poetry

~Jamie

Children's:

July was a very busy month with wrapping up our Summer Library Challenge and all of the programming that goes along with it! We ended up completing the SLC with 1020 (1077-2023) children, 301 (293-2023) teens and 352(349-2023) adults registered. We've given thousands of weekly prizes, free books and notebooks to participants who completed their reading, creating and engaging goals each week and to adults who completed Bingos on their cards. Yesterday, I drew the winners of the kids SuperDraw prize baskets and had the fun job of calling to share the good news! Kids were very excited and many have already come in to claim their prizes! Look to our social media for cute pictures! We had multiple Family Fun Nights this month, with a special Ballet Storytime with the Milwaukee Ballet Company coming to Watertown and Yo-Yoer/Juggler/Trickster, Mark Hayward performing. We also had a Family Adventure Hunt and a Nerf Party, all of which were well attended. We wrapped up our Camp Library programs with Ocean Adventures, Squishmallow Painting, a Superhero Day and a Stuffie & Me Tea Party. All of our Little U Storytimes and Baby Bounce programs were fun and well attended, as well as our Friday Family Flicks! Erin O'Neill volunteered to do Little U Storytime for me during my vacation. Overall, it was a great Summer Library Challenge and, as always, went extremely fast! We're still looking for the right person to fill our opening in the Children's Department and I'm hopeful that we'll find someone very soon. In the meantime, Gabby, Julia and Xander have been absolute troopers helping to make our SLC a great one and we very much appreciate the rest of the library staff for helping out and filling in at the Children's Desk whenever needed. We're now looking to August for our Back to School Bingo, where kids and teens complete 2 Bingos each week that are full of reading, creating and engaging activities. If they complete the two bingos, they get to spin the prize wheel and all prizes are school supplies!

~Tina

Teens:

For July we had five active programs. All of them turned out really well and had really good attendance. I couldn't have asked for a better first summer in the teen department! My program highlight was definitely my last program, Cupcake Wars. It was my highest attended program and the most fun in my opinion. Seeing how creative the teens were with the supplies they were given was so surprising! And they were all very enthusiastic about the program too which always makes it even better. I was glad I scheduled it last as it was a great end to the summer! A good portion of the program attendees over the summer were the same teens who wanted to come to almost every week. I am hoping that a good chunk of them carry over into school year programs now that that is going to be starting up. I am looking forward to getting to experience the change of pace in the teen department once school is back in session.

~ Gabby

Circulation Department:

Hello from the circulation desk! Summer is such a wonderful time of year with the warm breezes and beautiful sunny days! Patrons have been commenting how much they enjoy the beautiful flowers as they enter the building! While we would love patrons to explore every inch of the library, sometimes patrons just want to grab their holds, do a quick browse and go. We have been working to provide displays on the lower level for them to browse. One of the displays we currently have is titled: "Go for Gold" featuring Olympics related books and movies! Stop in and see the awesome displays!

~ Cari