

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For December 2026**

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
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	4,051
October	3,569	4,074
November	3,494	4,144
December	3,572	
Totals	44,953	

Physical Circulation for November	
Nov. Libby Nov Libby Mags	
Nov. Hoopla	
2025 Monthly Total 2024 November Total	
New Cards	

Library Director's Notes:

Due to the early board meeting, many of the stats were not ready for the agenda deadline.

Our annual Mitten Tree was a success once again! We had many donations from knitters and crocheters, creating wonderful mittens, hats, and scarfs. Watertown Family Connections will help us distribute the winter weather necessities!

I've completed all the necessary paperwork, my CE credits have been approved at the system level and the state level.

Progress is moving along on re-envisioning the gaming room to a larger Makerspace/Meeting Room space. John K made the necessary blocking to the wall to support the gaming TV. Electric and cable had been added to the nook area during construction so little was needed. (Yeah!) Tod and John have worked together moving furniture, polishing the scratched up floors, adding some of our old bookcases (for ambiance) and looking around library nooks and crannies for items saved from the Carnegie Bldg. for added library touches in this room.

I gave a tour of the library to the Leadership Watertown class. I never have enough time but I believe the tour went well.

Hannah will be leaving the library team but will work her night and weekend until we find a replacement. She was offered more hours at higher wages at her other job. We will all miss her! The PT position in Children's has been posted "in-house" and Fallon has filled out an application. Fallon is currently a library page. She is home-schooled but will graduate soon so will have the necessary availability to fill in the necessary hours. Tina and I will interview her and any other individual interested in the position.

The additional camera in the upstairs study room has been added.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In January we had a local author (A.L. Wilder) come do a visit and signing. We had a great turn out, especially considering it was very cold and on a Packer Sunday. Our Jane Austen Birthday Drop-In was very popular, with tea and take and make activities. We are looking forward to continuing our book clubs into next year. The

newest addition, Once Upon a Romance Book Club, has started to take off very nicely. Website meetings continue weekly and now we're making fun decisions about colors, layouts, etc. We continue to receive comments and great support from our patrons about our services.

~Jamie

Children's:

We wrapped up the year in Children's with more well attended regular programs for preschoolers and school age kids. We had a No School Movie Day and kicked off our Winter Library Challenge. Friends generously donated funds to purchase our SuperDraw Prize baskets and kids and teens are already registering and starting to collect stamps, prizes and Super draw tickets. We are looking forward to continuing our WLC into the New Year! I also did our annual TalkReadPlay Program survey at the end of December. We've attached the results to the Board packet so you are able to see the impact that we're making in our preschool age TalkReadPlay programming. Happy New Year everyone!

~Tina

Circulation Department:

Happy New Year! We are watching the process of moving the teen gaming area into the teen room. There is a wonderful amount of warm items on the mitten tree. The gaming table on the lower level was not working properly and now it is working again and patrons are using it every day. I wanted to thank you, the board so much for beautiful card with the wonderful messages for us. Thank you also for the gift cards and cookies. Your support through everything means so much.

~ Cari

Tweens/Teens:

At the request of some teens, we spent some time this month decorating Santa hats. We set aside three days in the Makerspace, along with lots of buttons, jingle bells, pom poms, ornaments, snowflakes, and fabric paint, for teens and adults to drop in and decorate their hats. We had over 30 participants! We also had our second Kids' Choice Awards event, where we screened "Tale of Despereaux" in the Community Room and ate popcorn. We had many more people come than the first Kids' Choice event, which was fabulous. School district librarians are helping to promote the awards to local students.

~ Kaitlyn and Tina