

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

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
January	3,974	4,850
February	3,671	4,120
March	3,976	4,691
April	3,986	4,375
May	3,937	4,505
June	4,669	5,163
July	4,930	5,149
August	4,022	?
September	4,051	
October	4,074	
November	4,144	
December	4,184	
Total	48,391	

Physical Circulation for August	23,065
August Libby	?
August Libby Mags	?
2026 Monthly Total	?
2025 August Total	?
New Cards	120

Interim Library Director/Head of Adult Services Notes:

The digital marketing campaign with window wraps I'd been talking about for several months wrapped up in early August. I'm sure you all know about the stir they caused on social media. I want to make sure the board knows that most of the negativity we received about this project came from outside of Watertown. The vast majority of local people who commented on the windows had positive things to say.

I have been busy clearing my things out of the director's office and preparing for Mary to start on September 2 (I am writing this on August 26). The Mayor and Finance Director have given us an extension on submitting our initial budget proposal so that Mary can be part of it.

We have not experienced any more leaks in the roof since the heavy rain in August. Tod has been working to replace the stained ceiling tiles.

Tod and John installed window shades on the big window in the staff break room. This will provide privacy, shade and help with climate control.

September is Library Card Sign Up Month! If you haven't used your library card in awhile, I encourage you to stop at a service desk and have us make sure the account is still active (they do expire every 18 months). We received stickers from Bridges to celebrate this month. We will have a "sticker of the week," with a new one coming out each Monday. Anna created fun riddles to post on our social media to hint what each sticker looks like.

Anna is starting a non-fiction book club in September. History 360 will read short non-fiction books and engage in lively discussion. The first book selection is *Longitude: the True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of his Time*. This book club will meet on Friday mornings. We are hoping to bring in a demographic that does not normally participate in our book clubs.

While I was up north in August I got word from Bridges that our network was flagged for malware (the state monitors that). I organized someone from Taylor Computers to log on remotely to try and find it. I worked on it when I returned the next week, but the following Friday when Bridges received their report from the state it did not show we had any malware. It was a good reminder to be diligent about our cybersecurity and also made me grateful that we are part of a consortium/state that helps us keep an eye out for this.

- Jamie (MLIS)

Children's Department Notes:

Every August we take a bit of a programming break in Children's and Teens after a crazy busy Summer Library Challenge, and this year was no exception. We had the last of our prizes picked up, had our final Family Fun Night and played Library Carnival games in the TalkReadPlay Center, and wrapped up our Little Owl Wise Owl Reading Buddy program by having Owl buddies share their e-books that they created all summer. We had Friday Family Flicks each week and also had a special showing of the sing-along "Hamilton" to celebrate America's 250th for all ages! We also had Back to School Bingo all month

long for kids and teens. Each week there was a new Bingo sheet that they had to complete 2 bingo's worth of reading, creating and engaging activities to earn a spin of the prize wheel. All prizes are school supplies! I attended the annual New Teacher Breakfast as well as the Bridges Summer Wrap-Up Celebration for YS and Teen library staff. It's always great to be able to spend some time with other Youth Services librarians, chat about what went well, what was challenging, get new ideas and hear about different performers. We've been busy getting our fall line-up of programs scheduled and are looking forward to getting back to "normal" school year programming and school visits!

-Tina (MLIS)

Teen Department Notes:

This month we slowed down to reset after the Summer Library Challenge and prepare for the start of the new school year. Nearly all (if not all) of the SLC prizes have been picked up, and kids and teens alike have been enjoying Back to School Bingo. We wrapped up Little Owls Wise Owls with a fun party, and the kids/teens did a great job writing and designing their e-books. It was such a blast seeing the Little Owls and Wise Owls bond and talk about their books. We also had our last session of the Magic: the Gathering Game Club. We'll be transitioning to some other programs for teens at the start of this school year, including therapy dogs and pizza hang-outs.

-Kaitlyn & Tina (MLIS)

Circulation Department Notes:

School is starting up and teachers are checking out books for the start of the school year. We are in the process of filling the library assistant position in circulation. Summer is winding down, I hope everyone is having a wonderful one.

- Cari