

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For February 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	
April	3,986	
May	3,937	
June	4,669	
July	4,930	
August	4,022	
September	4,051	
October	4,074	
November	4,144	
December	4,184	
Total	48,391	

Physical Circulation for February	22,845
February Libby	4120
February Libby Mags	489
2026 Monthly Total	27,454
2025 February Total	27,390
New Cards	120

**January 2026 circ impacted by brutal temperatures.

Library Director's Notes:

We will meet this month in Andy's Room. (First floor off of the teen area)

Friends will host a fundraiser on Friday, March 13...PI Day. Because the Jig Jog is on the 14th, Friends event will be the Friday before. Hopefully, folks stopping in to pick up their race information will also buy some pie! Hopefully you will also have time to stop down for a "piece O pie" A shoutout to our local bakeries for donating pies to the occasion. Trustees are also encouraged to bake/donate a pie to the event.

A reminder that a staff in-service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. We will be closed for the day.

If you have time, Noah Chowanec, from our Adult Services Department, is hosting his second annual WI Film Festival on March 9 and 10 at the Towne Cinema. Friends of the Library is underwriting the associated expenses This year promises to be bigger and better than last year's festival! I hope you can stop by!

Due to a conversion of our POTS lines to digital lines, we have lost the ability to send a "true" fax. The POTS lines are analog AT&T lines that needed to be converted due to hefty increases in costs. The entire process was a fiasco from the start. Last year FAX revenues brought in over \$1,300. As of 3/3; the elevator emergency phones and the Area of Refuge have not been reconnected. If we have an emergency in the elevator, patrons cannot call for help!

Rave reviews on the scissor lift! Tod and John have maneuvered the machine around the facility, loading it on the elevator, taking it outside and parking it in the 3rd floor penthouse. Tod was able to clean 4 years of dirt and dust off of the hanging light fixtures...safely!!

It's been a month of changes! Welcoming Anna and Samantha but saying goodbye to Hannah and Amana. The position is open for the PT custodian and we have some good candidates that have applied.

The transfer of funds from the LGIP account to the South Central Foundation has been made. I'm hoping to see the transaction noted in this month's statement but you may have to wait until next month.

The Carnegie donation has been received and the foundation used the Friends EIN. I did make a FB post noting the donation to all US Carnegie libraries...and thanking the foundation for their generosity.

There was a fight outside of the library, on library property, after hours. Staff was not aware of the incident until we were contacted by Wttn PD for video. Because the incident occurred on library property, two of the girls involved were issued stayout orders by the police. We've had previous fighting issues with one of the girls involved.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

Anna started in Reference on February 18. She also works at Oconomowoc PL, so she is used to our ILS and computer system. So far, she's fitting right in! Noah and I will be interviewed by the Fox6 Wisconsin Live Desk later this week, and we'll be focusing on the Film Festival, among other things. We're starting to think about National Library Week (coming up next month), and I'm trying to get rights to screen the documentary *The Librarians* here at the library. I saw this film when I went to ALA in Philadelphia and think it'd spark great conversation here in Watertown. In a couple weeks Kait and I are going to a Maker Meetup at the Whitewater PL, which was just renovated. We'll meet with other librarians about their makerspaces, and hopefully come away with some new ideas.

~Jamie (MLIS)

Children's:

For a short month, February was packed full of library fun in the Children's Department! We wrapped up our Winter Library Challenge this month with 457 participants for kids, 85 for teens and 157 for adults. As the WLC was wrapping up, we celebrated Library Lover's Month with the return of Library Battleship! Families were very excited to again participate in the game we tried for the first time last year to much success. For every 5 items that a patron checked out, they got one shot at the Library Battleship Board. If they got a hit, they got to choose from a "Hit Prize" basket with small items like pencils, stickers and erasers to choose from. If they sunk a ship, they got to choose from a "Sink Prize" basket with ring fidget spinners, heart pop-its or small notebooks as prizes. Once all the ships were sunk, we cleared the board and started a new round. In 2 weeks, we went through 9 rounds of the game and had 336 shots at the Library Battleship board so hopefully it gave us a boost to our circulation for the month as well!

~Tina (MLS)

Circulation Department:

Welcome March! It seems to have come in like a lion, so we will see if it goes out like a lamb!

We said goodbye to circ staff member Amanda who has been here at the library for 2 years and are welcoming Samantha as the new circ staff member.

Friends of the library purchased new smart tvs for the coffee bar and the book nook areas. They work great! The older ones were beginning to show their age.

We were having wiring issues with the lower level gaming table. Shout out to John K, the wonderful volunteer to the library, who installed a plastic box to cover the wires so they don't get bumped. Patrons are happy to be able to enjoy the table again!

The former gaming room has been completely transformed into a new space. Be sure to stop in and check it out!

Teens are getting used the new look of the teen room, we did a little rearranging to create a bit more separated seating areas.

We have been thrilled to welcome lots of new patrons and many patrons coming back that have not come to the library for many years!

~ Cari

Tweens/Teens:

This month, teens and adults had the opportunity to make Valentines in the Makerspace, and so many beautiful Valentines were made! The Kids' Choice Awards also wrapped up this month, and we had 75 participants in the Watertown Unified School District. I think we have a lot to be proud of, especially considering this was our first year! We're hoping to grow and expand on this for next year and work more with the WUSD Library Media Specialists again to promote this annual event from Bridges. We also hosted some smaller events for teens, such as a crafting afternoon and our card game club.

~ Kaitlyn and Tina (MLS)