

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

<b>Libby: Audio and Ebook Checkouts</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
January:	3,591	4,028
February:	3,274	3,630
March:	3,729	3,934
April:	3,210	
May	3,484	
June:	3,607	
July:	3,712	
August:	3,744	
Sept.	3,614	
October	4,044	
November	3,837	
December	3,836	
Totals	43,683	11,592

Physical Circulation for April	23,748
APRIL Libby:	
APRIL Hoopla	
2024 Monthly Total	
2023 Monthly Total	26,593
New Cards;	124

**Library Director's Notes:**

April 30 was Brittany Fiete's last day at the library. With Brittany's departure (she was going to take over ILL responsibilities) Lynn has volunteered to add another responsibility to her plate. Cari has been teaching Lynn how to complete the state Interlibrary Loan requests and all is going well! My continued thanks to Lynn for stepping up and taking on new responsibility. A representative from WisCat will eventually stop in to teach Lynn the state's new ILL system.

I am anticipating a big staff change later in the year. Kevin and I recently met with United Systems to talk about maintenance of the HVAC system. This proposal is on the agenda for your consideration. Kevin also spoke to Sure-Fire about a maintenance plan for the roof units, boiler, pumps, etc. Kevin would like to negotiate that price down as comes with a \$6,500 price tag.

Two positions have been filled. Amanda Main will join the team as a PT Library Assistant in the Circulation Dept. for her initial training. Fallon Booth will join the team as a Library Page. Both resolutions are included in the packet.

A reminder that Stephanie Curtis and I will present at WAPL on May 2 in Stevens Point. The name of our program is "The Dynamic Duo: A Tale of Two Organizations Coming Together to Work Towards a Common Goal of Strengthening Families".

John Katisch has returned! We are all happy to welcome him back to Wisconsin. He's already mowed the grass and grouted the rocks in our Little Library. With onset of warm weather, we will start to plant flowers around the building. John is also cleaning out the planters.

Hearing Loop plans are moving forward. Waukesha County processes all the needed specs for the project on behalf of Bridges. As previously noted, I will keep you informed on the process and any outstanding costs to the library.

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!

The newest member of the library team is already making an impact. Noah has created more videos for FB/IG promoting library services!

We've had two roof leaks in the facility, one on the 1984 side and one on the new addition. A-Team Roofing came out and found many areas that needed attention. In addition; last month I noted in my report that we had to replace a belt on the lift. It is not part of the service contract but the lift is a necessity to daily operations.

Hoopla checkouts were reduced down to 2 starting on May 1. A social media post noted the changes. As anticipated, patrons are not happy but costs were unsustainable. This was a system-wide decision.

### **Monthly Department Information**

**Adult:**

~Jamie

**Children's:**

We had a great month of April in the Children's Department! We started off the month with National Library Week and kicked off our library-wide tea theme with a Dino Tea Party. We did have registration for the program and it filled up fairly quickly with a wait list. Kids and their families were able to have some fun snacks, do a dino and proper lady or gentleman activity walk and were served "tea" (apple juice or lemonade) by our library dino Rex. 😊 It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun as well! I was able to attend Schurz Elementary School's Family STEM Night in April, as well as had an opportunity through Bridges Library partners to visit Whitewater's Community Space. They invited member youth librarians to come "shop" for free through their donated children's books. The chosen books can be given as prizes, added to the collection, or used for programming. I was able to find 157 great books that I'll be either using for SLC prizes or adding to the collection. I also rolled out our 500 Books Before Middle School program in April, which is for children kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has a goal of participants reading 500 books *independently* before they reach middle school. This new program is sponsored by Friends of the Library! We had 49 kids sign up in our first 3 weeks! I'm really excited to offer a year-round incentive program for our elementary age kids to help encourage excitement and the love of reading. I've already had

multiple parents of kids who are registered say how excited they are to decorate another star after they've read a book, and that, to me, is a great indicator that it is already doing exactly what I had hoped... getting kids excited about reading! Stay tuned for upcoming Summer Library Challenge programs and plans... I'm gearing up for school visits and the start of the 2024 Adventure Begins at Your Library SLC!

~Tina

### **Teens:**

"April was my last month at Watertown Public Library. I had many types of programs, the first being an April Fools hangout where teens played funny card and board games. I then had boba bingo, which the teens got super competitive with (even though it is luck based), followed by the homeschool event where we learned about gardening and painted flowerpots. Many teens enjoyed the teen snack and chat, where I provided plenty of food for them to pick from and talk about whatever they wanted with the other teens there. My final program that I actively ran was a mini terrarium event, for teens to get their own little plant buddy to take home! The program I was most excited to try out was a passive one- a Harry Potter themed escape room kit that they could pick up and solve at home. This was a huge hit, where I had to keep making more throughout the month since we kept running out! This went over so well I created another escape room for teens to take home in May!

Finally, I would like to say that I have really enjoyed my time here at WPL so much and wish nothing but the best to everyone. I liked being able to meet the teens that were regulars and get to know them, as well as creating programs that they could enjoy. I learned so much during my time here and am excited for my future and what lies ahead!"

~ Brittany

### **Circulation Department:**

This month we are welcoming a new team member in circulation!

We have a fun guess the theme display and a new display table with items just returned. It is front and center and both displays have been getting a lot of attention. The video display features movies with yellow artwork! It is a fun way to get exposure for some of the titles that usually live upstairs.

Stop in and have a look at the awesome tiny art display that was created by many talented patrons!

I hope everyone is enjoying the excitement of spring, the warmer days and the ever interesting mix of clouds and rain, sun and wind.

**~ Cari**