

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For January 2025**

Libby: Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
January:	4,028	3,974
February:	3,630	
March:	3,934	
April:	3,832	
May	3,890	
June:	3,750	
July:	4,066	
August:	3,723	
Sept.	3,465	
October	3,569	
November	3,494	
December	3,572	
Totals	44,953	

Physical Circulation for January	23,286
Jan.. Libby:	3,974
Jan. Libby Mags	579
Jan. Hoopla	531
2025 Monthly Total 2024 Jan. Total	28,370
New Cards	136 (Wow!!)

Library Director's Notes:

Welcome to our new trustee, Charity Chandler

February is Library Lover's Month.

The library team has created programs to help celebrate the month. Tina created an extra large version of Battleship for some extra fun in the Children's Room.

The building has been heating properly for the past month. Tod is doing a great job monitoring the system, recording any issues and reaching out for tech support if needed.

Friends will be providing up to \$4,000 for the purchase of audiobooks, Playaways, and items for the Lucky Day collection. These budget lines were "zeroed" out in the 2025 budget. Friends will also provide funds for updating the floor puzzle collection in Children's. These popular items are used many times each day/week.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 14 for the Pi Day Sale. Friends will be looking for people to donate pies. If that isn't possible, please consider supporting Friends by stopping by for some delicious pie!

All senior library staff have watched a presentation about customer service. I plan to show all team members the video at our in-service in March. The webinar was archived from the Wild Wisconsin Winter online program series organized by the various library systems. Another recording I'm requesting that all senior staff members watch is a webinar focusing on increasing circulation thorough shelving and display practices. Both webinars provided helpful and relevant information!

Cari and I conducted interviews for the PT Library Assistant in Circulation. Once again, our selected candidate went through on boarding and a bit of training at the library and then sent me an email stating that she had accepted another job. So far, so good with our new team member in Children's.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In January, I attended my first meeting as a member of the WLA Literary Awards Committee. This is a committee that selects the winners of the WLA Literary Award, which goes to the Wisconsin writer with the best piece of fiction, non-fiction or

poetry published in the previous year. I am honored and excited to be part of this committee and have been busy trying to get my hands on the first few books I've been assigned to read. We are undertaking a weeding project in adult non-fiction, both as part of regular collection maintenance, but also to shift the collection to open up more shelves that can be used as displays. Noah has been busy working on the library's first film festival. If you read this summary before February 10, please try to stop down to Towne Cinema at 5:30 pm that day to support him. This is a very ambitious undertaking, that we couldn't do without Noah and Matt from the theater.

~Jamie

Children's:

January brings a return to the normal programming schedule for us in the Children's Department, with our regular programs resuming after a break for the holidays. We've been enjoying having kids, teens and adults come in all month to get their activity logs stamped, get their prizes, free books and SuperDraw tickets for our Winter Library Challenge! This year's challenge started on 12/23 and runs through 2/16, so we have 2 weeks left! Our participation numbers are close to last year's Challenge and there is a lot of excitement from participants, so it's always a fun time of year for us and patrons. I am so very happy to say that we are FULLY STAFFED in the Children's Department after a very long year of being down a staff member!! Annika started on 1/8 and she is now fully trained and fitting it wonderfully! She's a quick learner and I'm excited to get her involved in programming once she's settled into her new position. We're looking forward to a busy month in February being Library Lover's Month and having some special programming for that, finishing off our Winter Library Challenge, as well as hosting our 2nd annual Homeschool Science Fair on February 7.

~Tina

Teens:

January seemed to fly by! Somehow, we are already close to the end of our Winter Library Challenge! We had an all ages coloring contest that wrapped up in the beginning of the month and I was very happy with how many teens participated. It was even more than our last coloring contest back in October. The programs we had this month maintained the usual steady attendance. My highest attended program, and my favorite, was Hot Cocoa Bingo. I had a mini hot cocoa bar for the teens to make their own cup while we all played bingo! They had a lot of fun with it and I also had fun being the bingo caller! February has even more going on than usual, which I am pretty excited about, and I'm looking forward to seeing how it all turns out.

~ Gabby

Circulation Department:

Happy New Year! It is exciting to see what 2025 will bring for the library. The winter library challenge is in full swing and draws in patrons of all ages. We are looking forward to the additional staff member here at circulation. The coloring contest participant's artwork were displayed down here on the lower level for voting. Our shelves are brimming with new books and movies to enjoy. Hope to see you at the library!

~ Cari