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

Libby Audio, Ebook & Magazine Checkouts

	2025	2026
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	5,232
September	4,051	5191
October	4,074	5278
November		
December		
Total		

Physical Circulation for September 2026	21,994
September Libby September Libby Mags	4,672 519
2026 Monthly Total 2025 September Total	27,185
New Cards	118

Physical Circulation for October 2026	20,893
October Libby October Libby Mags	4,754 524
2026 Monthly Total 2025 October Total	26,171 27,532
New Cards	138

It has been a busy month.

- Much of the focus this month has been the 2027 Library Budget
- We, unfortunately, had a wheelchair taken from us. A police report was filed. The person who took the wheelchair is unknown to us.
- The additional shelving for board books in the Children's Room that was approved in the last board meeting, has been ordered. Delivery is estimated to be in January of 2027
- I applied for and received a Bridges Library System Grant for 2026 Library Access and Engagement Grant. With the grant money we will pay for bookmarks with our library hours, translate the bookmark into Spanish. We will also order a supply of WPL library branded reusable bags.

- We collected many shoes and boots for the Watertown Girls Basketball Shoe Drive Fundraiser. As usual, the public was generous in giving their gently used shoes and boots.
- I met with Maggy Priebe from the Quirk Foundation about a grant request that Jamie Hernandez submitted to fund our Summer Reading Program, we will be getting this grant for 2027.

- I spoke over the phone with Sara from Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors, an organization which "helps families facing hardship during the holiday season." The organization helps families get toys, warm clothing and holiday meal supplies. Sara indicated that the largest amount of families helped are from Watertown. We will have a donation box for toys, warm clothing and other needed items after Election Day and through early December. Mullen's, Associated Ban, Pizza Ranch and Arby's will also be collection sites in town.
- October 27, our elevators went through annual testing and we had to put the elevators on a planned outage for a few hours.
- We had our library in service day on October 14. It was a day where staff was able to spend time together, listen to speakers and talk about things going on in the library. I lead a discussion about the DISC assessment, I also had an interactive activity for staff to work together to help understand the different types of DISC personality types, Sargent Michael Hoyt from the Watertown Police Department presented on De-escalation techniques, Stephanie Curtis from Watertown Family Connections spoke about Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) and providing trauma informed service, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos gave a talk on Ethic, Board member Mueller talked about the strategic plan and she and I had an interactive exercise which involved everyone in a brainstorming exercise. We enjoyed tacos from Amado Jr's, funded by the Friends of the Library.
- We are addressing some in appropriate behavior in the teen. We have had problems with noise levels, language not suitable for the library, leaving food garbage on tables and rough housing. We are experimenting with closing the

room for “hanging out” when we have lower staffing levels. So far there has been improvement.
Mary Lopez, MLS, MPA

Adult Report
In October we had our staff in-service on the 14th. In preparation we all took a personality assessment test, which gave good insight on how we each prefer to communicate and things we can be aware of when working with people with different communication styles. I landed in the C category, for any of you familiar with this assessment. I went to WLA on October 22 in Middleton. I sat in on sessions about having a staff made up of people belonging to different generations, how to serve "tricky" patrons and how to serve genealogists in the community. Bookies Book Club was an extra fun program for me this month. We had a large group of 10, met by the fireplace and had one of those discussions that just made me feel lucky to be part of it. We have received positive feedback on our Facebook page about our changes to the Teen Room hours. I reached out to Pine Hill Farm and Rotary about possible collaboration with the library. One of my goals this year was to solicit non-fiction book donations from businesses or groups in town that are experts in a field as a way to boost our collection with reputable information from trusted professionals, and also build partnerships.

Jamie Hernandez, MLIS

Circ news October

Our new circulation staff are training and doing great!

We had a really nice staff in-service with helpful training and breakout sessions.

Several library staff members attended the WLA conference in Madison. We had the opportunity to learn new things and share ideas. Hearing the guest speaker’s talk about how libraries have shaped their lives in such positive ways was so inspirational. I am thankful to have been able to attend.

We have been struggling with the behavior of tweens and teens in the library and are working on solutions.

Ref questions: 129
Tech help: 38

Cari

Children's
October had some very busy preschool programming, with over 50 people (babies, siblings and grown-ups) in attendance each week for Baby Bounce in October! There's a bit of a "baby boom" for this program and I'm considering some options if it continues

to be this large of a group going forward. We had our first No School Movie Day of the school year, which had great attendance, and was a lot of fun. I was again invited, along with other YS librarians in Bridges, to visit the Whitewater Community Space to collect free books to either add to the collection or give to kids. I, once again, was the most successful out of the group, and brought back 426 books! I attended the WLA conference this month and was able to attend both keynote speakers (both of which were fantastic!), the YS Luncheon with Wisconsin author, Aaron Boyd, and many breakout sessions. It's always great to spend time with other librarians, get some new or different ideas, and then see if you can take anything back to make it applicable in our library. I also had the chance to speak briefly with the elementary school librarians (thanks Emily!) and let them know what we can do to support them and engage them with the library (book bags, library field trips, school visits, etc.). Overall, great month! Looking forward to a busy next few months with holidays and the start of our Winter Library Challenge!

Tina, MLIS

Teens

This month had its highs and lows. We hosted a self-care day, where teens got to make a sugar scrub and a happy jar, and color some cute coloring pages. At Homeschool Monday, we guided children and teens to research dinosaurs and make their own “dino-rama” of their habitats. We also partnered with the high school to do pumpkin carving again! Unfortunately, the pumpkins rotted exceptionally fast this year, so they didn’t make it to Halloween. Our recurring programs (Therapy Dogs, Pizza Parties, Anime & Manga Club) saw an increase in participation, though, and especially Therapy Dogs. We had twice as many teens participate as last month!

We had our first teen lock-in outside of the summer months and our Trick-or-Treat Halloween Teen Lock-In was a blast! We had 20 register with 17 in attendance, and nearly everyone showed up in costume! We also made the difficult decision this month to start closing the teen room at 5pm on weekdays and all day over the weekend. We are hopeful that this will decrease some of the disruption to normal library services that sometimes happens when large groups of teens are here. We also have some other ideas in the works for improving the situation.

Kaitlyn & Tina, MLIS