



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building  
June 26, 2023, 5:00 PM  
Agenda**

- |                                                  |          |         |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| <b>I. PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>                        | Stockman |         |
| <b>II. ACTION ITEMS</b>                          |          |         |
| 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting                      | Stockman | page 3  |
| 2. Claims                                        | Harrison | page 7  |
| <b>III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>              |          |         |
| 1. President's Report                            | Stockman |         |
| 2. Liaison & Committee Reports                   |          |         |
| a. Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board     | Stephens |         |
| b. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp    | page 31 |
| c. Friends and Foundation of the RPL             | Borgus   |         |
| d. MCLS Board Committees                         | Stockman |         |
| 3. Staff Reports                                 |          |         |
| a. Local History & Geneology                     | Finn     |         |
| b. Director's Report                             | Uttaro   | page 9  |
| c. MCLS Services                                 | Smathers | page 10 |
| d. Central Library Services                      | Smathers | page 17 |
| <b>IV. OTHER BUSINESS</b>                        |          |         |
| <b>V. ADJOURNMENT</b>                            |          |         |

**Next Meeting:  
August 21, 2023, 5:00 p.m.  
Gates Public Library, Community Room #904, 902 Elmgrove Rd, 14624**





**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees  
Central Library, Kusler-Cox Auditorium  
May 15, 2023  
Minutes**

- Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Marjorie Shelly, Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)
- Trustees Excused:** Amy Moffitt, Mack Smith, Erick Stephens
- Trustees Unexcused:** None
- Staff and Guests:** County Law Liaison, Don Crumb; County Office Liaison, BJ Scanlon; staff members Brie Harrison, Shareka Jackson, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Adam Traub, Patty Uttaro

**Call to Order**

Ms. Stockman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

**Quorum at June Meeting**

Dr. Knapp brought up his concern that there may not be a quorum for the June meeting given that he and Ms. Shelly will both be absent. After a brief discussion it was decided that Ms. Mansour will send out a poll to determine who is available for the June meeting. Results of the poll will determine if an alternate meeting day needs to be found.

Kimberly Brown joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

**Public Comments**

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to address the board.

**Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023, meeting as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Claims**

Ms. Harrison introduced Shareka Jackson and shared that Ms. Jackson will be taking over the duties of the Finance Office with the exception of Capital Projects. Ms. Harrison will transition to managing only Capital Projects beginning in July. Ms. Harrison reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Approval of Proposed 2024 MCLS Budget**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the proposed budget and explained there are no major changes from the prior year. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the Proposed 2024 MCLS Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Update to 2023-24 Central Library Budget**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the proposed budget and shared that there will be a \$50,000 utilization of the RPL Fund Balance to help accommodate for the lost revenue due to the elimination of fines. Ms. Hessney Lynch MADE A MOTION to approve the amended 2023-24 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Central Library Program Aid FY24**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the Central Program Aid with the trustees. Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2023-24 budget cycle. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Trustee Appointments**

Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve the Nominating Committee’s recommendation of Christopher Corcoran to be appointed by the Monroe County Legislature to the MCLS Board of Trustees for the term of July 1, 2023– June 30, 2028. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Election of Officers**

Ms. Stockman introduced the proposed slate of officers as follows:

President: Christopher Corcoran

Vice-President: Emily Hessney Lynch

Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed slate of officers for the term July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Monroe County Library System Annual Report to New York State**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the highlights of the MCLS annual Report to New York State. Trustees were offered a printed copy of the full report. In response to a question, Ms. Uttaro explained that the Coordinated Outreach Council includes representatives from local agency who meet with the staff of the Library Outreach Department to review programs and services offered and make recommendations. Mr. Brandt asked about the meeting schedule and stated he would like to sit in on the meetings. Ms. Hessney Lynch MADE A MOTION to approve the 2022 MCLS Annual Report to NYSED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**President’s Report**

Ms. Stockman reported her attendance at the John Lovenheim Center for Technology and Innovation dedication presentation and the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe bust dedication. She also attended the Jason Reynolds Author Visit at East High School and commended everyone on their work to make that program happen.

Next, she discussed an idea proposed by Mr. Brandt to have a Service Award within the MCLS. The MCLS Office does not have staff or funding to administer an award, therefore trustees could potentially create a subcommittee for the administration of it. She invited trustees to consider if they wanted to do this and the topic can be opened for discussion at a future meeting if anyone feels strongly that an award is needed.

**Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison**

On behalf of Mr. Stevens, Ms. Uttaro reported that the RPL Board meeting was relatively short with only a few action items.

The Lincoln Branch is progressing and should be reopened to the public in early July. For the Maplewood Branch renovations, the staff are working closely with Brie and Hunt Engineering on the initial rounds of community feedback to help lay the groundwork for what features will be included in the renovations.

Also in branch news, Cathy Kyle has been hired as the Branch Supervisor at the Lyell Branch. Most recently she was working as a Family Services Coordinator in the Children’s Center at the Central Library.

**Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison**

None.

**Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library**

Ms. Borgus reported that FFRPL has several trustees who have reached the end of term limits. Ending service are David Hou, Dick Hamilton, Andy Iserson, and Brian McLaughlin.

The final Books Sandwiched In event this spring is tomorrow at noon in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. Previous programs are available online through the FFRPL website.

FFRPL has been pleased to co-sponsor the Spring Author Series along with NYS Senator Samra Brouk, and to partner with the Rochester, Pittsford, and Penfield Public Libraries for each of the events. The final event in the series will take place on Thursday, May 18 at Penfield Public Library with a lecture and book signing by author Marie Benedict. This event is sold out.

And lastly, she reminded all that the 2023 grant application for the Harold Hacker Advancement of Libraries Fund is due May 19, 2023.

**Board Committee Reports**

None.

**Circulation Division Report**

Chad Cunningham introduced himself as the Supervisor of the Central Circulation Division and provided a presentation on the work done by him and his staff at both the Central Library and for the MCLS.

In response to a question, he shared that international applications for library cards tend to come in groups as a circle of people will often find out from one person.

**Webster Library Director Report**

Adam Traub introduced himself as the Director of the Webster Public Library and provided an overview of the Webster Library. He shared information on the library's service area, the budget, the location, programming and staffing.

He then shared information about book challenges he has fielded at his library and how distressing these are for his staff, especially when the challenges appear to be rooted in bigotry.

He also reported that the Webster Library will be removing late fines on all materials in January 2024.

Finally, he shared that his Board of Trustees is looking to fill a couple of vacancies.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported she is in discussions with Sen. Brouk's Aid to repeat the funding for an Author Series in 2024 in light of the successes of the program this year.

She reported about the contentious book challenges currently underway at Newman Riga Library. She has been spending a significant amount of time helping the Director navigate the process. She also gave updates on the different book challenges that have happened in Monroe County recently as well as a panel discussion that was hosted at Henrietta Public Library called Just Say No to Book Bans.

Lastly, she reminded everyone that she has scheduled the MCLS and RPL Boards for the Take It Down! program at the Rochester Museum and Science Center on Thursday, September 28 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

**MCLS Office/ Central Library**

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the MCLS Shipping Office is now fully staffed with drivers which is a welcome relief to those who have been working to keep things running while short-staffed.

**Other Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

*Patricia Uttaro, Secretary*









TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: June 26, 2023  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–June 2023

### ***Action Items***

None.

### ***Report & Discussion Items***

#### ***MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting***

Member Library Visits – May was full of visits to member libraries. I spent time with Tim Ryan at East Rochester, Greg Benoit at Irondequoit (where I also ran into former MCLS Children’s Consultant Carolyn Schuler!), Amanda Madigan at Pittsford, Carl Gouveia at Fairport, and Adrienne Pettinelli at Henrietta. Each visit has involved some rich discussion about MCLS and the direction in which the system is headed. Directors are universally satisfied with the work and service provided by system staff. This has also been an opportunity to talk through some thorny problems some member libraries are experiencing, some of which I have discussed with County attorney liaison Don Crumb, who has offered some helpful advice.

Goethe Unveiling – early in the month, we unveiled a project that was more than 2 years in the making: unveiling the new statue of the German poet Goethe. This was spearheaded by Dr. Roger Ehrich, son of the artist who sculpted the original bust which was stolen from Highland Park in 2018. Jennifer Smathers and Dr. Ehrich, working with representatives from the Rochester German-American Federation, presented a lively and well-researched program about Goethe, which culminated in a dramatic unveiling of the statue. The bust will reside in the Literature wing of the first floor of the Rundel Building going forward.



Finger Lakes Emerging Library Leaders Course – Preparation for the inaugural class for this year-long course took up a decent amount of my time this month. The first class was held on May 18 at the Rochester Regional Library Council offices. This first session focused on students understanding themselves as they progress through this leadership course. Allyn Stelljes from Causewave

Communications took the students through analysis and discussion of a personality test each student took before the class, and I finished the day with a workshop on personal and professional values. The evaluations from the students were all extremely positive and we are all looking forward to the future classes.

Reynolds Library Board – The Reynolds Library Board, a fiduciary board that manages an endowment from the original Reynolds Library, meets twice a year in May and November. This month, we said goodbye to longtime Reynolds President Kate Parsons. Kate has chaired the Reynolds Board for 20 years, taking over when Pete French retired from the position. I'd like to officially thank Kate for her years of service to the Reynolds Board and welcome our new President, Justin Stevens. Kate has been a tireless supporter of Safe to Be Smart and other library programs. She will be missed.

## ***MCLS Member Libraries***

***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

### ***Brighton Memorial Library***

Members of our staff and garden volunteers have been working for months to revitalize our Children's Garden. Included in the rejuvenated garden is Rachel's Fairy Library garden, created in memory of Rachel Axelrod, a member of the Friends of BML who passed away last year. The library and all of its magical and woodland readers are visible from inside the Children's Center.







**Greece Public Library**

Congratulations to our eight finalists in the Teen Bookmark contest! This year we had over 100 entries. We will print the winning designs and distribute them at the library this summer. Winners have been notified and will receive their prizes later in June. Thank you to all who entered the contest. There were so many great entries, we will print more later this summer.



Congratulations to Ky'Johnna J., Riley P., Kalliste B., Grace M., Gigi D., Gabby W., Josie O., MacKenzie C.!

**Hamlin Public Library**

We made the official Guinness Book of World Records! The pull tab chain, once stretched out, reached 1,135.05 feet, which blew away the length we needed to make. Total pull tabs collected were 16,069 of which the Hamlin Community collected 2,107! That's a lot of plastic that will not be going into landfills. The measurement happened in Halcottsville, NY on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. Participants were encouraged to stop by the library to pick up an official "Chain Gang" sticker.

**Henrietta Public Library**

The library hosted a Bike Rodeo on May 13. [R Community Bikes](#) collected used bikes. Every year the organization gives away hundreds of bikes to families in need in the Rochester area. They accepted all types of bikes, for both children and adults. Everyone had such a fun time at the Bike Rodeo, library staff will plan to hold this event again.

**Irondequoit Public Library**

An adjustable-height desk is now available in our Computer Lab on the 2nd Floor. The desk can be adjusted from 27 inches up to 45 inches to best fit how you need to use the computer.

**Mendon Public Library**

The Friends of MPL had a perfect day to distribute big, beautiful blooms at the annual Flower sale. A grateful purchaser said online, "I love my flowers -AND our library!"

**Newman Riga Library**

Alice Kingdon donated another amazing Summer Fun Basket to the library to be raffled off. Contents include puzzle books, a Yankee Candle, as well as gift cards of



\$25 each to ANG Market, the Churchville Grill, and Abbotts. Tickets are 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10. The drawing will be on Saturday, June 10th.

**Ogden Farmers' Library**

Patrons celebrated Star Wars Day at the library, on May 4. Festivities included a craft, a scavenger hunt, button making, and photo ops with cutout characters.



**Parma Public Library**

The library added more video games to our collection. We now have PS4, PS5, and Xbox One games in addition to Nintendo Switch. (Pssst adults, there are games for you, too!) You can check out two games at a time per library card for two weeks. We had a large group for our Walking Tour of the Historic Hilton: West Ave area, partnering with the [Parma Hilton Historical Society and Museum](#). It got chilly when the drizzle hit, but we did all right.

**Penfield Public Library**

The library welcomed local author Francesca Padilla on May 15 to discuss her book, *What's Coming to Me*. Participants enjoyed ice cream treats and had a blast learning from the author of this thrilling, poignant young adult novel.

**Pittsford Community Library**

PCL celebrated day one of the PGA Championship with some complimentary cookie cake and ice-cold Arnold Palmers! The cookie cake helped us remember what wise man from Caddyshack once said ... "Stop thinking, let things happen, and be the ball."





### **Rush Public Library**

The Rush Readers' Book Club for May featured a real Rochester crime: *Seven Million* by Gary Craig. "On a freezing night in January 1993, masked gunmen walked through the laughably lax security at the Rochester Brink's depot, tied up the guards, and unhurriedly made off with \$7.4 million in one of the FBI's top-five armored car heists in history." Listening to Gary Craig talk about this meticulously researched true-crime book is always a treat.

### **Seymour Library**

The Kiwanis Club of Brockport held its annual Read Around the World event at the Seymour Library. Despite the rain, the kids and families had a great time. Guest readers this year were Chief Mark Cuzzupali of the Brockport Police Department, Brockport School Superintendent Sean Bruno, and Club member Brigitte Duschen. All of the distinguished readers emphasized to the children the importance of reading and learning, as well as the importance of community and friendship.



### **Webster Public Library**

Patrons and staff got mugged at the library, thanks to our May community swap table. Folks were encouraged to drop off gently used mugs and pick up a new-to-them one. Thank you to all the organizations and potential volunteers who made the Volunteer Fair such a success! Browse the results of our recent Volunteer Fair by asking for the binder at the Information Desk and perusing 20 organizations that are seeking help.



### **MCLS Office Updates**

#### **Jennifer Smathers reporting**

Understanding acquisitions and fund management in Carl became a priority for Associate Director Smathers, who is planning some reorganization for some systems departments once the new Central Associate Director is hired. End-of-year procedures that were handled by the previous Collection Development Manager are now being handled by Smathers. Those duties include database renewals and moving allocations between funds to allow for successful payment in CARL of incoming invoices. Smathers will be developing workflow analysis for several departments with the intent of improving efficiency and finally taking advantage of the full capability of the CARL system.

**Art of the Book**

The deadline to submit entries for the 2023 Art of the Book Exhibit was on May 15, 2023. The library received 189 artwork submissions from 104 artists from around the world. From May 15–31 Alicia Gunther processed those entries, creating judges' files for each submission (approximately 35 hours of work). Completed files were sent to the Judges for initial review on May 31.

Social Media

<b>May 2023</b>	<b>RPL Twitter</b>	<b>MCLS Twitter</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Facebook Calendar</b>	<b>Facebook Groups</b>	<b>Instagram</b>	<b>YouTube</b>
Profile/ Page Visits	145	183	739	-	-	114	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	0 (2,105)	1 (2,233)	24 (5,764)	-	22	42 (2,480)	12 (518)
Engagements	38	61	1,841	97	47	381	44
Check-In/ Mentions	8	14	-	-	-	7	-
Post Reach	2,408	2,846	14,179	-	-	1,140	14,199
Video/Story Views	-	-	41	-	-	161	837

**Constant Contact Newsletter**

**Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)**

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 5,159
- Click through – 165

**New subscribers – 14**

**OverDrive**

- Total Checkouts- 83,639
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 799
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 8,821
- SORA Checkouts- 1,014
- Great Courses- 103

***Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting***

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 25 in-home patrons this month.

In-Home Materials Distribution:

- Home Deliveries: 22 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
- Braille and Audio Reading Downloads by Mail: 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)

Outreach staff mailed out 2 reference packets to in-home patrons.

#### Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 10 library stations—fulfilling special requests for 7 sites. There were no missed deliveries this month (Cycle One).

#### Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff have developed a new partnership with the Monroe County Children's Detention Center and have begun to assemble a recreational reading and game library at the facility.
- Wes Becker and Maren Kyle presented to a group from the men's Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Unit at the Monroe County Jail about local library and reentry services. Becker kicked off the presentation with a rich and well-received discussion of reentry resources, beginning with steps one can take while still incarcerated—such as demonstrating evidence of rehabilitation, crafting a personal statement, and getting a copy of your RAP sheet—before working his way through a variety of educational, job training, and reentry programs, as well as legal and health-related resources available in our community that folks can take advantage of upon their release. Kyle followed with an engaging sampler of library services, discussing the abundance of libraries in Monroe County; how to get a library card or a fresh start; collections and services for job seekers and aspiring small business owners; valuable library partnerships and collaborations; digital library resources; untraditional library collections; free events; and more.
- The Outreach Department kicked off its second programming series for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system with the workshop Know Your Rights: Applying for a Job. Attorneys and other service professionals from Legal Assistance of Western NY, Center for Community Alternatives, and the Judicial Process Commission presented information to justice-involved attendees about their legal rights as pertain to employment and the importance of obtaining their official RAP Sheet. Attendees were very engaged, asking multiple questions specific to their situations.

#### Programs

- Kyle facilitated a LeVar Burton Reads Short Story Discussion at Lifespan's Lily Café: a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ at the Maplewood YMCA. This month's story was "The Foster Portfolio" by Kurt Vonnegut.
- Discenza facilitated a LeVar Burton Reads Short Story Discussion at Lifespan's Wolk Café: a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ in downtown Rochester. This month's story was "The Years of My Birth" by Louise Erdrich.



### **Shipping Department, Michael Ekiert reporting**

#### Delivery & Sort:

The department processed 770 Hold totes and hauled 5,936 total totes in May. This is a 6.0% increase in overall tote volume and a 10% increase in Hold volume when compared to the amount processed in April of 2023.

#### Interlibrary Loan:

Lending: Requests Received- 500; Requests Filled- 164

Borrowing: Requests Received- 67; Requests Filled- 62

### **Central Library Updates**

#### **Associate Director Jennifer Smathers reporting**

#### **Arts/Literature, Melissa Manczuk reporting**

#### Programs

- The Arts and Literature Division held three separate writing series online over eight days and an in-person playwrighting workshop over three evenings, facilitated by professional writers. There was positive feedback from all the classes. The instructor of the series, *What Makes You, You?* was particularly popular. One person wrote of the instructor:  
*“Alex Sanchez is an excellent teacher who provides effective instruction and writing tools, gives and facilitates encouraging feedback, and creates a respectful and engaging learning environment, and this made the writing class (and every class Alex teaches) a very useful and fun experience.”*
- *Rundelania*, the online literary journal of the Arts and Literature Division, published its 13<sup>th</sup> issue in May with record submissions and viewership. Over 1,200 people, locally, from around the country, and overseas, read the issue in May. [www.rundelania.com](http://www.rundelania.com)

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Arts and Literature Division is now one of many host sites for programs presented by the Brainery on most Monday and Wednesday nights. For each class, the Division staff creates a display of related books and framed prints. Melissa Manczuk had a patron return a week after taking one of the classes in search of some books that she had seen on the table and was thrilled when Manczuk was able to locate them for her.
- Melissa Manczuk was contacted by Donna Favitta, the new program coordinator at Lifespan Wolk Café, to see if Manczuk would be interested in resuming craft classes there. Before the library's closure in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Manczuk provided monthly craft classes to the patrons of Lifespan. Manczuk will resume classes in July and the patrons of Lifespan Wolk Café are excited to have her return.

#### Anecdotes/Other

At the beginning of May, Nanci Nugent fell at the reference desk and broke her kneecap. During her absence, Melissa Manczuk has been placed in charge of the division.

**Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting**

Programs

Business First Wednesday: Financing Your Business and the 5 C's of Credit with Virginia Smith, head of the local Small Business Administration.

Meetings

- Jennifer Byrnes met with City Hall staffers on two occasions to discuss how the City is supporting cannabis businesses. She met with David Serrano and Sara Edwards from the Cannabis Workforce Initiative (CWI) to discuss implementing their 15-hour cannabis workforce preparation course at Central. Also, she met with Anne Forkutza of Dutchie, a purveyor of cannabis products and the inventor of Dutchie Pay, a cashless point-of-sale system for dispensaries. They are considering doing training for Dutchie Pay in Rochester for members of the legacy community and they would like to donate a pop-up store to BIC so we can use it to role-play customer service scenarios for those in the CWI course.
- Byrnes met with Andy Simon, the new head of the Food Future Co. Accelerator in NYC, to discuss how we can support their businesses.
- Byrnes met with Natalie Cannestra of the Brooklyn Public Library's business and career center to discuss cannabis programming and our overall service model.

Outreach

- Melissa Cobo and Kate Meddaugh presented to the new cohort of students at the Syracuse University Innovation Law Center.
- Byrnes participated in two separate cannabis conferences on May 20, the Science of Cannabis and Meet the Mentees, for those that participated in the Office of Cannabis Management's mentorship program. For Meet the Mentees she was also a speaker.
- Cobo attended Monroe Community College's presentation of the geographic information systems capstone project. Cobo served as a mentor to one of the students.
- Meddaugh and Byrnes attended the Downtown Rising conference hosted by Rochester Downtown Development Corporation. Presentations included visions and projects, businesses and expansions influencing the future of downtown.
- Meddaugh presented the resources of the Business Insight Center and the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property to the Urban League of Rochester's Community Business Academy.

Consulting

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 2 in person, 15 by email, 0 by mail, 4 by phone, and 4 by Zoom.
- Carlson Center Webpage views: 42
- 3D Printer: 0 (out of service, waiting for a new part)
- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 42
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 5

### Database Usage – April Statistics

Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 4 Value: \$9,850

IBISWorld: Page views: 78 Value: \$26,775

InnovationQ: Logins: 14 Searches: 169

PitchBook: Logins: 21

Statista: Searches: 65 Downloads: 16

### Anecdotes

- The library was acknowledged for its research assistance at Excell Partner's HealthTech Innovation Forum. Approximately 100 people from the academic, entrepreneurial, and tech sectors attended.
- The division took third place in the American Library Association's Libraries Build Business pitch competition and was awarded \$1,500.



### ***Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting***

#### Programs

- Critically acclaimed best-selling author Jason Reynolds visited with 500 students from throughout the city of Rochester, Penfield, and Pittsford at East High. Mayor Evans gave the welcome and introduction. Reynolds shared the road he traveled through school and his early years which was such a compelling and inspiring story that he captivated the crowd. Mr. Reynolds talked about some rough situations which resonated with the youth. During the Question-and-Answer portion, one youth described the struggle of losing several people in his life over the last couple of years, one person being his best friend who committed suicide. Mr. Reynolds related to that and talked about losing his best friend in high school and the importance of remembering the person and that grieving takes the time it takes. This was an amazing event; it was uplifting to see the youth so excited to meet him. During the book signing, some youth shared their writings and illustrations with Mr. Reynolds. One young person showed some fashions he designed, and Mr. Reynolds immediately gave his phone to the youth and asked him to find his Instagram so Reynolds could follow the youth. The smile on the student's face was enormous!
- To celebrate May the 4<sup>th</sup> Star Wars Day, Miranda Hazen made a display of a variety of Star Wars items borrowed from generous Central staff. For the day and following weekend, there was an I Spy style activity



using the display as well as other Star Wars-themed games like Storm Trooper bowling and Galactic Empire vs. Rebel Alliance Toss Across.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Burton, Hazen, Coonelly from Central, Vinise Bobrov (Pittsford), Evanna DiSalvo (Douglass), and Steve Shon (Ogden) provided a story walk using *Chalk* by Bill Thompson at the Lilac Festival this year. Visitors were also encouraged to draw on the sidewalks with chalk.
- Staff from Upper Hudson Library System presented Storytime Bootcamp. It was held at Brighton Library for 18 new children's services staff. After hearing about the success they had with their staff during an NYS Youth Service Meeting, Burton invited them to present the training here. It was very well received.
- The Annual Red Wings Education Day was a chance for MCLS staff to share information and meet students and teachers at Innovation Field. Burton was joined by Amanda Madigan and Sarah Ngo (Pittsford Library) for a very hot but fun-filled morning. Burton created a Guess the Shredded Book (no library books were harmed in the process). After shredding most of a Clifford F&G, small parts of the book were hidden to help people guess. The second activity was Book Cover Puzzles. Book covers were cut into puzzle pieces that had to be put together. The most challenging puzzle was the golden ticket page from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.



#### Raising A Reader

This past month Taylor Coonelly and Margarita Chaves focused on preparing take-home activity kits for our RAR families. Based on the book *Bear Sees Colors* by Karma Wilson, the team created activities to encourage asking questions. The RAR team also completed various outreach programs by having families complete the RAR surveys to serve our community better. We have received very positive feedback from our families and sites about the program. So far, we have completed surveys from Ibero, ABC Hart Street, and VOA. Coonelly and Chaves will be working on the collection of our bags and sorting through the items and will be wrapping up storytimes in the next few weeks. The RAR team will focus on creating end-of-year reports and inputting data to demonstrate the impact RAR has made in our communities and where and how we can improve in meeting the needs of our families.

***Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting***

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments- 4

New Borrowers- 169

RRLC Access Cards Issued- 8

Notarial Acts- 242

Anecdotes/Other

Makita Hagood recently helped a patron get a library card. This is not an unusual occurrence at the Circulation desk, but Hagood's impact on the patron was truly exceptional. The patron was impressed by Hagood's knowledge of her job and the library, and by her friendly and open demeanor. After dealing with other governmental agencies, his trip to the library was the positive experience he needed. He described Hagood as a breath of fresh air who wowed him in every possible way. He filled out an Excellent Service Award card for Hagood and ended it with "If only the world had more MAKITAS in it, I know for sure it would be an awesome place to live!"

***Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting***

In May, the Local History & Genealogy Division became the official provider of Monroe County Historian services under a contract between the City, County, and library. Thus far, reference activity has been relatively light, with just three questions directed to the Monroe County Historian's Office this month. Staff from the division have invested considerably more time updating content for the library's and County's websites (approximately 3 hours) and preparing for the physical move of the County Historian collections and furniture (approximately 11 hours) from the office's former home at St. John Fisher University to its new home at the Central Library, in the former book sorting room on the 2nd floor of the Rundel Memorial building. Brandon Fess is coordinating this move in cooperation with St. John Fisher Library staff and Central Library's Facilities and Shipping departments. This project is expected to grow in scale and intensity during June and July, with the actual move expected to happen in July.

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

The division launched a new summer walking tour series this month with Dan Cody leading a tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail. Patrons have expressed interest in historical walking tours, and we anticipate a good turnout for this series, especially during good weather. See below for the dates, times, and themes of the 2023 Local History Walking Tours.

Exhibitions – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

Hope Christansen created a new table display in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The display featured photographs from the library's *Rochester Images* collection, maps, and photo-ephemera collages from the Daily Lives of Asian Americans in Greater Rochester documentation project of the Asian/Pacific Islander/American History Project of Greater Rochester.

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky provided oral history training to four of the JW Management & Quality Consultants Youth History Ambassadors through the division's partnership with that program. In the weeks following the training, the youth interviewed several notable local African American leaders, including Dr. Walter Cooper.
- Ridarsky contributed to Nazareth College's new public history curriculum by discussing her work in 2019 as lead curator of the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit on camera. The video segment will be used to introduce students to coursework on diversity, equity, and inclusion in public history.
- Ridarsky attended a presentation by collections consultant Mark Tudor in which he outlined his final report on the state of the Rochester Historical Society (RHS) and its collections. He offered a useful roadmap for RHS and its community partners, though it remains unclear whether the organization will be able to meet New York State's requirements for maintaining its charter.
- Finn met with former student intern Nick Giordano, who is seeking volunteer opportunities that will allow him to apply his knowledge of Artificial Intelligence capabilities to projects that advance the library's mission. Giordano will start by developing a tool that can transcribe handwritten letters, using the Raymond L. Rohner collection as a test case.

### Special Collections

This month Fess accessioned 12 new collections and created four new finding aids. Most of the accessions were for single objects. The finding aids included the unusual photograph collection of the Hurlburt and Sweet families (including rare service photographs from the New York Central Railroad police) and the fascinating scrapbook entitled *In the Matter of the Claim of Emmett Gallagher*, which records the struggle of a disabled World War I veteran from the town of Greece to receive the benefits due him from his combat service.

### Digital Projects

- A major digital project nearly a decade in the making came to fruition this month. All of the 307 finding aids in the Rochester Public Library's instance of the ArchivesSpace information management system have been successfully harvested by the Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (EADC) and are now publicly discoverable and accessible through the EADC website (<https://www.empireadc.org/search/repositories/nr>). The division anticipates that this new level of access to finding aids will result in increased use of the library's special collections, a benchmark that will be tracked in the upcoming months.
- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of other online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. In May, there were 550 page views of division content available through *New York State Historic Newspapers* (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>); and 2,322 page views of content available through the library's *Rochester Voices* site (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>). Statistics for *New York Heritage* (<https://nyheritage.org/>) were not yet available.
- The FamilySearch volunteer scanning team digitized 180 books this month, all of which were yearbooks. See below for details. Digital products from this project are starting to become available through the FamilySearch site (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/>). In April, there were 53 items from the Rochester Public Library added to the FamilySearch site, and 216 views of RPL items on the site. (Note: The



FamilySearch reports on materials uploaded and the number of views comes out a couple of weeks after the division's monthly report is due. May's numbers will be included in the next report.)

*Materials scanned by FamilySearch, May 2023:*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Madisonian	Madison High School	28	1943-1981 <i>passim</i>
Rochester Christian High	Rochester Christian High School	2	1985-1986
Lantern	Rochester School for the Deaf	41	1974-2018 <i>passim</i>
Artis	School of the Arts	8	2001-2010 <i>passim</i>
The Token	School Without Walls	17	1974-2011 <i>passim</i>
Surveyor	Washington High School	1	1939
Occident/Senior Annual	West High School	64	1906-1971 <i>passim</i>
John Quill	John Marshall High School	1	1978
Statesman	Jefferson High School	3	1963, 1968, 1972
The Key/Quaker	Benjamin Franklin High School	2	1989-1990
The Lair	Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School	8	1985-1998 <i>passim</i>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	

Social Media

There were two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog in May: “Bad Medicine: The Rise and Fall of H.H. Warner and the Warner Safe Cure, Pt. 1” by Emily Morry and “Healing and Caring: The Life and Legacy of Mother Hieronymo O’Brien (1819–1898), Part 2” by Christopher Brennan. The new posts received 32 views. In addition, readers from 36 countries revisited 178 previously published posts for a total of 2,164 views in May. All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com).

Interns/Volunteers

The division's work was supported by three volunteers in May for a total contribution of 42.75 hours. Karen Sue Brown continued sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings; she contributed 22.25 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 12 hours entering collection information into ArchivesSpace to create a finding aid for the pin-back button collection in the Office of the City Historian. Noeme Liestman provided 8.5 hours arranging, rehousing, and describing the library's previously unprocessed early (pre-1900) photographic materials.

***Patron Services, Cynthia Dana reporting***

Anecdotes/Other

- Dana was at the Circulation Desk when a patron approached Stephanie Penns to inquire about library holiday hours. Dana recognized the patron as a regular who spent much of the day hanging out on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and the trio shared a friendly conversation. Penns then shared that the person had recently lost his glasses so often came to the desk to ask what time it was. The next day, Penns informed Dana that the

patron now had glasses, so he was reading the newspaper. The glasses were a pair that Penns brought from home. This is not the first time Penns has brought her items for a patron; she is a very generous and caring person.

- Dana received an email from a teacher at the MCC Downtown Campus interested in a tour for her ESOL students. Dana met the group and provided a tour of both buildings. There was much interest in the doll collection, the Art in the Link Gallery, the Tech Center, and the Secret Room. Miranda Hazen was kind enough to let them search for the entrance before her #33 school students' arrival. They also planned to return to have lunch in the Foodlink Café. One of the women from Ukraine spotted a book in the Children's Center, *The History of Ukraine*. She borrowed it for her son after all the students received their brand-new library cards at the Circulation Desk. They were all interested in the new language collection recently added to Libby.

### ***Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting***

#### Reference

RMC handled 634 reference questions and 368 non-reference transactions for 1002.

#### Hoopla

##### Circulation

- Audiobooks– 1057
- Binge Pass– 10
- Comics– 169
- eBooks– 348
- Movies/TV– 242
- Music– 81
- Total Circulation– 1904

##### Users

- New users– 37
- Patrons using all 7 borrows– 96 (18%)
- Total users– 527

#### Programs/Tours/AV setups

Our First Friday Film program showed “Ant-man & the Wasp: Quantumania”

Our See It First film was “Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser”.

RMC performed 21 A/V setups & streamed 3 BSI programs to the RPLs YouTube Live Channel!

#### Anecdotes/Other

A patron was complimenting us on the loaning of Mi-Fi units. She told us that she otherwise would not have internet access in her apartment, and she brings the Mi-Fi with her for access everywhere. One day she saw a



help-wanted sign stating, "Apply online." She grabbed her phone and applied for the job immediately. She felt so good to be able to get in the application ASAP.

### **Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting**

#### Programs

- *Building the Brooklyn Bridge 1869 – 1883, An Illustrated History with Images in 3D* author book discussion, presented by Jeffrey I. Richman. Jeffrey included some of the 3D images in his presentation and brought 3D glasses to distribute to anyone who attended the program. Jeffrey's publicist, Beth Daughtery, and some of his friends accompanied Jeffrey.
- *The Rosenbergs*, presented by Mark Sample, History Professor from Monroe Community College, talked about the events and the individuals involved with espionage during the Cold War- leading up to the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. They were both executed for espionage during the Cold War. This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the trial. Thirteen people attended the program, and everyone was interested to hear about the story of The Rosenbergs and several people asked questions.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors were at about 70 this month, a remarkably high number considering a few days' cancellations.
- Pellegrino attended the monthly Education & Outreach meeting of the Hearing Loss of Association, Rochester Chapter. It is the Association's wish to donate money to purchase copies of the recent book on hearing loss, *Hear and Beyond*, to all Rochester area libraries. He will work with the Friends & Foundation and/or the MCLS office to make this happen. Pellegrino, along with Dr. Gregory Horton of the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, and Dr. Carly Alicea, of the Center and the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf, were recognized at the annual Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter's annual dinner. Pellegrino completed his two-year term on the Professional Advisory Committee. He will continue to attend the Education & Outreach meetings of the group.



#### Displays

In addition to the mental health self-care, mindfulness, and autism awareness month displays, Pellegrino set up an Asian-American Heritage Month display and Clerk Alaikia Miller created a display for Jewish-American

Heritage Month. The space/eclipse display has been moved to the standing cabinet and will remain there throughout the upcoming year as we prepare for the 2024 total solar eclipse.

Facebook Groups

Gardening Club: 177 Members (2 New Members)

9 Posts, 3 Comments, 19 Reactions

Total Engagements: 31

Cooking Club: 153 Members

8 Posts, 5 Comments, 24 Reactions

Total Engagements: 37

***Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting***

Programs

Ginger Brewer has seen much success with her Computer Tutor program at the Central Library. The adult learners are showing up for class and are eager to showcase the skills they have retained. The students have boasted to their family members about what they are learning. Brewer encourages the students to practice and keep practicing because digital skills won't come overnight. The students take heed of this type of encouragement and are prepared for each class to give it their all.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Literacy Rochester continues its program of classroom instruction and now has two instructors available to guide patrons through the NorthStar Digital program. Digital Literacy volunteers continue to support our patrons as they have been for the last 18 months but now offer more formal classroom instruction. The Technology Center's classroom is the perfect venue and Central's proximity to the bus station makes this an almost ideal location for this project.
- Leroy Banks and Lindsay Murphy from Rochester Works continued to provide walk-in resume instruction and job application assistance on the first Monday of every month. Pathstone's Growth Opportunities program also sets up in the Technology Center several times a month. Both these organizations offer valuable job training and employment preparation to our patrons.

***Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting***

Programs

- Sewing: Patrons continue to be excited about creating, transforming, and adjusting their fashion masterpieces. Participants are learning new stitch techniques and some older participants are assisting the newer participants with past lessons. It is becoming a close-knit community.



- Robotics Club: Youth have conquered the basics of the past month and used those lessons to create a four-dimensional model car.
- Teen Craft: Teens participated in a discussion of self-expression. This young person decorated her jeans using craft supplies provided by the teen center. Some others chose to make beaded bracelets and locker decorations.

School Visit: School 33 came for a visit. They enjoyed exploring the equipment in the Imagine You Lab. Some of them made illustrations on the Wacom tablet while others learned to use the digital cameras. Two of the young men were especially eager to learn more about Ping Pong. They enjoyed challenging the Teen Center staff to matches and trying out their new techniques.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Faezah Jahshiri participated in three weekly meetings to collaborate with Stephanie Hildreth from Rochester Museum and Science Center and Eve Tulbert from Get Real! Science at the University of Rochester this month. We have finished writing the curriculum for the Climate Robot Rangers. We have started advertising the program, recruiting student participants, and planning the program coordination.

***ImagineYOU Lab***

ESPORTS- Jeff Bostic's capstone project, part of his fellowship with the National Esports Federation, will be completed this month to bring esports to another library in the county. The Liberators received free headphones from a NASEF sponsor. In a very proud moment, a mother was able to watch her son stream for the first time.





ILLUSTRATOR– A few new business cards were created this month. One of our teens, who sells oils, was able to create a card to try to expand his business. Another patron is working on an emotion book.



GLOWFORGE– The Glowforge was a big hit with the school field trip this month. We also made custom pieces for many patrons including a pro wrestler.



MUSIC STUDIO– The music studio was utilized by our regulars and many kids visiting for a school field trip. The college music visits will start next month.

**Safe To Be Smart**

Mentoring

- In the past three months, there has been a need for a lot of one-on-one mentoring. John Hylton has recently experienced a higher level of young men who needed mentoring about mental health and various life skills training. He is mentoring about 6 youths who are uncomfortable speaking in groups. Hylton works closely with community partners and other city agencies to get youth the help they need.
- Hylton is also mentoring a family with a set of male twins. Discussions include behavioral issues and the challenges they have from being twins and finding their own identity. The continuing talks have helped the brothers realize what is expected of them and how to better communicate with others.



Anecdotes

- Many of these teens have an interest in learning more about art when they find out that Hylton is going to school for graphic design. Hylton was able to help a young man who is a musician create a logo for his band. They used Adobe Illustrator to create some logo ideas. This creative process allows Hylton to teach what he has learned in college to teens who are interested in learning.
- One of our teens who was an avid video game player has found a love of reading. Hylton suggested this young man change his routine and pick up a book. He picked up a manga book and has not looked back. The Teen Central staff has supported this young man by finding him books and suggesting new titles for him to read.





## **RRLC Report to the MCLS Board**

**From Peter Knapp, Liaison**

The RRLC board met on May 18. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

1. The board reviewed its draft budget based on a flat increase from the NYS budget. The board will approve a final budget in June.
2. The nominating and development committee shared thoughts about our Board Inventory process and ideas related to possible new board training options.
3. Laura filled the board in on the award process for Library of the Year and All-Star awards for this year and some changes being considered.
4. The board reviewed the role and purpose of the Advisory Committee and related bylaws language. Additional discussion re these issues will be held in a future meeting.
5. Dates to remember:
  - 5/25 RRLC Trivia Night social event
  - 6/6 RRLC Annual Libraries Celebration/All Stars 10:00 a.m. VIRTUAL
  - 6/15 RRLC Board Meeting





## MCLS Circulation Statistics

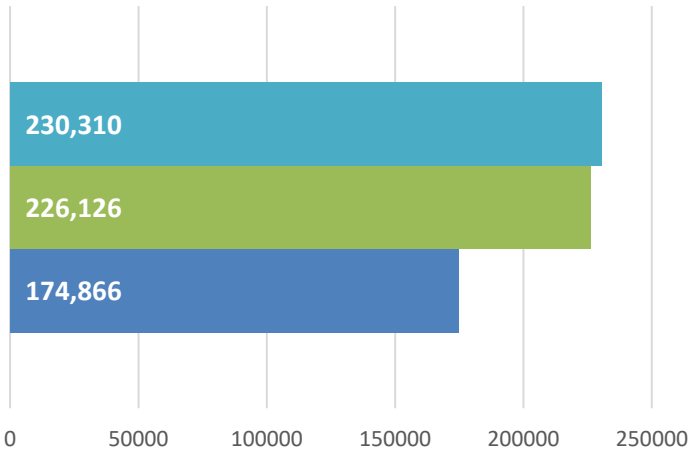
Town Libraries				
	2023	2022	+/-	%
Brighton	39,939	38,293	1646	4.3%
Seymour	10,512	9,892	620	6.3%
Chili	16,269	14,504	1765	12.2%
East Rochester	3,351	2,875	476	16.6%
Fairport	44,303	43,638	665	1.5%
Gates	17,716	16,858	858	5.1%
Greece	39,662	36,380	3282	9.0%
Hamlin	4,066	4,098	-32	-0.8%
Henrietta	33,177	31,006	2171	7.0%
Irondequoit	33,895	31,618	2277	7.2%
Mendon	7,218	6,593	625	9.5%
Newman Riga	1,795	1,627	168	10.3%
Ogden	9,392	8,630	762	8.8%
Parma	6,216	5,348	868	16.2%
Penfield	31,026	29,942	1084	3.6%
Pittsford	37,547	35,949	1598	4.4%
Rush	2,537	2,348	189	8.0%
Mumford	491	297	194	65.3%
Scottsville	2,060	2,194	-134	-6.1%
Webster	31,242	32,628	-1386	-4.2%
<i>Towns Total</i>	<i>372,414</i>	<i>354,718</i>	<i>17696</i>	<i>5.0%</i>
<i>RPL Total</i>	<i>63,510</i>	<i>61,881</i>	<i>1629</i>	<i>2.6%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>435,924</b>	<b>416,599</b>	<b>19325</b>	<b>4.6%</b>



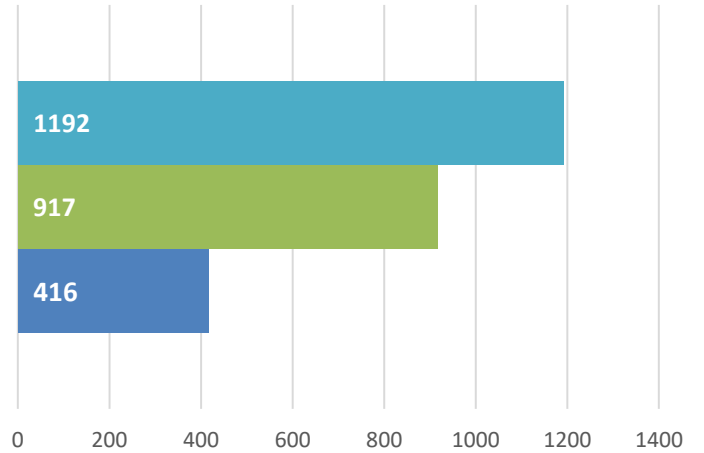
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan-May



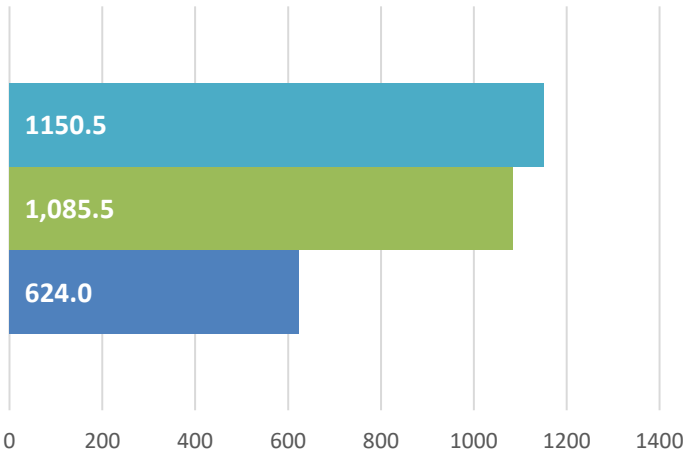
CIRCULATION



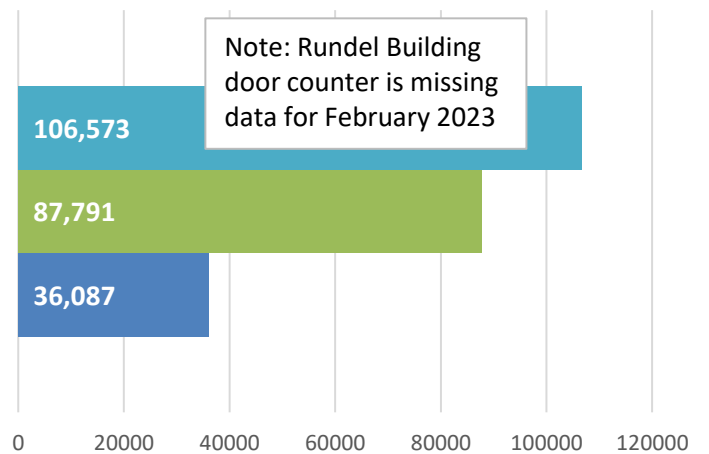
LIBRARY CARDS



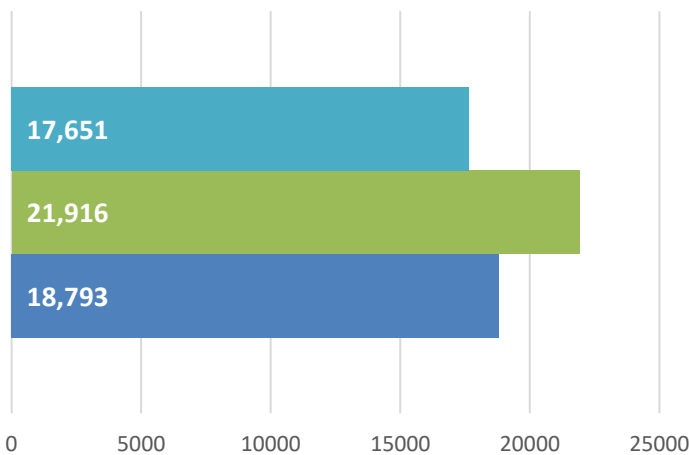
SERVICE HOURS



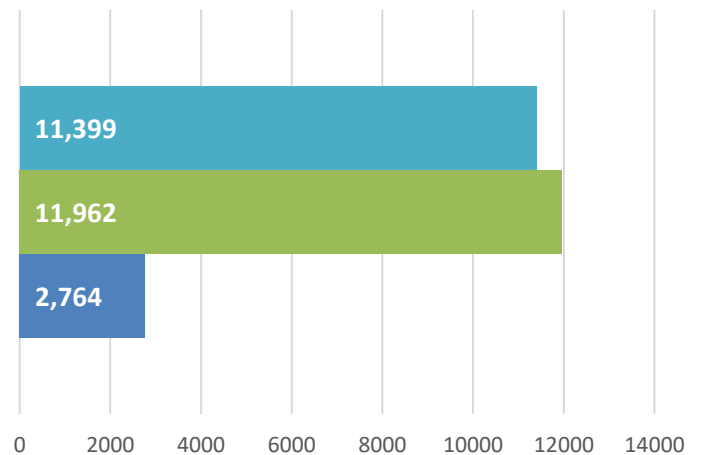
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



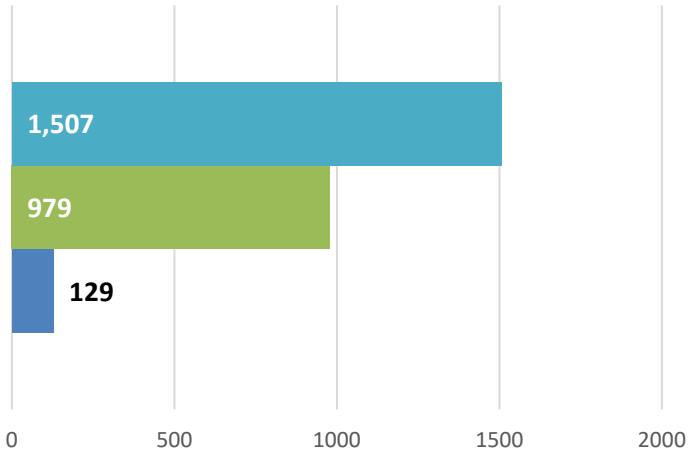
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan-May



NOTARY



**DEFINITIONS**

**Circulation:** Includes the circulation of all library materials both over the desk and virtual/e-content.

**Library Cards:** New patron registrations. Excludes renewals.

**Service Hours:** Hours the library is open to the public.

**Visits:** Door count of persons entering the library.

**Reference Questions:** Questions requiring staff to recommend, interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.

**Non-reference:** Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours? Where is \_\_\_?

**Notary:** Notary Public acts. Each signature counts as one act.

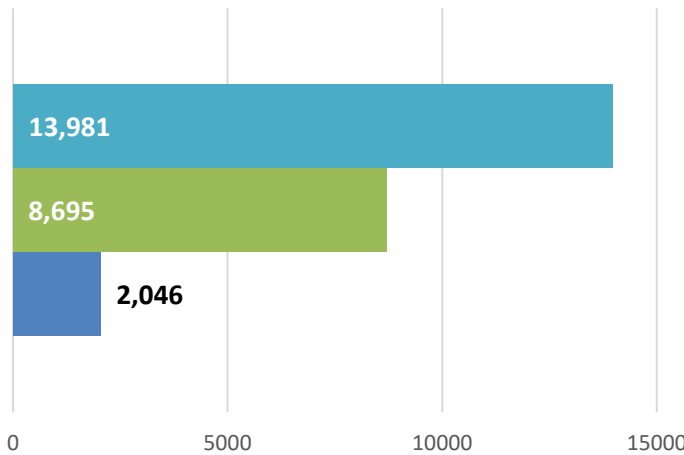
**Computer Hours:** Hours patrons used the public PCs.

**WiFi Uses:** Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.

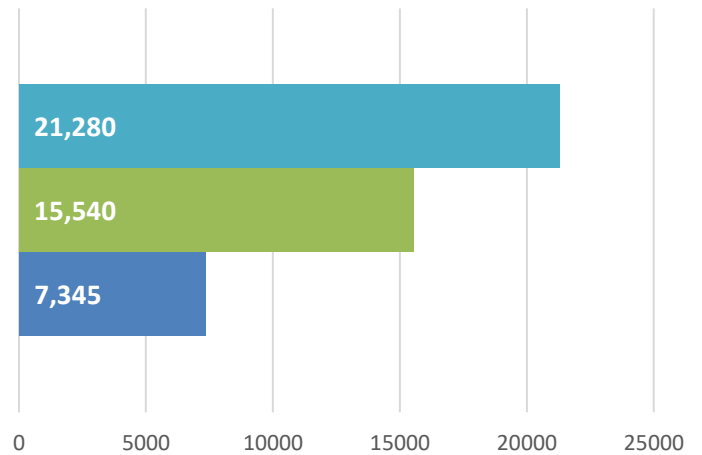
**Group Programs:** In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

**Program Attendance:** Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

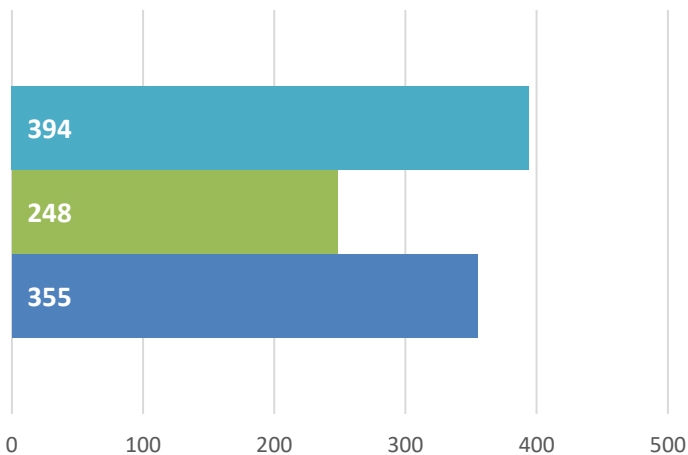
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

