



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
January 27, 2025, 5:00 PM
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Corcoran
- II. ACTION ITEMS**
1. Minutes of Nov and Dec 2024 meetings Corcoran page 3
 2. Claims Hasselwander page 9
 3. Agreements – Children’s Staff Training Hasselwander & Smathers page 11
 4. Grant Acceptance, Pomeroy Foundation Hasselwander page 11
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
1. Liaison from Rochester Public Library Board Drury
 2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council Knapp
 3. Staff Reports
 - a. Director’s Report Uttaro page 11
 - b. MCLS Services Smathers page 12
 - c. Central Library Services Clasper page 22
 4. Defunding the South Dakota State Library Corcoran
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Joint Meeting with Rochester Public Library Board
Central Library, 115 South Avenue, 14620**



**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Building
November 18, 2024
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Gary Brandt, Christopher Corcoran, Alinda Drury, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Mack Smith, Jr., Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: Kimberly Brown

Trustees Unexcused: Erick Stephens

Staff and Guests: County Law Office Liaison, Keana Williams; County Exec. Office Liaison, BJ Scanlon; staff members, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public wanting to address the board.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 21 meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Claims

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions.

Rev. Smith, Jr. joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

After a brief discussion, Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 MCLS Board Meeting Dates

Ms. Uttaro presented the proposed meeting dates and offered to answer questions. Mr. Corcoran reminded everyone that a special joint meeting has been called to appoint a new library director on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 3:00. Ms. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed schedule of 2025 MCLS Board meetings. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TLC/Carl Contract Renewal

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. She explained that a Request for Proposal (RFP) process happened approximately ten years ago and while it would be appropriate to conduct another RFP process soon, the current proposal is to sign a three-year extension through 2027. This will allow the new Library Director the opportunity to initiate a Request for Proposal after they are appointed. In response to a question, Ms. Hasselwander explained that the year one cost is lower due to a credit from TLC for a previous billing error. Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement with The Library Corporation for a 3-year renewal for the MCLS integrated library system software, not to exceed \$444,374. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL/MCLS Service Contract

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. She explained this is typically a two or three-year contract. Ms. Hasselwander is recommending a one-year contract to allow the upcoming new Library Director an opportunity to see the current contract in place and potentially offer changes to the next version. Rev. Smith, Jr. MADE A MOTION to approve the RPL/MCLS Services contract for the term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

LAS CampbellNet Solutions Agreement 2025

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. After a brief discussion, Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

Ms. Stockman reported that the RPL Board elected its Nominating Committee; approved a long list of City Capital Improvements through FY30; an agreement for design services for the new northeast branch; and accepted a grant and approved a professional services agreement for work on the Shoulder to Stand On archives. They also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Monroe County Department of Social Services who will have office hours at the Central Library on the fourth floor of the Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building; and an agreement with the Ibero-American Action League for Spanish translation services of Raising a Reader materials. In response to a question, Ms. Uttaro reported that the construction on the Maplewood Branch is progressing as planned with no significant issues. In response to another question, she explained that the City of Rochester has an arrangement with the Simon School of Business, and students from the school will be doing an analysis of the organizational structure for RPL and MCLS, and an analysis of the current reports to the Boards.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC Board has not met since his last report. He shared that there was a legislative breakfast at the Henrietta Library last week with good turnout. One legislator told him that libraries are not asking for enough money.

The Libraries of the Year award winners were announced. The SUNY Brockport library, the Naples Public Library and the Churchville-Chili School Library were among the winners.

Dr. Knapp referred to a question from the prior MCLS Board meeting about in-person computer training and explained that RRLC had stopped providing it even before the pandemic because it was very expensive to maintain the laptops needed and fewer people were signing up for the classes. He shared that RRLC will be subscribing to a service called Treehouse where members will be able to access self-paced online technology training. RRLC also has a subscription to Skillshare which is another online training product geared to creative endeavors.

Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Liaison

Ms. Borgus reported that the winter annual campaign letter is arriving in homes this week. Trustees should have a letter at their places. She reminded everyone that because they are trustees, they receive all of the campaign correspondence even if they have already donated.

FFRPL will be participating in the annual Roc the Day campaign on Tuesday, December 3. Funds raised will benefit the imagineYOU Comic Empowerment program. Trustees will all receive an email with ready-to-use graphics and links they can share on various social media platforms.

To celebrate Director Uttaro, the spring Tuesday Topics series will feature “Patty’s Favorite Things,” and an option to donate to the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries in lieu of retirement gifts has launched. This campaign will be promoted more after the Roc the Day Campaign is completed.

Director’s Report/Central Library

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. In response to a question, she explained that turning on Title Grouping in the catalog allows the return of one result for a specific title but within the returned result will be listed all the different forms available such as book, audio book, and e-book.

Next, she reported that teens have been ripping soap dispensers off the walls in the restrooms as part of an old TikTok trend that is making its way around again. Seven soap dispensers have been replaced at Central in the last five weeks.

She reported that Ms. Clasper has been very busy working with Ms. Suro on fine-tuning the new Patron Incident Tracking System (PITS). This new system is very appreciated by staff and is streamlining and improving communication and follow-up on incidents.

Lastly, she reported that Christine Ridarsky is scheduled to be appointed as the County Historian by the legislature at their December meeting.

MCLS Office

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that local advocacy will be ramping up now that election results are known. At the state level, the chair of the library committee did not win re-election so there will be some pivoting there once a new chair is named. Efforts will focus on construction aid, so she is asking the member directors to provide information earlier than usual about potential construction projects.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

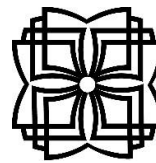
Without objection, President Corcoran called an executive session at 5:54 p.m. to discuss the recommendation of the New Director Search Committee. Donna Borgus and BJ Scanlon were invited to stay.

The executive session adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary



**Joint MCLS & RPL Board of Trustees Meeting
Kusler-Cox Auditorium, Rundel Memorial Library Building
December 06, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes**

- MCLS Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Alinda Drury, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, (quorum present)
- MCLS Trustees Excused:** Mack Smith, Erick Stephens, Suzanne Stockman (observed online)
- RPL Trustees Present:** Katherine Baynes, Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Glenn Gardner, Daniel Karin, James Kraus, Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)
- RPL Trustees Excused:** Suzanne Stockman (observed online)
- Staff and Guests:** County Law Liaison, Keana Williams; City Law Liaison, Allison Bartlett; City Council Liaison, Mitch Gruber; staff members Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Ana Suro

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the MCLS Board meeting to order at 3:04 a.m. welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Ms. Benjamin called the RPL Board meeting to order at 3:04 a.m. welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

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

MCLS Action Item: Springshare Professional Services Agreement

Ms. Hasselwander presenting the item to the MCLS trustees and offered to answer questions. After a brief discussion, Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve a professional Services agreement with Springshare, LLC for its Patron Point service in an amount not to exceed \$19,860.01 through December 31, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Joint Executive Session

Without objection, Presidents Corcoran and Benjamin called a joint executive session to discuss the selection of the new Library Director.

The minutes of the MCLS Executive Session on November 18 were approved without objection.

The minutes of the RPL Executive Session on November 26 were approved without objection.

The Boards adjourned their joint executive session at 3:35 p.m.

Joint Action Item: Appointment of a New Library Director

For the RPL Board, Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to appoint Emily Clasper as the new Library Director and ask current Director Patty Uttaro to choose a starting date of either January 13 or January 20, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the MCLS Board, Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to appoint Emily Clasper as the new Library Director and ask current Director Patty Uttaro to choose a starting date of either January 13 or January 20, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

Mr. Corcoran acknowledged the hard work of the selection committee in finding a new library Director.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Debi Mansour on behalf of Patricia Uttaro, MCLS Secretary

Daniel Karin, RPL Secretary

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2024**

Month	Day	CLAIM I/O	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
9	18	2000628223	11104976-TRI DELTA RESOURCES		\$ 12,760.00	290 WINDOWS 11 PRO LICENSES
10	16	2000630660	11105181-Rochester Public Library	\$70 REFUND FOR EMPIRE PASS RENEWAL & \$	\$75.00	NYS NEVER CASHED CHECK FOR THESE PASSES- RPL PAID MCLS SO THEY WERE ENTITLED TO A REFUND
11	1	2000632297	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$163,980.00	COORDINATED OUTREACH
11	1	2000632297	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$313,095.00	CENTRAL LIBRARY AID
11	1	2000632297	11105181-Rochester Public Library		\$8,195.00	COUNTY JAIL AID
11	1				\$8,102.16	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
11	5	2000632334	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$3,080.00	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
11	5	2000632334	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$224.25	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
11	5	2000632334	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$2,255.39	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
11	7	2000631414	11113713- FFRPL	2024 TEEN READ WEEK	\$1,000.00	
11	7	2000631858	11102541-UNIQUE MANAGEMENT	2024 MATERIAL RECOVERY	\$2,457.00	
11	7	2000632092	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 INTERNET	\$2,075.00	
11	7	2000632092	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION	\$16,921.06	
11	21	2000633821	11128531 - LITERACY ROCHESTER	EQUIPMENT FOR LR'S DL PROGRAM	\$11,700.00	ARPA FUNDS
12	1				\$2,374.90	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
12	9	2000636119	11102541-UNIQUE MANAGEMENT	2024 MATERIAL RECOVERY	\$1,719.90	
12	9	2000635794	11105635- CAMPBELLNET	TELECOM MAINT	\$4,962.00	
12	9	2000635825	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$2,798.32	
12	9	2000635825	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$293.02	
12	9	2000635825	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	\$2,792.14	
12	10	2000634915	11117594- TMOBILE	MIFI MONTHLY CHARGES	\$15,494.43	
12	10	2000635075	11128567- TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS		\$36,186.00	815 OFFICE 365 LICENCE SUBSCRIPTION
12	12	2000636289	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 INTERNET	\$2,075.00	
12	12	2000636289	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION	\$16,921.06	
12	17	2000636414	11105181- ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$3,831.94	ONLINE FINES JUN24-DEC24
12	17	2000636804	11105346-WEBSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$655.18	ONLINE FINES JUN24-DEC24
					\$ 636,023.75	



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: January 27, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–January 2025

Action Items

Agreements – Children’s Staff Training (Hasselwander & Smathers)

Tonia Burton, Children’s Services Consultant, is hosting three trainings for MCLS Children’s Librarians in the upcoming months.

- One training session will be provided by Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen and Dr. Erica Zippert of Mother Goose on the Loose. The virtual training entitled, “Enhancing Storytime to Build Children’s Math Skills,” will be held on February 12. The cost of the session is \$1,500.
- Two training sessions will be provided by Sensational Inclusion on April 9, entitled the “The Power of Trauma-Informed Care” and “Literacy Lift: Supporting Autistic Students to become Lifelong Readers.” The cost of each session is \$1,500, bringing the total to \$3,000.

Both trainings are open to all MCLS members. The agreements will be funded through the MCLS operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve professional service agreements with Mother Goose on the Loose not to exceed \$1,500 and Sensational Inclusion not to exceed \$3,000.

Grant Acceptance, Pomeroy Foundation (Hasselwander)

In partnership with the Monroe County Parks department, the Office of the City and County Historian was awarded \$3,900 in grant funds from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to purchase two New York State historic markers for Mendon Ponds Park—one for the Steward House and one for the Joshua Lillie gravesite. The County Parks department will handle the installation of the markers.

Board Action Requested: Accept a Pomeroy Foundation grant in the amount of \$3,900.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

When the joint boards voted to appoint me as MCLS/RPL Director in February 2009, I had spent 2 years at Central working with the previous Director, Paula Smith, and 27 years in various roles at libraries in the Monroe County Library System. I felt I knew the system, knew its leaders and staff, knew the community, and I entered the role of Director with a tremendous sense of optimism and enthusiasm for the future. Sixteen years later, I leave the role with same sense of optimism and enthusiasm for the future of all MCLS member libraries.

MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

Over the years, I have benefited from and truly appreciated the support given me by various MCLS library trustees, beginning with Eileen Riedman and Don Allis. Eileen mentored me from the beginning, introducing me to key people in the community and teaching me how to effectively talk to potential donors. Don, who attended my Tuesday Topics session on January 7, taught me a lot about mediation and about the tremendous value of employee recognition. They are just two of the many trustees who have extended their hands to help me guide MCLS effectively.

Several MCLS member library directors have also been stalwart supporters of system services and helped me achieve real change in how the system operates. While there are too many to name, I will call out Terri Bennett, Betsy Gilbert, Pat Bernhard, Marjorie Shelly, and Jeff Baker who supported ideas and projects from the beginning. Also, current member directors Adrienne Pettinelli, Adam Traub, Greg Benoit, Jennifer Ries-Taggart, and others who are clearing obstacles and making positive advances in library services every day. I leave MCLS with as solid, creative, and enthusiastic group of member directors as I've ever seen. I'm looking forward to what they do next!

All those years ago in 2009, I was asked by the boards to provide a list of things I wanted them to know about me and things I believed. Certainly, some of those things have changed over the years (my kids are grown adults today!), but the core of my belief system hasn't changed. I believed then and I believe now that our public library system is the equalizer in our culture. Libraries provide services to every person without regard to race, religion, gender, or any other category or identity. Over the years, there have been multiple marketing campaigns and slogans about libraries. The one that still resonates with me is the ALA campaign that stated, "Libraries Change Lives." I believed it then and I believe it now. The proof is in the myriad of personal stories shared by our patrons every day.

I leave MCLS with some sadness but also with much joy and hope. You have selected an amazing new leader in Emily Clasper, and I am very much anticipating the wonderful and exciting directions she takes you and our libraries in the coming years. I also leave with an abundance of gratitude to you, our trustees, and to our staff and community members who have shown me time and again that libraries are crucial to the quality of life in Rochester and Monroe County. Thank you for your support and dedication. I wish you all the very best.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

As the shortest nights of the year brought darkness and chill, libraries and library staff fought back with town events, parades, holiday parties, storytimes, crafts, and 'celebrity' visits.

Some of the most anticipated events were library-hosted Noon Year's Eve parties. Henrietta had almost as much confetti as people present at Noon on December 31st. Watch the video on Facebook to get a real feel for all the excitement. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1291969428749132>



Curious George parading through Mendon

Brighton Public Library

Children's Services Manager Elissa Schaffer was recently featured on 13 WHAM news. She described how Talking is Teaching, a national media campaign from 'Too Small to Fail,' works at the library. Through subject themed book bundles BML encourages talking, reading, and singing with young children by caregivers and parents.

<https://13wham.com/features/bright-spot/bright-spot-young-readers-thriving-talking-is-teaching-program-brighton-memorial-library-clinton-foundation>

Chili Public Library

During the annual meeting of the Gates Chili Chamber of Commerce, Marjorie Focarazzo, President of the Friends of the Chili Public Library Board, graciously accepted a check for \$4,211 from Chamber Board members Carla Vazquez and Zachary Utech. This generous contribution was raised through the Chamber's John Nowicki Memorial Golf Tournament, which took place in August. The Friends of the Chili Public Library extend their heartfelt thanks to the Chamber for this support.

East Rochester Public Library

There is new carpet in the Children's Depot. Thank you to the East Rochester Department of Public Works and their staff for picking up and installing the carpet as well as removing our old one. Thank you also to Jen Lunsford and her dedicated staff for securing the funds for this purchase to happen!

Fairport Public Library

Check out our Kids Corner Baby Animal Daycare! This play area was made possible through a grant provided by Senator Samra Brouk.



MCLS Director's Report—January 2025 (Continued)

Gates Public Library

The after-hours Holiday Spirits party, for adults aged 21 and up, featured crafts, snacks, a movie, and Iron Smoke Distillery guided tastings.

Greece Public Library

The 2024 wrap up of the Monday online book discussions starts with the most talked about book— *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. The most mentioned author in addition to Kristin Hannah was Freida McFadden! Our favorite fantasies were the *Fourth Wing* series, *A Court of Thorns and Roses*, *Divine Rivals*, and *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. Thrillers that were mentioned often included *The Silent Patient*, *First Lie Wins*, *None of This is True*, *One Perfect Couple*, and *Middle of the Night*. Emily Henry, Colleen Hoover, Elsie Silver, Katherine Center, and Abby Jimenez were favorite romance authors. Other books that were recommended often were *Tom Lake*, *Frozen River*, *Lessons in Chemistry*, *Hello Beautiful*, *James*, *All the Colors of the Dark*, and *God of the Woods*.

Hamlin Public Library

22 children participated in our Holly Jolly storytime full of festive books, songs, and crafting. They paraded through the library singing Jingle Bells with Santa waiting up front for pictures! Anyone who felt a little shy kept right on parading all the way back to their Santa-hand craft.



Henrietta Public Library

Deaney Weany Blooms shared how Filipinos celebrate Christmas in the Philippines and helped library folks craft paper paróls (star lanterns) ★! It was a festive class!



Irondequoit Public Library

IPL Ukulele Meet Up hosted a BYOU (Bring Your Own Ukulele) Open Door Holiday Sing-Along at the library. Music making was optional, patrons were welcome to just enjoy the festive tunes.

Mendon Public Library

The library was pleased to share the recent illustrations by ceramic and illustration artist Carrienne Hendrickson through January 4, 2025. The works on display at the library were primarily original pencil drawings with some giclee prints of her drawings. Carrienne has been a professional ceramic/illustration artist for the past 30 years or more after obtaining her degree in ceramic design. Her works can be found in many private collections and several museums. She also enjoys reading about history and classic short stories, visiting farms, visiting local historical places, nature, volunteering, studying insects, walking fast, singing, and tinkering with various musical instruments.

MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

Newman Riga Public Library

The gingerbread contest caught the attention of over 30 people online. Comments included, “The kids had a wonderful time creating their houses. Thanks for the awesome opportunity to show off their creativity!!!” “Can’t wait to see them!” and “This makes my heart so happy!!!”



Ogden Farmers' Library

Staff enjoyed a wonderful holiday luncheon thanks to the Friends of the Library for funding the luncheon and to the members of the Board of Trustees for holding down the fort while we celebrated!



MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

Parma Public Library

Our annual Noon Year's Party was a wonderful celebration. Thank you to the almost 100 people that came to ring in the New Year with us! Happy 2025 🎉🌟



Penfield Public Library

The library recently added over 75 new games, Tonies, and AV equipment to our Library of Things. The collection is super popular for all ages, with 50% of items checked out at any given time. It's a great resource for group or solo activities. Our Library of Things is located just behind the Information Desk. These items were purchased with funding donated by generous library patrons. Thank you!

Pittsford Community Library

PCL gave away hundreds of commemorative tote bags during Candlelight Night. Thanks to all who helped us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pittsford Community Library, which was chartered in 1924!



Rush Public Library

Early November saw the Grand Opening of the newly restored Joan Starkweather Children's Room. When looking at all the bright colors and beauty in online photos

folks said, *"Sometimes when something bad happens, something even better comes out of it. It looks amazing! All those new books"* and *"A great re-build and recovery for the kids."* [Note from Director Uttaro: I attended the event and found the outpouring of community support for the library heartwarming and uplifting. Kirsten Flass, her staff, and trustees did a wonderful job rebuilding the children's area with assistance from the Town of Rush. Great job!]

Seymour Library

Using the TeacherGeek Wiggle Bots, workshop participants designed and built their own unique "Jolly Jiggler" that could move, shake, and spin in all kinds of ways. With a small motor, battery, and simple

MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

circuits, students discovered how electricity powers movement while also developing fine motor skills and problem-solving abilities. Each student's wiggle bot reflected their unique imagination, making every creation one-of-a-kind and full of personality.

Webster Public Library

The Friends of the Webster Public Library were pleased to donate another \$20,000 to the library. This made a total of \$80,000 raised this year by the Friends for the library. Money raised by the Friends go to support library programming including story hours, Nights Out at the Library, STEAM Adventures, as well as special programs like the Rochester Mandolin Orchestra Holiday Concert. The Friends wish to thank the Webster Community for their generous support.



MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Alicia Gunther attended the annual NYLA Conference in Syracuse attending three workshops on Marketing, and Community Engagement. Jennifer Smathers also attended the conference, with a focus on NYALS Advocacy and vendor relations. In addition to checking with current materials and database vendors, Smathers spent a concerted effort on meeting Library System vendors.

Gunther gave 4 tours of the Central Library to MCLS member library staff and visiting organizations.

On November 15 & 16 Gunther, along with other member library representatives hosted a table at the Rochester Maker Fair at RIT. On the 15th staff interacted with over 300 educators and students from across Monroe County. The next day, staff showcased unique collections and services available at member libraries with over 800 community members attending the fair.

Gunther and Renee Kendrot tabled for RPL/Central at the REOC Health & Wellness Fair. At the event, Gunther interacted with adult students and staff, sharing library resources and services

Gunther gave an "Intro to the NYS Annual Report for Public Libraries" on December 9 for MCLS Member library staff. About 25 library staff member attended the overview.

Social Media



Technical Services, Dee Mrak reporting

A.I. and ChatGPT update: Chief Cataloger Dee Mrak created the A.I. book notification form to alert ordering librarians that the item they have ordered may be an A.I. generated book, and to ask them if they still want it for their collection. We will send this notification form with two other documents: the A.I. watchlist that was created by Margaret Paige and Rebecca Grant and the watchlist written by A.I. to help guide the librarians in their decision-making process. Also, Smathers finished editing her video training for A.I. and ChatGPT books (How to avoid poorly written (by AI) books: A selector’s guide to what our vendor's algorithms can't keep out). The video was reviewed and approved by Catalog staff and will be posted to the e-portal sometime in January.

Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting

Wes Becker helped partner organization LAWNY to coordinate an event, “Unlocking Second Chances #CleanSlateNY,” on November 18th at the Central Library. LAWNY Reentry Attorney Analiese Viascomi moderated a panel discussion featuring NYS Assembly Members’ Sarah Clark and Demond Meeks, Monroe County Public Defender Julie Cianca, City Councilmember and FoodLink CIO Mitch Gruber, and Reentry Advocates Annette Montstream of Judicial Process Commission and Thomas Gant of Center for Community Alternatives. The panel discussed the impact of the newly enacted NYS Clean Slate sealing law and engaged the audience in a lively Q&A session. When the panel ended, persons with conviction histories were able to engage in one-on-one consultation with service providers from the represented reentry organizations, as well as RochesterWorks and the Reentry Association of Western New York. Around 50 attended, and the event was featured on local news: <https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-leaders-and-advocates-discuss-impact-of-new-yorks-new-clean-slate-law>.

MCLS Director's Report--January 2025 (Continued)

After many months of preparation, the Outreach Department has launched its librarian-staffed book cart service at Monroe County Jail. Materials are purchased for the cart with state funds, and Outreach staff brings the cart to two program units (one male, one female) on a biweekly basis. At our first session on December 2, we were moved when the incarcerated women clapped in excitement when we came onto the unit with our cart. Wes Becker described their joy as if they were opening gifts on Christmas morning. We are so excited to continue and expand this partnership in 2025.

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 38 in-home patrons:

- 35 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (566 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (51 titles total)

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 23 library stations served. (2 sites paused due to staffing and/or construction)
- 1531 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 14 sites.

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff met with the education coordinator at the Monroe County Jail to plan for and finalize the new library-staffed book cart service, to begin in December in two jail program units.
- Monroe County Jail Book Cart Service on 12/5 and 12/19: 114 checkouts and 2 reference questions
- Outreach staff fulfilled 9 requests for physical "Making Moves" reentry resource packets.
- "Making Moves" webpage received 119 total pageviews.

Programs and Tabling

- Tech Link: Ron Freitag and technology center staff conduct tech outreach sessions at senior and residential facilities. Two outreach sessions occur in November. Two more, with statistics below in December.
 - Lifespan Wolk Cafe with Cy Shropshire, 5 patrons
 - University Tower with Jonathan Hammond, 4 patrons
- Book Club Support: Provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support book club programming at senior living facilities:
 - Valley Manor: *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka, 15 copies
 - Valley Manor: *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley, 12 copies
 - Ashley Woods: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kreuger, 10 copies

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Children's Center and Raising a Reader staff partnered with WXXI to host a Family Game Night. WXXI encouraged families to make their own games and games were set up in KGA. The importance of bedtime routines was emphasized with bedtime play. Hairstylists were present to demonstrate hair care. Two PBS characters from the show *Lyla in the Loop* came to meet children in person—Lyla and Stu.



- The Children's Center arranged for a local speech pathologist to offer programs to young children and the opportunity to speak with parents. Parents were excited about these programs. There are plans for more speech programs in January.
- Four classes of second grade students from Harris Hill Elementary School visited the library. Students had fun finding the Secret Room, going on a tour of the library, and engaging in a scavenger hunt. When Miranda Hazen was giving an overview of the Bausch & Lomb building, explaining it opened in 1997, one student raised his hand and asked, "Was that 100 years ago?"
- Rochester Korean Percussion Ensemble presented a drumming workshop featuring the Janggu, the Korean hourglass drum. Each participant played their own janggu, learning rhythms that culminated in the whole group playing along to a BTS song. The performers commented that they have never played for a more enthusiastic crowd!
- Katie Powell hosted a sensory play session in the Secret Room, featuring activities that engage a child's senses. Through sensory play, children explore materials hands-on, which helps them build cognitive skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making. Activities included a gross motor shape sorting game, sensory bins, and a pool filled with shredded paper. One parent commented that she appreciated that her child could come to the library and try new messy activities that she would not be comfortable doing in their home.





- The Children's Center also facilitated a Cubetto program for ages 4-8. Cubetto is a screen-free coding robot that teaches children early coding principles and computational thinking. Participants led Cubetto through a series of routes on his map, "debugging" their code if necessary.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton and Chelsea Arnold staffed a table the Rochester Children's Book Festival with help from Director Uttaro. Families from all over New York, Canada, and Ohio attended the event that featured fifty authors from around the country. Hazen developed an election day voting activity that was turned into an Early Voting location. The election was to elect the Children's Center President and Vice President. Children and adults had a great time and there were several debates about which candidate should win. It was interesting to see that with even a fake election, it's not easy to change voter's opinions. At the end of early voting Piggie was ahead with 284 votes, Dog Man had 261.
- Burton and Arnold met with other RPL Children's Services staff to discuss the Unattended Child Policy, summer reading, and Raising A Reader.
- Children's Center staff attended the MCLS Children's Services meeting which was held at Central. Uttaro discussed the importance of advocating for children's services.
- Arnold has begun outreach to Wilson Commencement Park's housing after school group, sharing books and activities with children ranging in age from kindergarten to fourth grade.
- Burton and Olivia Cutter attended RCSD #54 Reading Block party. They gave out books to grades Kindergarten through 6th grade.
- Arnold and Burton attended the Rochester General Hospital Annual Christmas event and gave out new books to the children attending. The event hosted hundreds of families from the Rochester area. Children got to meet Santa, have dinner, make Christmas crafts, and get a toy and book.
- Chelsea Arnold joined other RPL staff at the ribbon cutting for the RPLGO! Bookmobile, representing the Children's Center.



Raising A Reader

RAR staff spent the month supporting teachers in implementing RAR in their classrooms and having RAR kickoff celebrations. These celebrations are created to get the kids, staff and families excited about RAR and receiving their shiny new bag filled with books. Margarita Chaves attended 2 family engagement activities with families at school #50. Chaves utilized this time to engage with families, sharing information about RAR, and answering their questions. RAR staff Cheryl Johnson and Oliva Cutter also completed kickoff celebrations at school #54, RECEC and at the CBO sites that we are serving this year. Burton and Olivia Cutter completed RAR training for VOA staff on the research behind the program and how it works. Burton and Cutter attended Generations Clinton Square's Curriculum Night to provide information about the program to parents. RAR staff continued to support classroom teachers in rotating red bags this month.



Graphics, Duplicating, & Exhibits

Corinne Clar remains out on medical leave through the end of January.

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- Lily Anthony and Cynthia Dana had a table at Three Heads Brewing on Sunday December 1 for a Nostalgic Book Fair and Market, sponsored by Freak Out Parties. Many people who stopped by were delighted to learn about the VIP passes.

MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

- Emily Clasper spoke several times with the Executive Director of Urban Libraries Unite, the organization responsible for developing the Library Worker Support Network. This program is designed to offer library workers peer-led support to help them process the difficult and often traumatic experiences they face on the job. RPL employees have been encouraged to reach out to this network to join one of their support groups and gain access to their resources.
- Clasper and Chelsea Arnold attended the Winter Breakfast hosted by the Greater Rochester Afterschool & Summer Alliance. This networking event allowed Clasper and Arnold to make valuable connections with people from other organizations who provide after school activities and programs for Rochester children and teens.
- Clasper has been involved in a number of planning sessions for the Rochester and Monroe County Arts and Culture Plan. The consultants and local officials she met with have repeatedly expressed how impressed they are with the ways in which the libraries contribute to the cultural life of our community. RPL is now slated to be a vital part of the forthcoming efforts to strategically pursue Arts and Cultural programs in partnership with other City and County departments.
- A cross-divisional team of Central Library staff are busy planning a series of events to celebrate Black History Month. The main event of the month will be a Black Owned Business Expo showcasing the work of a variety of Black entrepreneurs. Planning for this event has generated a lot of excitement from both staff and community members. Businesses of several types have responded enthusiastically, volunteering to participate, and we expect a strong turnout for the event.

Arts/Literature, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Sigriet of Prismatic Gardens returned to teach a fun winter themed air plant terrarium class. Participants loved Sigriet's vast knowledge of air plants and how to care for them. They also loved all the different items that were available to decorate the terrariums with. Many patrons have asked for more terrarium classes, and more are being planned for the coming year.
- Shannon Halligan returned with a craft that was inspired by Victorian Christmas traditions. Halligan spoke about the history of Victorian paper cones while teaching the class. Participants enjoyed the history behind the craft and loved the results.
- Popular writing instructor Jen Case continued with her winter writing series via zoom. Participants were excited to learn that she will be returning in February with a new writing series.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

- *Small Business Retirement Planning* presented by Troy Gribnau from Edward Jones.
- Business 1st Wednesday (November): *Small Business Financial Statements*, presented by Melissa Jordan from M&T Bank.
- *The Science of Cannabis* presented by Educating and Elevating with Cannabis. *The Science of Cannabis* was a three-part series that offered an immersive experience focused on cannabis science, career development, and industry insights.
- *Budtending and Terpenology* presented by April Smith of Cannabis Workforce initiative. Terpenes are the aromatic compounds responsible for the unique flavors and scents found in different cannabis strains. This program educated attendees on how to be a better budtender and understanding the role of terpenes in cannabis use.
- *Hiring the Right Cannabis Employees – Essentials for Business Success*. Sara Edwards and Charles Johnson from Cannabis Workforce Initiative presented.
- Business 1st Wednesday (December): *Preparing Your Small Business for Tax Season* with the Small Business Development Center. Presented by Edwin and Jessica Spencer of Sunlion Financial Group

Outreach and Training

- Byrnes presented to the Manufacturing Hardware Accelerator; a cohort-based program led by Rev: Ithaca Startup Works that supports hardware startups that are ready to bring their prototypes into production. The program is funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and offered in partnership with Cornell Engineering.
- Melissa Cobo attended the 2024 Economic Development Summit sponsored by ROCEDC and Venture Jobs Foundation.
- Melissa Cobo attended the Beechwood & EMMA (East Main, Mustard & Atlantic Avenue) Business Networking Event hosted by Connected Communities and the Casa Campo restaurant.
- Jennifer Byrnes and Anna Neumaier are participating in the Digital Equity Academy through the New York State Library. Over the course of seven months, they will delve into the essential aspects of digital equity, from understanding its importance to developing and implementing effective strategies.

Consulting

November

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 55
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 1
 - Email: 19
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 0
 - Zoom: 5
- 3D Printer: 1
- Webpage views: 28
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 13

December

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 37
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 2
 - Email: 13
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 0
 - Zoom: 2
- 3D Printer: 51
- Webpage views: 22
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 5

MCLS Director's Report--January 2025 (Continued)

November

- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 1
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 3

December

- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 1
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 1

Database Usage Statistics

October

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 4 Value: \$17,300
- IBISWorld: Page views: 84 Value: \$46,640
- InnovationQ: Logins: 23 Searches: 54
- Mintel: Sessions: 27 Page Views: 27 Downloads: 17
- PitchBook Logins: 25
- Statista: Page views: 48 Downloads: 12
- Foundation Directory: Searches: 43 Views: 182

November

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: 20 Value: \$73,450
- IBISWorld - Page views: 58 Value: \$32,690
- InnovationQ - Logins: 12 Searches: 40
- Mintel - Sessions: 50 Page Views: 37 Downloads: 129
- PitchBook - Logins: 25
- Statista - Page views: 52 Downloads: 17
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 60 Views: 80

Anecdotes

- Byrnes worked with a gentleman in Georgia who wants to relocate his business to Rochester. She set him up with Greater Rochester Enterprise and Finger Lakes Economic Development. He immediately registered for a library card!
- We received this email from a client:
"Thank you for your help in providing the data on cocoa-related companies. Your support and the information you shared have been incredibly valuable to my work. I appreciate the time and effort you took to assist me with this request. Your responsiveness and the quality of the PitchBook data are truly appreciated. Thank you again for your help."

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments 0
- New Borrowers 253
- RRLC Access Cards Issued 10
- Notarial Acts 197

Anecdotes

- A couple came in needing some documents faxed. Chad Cunningham showed them the scan/print/fax machine and helped them to fax their paperwork. They were delighted to find out that faxing is free at the library. They also didn't know about the different scanning and faxing options we offer. They came in the next day to scan some documents to someone's e-mail.
- A couple came in to get library cards. During the process they found out about the VIP passes that MCLS offers. They had relatives coming up for the holidays and were debating where to take them. They decided to check out the Corning Museum of Glass passes. When they returned the passes a week later, they said that everyone had a wonderful time.

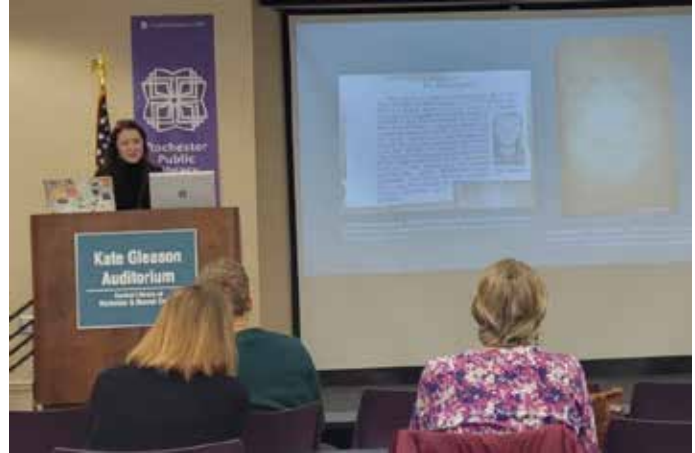
MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

- A patron came in and told the staff at the Circulation Desk that his library card had made a perilous journey and did not survive the process. His dog, thinking library cards are both cool AND tasty, decided to snack on the card. In due course the card reappeared but was no longer able to be used. The dog was fine but is now on a strict no-library-card diet.

Local History & Genealogy, Shalis Worthy reporting

Programs

- The Fall 2024 edition of the *Rochester History Journal* Author Spotlight series took place on November 2nd with Elizabeth Carr's presentation, " 'A Great Sense of Pride:' Reflections on the Monroe County Birth Control League." Coinciding with the publication of Carr's feature article in the Fall 2024 issue of *Rochester History*, the talk highlighted the reminiscences of Monroe County Birth Control League staff and volunteers as well as other archival materials from the clinic. Eleven people attended in-person and three people attended virtually. 35 additional people viewed the livestream in the first 30 days of its posting.
- On November 9, Fess hosted, "Researching Black History in London, Ontario: The Black Londoners Project." Participants learned about a former Rochester resident who escaped slavery and eventually immigrated to Canada. This program was a valuable opportunity to record information on transnational Underground Railroad stories and to meet with Canadian peers researching these topics.
- Emily Morry and Brandon Fess hosted a visit from Suzanne Morgan's homeschool group. They discussed the history of early Rochester, the Erie Canal, and the Ellwanger and Barry Tract using maps from the division's collection.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- McDonald attended the City of Rochester's Black Heritage Committee meeting twice during November after recently being added to the team. McDonald previously served on the Ancestors subcommittee and was asked to join the overarching Black Heritage Committee. Since joining, McDonald has joined the committee responsible for planning the Black Heritage's annual gala event taking place Saturday April 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center. McDonald is also responsible for locating images of Rochester's Black working class during the nineteen fifties, sixties, and seventies to highlight the local impact of the national labor movement throughout history.

MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

- Emily Morry gave a presentation at the Greece Public Library titled: “Virtual Walking Tour: Douglass, Anthony & Beyond- Activism and Social Justice in Rochester.” It was well attended by an engaged audience.
- Antoine McDonald presented *Archives Talk: RPL Librarian Antoine McDonald & the Archive of Black History and Culture Project* to the Greece Public Library. This presentation detailed the origins of the archive, the work achieved thus far and a vision for the archive’s future. McDonald also spoke about the Local History and Genealogy Division, and its capacity to aid patrons’ information seeking needs with its vast array of print and digital resources.
- Dan Cody presented School of Aerial Photography During WWI at Kodak Park at “Unfurling 200 Years of RIT History” at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Other Activities

- There were two new posts to the Local History ROCs! blog in December:
 - “Gone Fishin’: how one Rochester Resident Changed the Fishing World Forever,” written by Cody
 - “Lost Brewopia: Matthias Kondolf and the Moerlbach Brewing Company, pt. 1,” written by Morry, who also edits the blog

Anecdotes

- Morry encountered a family looking at the introductory case of the “Decanting Presidential History,” exhibit, which showcases former mayor Frank Lamb and his presidential history collection. As it turns out, they came to the library specifically to see the exhibit because among the family members were Frank Lamb’s daughter, and granddaughter.
- Fess assisted a researcher from France who contacted the library asking about statements that the library had the first coin-operated Xerox machine anywhere. Fess spent hours reading board minutes and monthly reports before he located a firm reference to it in the March 1966 report stating the machine was to be installed shortly.
- Christine Ridarsky attended a meeting of the Monroe County Legislature's Recreation and Education Committee at which she answered questions about her pending appointment (scheduled for December 10) as Monroe County Historian.



Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday film (December): *Thelma*
- See it First Movie Matinee (November): *Twisters*
- See it First Movie Matinee (December): *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*

MCLS Director's Report--January 2025 (Continued)

- Brown Bag Book (November): Sam by Allegra Goodman
- Brown Bag Book (December): Open book discussion w/Christmas merriment!
- RMC performed 17 A/V set ups for programs in the Central Library during November and 16 in December.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Diane Gardner met with Marion French (WXXI) about screening of a new Indie Film "Free to All: The Public Library." The program centered around this film will occur during National Library Week in April of 2025.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Librarian Michael Callari is a partner with the Technology Center for its weekly Coding Club program series.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Gabriel Pellegrino represented the Central Library at the Center for Community Health & Prevention Community Partner Fair. CCHP is part of the University of Rochester Medical Center. This fair aims to stimulate interest among first- and second-year medical students to look for opportunities to share their talents. Pellegrino received many inquiries from curious students; the library was well-promoted and numerous handouts were shared. The Library has many programs through the CCHP, including hosting a weekly visit from URMC students where vitals checks are offered: blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, and heart rate. This team has been well-received by the local community.
- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) continued to be busy with several dozen people seen. Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) continues to host monthly visits for legal assistance as well as the Health Insurance Navigator.
- Pellegrino attends the monthly Hearing Loss of America (HLAA) Rochester's Education & Outreach Team and frequently serves as scribe. The monthly newsletter of HLAA Rochester is sent to the Central Library and is distributed to all MCLS member libraries. HLAA is retooling its presentations to public libraries to provide less history on the organization and more practical information on current assistive listening devices for the public. After the successful donation of hearing loss books to the Monroe County libraries, HLAA is now looking to do the same throughout our neighboring OWWL libraries.
- Pellegrino attends the monthly meetings of the Wilmot Cancer Center's Cancer Community Action Council. There have been some changes in leadership, but the group continues to move forward to educate the underserved community in its large Western New York catchment area.



Collections, Displays, and Exhibits

- The display featuring cookbooks from popular television shows and movies continues to be popular, so it has remained, with additional holiday cooking and baking. Alaikia Miller created a beautiful display featuring winter animals and birds. There is also a new display of popular travel destinations for those with cabin fever.
- Pellegrino accepted several volumes of the Rochester Historical Society Publication Fund Series from Kathy Urbanic of the Sisters of St. Joseph Archives. The Science Division has incomplete sets of these volumes, and this gift will help to fill the gaps.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Anecdotes

- The Technology Center had been in operation in its current location long enough to have assisted some patrons through most of their college degrees. This past month, one of the patrons we have seen the longest came in and updated us on his academic progress. His grades are good and the completion of his courses at MCC have taken time, but that is the nature of working and going to school part-time. He is uncompromising and is bent on personal progress. All he needed was the basic tools (knowledge of how to use a computer) from the Technology Center staff to make his own success. Another patron has needed more assistance and confided in us that he is frustrated that his grade point average will only be a 3.2 this semester. Next semester he is determined to get straight A's.
- During December, the Tech Center staff has seen an increased number of patrons needing help retrieving their email address and passwords from their phones. One patron came into the Tech Center and was very frustrated because his phone had been stolen the night prior. He had to log in to Uber on his temporary phone to get some ride assignments and make money. He was practically in tears because Frontier migrated all email accounts to Yahoo and Yahoo was unable to verify his identity. After contacting Yahoo proved to be unsuccessful, staff contacted Uber, making sure that the patron was involved in every step of the process. Staff was able to restore apps on the patron's phone, log in to Uber, and update the patron's email, password, and bank information. Staff also educated the patron on safety features within his phone. He told Ginger Brewer, the staff member who helped him, the following, *"You are an angel. You don't know how much I was going to lose if I was not able to log in to Uber. You are my new best friend, and I thank you and all the staff for being patient and professional. I will never forget you taking the time with me and helping me. Thank you!"*

Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- John Hylton has begun facilitating a Young Men's Discussion Group that has allowed teens to discuss a variety of topics. Hylton talked to the young men about personal growth, social issues, and current events. As they talk, the conversations help the young men open up and



share their thoughts with others in the group. The comradery that the sharing created helped the group find some commonalities and new friendships. The young men are looking forward to the next session!

- Ninja Storm Tournament: The teens enjoy playing video games together and sometimes it can be competitive. We like to encourage the youth to participate in tournaments because there is an element of structure that the teens can benefit from. The use of a bracket system helps the youth organize and problem solve various situations that might arise in game. Tournaments are a great tool that can be used to conquer social anxiety by making friends with others who enjoy competitive gaming.
- Bob Ross Paint along: Teens were transfixed as the soothing voice of Bob Ross walked them through creating a winter wonderland. A free video from YouTube played on the screen and the teens attempted to recreate the scene that Bob was describing. Fun was had, but participants agreed no one quite completed the picture they set out to make. We decided that was the beauty of art!
- Jingle Bell Roc was one of the biggest Smash Bros tournaments ever held in Rochester. The 585Fighterz hosted the event in the KGA featuring 6 different games, 3 different versions of Smash Bros, and live streamed championship matches on the KGA stage. This event had nearly 80 participants. Liberators that participated in the event had an exciting time and learned many lessons from the top players in Rochester. Liberators and other teens were allowed to enter the tournament for free. They learned very quickly that they need more practice!



MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

- 585Fighterz' monthly esports tournament continues to teach kids fundamentals of competitive gaming and rewards them. This month's event had engagement in all three tournaments even though kids were not familiar with each game. The teens competed in three different games for GameStop gift cards.
- The Comic Book Empowerment Program hosted another Hillside group this month as well as being a New York Library Banned Book contest participant. The Hillside group completed great projects that the kids were immensely proud of. We are awaiting word of the contest result for the comic book entry that explored the fight against banning books. Cooley Comics has also added another teen employee. They work on the fourth floor of the library, learning all about how to create comics.



MCLS Director's Report–January 2025 (Continued)

- The November Comic Empowerment Group hosted a huge reveal event where Cooley Comics delivered the most recent batch of completed comics. The event included news coverage and an appearance from the RCSD superintendent. They were extremely proud of their work!



Anecdotes

- Central Library Liberator Victor won the Mario Kart World Tournament Playoffs in a sweep! He dominated all three tracks including winning the final track of the World Tournament by over 3 seconds. He placed 2nd in overall points. He should be considered the favorite to win the World tournament next year.
- Representatives from the ROC Paint Division stopped by to ask about partnering with the Teen Center to create a custom Mural in the Imagine You Lab. We are excited to get involved in this program and give Rochester Teens a chance to beautify the space for everyone!

MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	Nov-24	Nov-23	+/-	%
Brighton	49,227	40,192	9,035	22.5%
Seymour	11,548	10,354	1,194	11.5%
Chili	20,202	15,228	4,974	32.7%
East Rochester	3,543	3,122	421	13.5%
Fairport	57,089	47,702	9,387	19.7%
Gates	19,983	17,574	2,409	13.7%
Greece	48,502	38,504	9,998	26.0%
Hamlin	4,469	4,014	455	11.3%
Henrietta	39,341	33,409	5,932	17.8%
Irondequoit	39,783	32,338	7,445	23.0%
Mendon	9,146	7,044	2,102	29.8%
Newman Riga	2,141	1,586	555	35.0%
Ogden	11,763	9,062	2,701	29.8%
Parma	7,936	6,040	1,896	31.4%
Penfield	39,528	31,298	8,230	26.3%
Pittsford	48,332	40,979	7,353	17.9%
Rush	2,438	2,544	(106)	-4.2%
Mumford	617	571	46	8.1%
Scottsville	2,769	2,052	717	34.9%
Webster	36,267	31,227	5,040	16.1%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>454,624</i>	<i>374,840</i>	<i>79,784</i>	<i>21.3%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>75,495</i>	<i>62,956</i>	<i>12,539</i>	<i>19.9%</i>
MCLS Total	530,119	437,796	92,323	21.1%

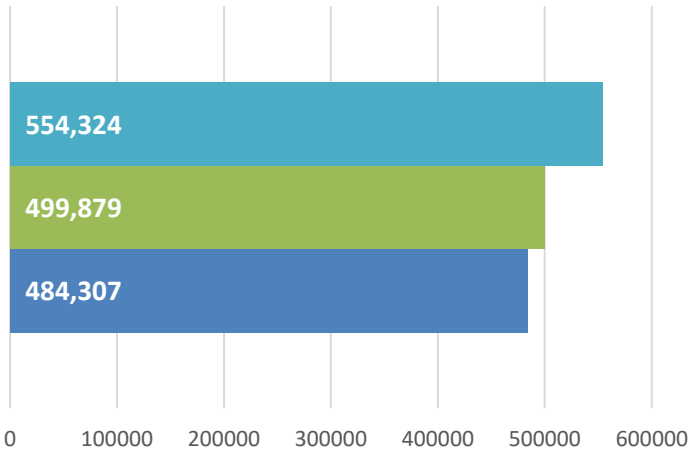
MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	Dec-24	Dec-23	+/-	%
Brighton	49,911	40,233	9,678	24.1%
Seymour	11,439	9,961	1,478	14.8%
Chili	18,811	14,657	4,154	28.3%
East Rochester	3,414	3,129	285	9.1%
Fairport	55,671	45,101	10,570	23.4%
Gates	17,979	16,270	1,709	10.5%
Greece	45,560	36,602	8,958	24.5%
Hamlin	4,287	3,607	680	18.9%
Henrietta	37,541	30,625	6,916	22.6%
Irondequoit	38,794	30,618	8,176	26.7%
Mendon	8,485	6,833	1,652	24.2%
Newman Riga	1,926	1,541	385	25.0%
Ogden	10,310	8,360	1,950	23.3%
Parma	7,317	6,037	1,280	21.2%
Penfield	37,432	30,555	6,877	22.5%
Pittsford	44,293	39,944	4,349	10.9%
Rush	2,479	2,387	92	3.9%
Mumford	580	355	225	63.4%
Scottsville	2,601	2,018	583	28.9%
Webster	34,589	27,994	6,595	23.6%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>433,419</i>	<i>356,827</i>	<i>76,592</i>	<i>21.5%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>75,323</i>	<i>63,064</i>	<i>12,259</i>	<i>19.4%</i>
MCLS Total	508,742	419,891	88,851	21.2%

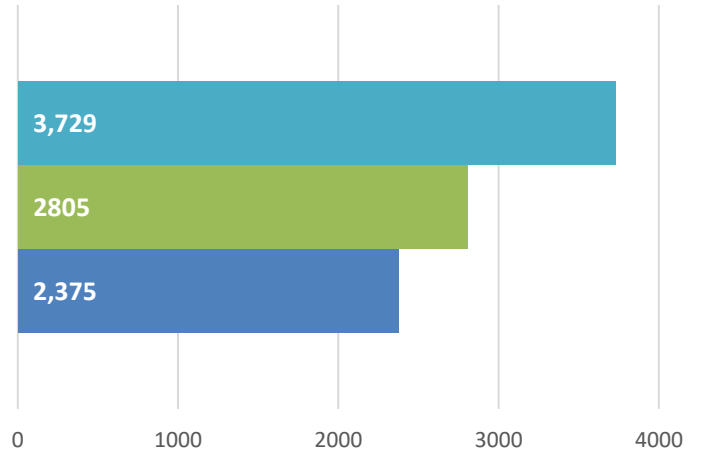
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–Nov



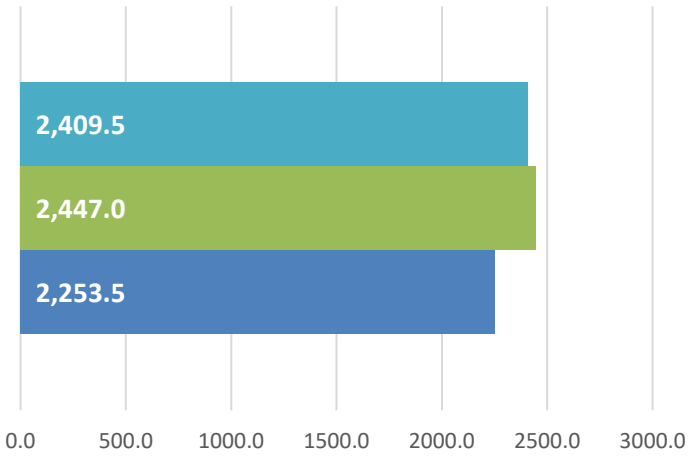
CIRCULATION



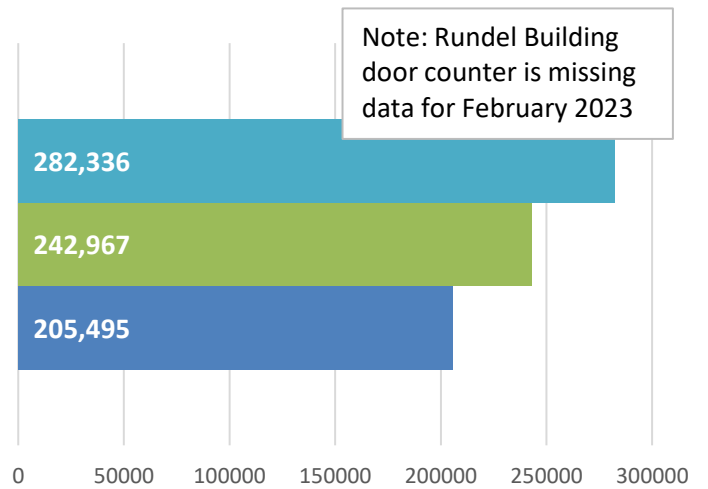
LIBRARY CARDS



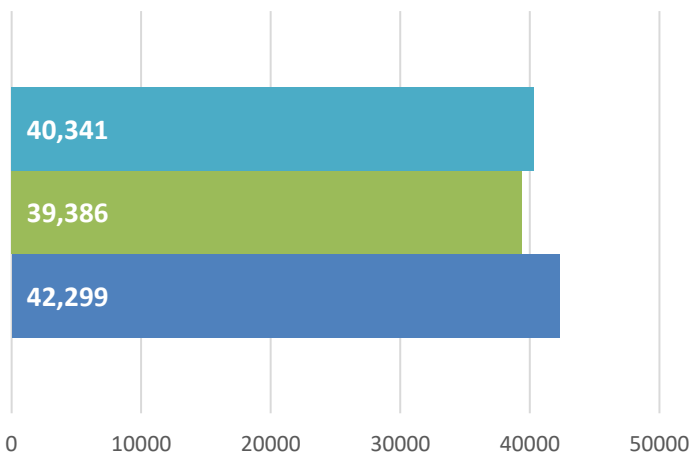
SERVICE HOURS



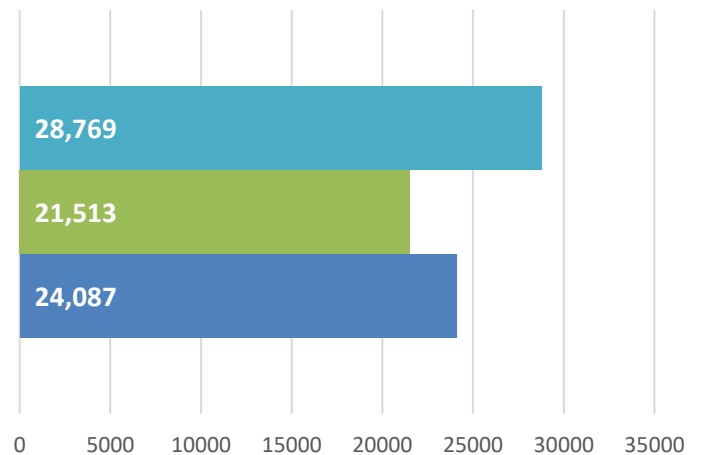
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



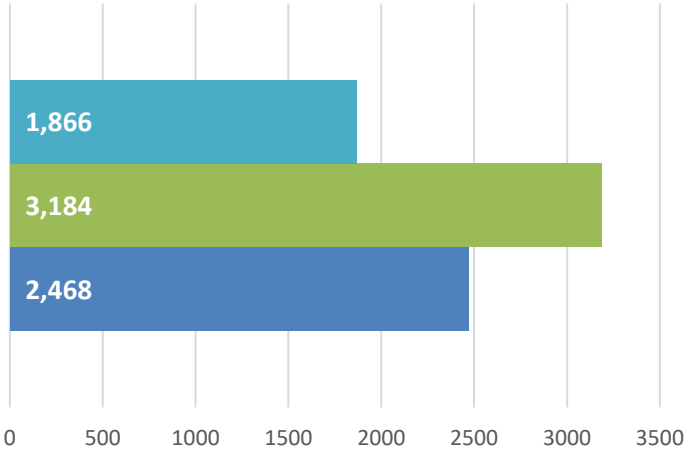
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–Nov



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.

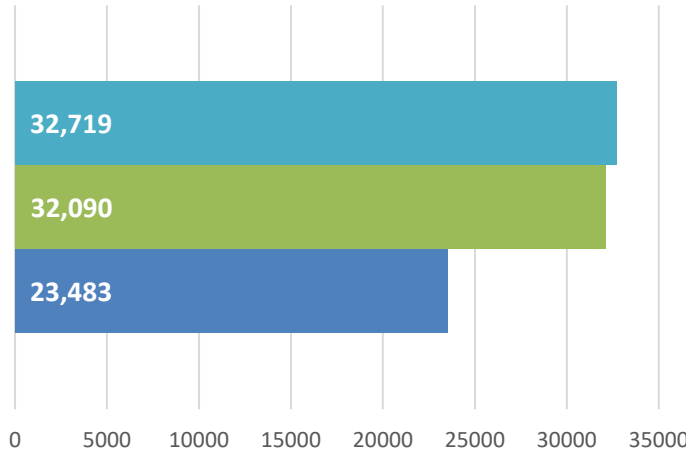
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

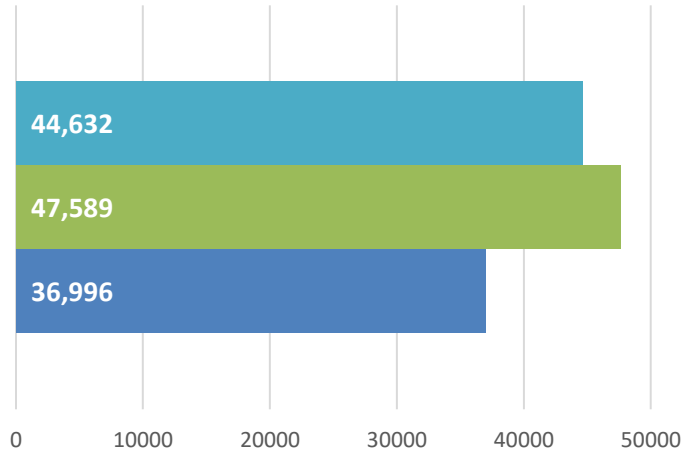
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

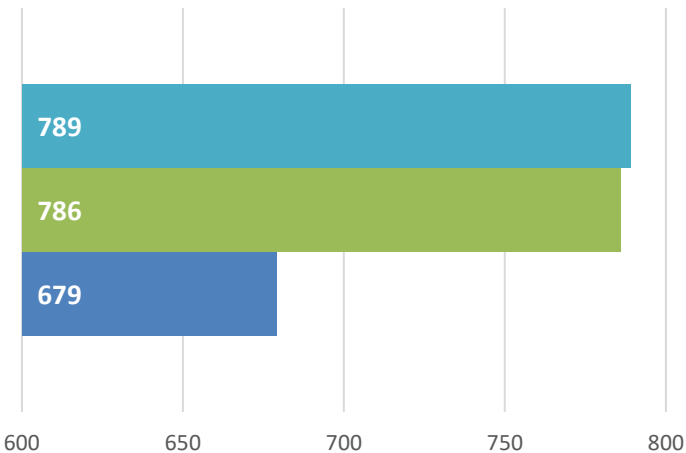
COMPUTER HOURS



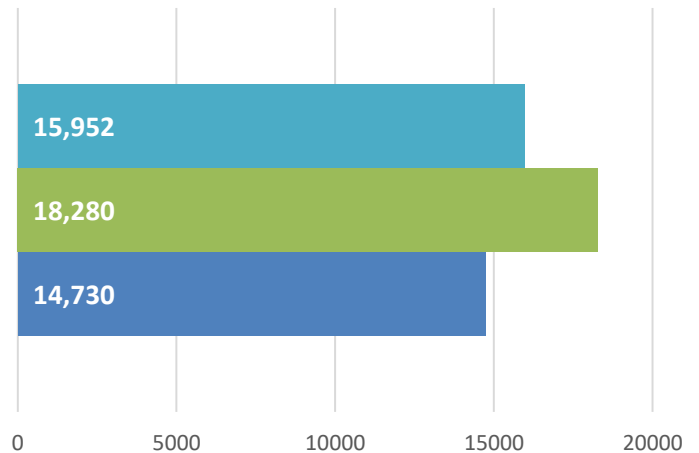
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



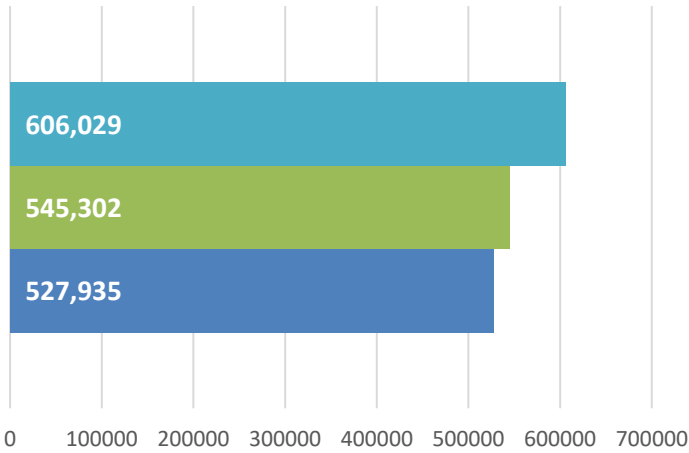
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



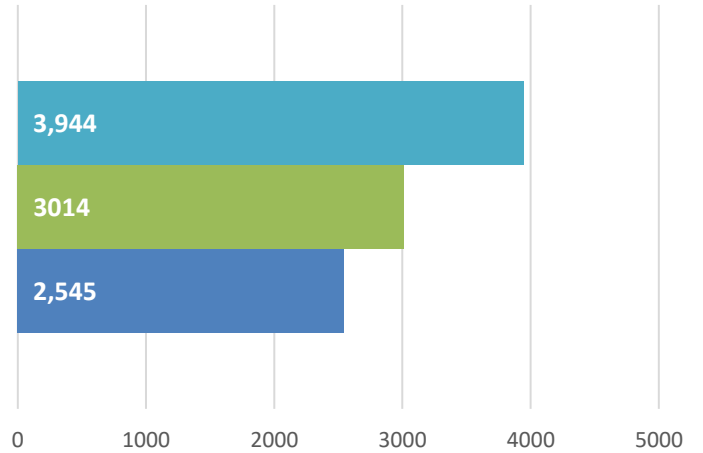
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–Dec



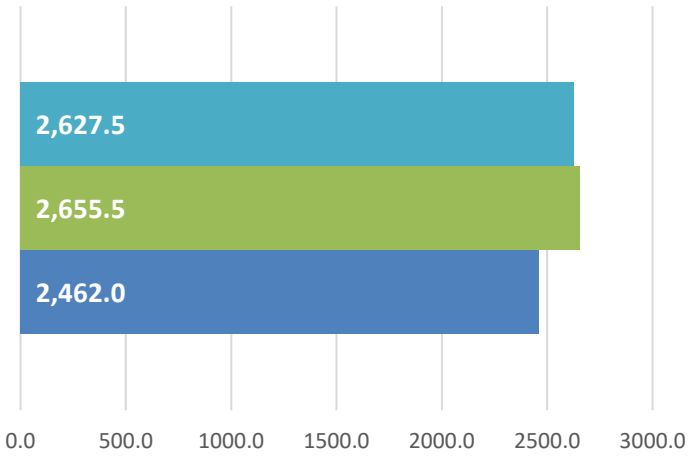
CIRCULATION



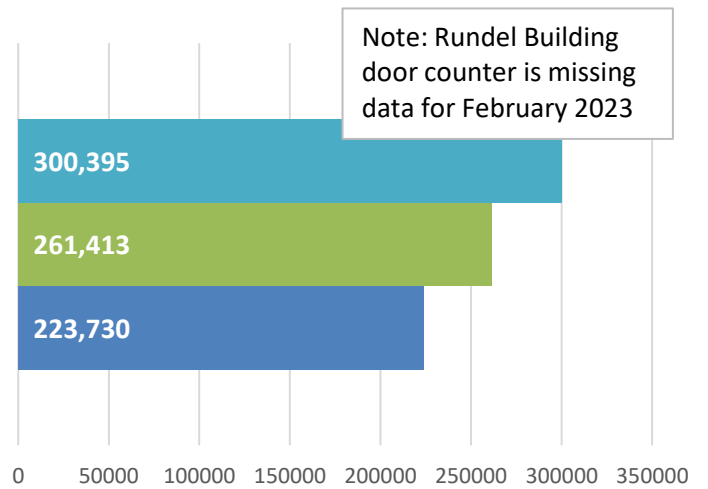
LIBRARY CARDS



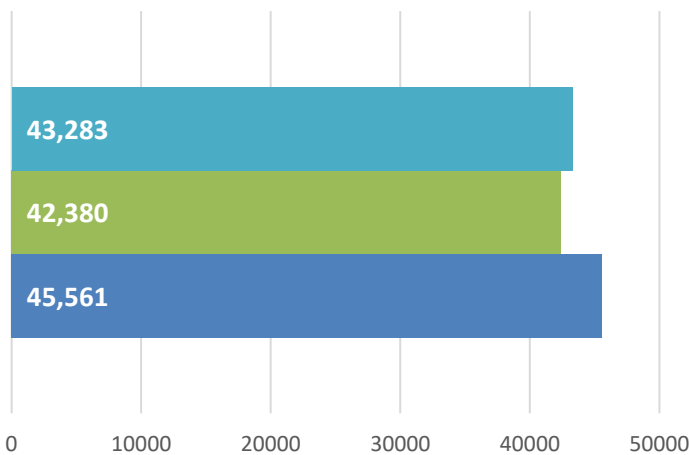
SERVICE HOURS



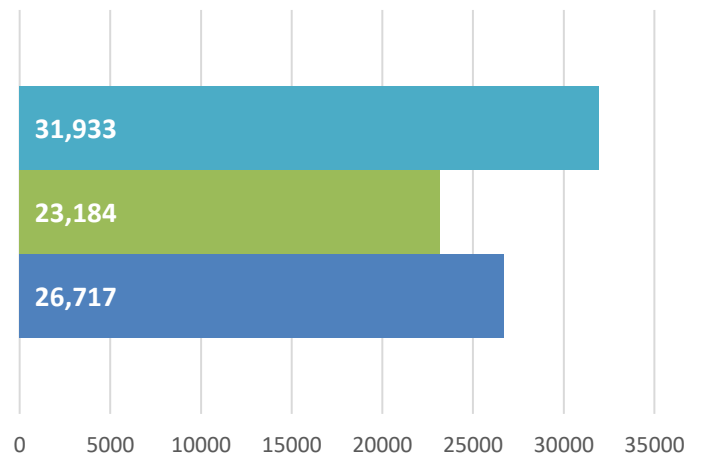
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



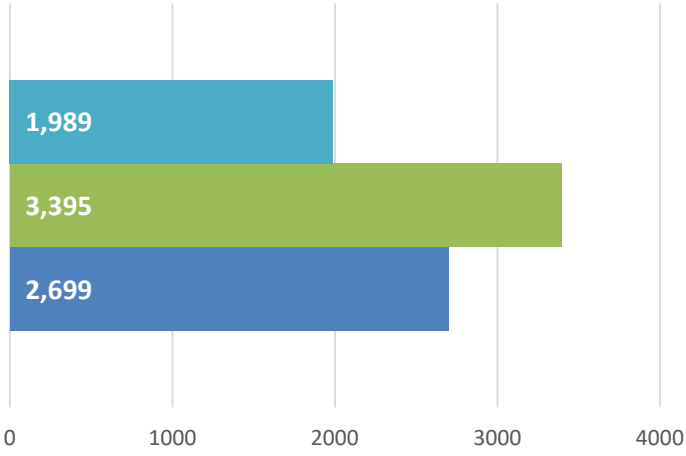
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–Dec



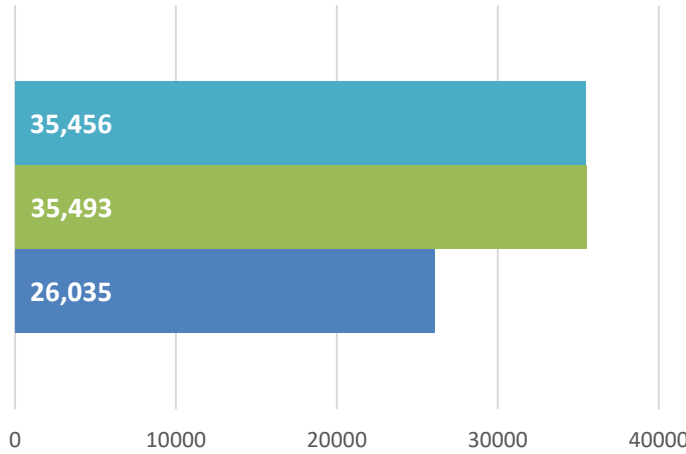
NOTARY



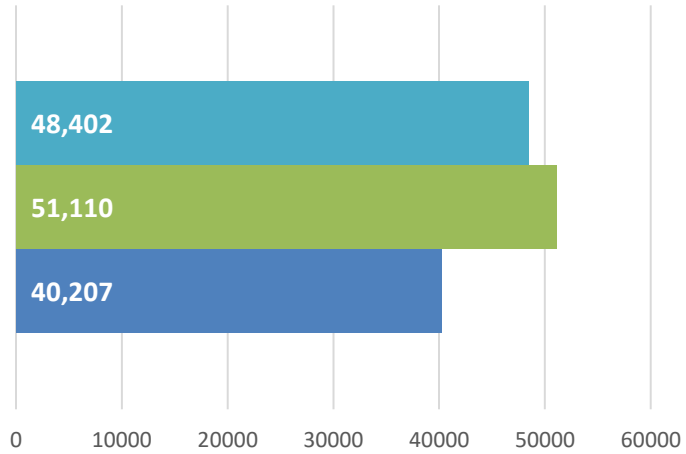
DEFINITIONS

- 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.

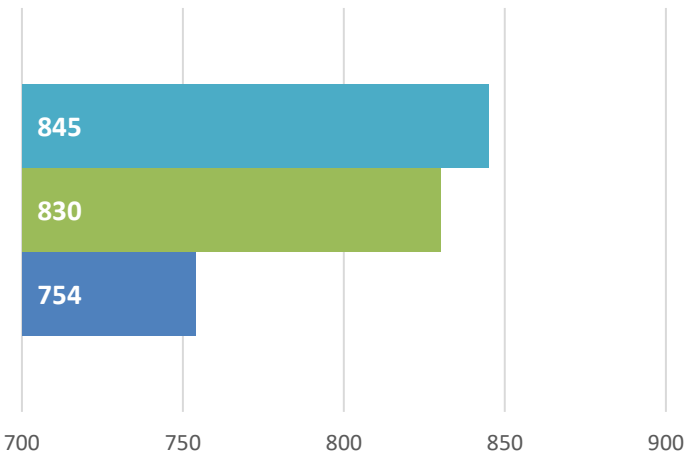
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

