



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
June 16, 2025, 5:00 PM
Agenda**

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Corcoran

II. ACTION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting | Corcoran | page 3 |
| 2. Financial Claims | Hasselwander | page 7 |
| 3. Election of Officers | Shelly | page 9 |

III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--|----------|-------------|
| 1. Liaison from Rochester Public Library Board | Clasper | |
| 2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp | |
| 3. Liaison from Friends & Foundation of the RPL | Borgus | |
| 4. Staff Reports | | |
| a. Director's Report/Central Library Services | Clasper | page 9 & 18 |
| b. MCLS Services | Smathers | page 10 |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

**Next Meeting:
Monday, August 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library, Rochester, NY 14604**



**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Building
May 19, 2025
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: Gary Brandt, Alinda Drury, Peter Knapp, Mack Smith, Jr.,

Trustees Unexcused: Erick Stephens

Staff and Guests: County Administration Liaison, Molly Clifford; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, BJ Scanlon, Jennifer Smathers

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and rearranged the agenda with reports first due to lack of quorum.

Public Comments

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

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

On behalf of Ms. Drury, Ms. Clasper reported that the RPL Board approved an item to allow the Library Director to extend building hours for special events within limited parameters, renewed the occupancy agreement with CASH on the Bausch & Lomb fourth floor, and approved the RPL Annual Report to NYS.

Ms. Moffitt joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and a quorum was reached.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

None

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

Ms. Borgus shared that the Harold Hacker grants have been awarded and she will have a full report at the next meeting.

Director's Report/Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported recent discussions with representatives from the State Library regarding funding concerns. The State Library currently operates using funds from prior allocations and is expected to remain financially stable through September. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to secure funding for the next fiscal year starting in October. State Librarian Lauren Moore, has expressed cautious optimism, supported in part by federal injunctions against actions targeting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a key source of funding. In addition, contingency plans are being explored to secure state-level support if federal funding fails.

Next, Ms. Clasper will attend two upcoming professional events, June 10–11, she will travel to Albany for a Public Library System Director Training session. The event will include five new library system directors, forming a training cohort to share knowledge and collaborate on operational topics. Later in June she will participate in the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Ms. Clasper serves on three ALA committees and plans to engage with national colleagues on current federal developments. She also plans to participate in a session with ILS vendors, relevant to the future RFP activity within MCLS.

Ms. Clasper promoted an upcoming event titled *From Book Bans to Policy Change*, scheduled for June 4 at St. John Fisher's Basil Hall from 5:00–6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Local History Division. The panel will include notable participants, including Adrienne Pettinelli, the Director at the Henrietta Public Library.

Lastly, she provided an update on the Patron Incident Tracking System after six months of use across the Rochester Public Library system. During this period, 231 incidents were recorded, encompassing both serious and routine matters (e.g., minor medical calls). The system has enhanced the library's ability to respond promptly, support staff, and identify location-specific trends and training needs. A recent staff survey yielded highly positive feedback, and Ms. Clasper is compiling software-related suggestions for discussion with the vendor for potential enhancements.

MCLS Office

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She then explained that one of the key services provided by the New York State Library, funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), is assistance with the application process for construction grants issued by the Division of Library Development (DLD). Although funding for these grants will remain flat this year, work continues on closing out older grants and preparing for new applications. Ms. Smathers recently visited the Greece Public Library to help finalize a grant from two years prior and noted that grants for the previous funding cycle had been approved and processed through March. A new round of applications will soon be accepted. The DLD continues to provide essential guidance on eligibility criteria, enabling libraries to maximize their funding opportunities. Additionally, some libraries did not use their full allocation, which allowed the state to reallocate unused funds to the MCLS.

Ms. Smathers emphasized that construction grant activity has become a year-round responsibility, supported heavily by state-level assistance. She stressed the importance of continued funding for the State Library and DLD, noting the significant financial impact their services have on local libraries. As part of her advocacy efforts, she will be participating in the New York Library Association's (NYLA) Spring on the Hill event in Albany.

Ms. Smathers highlighted the effectiveness of the Patron Incident Tracking System (PITS) in addressing a recent security concern. The system enabled library staff to identify a banned individual with a history of disruptive behavior by compiling and sharing relevant information across multiple locations. PITS facilitated timely communication and coordination among libraries and law enforcement, leading to a swift and effective response. The platform was credited with increasing staff awareness and confidence by helping recognize behavioral patterns that might otherwise go unnoticed, underscoring its value as a centralized safety tool.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Claims

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Moffitt MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Proposed 2026 MCLS Budget

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the MCLS Budget and highlighted the changes from the previous year. Highlights from the budget include a 2.3% increase in operating aid from New York State and a new \$49,000 expense for licensing after libraries were excluded from Microsoft's free Education licensing. Ms. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2026 MCLS Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025-26 Central Library Budget Updates

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the updates to the Central Library Budget. The amended budget will be \$12,436,700, an increase of \$97,900 from February. Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the 2025-26 Central Library Budget, as amended. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Central Library Program Aid FY26

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the Central Library Program Aid highlighting a 2.3% increase for a total of \$329,600. Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2025-26 budget cycle. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nominating Committee Recommendations

Ms. Shelly reviewed the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Brown MADE A MOTION to recommend appointment of Suzanne Stockman, Francesca Padilla, and Jamia Williams by the Monroe County Legislature to the MCLS Board of Trustees for full 5-year terms from July 1, 2025–June 30, 2030; and appoint Mei Qi to complete the unexpired term of Emily Hessney Lynch, effective July 1, 2025, with a term ending date of June 30, 2026. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Emily Clasper, Secretary

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2025**

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
2	12	2000648570	11101918- OGDEN FARMER'S LIBRARY	2024-25 LLSA 10%	\$ 625.50	
4	18	2000646684	11128801- LUCAS HOLDINGS LLC	100000 ADULT LIBRARY CARDS	\$ 10,500.00	
4	25	2000647377	11111096- NYLA	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL THROUGH 5/31/2026	\$ 3,000.00	
4	28	2000647348	11104672- AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	2025 MCLS MEMBERSHIP	\$ 1,141.00	
4	28	2000647389	11117594- TMOBILE	MIFI CHARGES	\$ 22,732.42	ARPA FUNDS
5	8	2000649102	11102541- UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	MATERIAL RECOVERY 2025	\$ 1,748.25	
5	8	2000649121	11103982- SHI INTERNATIONAL	HPE TECH CARE	\$ 744.57	
5	8	2000649437	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,674.22	
5	8	2000649437	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 245.18	
5	8	2000649437	11109903- OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS HOLD	\$ 1,672.91	
5	8	2000649290	11120635- CROWN CASTLE	DIGITAL TRANSMISSION APRIL 2025	\$ 16,921.06	
5	8	2000649290	11120635- CROWN CASTLE	INTERNET APRIL 2025	\$ 2,075.00	
5	8	2000650199	11126541- DELL	DELL LAPTOP & CHARGER	\$ 895.83	
5	8	2000648670	11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER	BRANCH HOURS: APRIL 2025	\$ 5,407.50	ARPA FUNDS
5	16	2000649350	11128182- SENSATIONAL INCLUSION	TRAUMA INFORMED CARE & AUTISM TRAINING	\$ 3,000.00	
5	28	2000650170	11104976- TRIDELTA	15 Office 365 E3 (Non-Profit Pricing) Licenses	\$ 804.75	
5	28	2000650068	11117594- TMOBILE	MIFI CHARGES	\$ 21,994.51	ARPA FUNDS



Monroe County Library System

www.libraryweb.org

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

Emily Clasper, Director | emily.clasper@libraryweb.org | 585-428-8046

TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Emily Clasper, Director
DATE: June 16, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–June 2025

Action Items

Election of Officers (Shelly)

The MCLS Nominating Committee puts forth the following slate of officers for the term of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026:

- President: Marjorie Shelly
- Vice President: Amy Moffitt

Board Action Requested: Appoint Marjorie Shelly as President and Amy Moffitt as Vice President of the MCLS Board for the term July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Emily Clasper reporting

Recommended Reading

- Man checks out 100 books from Beachwood Library, then burns them in social media post - <https://www.cleveland.com/community/2025/05/man-checks-out-100-books-from-beachwood-library-then-posts-on-social-media-video-of-those-books-burning.html>
- Book bans draw libraries into damaging culture wars that undermine their purpose - https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-book-bans-draw-libraries-into-damaging-culture-wars-that-undermine-their-purpose/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKH-BpleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHldHs7u2YmfebuP52_dxUAQvpoqL5ZNkkGpMI7L-JSq6lwtdvSI62TcL8nVG_aem_aNrYvOnij6SDorNcUoGE7g
- Book bans cost Utah taxpayers thousands of dollars. Here's how much two school districts spent - <https://www.sltrib.com/news/education/2024/09/14/how-much-do-utah-book-bans-cost/>
- Parks, libraries, museums: here's why Trump is attacking America's best-loved institutions <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jun/02/national-parks-libraries-museums-trump>

Director's Update

- RPL Staff joined a record number of Rochester residents for the City's annual Clean Sweep. Despite the rainy weather, we had a good time picking up trash, shoveling mulch, and helping make our City more beautiful for Spring!
- The Monroe County Department of Human Services (DHS) will begin using space in the Central Library to operate a



satellite location every Thursday afternoon. Starting on June 12th, DHS examiners will be present on the 4th floor of the Bausch and Lomb building to offer patrons direct access to their services, which include public benefits, child welfare, the office for the aging, and the office of mental health. This is the third partnership DHS has entered into in the past few years to bring their service into the community where they can be more easily accessed.

- Our management team has been hard at work preparing for City Budget hearings. We are happy to report that the hearings on May 30 for the RPL Operational and CIP Budgets went well, with RPL receiving many favorable and supportive comments from the members of City Council.

Director's Site Visits

May

Brighton Memorial Library
Mendon Public Library
Parma Public Library
Pittsford Community Library
Winton Branch Library

April

Ogden Farmers' Library
Irondequoit Public Library
Phillis Wheatley Community Library

March

Penfield Public Library
Henrietta Public Library
Rush Public Library
Sully Branch
Arnett Branch
Chili Public Library

February

Charlotte Branch
Maplewood Community Library

January

Frederick Douglass Community Library
Lyell Branch
Monroe Branch

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

Despite ongoing construction at the town hall, the library held its annual recognition dinner to honor staff and volunteers.

Chili Public Library

The library partnered with local businesses to promote them through donated prizes supporting summer reading activities. This collaboration highlights valued community support.

East Rochester Public Library

The library continues to serve as a hub of the community by sharing information about local events such as summer camp registration, art shows, and other opportunities beyond its own programming.

Fairport Public Library

The library recognized Levi and Leila as Outstanding Pages. Both received awards from the Friends of the Fairport Library.

Gates Public Library

The annual Elizabeth Booth Hinchey Poetry Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Gates Public Library, was a success. Winners for 2025 have been announced and celebrated.



Greece Public Library

Young patrons expressed their love of books in the Storygarden.



Hamlin Public Library

Christine Gates announced her decision to step down after seven and a half years as library director. In an open letter she expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Hamlin community and confidence in the staff's continued dedication.

*"Dear Hamlin Community,
After 7 ½ years at the Hamlin Public Library, I have made the difficult decision to step down from my current position as a library director and move on to new adventures. It has been a pleasure to serve as your director. While I am sad to leave the Hamlin community, you are in good hands with amazing library staff, and I am confident that the next library director will be a welcome addition to the library.
I will be working the next few weeks if you would like to stop in and say good-bye.
Thank you for allowing me to be part of your community.
Sincerely,
Christine Gates"*



Henrietta Public Library

Staff and community members, including some canine participants, attended the Memorial Day Parade despite challenging weather. Earlier in the month, the library also hosted the ROC City Ringers for a musical program.

Irondequoit Public Library

The library held a program on Parkinson's Disease with Dr. Nami Shah from the Rochester Parkinsons Network. It also continues to host monthly Caregiver Support Groups facilitated by the Alzheimer's Association.



Mendon Public Library

Teen Services Intern Emily, clerk Deb, and several teen volunteers have prepared the library for summer with handmade decorations.

Newman Riga Library

The library's adult Coloring Group invites participants to drop in and enjoy creative time together. Supplies are available, or attendees may bring their own.



Ogden Farmers' Library

While awaiting the results of the annual silent auction sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Spencerport, which included a model 1964½ Mustang, a staff member visited the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum. During the visit, they learned about traditional carrousel horse craftsmanship and enjoyed a ride on the historic carrousel. The trip was free with a VIP pass.

Parma Public Library

Patrons participated in a nature walk at Salmon Creek Nature Preserve with Color Westside Green. Led by Daryl Odhner of the Sierra Club and Will Macaluso of the Genesee Land Trust, the walk included a demonstration on how to remove invasive species. The one-mile route was on gentle terrain, and participants were advised to wear appropriate outdoor clothing.



Penfield Public Library

In May, the Monroe County Department of Public Health's addiction services table provided information and resources to patrons. Those who missed the visit can expect future opportunities. Available materials included Narcan and face shield keychain kits. More information is available at the Monroe County website.



Pittsford Community Library

The Book Bike visited Jefferson Road Elementary School for Bike to School Day. Students and parents turned out in large numbers despite chilly weather. Children enjoyed the visit, along with library swag and a greeting from Miss Sarah.



Rush Public Library

Library patrons took a guided field trip to the Alma Thomas exhibit at the Memorial Art Gallery in advance of an upcoming July program. The visit included a docent-led tour and time to reflect on the artist's work over refreshments at the Brown Hound Café. Participants were encouraged to bring a discounted admission fee or use a VIP Pass from the library. The experience was inspiring.

Seymour Library

A new Big Topics Binder is now available in the Children's area. It features book lists on sensitive or important topics families may want to explore together. Patrons responded positively, with one comment noting appreciation for having these resources gathered in one place.



Webster Public Library

The library took part in Webster Parks and Recreation's Family Fun Night. Despite high winds nearly taking the tent, staff enjoyed connecting with the community at the event.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

In May, staff from the MCLS Office participated in several events and meetings, including the NYLA Spring on the Hill Advocacy Training. They also provided support to the Greece Public Library in completing its Construction Grant report and led training sessions at the Charlotte Branch on social media and at Brighton Memorial Library on LibCal categorization and the New York State Annual Report.



As part of outreach efforts, MCLS took part in the new Market Days at the Lilac Festival. At their table, staff engaged with over 200 attendees, answered 26 reference questions, issued 8 new library cards, and updated 3 patron accounts.

The office also supported programming with a special tour of Central Library for students from the Rochester City School District with developmental needs. The students enjoyed exploring the Yearbook Collection in Local History and the Teen Center. Every student left with a new library card.

In addition, portions of the MCLS rotating collections—including the Mobile Maker Space, Mobile Labs, and Big Games—were distributed to two member libraries during the month.

Technical Services, Dee Mrak reporting

New Titles added to CARL

Total = 2614

Towns = 1779

RPL = 835; (Central = 405, Branches = 430)

Cataloging New Title Requests (No Hits)

Total = 2884

Towns = 2030

RPL = 854 (Central = 350, Branches = 504)

Anecdotes/Other

- Work is ongoing to improve the acquisitions and invoicing procedures, as the current workflow is not sustainable.
- Dee Mrak has trained the cataloging librarians to enter brief records into CARL, which are later overlaid with full records. However, this process is time-consuming and duplicative, making it impractical in the long term. The team anticipates beginning the use of temporary record creation within CARL acquisitions in June, pending cooperation from LAS.

Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting

Meetings

- On May 1, the Outreach Department held its biannual Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council Meeting. This session included an invitation to library staff from across MCLS who are engaged in outreach work, offering them an opportunity to share their programs and build connections with community partners. Emily Clasper attended to discuss her vision for the system and outline upcoming initiatives. Representatives from the Monroe County Jail, Office of the Aging, Pathstone Employment Focused Services, and other organizations also participated, sharing insights into the services they provide to populations targeted by Outreach efforts.
- Kyle began participation in the 2025 cohort of the Library Freedom Institute (LFI), a training program designed for library professionals that focuses on privacy, intellectual freedom, and critical technology. The program equips participants with the skills needed to support information democracy, including educating community members, implementing privacy tools, and reviewing library policies.

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 17 in-home patrons:

- 14 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (289 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (52 titles total)

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 11 library stations served with 678 items
- 678 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 7 sites.

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Monroe County Jail Book Cart Service, Biweekly Service: 2 dates this month; 79 checkouts
- Jail Presentation: Ron Freitag and Wes Becker delivered a presentation regarding local library and reentry services to a group of 11 at the Monroe County Jail.

Programs and Tabling

- Tech Link: Freitag and technology center staff conduct tech outreach sessions at senior and residential facilities:
- University Tower with Jonathan Hammond, 3 patrons
- Wolk Cafe with Cy Shropshire, 5 patrons
- Short Story Discussion Program: Lily Café, *Flyboys* by Tobias Wolff; 20 participants
- Book Clubs at Valley Manor
 - o *The Color of Water* by James McBride, 18 copies
 - o *Ashley Woods: News of the World* by Paulette Giles, 12 copies

Shipping Department, Michael Ekiert reporting

The department processed 824 Hold totes and hauled 6,014 total totes. This is a 5.7 % decrease in overall tote volume and a less than 5.1% decrease in Hold volume when compared to the amount processed in April of 2025. During May there are 21 working days and the department had at least 1 person off 17 out of 21 days

Outreach/Special Deliveries

- Truck #5696 went to the Mighty Machine truck event in Perinton.
- Picked up additional books for the RAR program.
- Dropped off BBB to Mendon fire hall & Delivered flowers to branches Winton, Arnett, Monr

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Chelsea Arnold hosted ABC Home for a garden themed storytime followed by the opportunity to explore the Children's Center and play.
- Miranda Hazen led a Memorial Day Poppy Pin Craft and LEGO Lab with a flowers theme.



- Hazen's Mindful May Yoga program taught some energetic little ones some healthy stretching and breathing exercises modeled on plants, insects, and animals in nature.
- Several spring storytimes and crafts were enjoyed by patrons and pre-k classes with one from School #15 and three from Baden Street Settlement.
- Nadia Morales collaborated with the business department to host a 'Think Money' program in the form of a farm simulation game, where children had to run a financially successful farm.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Cheryl Johnson was joined by Sarah Ngo and Amanda Madigan (Pittsford) at the Red Wings Education Day to promote Monroe County Library System services. They offered fun games and prizes for the children.
- Arnold gave a presentation on Talking is Teaching in collaboration with QualityStars for home based childcare providers. The providers were enthusiastic to hear about what libraries can offer to support their work, and they enjoyed touring the Lincoln Library.
- Burton attended the Nazareth University RISE (Rochester Interprofessional Scholars of Early Intervention) Scholar meeting. RISE is committed to COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP to prepare the rising workforce. Through clinical and community-focused work students learn about the early childhood community and are better able to connect theories and knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world situations.
- The MCLS Children's Services Annual Retreat was held at Central Library. Thirty-six staff from around the library system attended. Tyana Valezquez Smith from Sensational Inclusion presented two sessions Healing Play: The Power of Trauma-Informed Care and Literacy Lift—Supporting Students to Become Lifelong Readers.

Attendee Feedback included:

"The presenter was phenomenal and also accommodated our unique needs, not only supporting us but also

modeling how we can support others."

"This was the most in-depth presentation on this topic that I have ever been a part of. Tiana gave SO MANY specific examples about how she has used play of various types in situations she is familiar with and challenged us to start the thinking process for what else we can do. The breadth and variety of her answers was larger than I often see. She clearly answered the question "what can that look like?" She also offered opportunities to discuss so that we can learn, grow, and create together. Beyond that, every time she spoke, she emanated respect and care for human beings and the realities that can be a part of their lives. She brought so much wisdom about trauma and helped us to be specific about what we see and could see within our libraries so that we can recognize when we can be helpful and strive to present a safe space all of the time. Each moment, she brought with her an awareness about the differences of each human's experience and a desire to bring growth of understanding and empathy to us so that we can share it with others. It was just a joy to spend a day with her and in such meaningful

"I loved how dynamic the presenter was, and she was so knowledgeable, had many examples of things for us to try and implement at our libraries, she had handouts for us, she was very approachable, and I loved the activities we did -it was great to get out of our seats!"

"I liked learning how to tie in what we already do in the library to make it better for ALL patrons. I also like how she encouraged us to work with what we have without reinventing the wheel."

"Loved the amount of movement built in, as well as the insights shared about the at times ableist language participants used. The presenter was amazing at offering these necessary critiques in a nonjudgmental but educational manner."

Overall, it was one of the best received retreats we have offered. FFRPL supported the event by providing refreshments. The cost of the presenter was provided by the MCLS training budget.

On the survey 74% of the respondents said they strongly agreed that what was learned will help improve their library services to the public, 21% agreed and 5% were neutral. When asked if they were confident about using what they learned, 21% strongly agreed and 79% agreed. Several respondents requested additional training around the science of reading. Results will be used to develop future professional development opportunities.

Raising a Reader

RAR staff wrapped up storytimes for sites and focused on organizing items and completing inventory of RAR items. Johnson, Antonienko and Burton worked on completing parent and teacher surveys for feedback on how to better support our families and classrooms. Johnson and Chaves have also been working with sites on scheduling end of year celebrations to further engage with families and share information about Raising A Reader. Chaves attended a community event at RCSD #12 with other librarians from Douglas. Chaves was able to meet and engage with families and teachers about the RAR program. Some surveys were also completed by Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) families.



Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- Sarah Lehman, current Branch Manager at the RPL Lincoln Branch Library, will be promoted to the role of Associate Director for the Central Library. After her return from leave in August, she will be helping with the transition of a new Branch Manager at Lincoln and plans to begin at Central on September 8. Until then, RPL Senior Management staff have graciously agreed to assist Clasper in ensuring all Central Staff have the supervision and support they need.
- The Rundel masonry and window project is proceeding on schedule. Several Central staff members have been temporarily displaced from their work areas while windows are removed. These staff have been given alternate places to work and should be back in their regular workspaces soon.

Arts/Literature, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Museum Quality Storage - Jenn Libby from Archival Methods hosted Museum Quality Storage, an informative program for storing and preserving items for the future. Libby presented a framework for thinking about how to store items, how to approach long-term recordkeeping, and how to manage storing items for preservation. This program touched on both the scientific methodology of long-term storage in a safe environment as well as the concept of organizing one's collections for future generations.
- Getting Back on Your Bike: An Introduction to Cycling in Rochester with Jesse Peers - Peers joined Arts & Lit to give an overview of bike riding in Rochester, including maintenance tips and cool places to ride.



Outreach

- Don Hyatt made his monthly visit to Lifespan and provided various mediums including pens, acrylic paint, and color pencils. Attendees get to be creative and make their own paintings, postcards, and bookmarks.

Anecdotes

- Highlights of the Spring/Summer 2025 issue of Rundelania include poetry by local poets Kitty Jospe and Michael Yaworsky; poetry by The New Republic and The Paris Review published poet Michael Tyrell; prose by local author Th. Metzger; a play by local playwright Sara Rubin, whose troupe will perform at Central during the Fringe Festival; photographs by local photographers Donald Hyatt and Elizabeth Spring, and paintings by Buffalo artist and professor Joseph Miller.
- Melissa Manczuk went to pick up a takeout order from the Dinosaur BBQ on a Friday evening. While waiting for the order, the gentleman behind the counter asked if she was all done with work for the week, and she replied that she was scheduled to work on Saturday. He then asked what hours Central was open on the weekends and seemed surprised the libraries were open. He then said that he had heard from a friend that Central lends out "devices that provide Wi-Fi for 2-3 weeks". Manczuk said yes and talked a little bit about the Mi-Fi program. As she was leaving with her order, he said "good night and keep up the good work!"



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

- Business First Wednesday – Elevated Benefits: Building a Healthy Business from the Ground Up through Wellness with the Small Business Development Center.
- Start Smart: Protecting Your Business & Understanding Your Customers -National Small Business Week Event. Presented by Melissa Cobo and Tracy Jong, Esq.
- Get Weeding!: The first class of the five-week Cannabis Career Exploration and Worker Rights Certificate began this month.
- It's Your America – Attendees learned about deliberative democracy. It works by bringing a cross-section of the community together to learn about an issue, weighing trade-offs and making recommendations to government decision-makers. Deliberative democracy processes go by a few different names, including civic assembly. Co-sponsors of the program were Civic Genius, YOUNify, and the University of Rochester Democracy Center.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Byrnes attended An Introduction to City-Led Prevention of Hate and Targeted Violence: The Role of Local Libraries in Prevention and Social Cohesion. Sponsored by Strong Cities and the Urban Libraries Council.
- Anthony completed the Libraries as Launchpads Entrepreneurship Librarian Certificate course.
- Byrnes presented to the summer interns at Syracuse University's Innovation Law Center.
- Rich Mangione attended Senior Planet instructor training throughout the month. Senior Planet is an initiative of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). Mangione also attended NVDA (Non-Visual Desktop Access) training and received NVDA Expert Certification through NV Access.
- Anna Neumaier attended Building Community-Based Wellbeing or "Social Prescribing" in the Library through Niche Academy and New York State's Digital Equity Academy which discussed library marketing.
- Byrnes and Neumaier attended the Role of Local Libraries in Prevention and Social Cohesion through the Urban Libraries Council

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 52
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - o In person: 1
 - o Email: 24
 - o Mail: 1
 - o Phone: 2
 - o Zoom: 6
- 3D Printer: 13,
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 26
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 4
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 2

Database Usage Statistics

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: 13 Value: \$40,800
- IBISWorld - Page views: 63 Value: \$39,515
- InnovationQ - Logins: 32 Searches: 114
- Mintel - Sessions: 36 Page Views: 24 Downloads: 22

- PitchBook - Logins: 22
- Statista - Page views: 30 Downloads: 15
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 67 Views: 135

Wired for Opportunity Program

- Wired for Opportunity web page has gone live on the RPL website. <https://roccitylibrary.org/wired-for-opportunity/>
- The team has started scheduling classes with libraries and community partners around the county.
- Mi-Fis (as of 6/1/2025)
 - o 891 current Mi-Fi(s) circulating
 - o 943 Mi-Fi circulations
 - o 827 Holds
 - Holds breakdown: 87.50% Central Library, 09.25% Branches, 03.25% Town Libraries

Anecdotes/Other

- An attendee of It's Your America said this about the program:
"I was very pleased to see a cross section of the population show up ready to take positive action to improve our democracy. It was especially encouraging to see so many young people there. The discussion at my table was lively, informative, and respectful even when we didn't agree - which wasn't a lot because we found more common ground than differences of opinion!"
- We received this email from a client who utilized the services of the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property:
"I am celebrating a win today - the USPTO packet is submitted! This was a major paperwork lift! Woohoo! Thank you to everyone who helped me struggle through this mess over the last several months."
- Cobo received the Linda Halliburton friend of Rochester Professional Consultants Network (RPCN) award. This award recognizes any non-RPCN member whose dedication helped to increase visibility, grow membership, or promote the principles of RPCN to the community. It is named for Linda Halliburton, former member of the Business Division at the Rochester Central Library, who voluntarily recommended RPCN to library clients by citing our benefits, providing organization materials, and attaching our contact information to the library's books about consulting.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 2
- New Borrowers- 421
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 7
- Notarial Acts- 229

Local History & Genealogy, Shalis Worthy reporting

Programs

- Shalis Worthy screened the first of four movies in our LGBTQIA+ Archival Film Series. This film series is a partnership between the Local History & Genealogy Division, ImageOut, and the Friends and Foundation of

Rochester Public Library. Attendees enjoyed movie theatre concession style snacks! This program has allowed us to strengthen our connections in the LGBTQ+ community.

- Emily Morry gave the “Washington Square Neighborhood,” walking tour to an enthusiastic group of 38 people. Library patron and walking tour enthusiast Hal Schuler informed Morry, “*this is one of the best tours I’ve ever been on.*”
- Worthy hosted the presentation “A Movie Trip Through Film Land” by Mike Champlin. Champlin screened a film created by Kodak that he preserved. He also presented contextual information about the film and Kodak’s operations at the time the film was created. The presentation generated a lively discussion among attendees.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Antoine McDonald was invited to take part in the Toward Freedom & Fairness Walking Tour as part of a special focus group hosted by the Genesee Country Village & Museum. McDonald was invited to participate on the tour and to actively give feedback in an effort to ensure the information provided on the tour was culturally sensitive and factually accurate.
- Christopher Brennan represented the Local History & Genealogy Division at the Rochester Genealogical Society’s annual conference. He was able to attend the event for free and share information with other attendees about the library during breaks.

Anecdotes/Other

Work on the 2024-2025 Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) grant was completed in May. Contractor Ron Martin-Dent completed processing and finding aids on all six collections from the Shoulders To Stand On archival material.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 597 reference questions and 404 non-reference transactions for a total of 1001.

RMC Circulation

- RMC loaned 5 pieces of equipment and 843 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,103 items. Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was 11,656.
- RMC materials accounted for 40% of the overall Central Library circulation (before renewals).
- At the end of May there were 817 holds on Mi-Fi units and 891 units with a “current” status circulating. RMC just received word that the Mi-Fi case order has been finally approved by Monroe County Purchasing, so they will be adding more units to the circulating pool very soon.

Programs

- First Friday Film: *A Complete Unknown*
- See it First Matinee: *Paddington in Peru*
- Brown Bag Book discussion: *The Life Impossible* by Matt Haig.

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks – 2079
- Binge Pass – 58
- Comics – 161
- eBooks – 452
- Movies/TV – 523
- Music – 102
- Total Circulation – 3375

Users

- New users – 72
- Patrons using all 7 borrows – 181 (18%)
- Total users – 1001

Cost

- Total - \$7827.53
- Per item – \$2.32

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- The REAL Women [Veterans] of Vietnam was presented by Nancy E. Lynch. This is a follow up to her previous Vietnam Mailbag book talk, in which young Delaware reporter Lynch received letters from Vietnam Veterans for her newspaper and promised to eventually publish them all in a book, which she did, albeit decades later. After reading the 2025 best-seller by Kristin Hannah, a fictional account of women who served as nurses and Donut Dollies during the Vietnam war, Lynch decided to create a talk about the REAL women who served. She read many letters and shared photographs of the women in their various service capacities. She is still in touch with some of them after 50 years. The talk was very engaging and many questions were asked.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors numbered about 45 people seen in May. These numbers also include visits to Legal Assistance of Western New York, who assist with various legal and housing issues.

Anecdotes/Other

- Matt Sherman continues his work on shifting of the Science Division's open shelf circulating collection. At month's end, about half of the work has been completed, along with new Dewey range endcap signs. Patrons have been enjoying the new periodical space as they are all facing out again.
- Pellegrino participated in a team with Emily Clasper and Katy Hasselwander for the Rochester Regional Library Council's (RRLC) Trivia Night at Rising Storm Brewery. The RPL team placed third, but the top three teams were only one point apart from each other. The event was a great opportunity for networking among the various libraries which include educational and private libraries as well as public.
- Pellegrino created a book display for Speech-Language-Hearing Month. This was a request from HLAA, and also recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Michael Callari created a book display called The History Behind SINNERS, a collection of books related to subjects covered in the 2025 film, including post-World War I African American musicians, crime, hoodoo, vampirism, and the Jim Crow era South. Callari also produced a list for further reading including books found in the Business Insight Center and the Arts and Literature Division. These books were inspired by the African

American Intellectual History Society's movie syllabus. Other topics covered in the display include slavery and America's ethnic groups in history.



Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- Cy Shropshire's coding club is developing into an increasingly engrossing combination of technology education and conversations about technology. Recent purchases of a variety of technology teaching tools and hardware were made possible through the generosity of the John Lovenheim family. These tools have allowed Shropshire to create varied learning experiences for program participants. Patrons of all ages have joined and enjoyed the technology lessons and the social exchanges. This program is still new and establishing a steady audience, but the progress Shropshire has made and the caliber of the learning experience is very impressive.
- Trevor Johnson's "Zoom Room" program has had consistent attendance. In this class, which is specifically intended for seniors, patrons have learned everything from what is a browser to strategies for saving a contact in the cloud to maintain contact with family in the event of a disaster. Even simple tasks like going to a new store or visiting family members in a new home present potential problems for some of the people in the classes. For example, an older patron who is a recent stroke victim wanted to use Google maps to look up hours of operation of a new business. Johnson used the question to show the class how to use Google Maps and Street view to find hours or business and to see pictures of stairs or ramps. Knowing how building looks ahead of time and if it is really accessible, genuinely makes our elderly patrons safer and more confident in the choices they make every day.



Anecdotes/Other

- The newest member of the Technology Center Team, Josh Tomaszewski, joined in May. Tomaszewski is originally from Rochester. After serving in the U. S. Navy, he returned to Rochester where he spent several years working in social services. He then spent many years in government service with increasing levels of responsibility. Tomaszewski brings a high level of technical skills and years of experience of management with the Social Security Administration. Before his first day ended, Tomaszewski was making plans with his coworkers for innovative programming.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- The inaugural Comic Empowerment Awards took place this month. Nearly 70 comics were judged by former Library Director Patty Uttaro. The Mayor spoke to attendees, and presenters gave away trophies and gift cards to kids in the categories of Best Comic, Best Artwork, Best World, and most inspirational character. This was the culmination of a year of empowering teens to tell their stories. Through this program, teens learned about visual literacy, artificial intelligence, and some even worked for the company learning graphic design. It was wonderful to see the pride the teens took in their work and the way they supported one another. You can see the news coverage of the event [here](#).
- The teen public art installation was designed to create an accessible art space for everyone. This shared community space allowed teens to express their creativity and messages on a larger scale, giving them a platform to showcase their artistic vision and collaborate with others. When someone added to the collage, staff took the opportunity to talk with them about their inspiration. Some teens added elements that built on what was already there, while others created independent pieces meant to inspire. The project served as a great example of the idea, "it's not how you start but how you finish."
- On a quieter afternoon, staff introduced a group of socially anxious teens to a valuable community resource: The Strong Museum. While most had passed by the museum, few remembered ever going inside. After the visit, they felt more confident sharing their experience with friends and family and learned how to use available discounts for affordable access. They enjoyed connecting with one another, playing nostalgic video games, and exploring the history of toys that have led to major inventions.
- Anime continues to be a favorite among both teens and adults. Watching anime often sparks conversations about Japanese culture and the challenges of international travel, with some teens even suggesting future trips. At the most recent Anime program, participants shared their favorite manga titles and watched a few adaptations that had been turned into films. The event also featured anime-inspired snacks like shrimp chips and ramen, adding to the cultural experience.
- One of Central Library's Liberator Esports Team, Victor, became the NASEF Spring 2024 Mario Kart 8 Worldwide Time Trials Undeclared Champion. Victor won all 8 regular season races and all 3 playoff races. He defeated over 750 participants from 10 different countries and 88 different organizations. The esports team brings kids together to not only have fun and compete, but to learn the business of esports and possibly make it into a career. Victor has launched his own YouTube channel featuring all of the NASEF Time Trials.



NASEF Worldwide Mario Kart 8

FINAL STANDINGS INDIVIDUALS

No	Name	School	Grand Total
1	iYOU-001Vic1	Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County	1100
2	GCA-MrEvman	Georgia Cyber Academy	994

NASEF WORLDWIDE MARIO KART TIME TRIALS: RESULTS

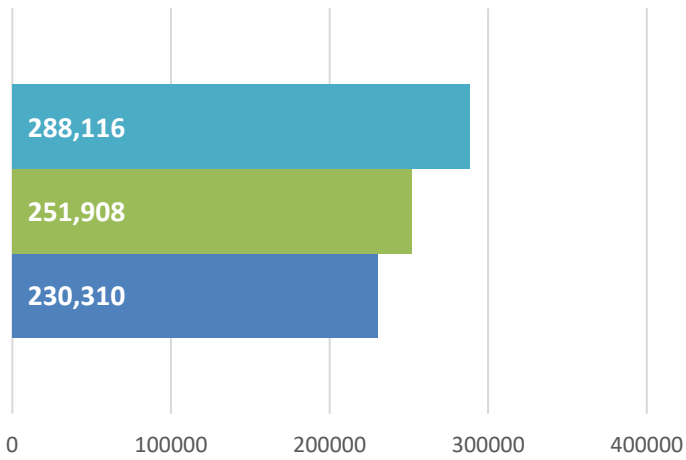
MCLS Circulation

Town Libraries				
	May 2025	May 2024	+/-	%
Brighton	51,602	49,684	1,918	3.9%
Seymour	12,541	12,652	(111)	-0.9%
Chili	21,392	18,506	2,886	15.6%
East Rochester	4,061	3,617	444	12.3%
Fairport	57,242	54,313	2,929	5.4%
Gates	21,612	21,788	(176)	-0.8%
Greece	49,214	44,229	4,985	11.3%
Hamlin	4,769	4,442	327	7.4%
Henrietta	40,570	37,863	2,707	7.1%
Irondequoit	40,326	39,453	873	2.2%
Mendon	8,890	9,349	(459)	-4.9%
Newman Riga	2,022	2,035	(13)	-0.6%
Ogden	11,858	11,881	(23)	-0.2%
Parma	8,178	7,310	868	11.9%
Penfield	40,973	24,862	16,111	64.8%
Pittsford	48,441	47,109	1,332	2.8%
Rush	2,680	2,063	617	29.9%
Mumford	624	738	(114)	-15.4%
Scottsville	3,010	2,521	489	19.4%
Webster	39,863	40,664	(801)	-2.0%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>469,868</i>	<i>435,079</i>	<i>34,789</i>	<i>8.0%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>84,000</i>	<i>80,337</i>	<i>3,663</i>	<i>4.6%</i>
MCLS Total	553,868	515,416	38,452	7.5%

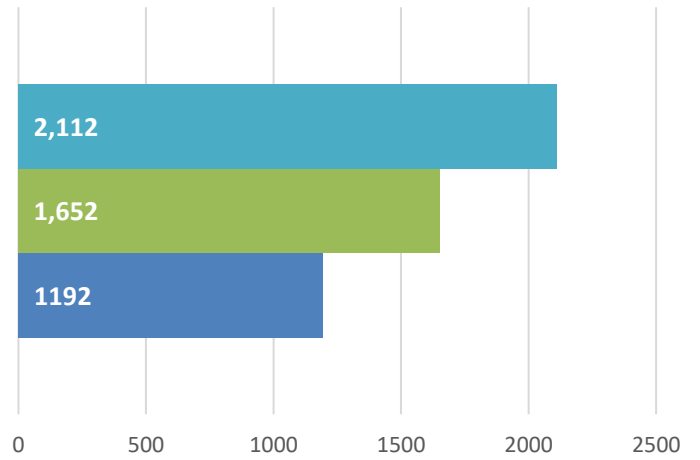
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–May



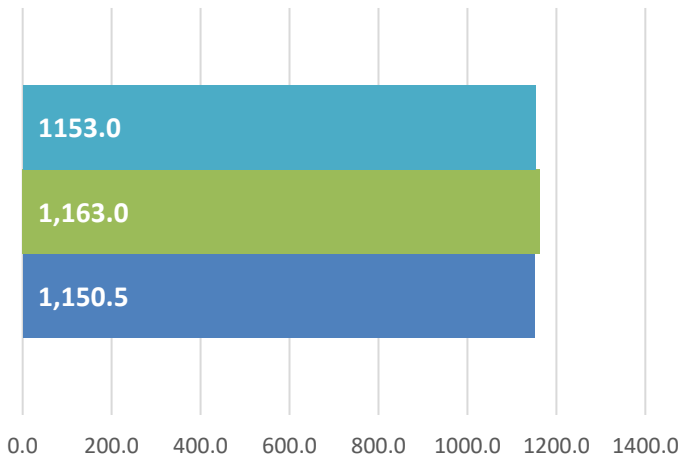
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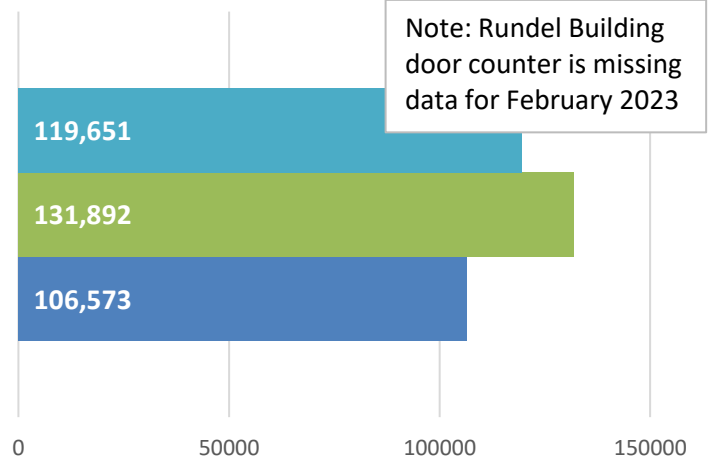
LIBRARY CARDS



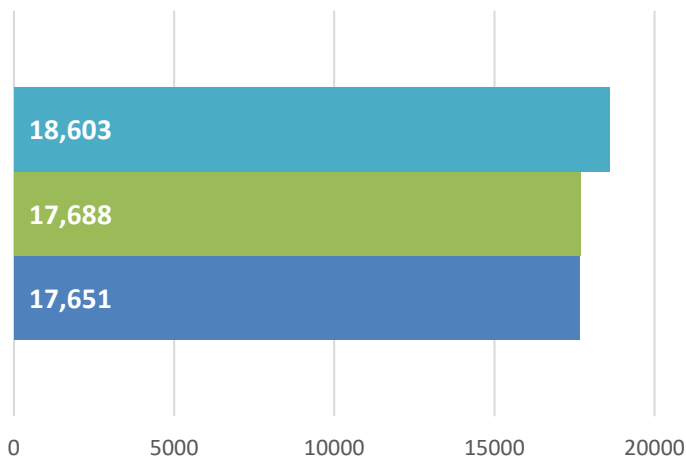
SERVICE HOURS



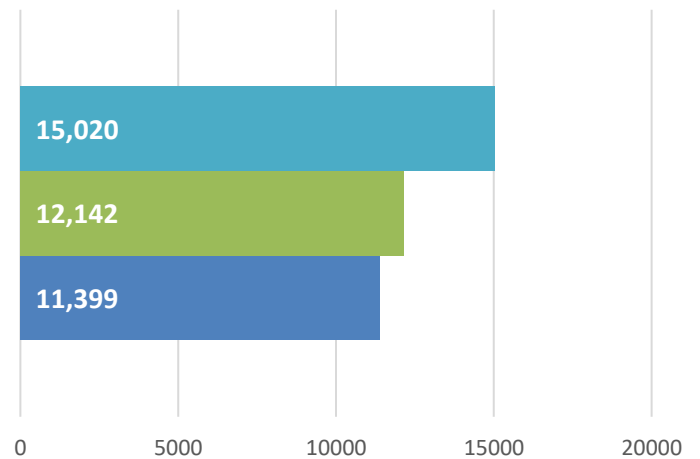
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



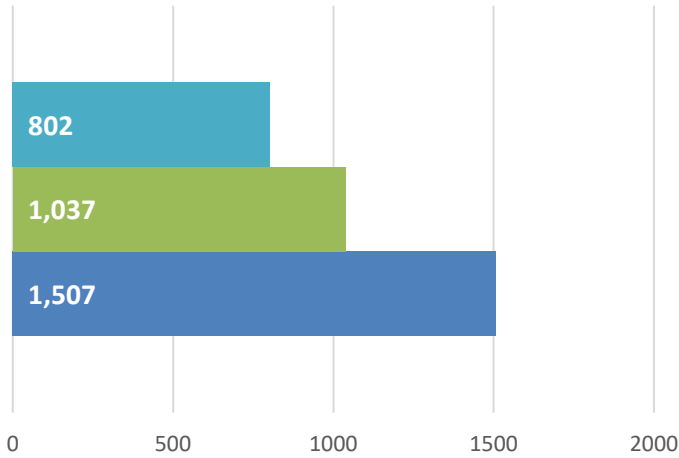
NON-REFERENCE



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.

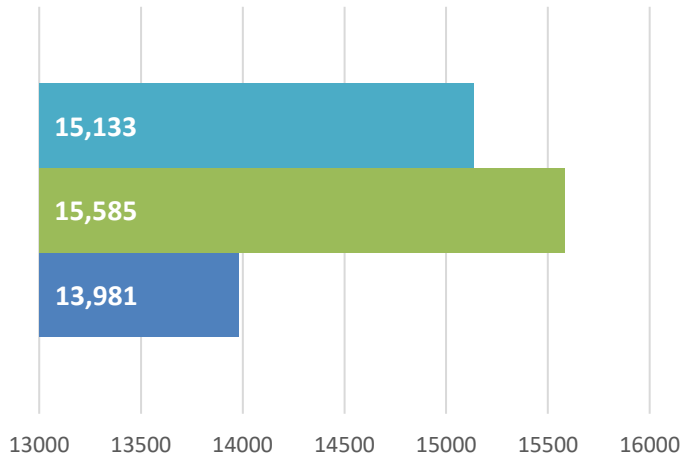
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

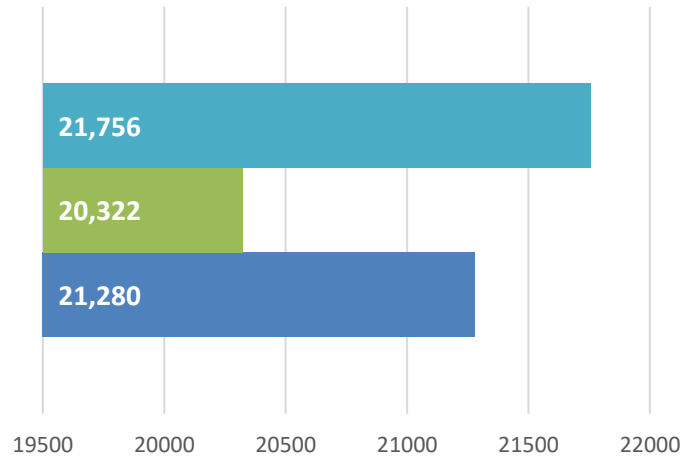
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

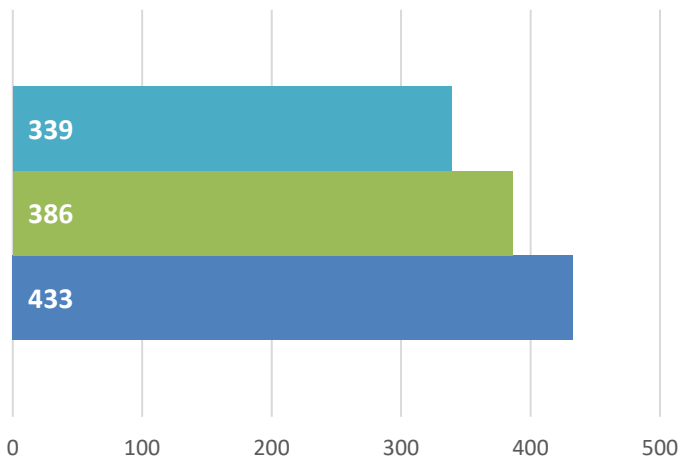
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

