

Assistant Director's Report

Sherry Kowalski

April 24, 2024

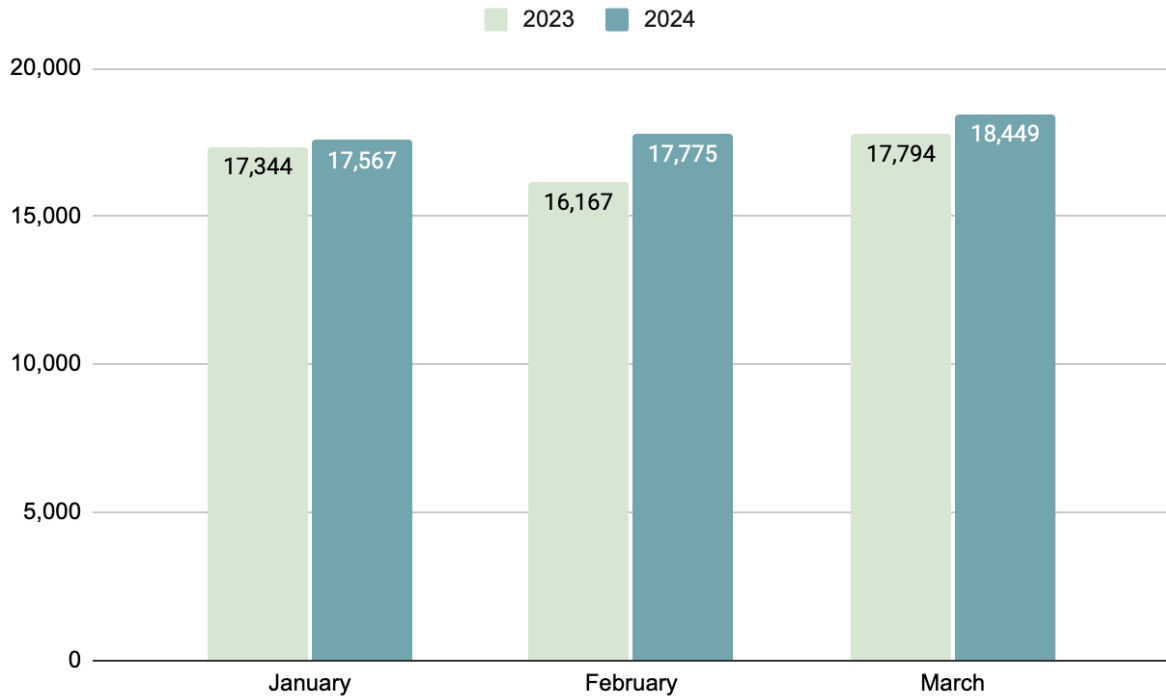
- I attended an intermodal meeting on March 6th. There have been problems with people at the bus station being disruptive and a committee was formed to find solutions. Multiple County Department Heads and the County Executive have been meeting on a regular basis. I was invited to attend to talk about our patron code of conduct and the Library's procedures for banning patrons.
- I am currently up to date on contracts. The Hoopla contract was approved at the March 13th BAC meeting.
- I attended the Legislative Committee meeting for two resolutions that Josias submitted before he went on vacation. One of the resolutions was for a New York State construction aid grant and the other was for a grant for the period pantry from the Community Foundation.
- The table that the Binghamton City Parks Department built for the city model was delivered. We are still waiting for them to bring over the model. Tobin Coffey was the person I was communicating with during this process. It was a pleasure to speak with him and of course I had to show him the teen space that was renamed to honor his mother's fourteen years of service on the Library Board.
- I was able to manage accounts payable and payroll without making too many mistakes while Jackie was on vacation. I had small pile of vouchers that Jackie had to fix when she came back. AP gets easier each time I need to step in but I don't get enough practice to become proficient.
- The Library partnered with the Office of Emergency Services to provide eclipse glasses and safe viewing pamphlets to the public.
- The solar eclipse program went well. Judd was in charge while I took a few days off to spend with family. We had meetings to plan prior to the event to make sure that everyone knew what going on and we had enough coverage. Closing the Library from 3:00-4:45 helped take some pressure off staff.
- I attended the Klee Foundation reception last week. It was a pleasure to see familiar faces and make new connections.
- The seed library is up and running. I worked with Gill, Michaela and our F2L volunteer on this project. I think we worked well together and we are very proud of this new service.
- It was an eventful and sometimes challenging 6 weeks while Josias was away. I could not have done this without the support of Library staff, board members and County staff.

Data Analytics Monthly Report (February and March 2024)

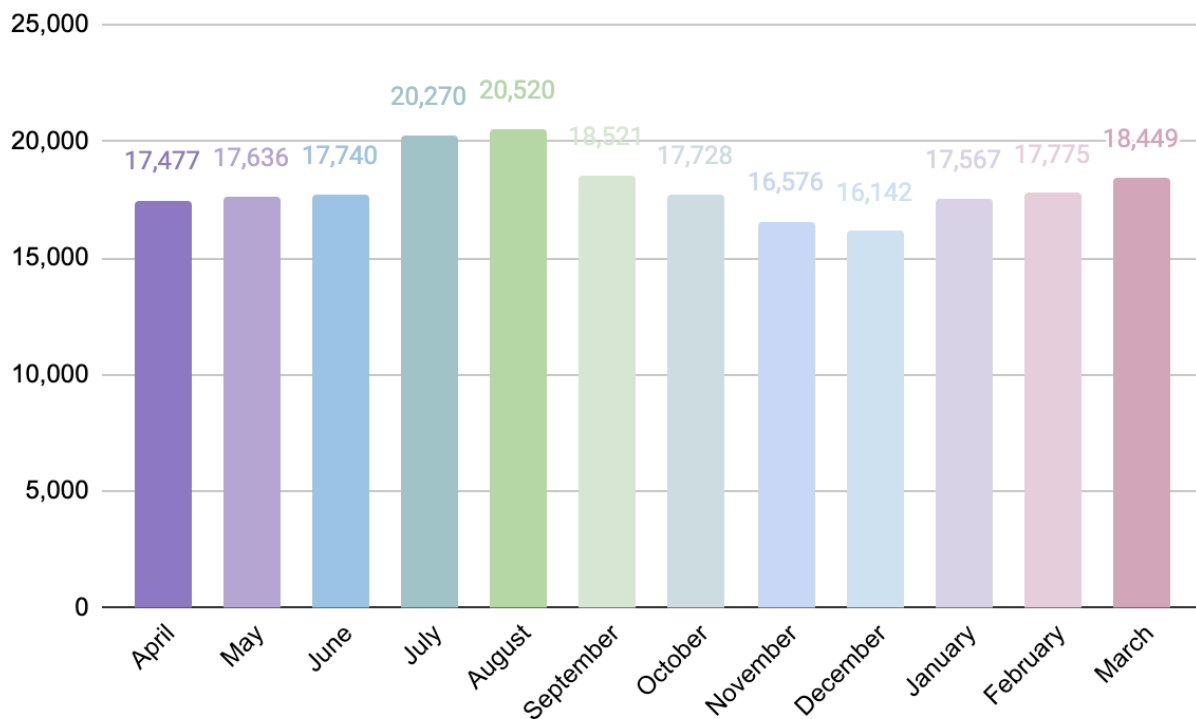
Submitted by Laura Haynes

Total Monthly Circulation for January-March in 2023 and 2024:

Circulation increased slightly for these three months.

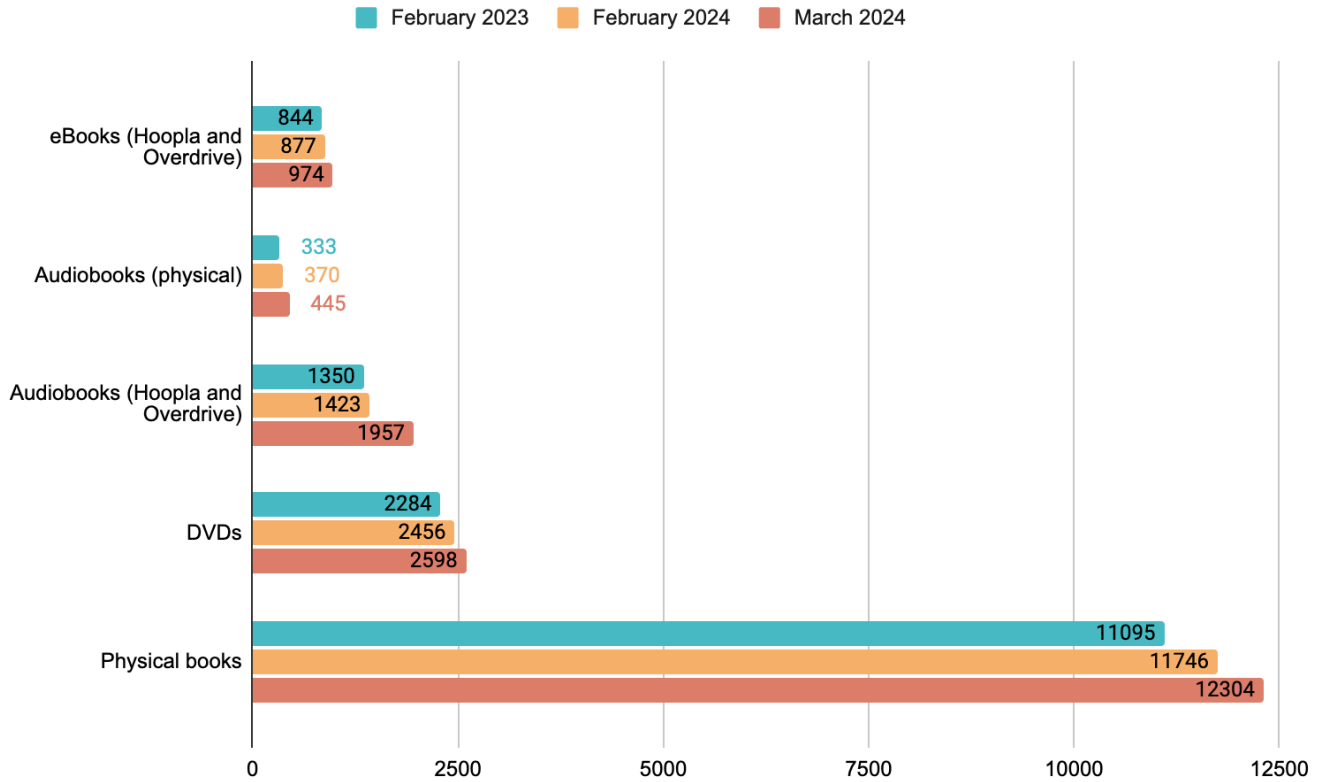


This graph shows the circulation stats for the past year:



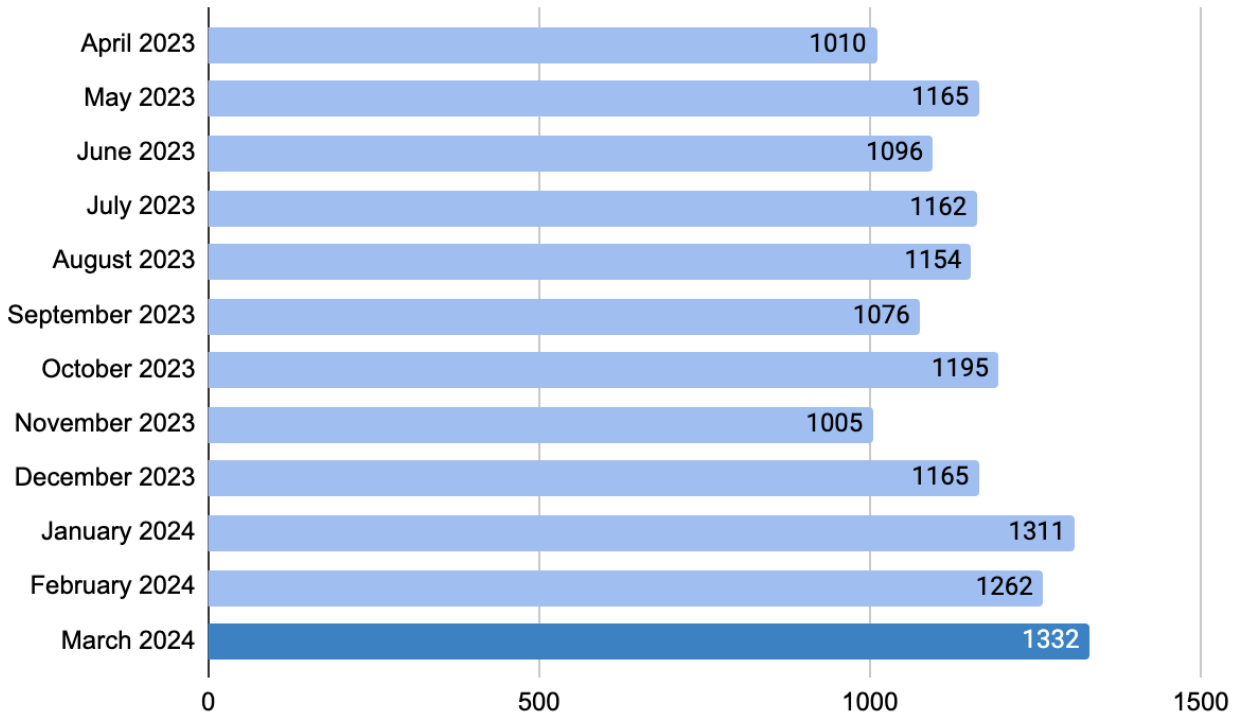
Circulation by format:

This graph compares February and March 2024 with February 2023's circulation numbers. There was an increase across the board.

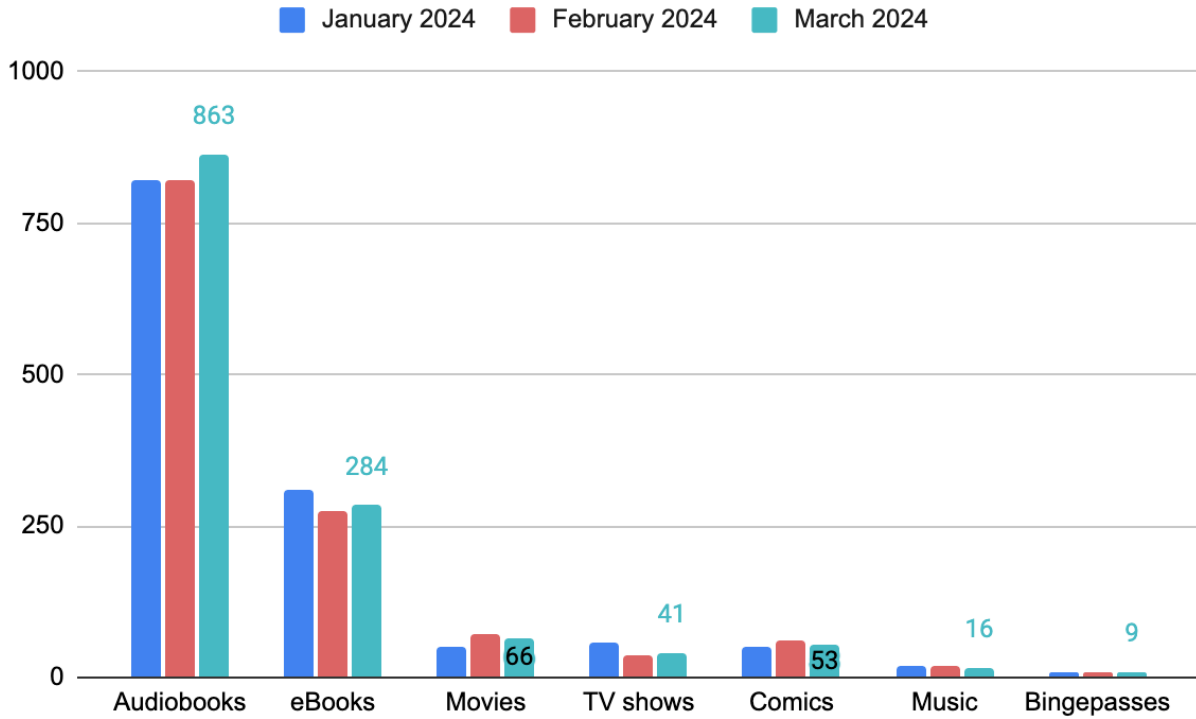


Hoopla Circulation:

Hoopla circulation is the highest it has been in the past year.

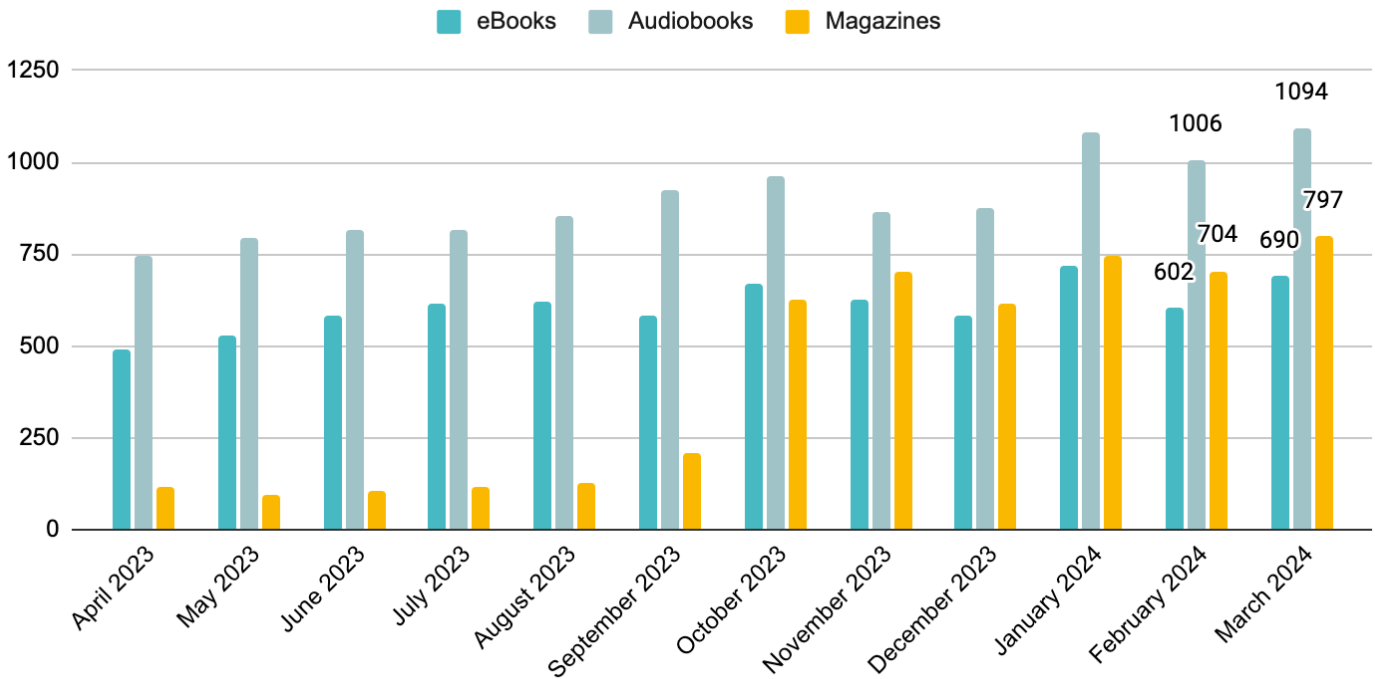


Hoopla Circulation by format:



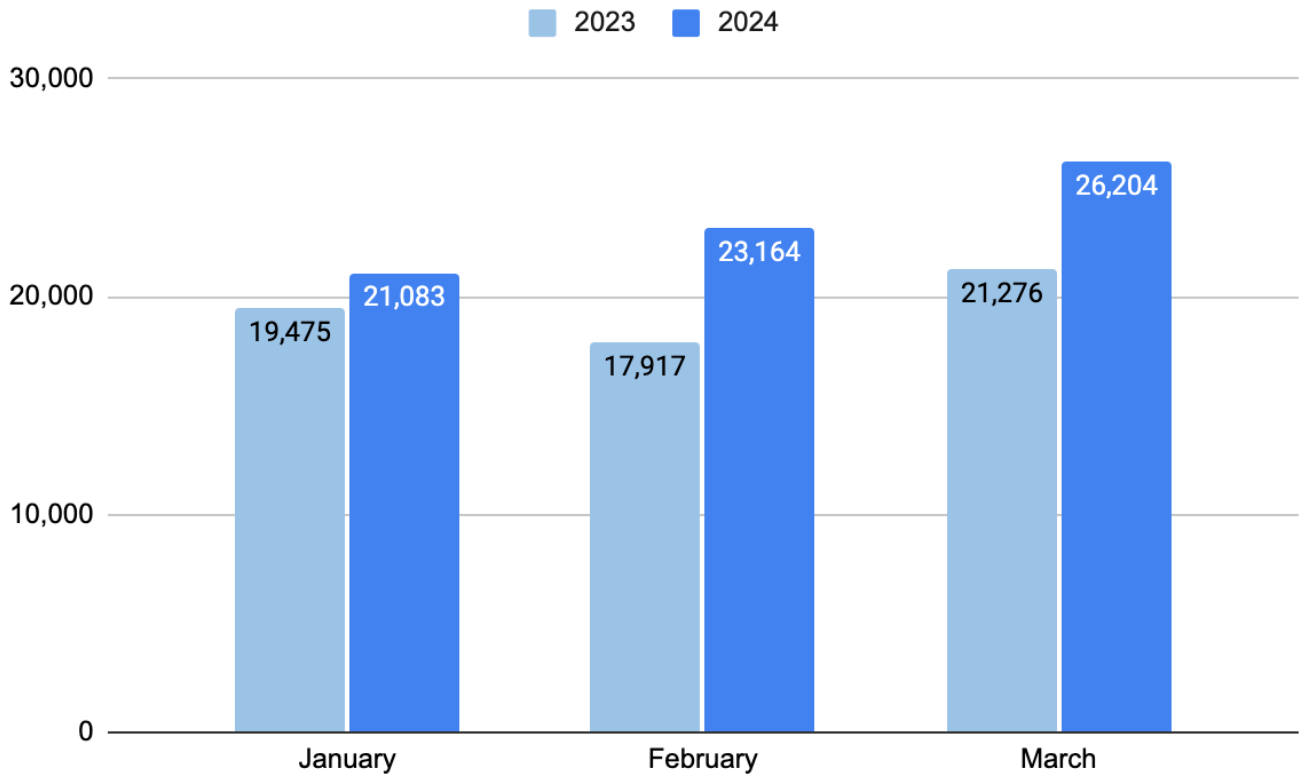
Overdrive/Libby Circulation for eBooks, Audiobooks, and Magazines over the last year:

Magazine usage seems to be climbing.



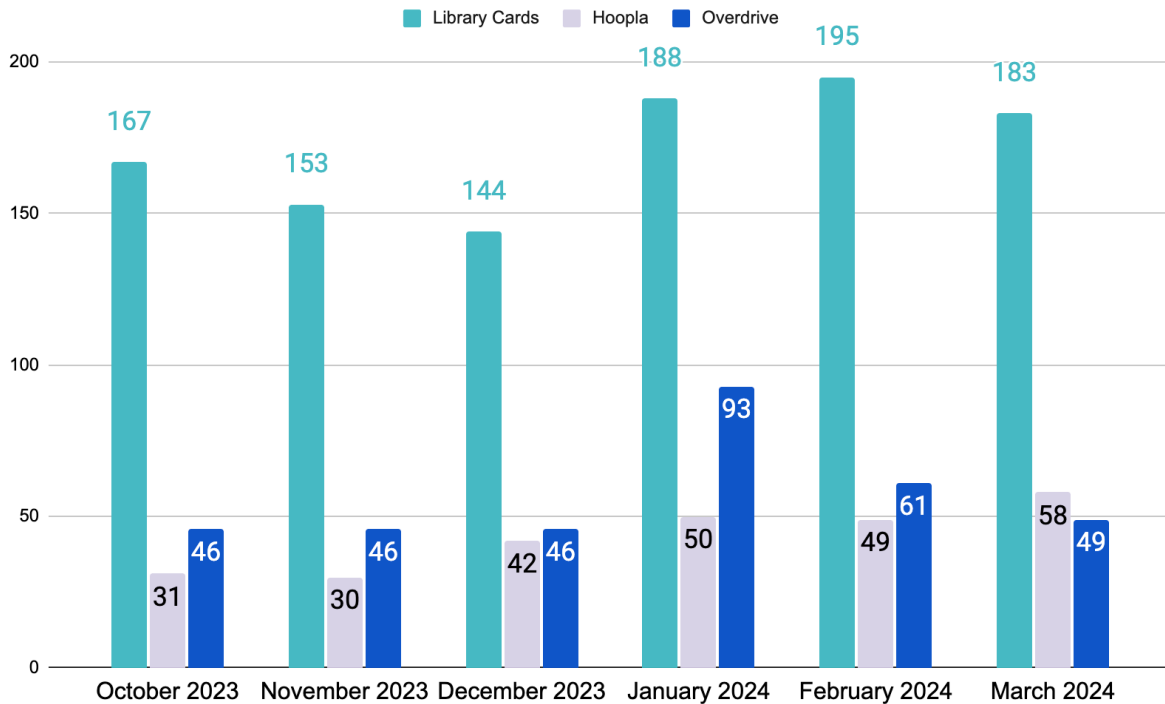
Door Count

Door count is markedly increasing compared to the same three months last year.



New Patron Registration (Hoopla, and Libby/Overdrive):

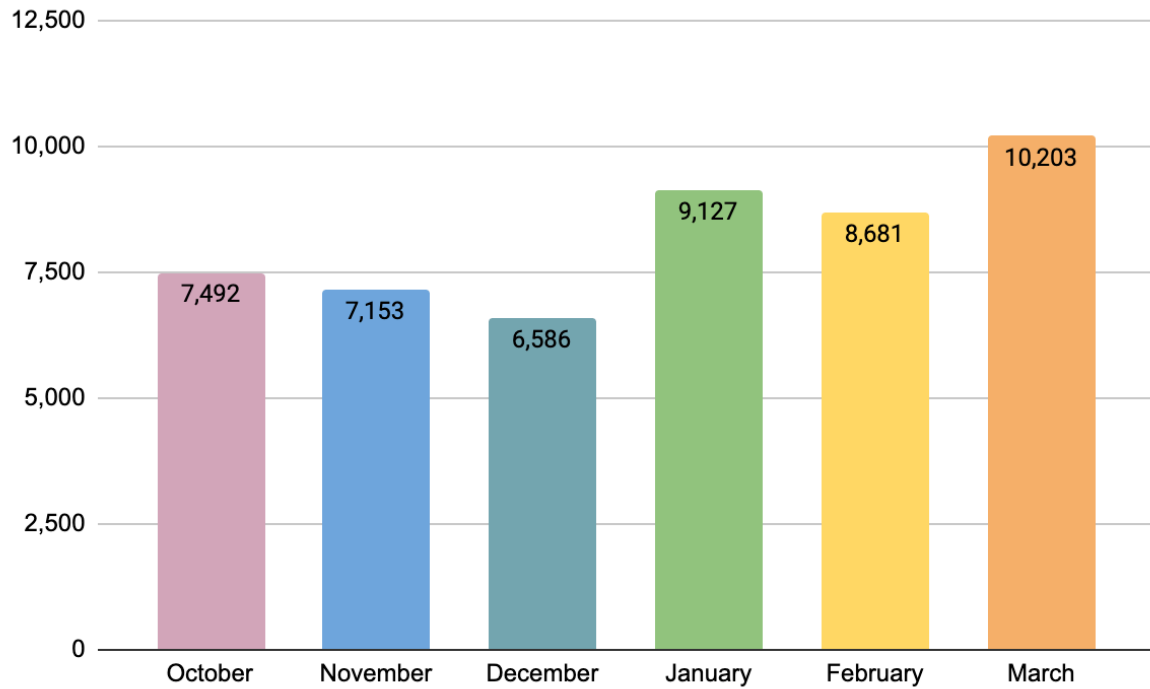
Registration decreased for library cards and Libby, but increased for Hoopla.



Website Analytics:

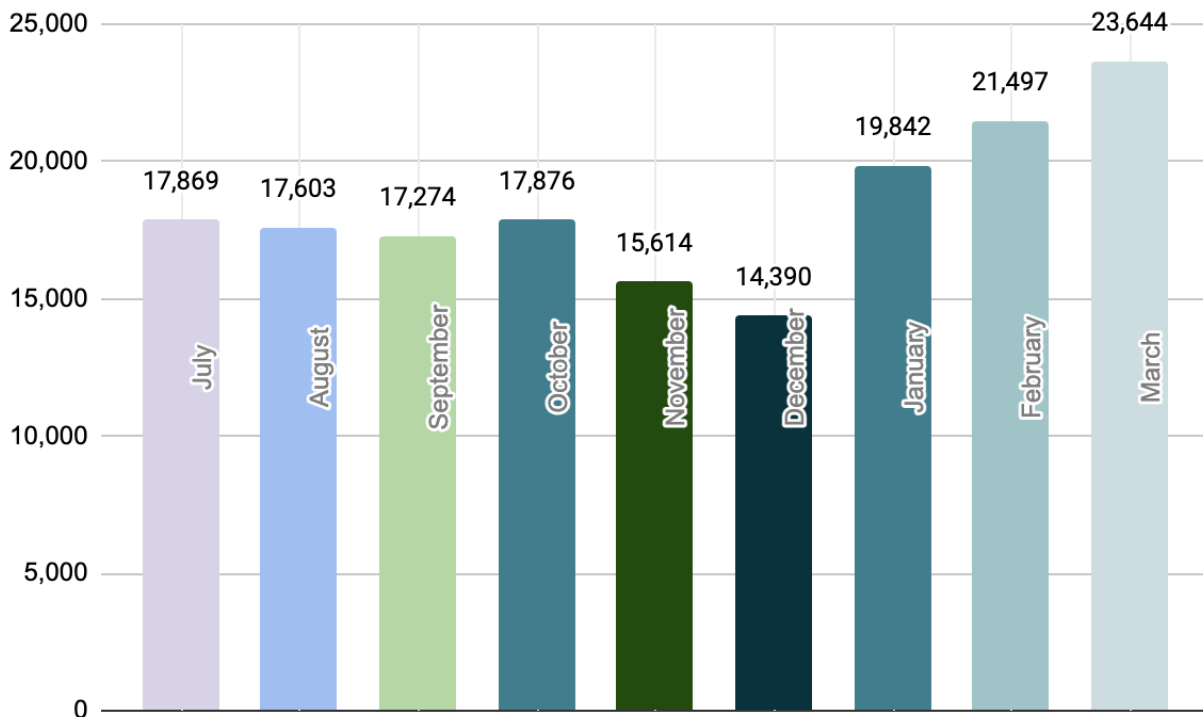
Total sessions:

Website sessions continue to climb.

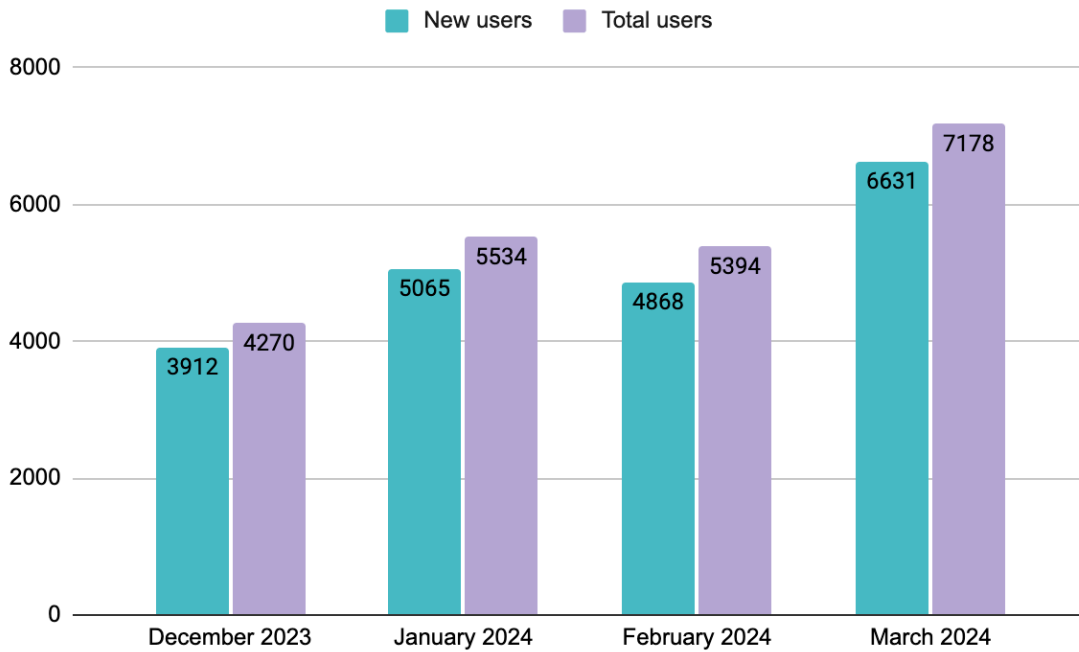


Pageviews:

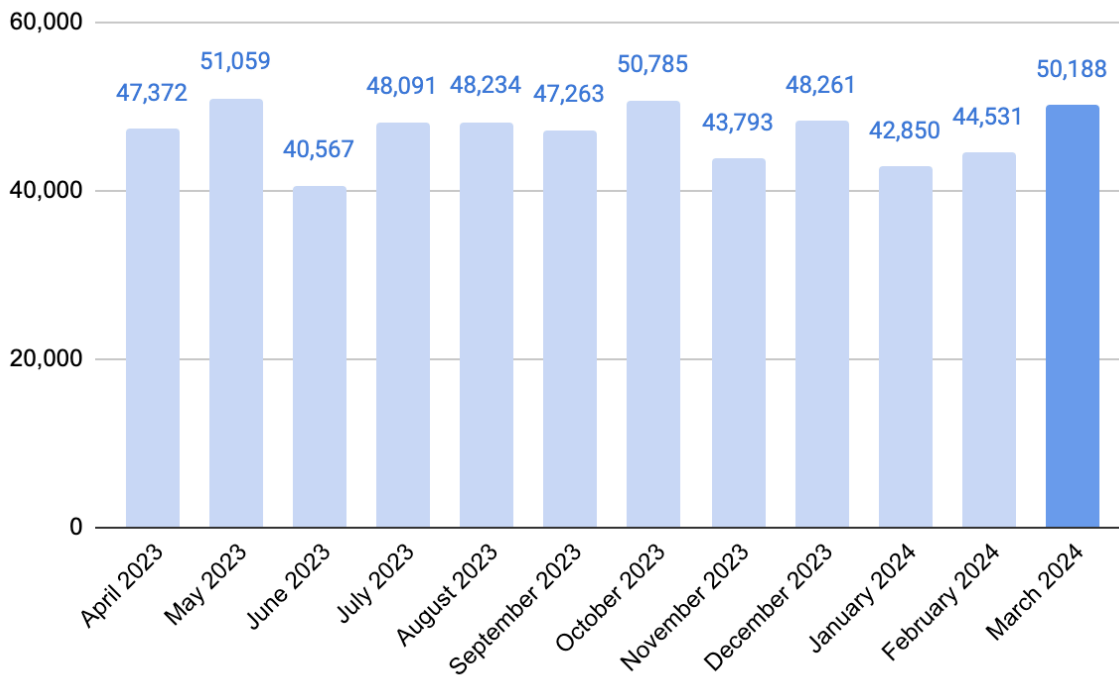
This graph shows total pageviews for the past 9 months. We will be monitoring which pages get the most views.



This graph shows new users versus established users for the past four months. Website traffic continues to rise!



Number of Wireless Sessions:
Wireless sessions increased by 5,657.



Public Computer Sessions:

There is an error with the public computer reporting module that needs to be resolved. There will be statistics in future board reports.

January, February, and March Circulation Reports

Submitted by Kathleen Shores

January 2024

- Full-time Circulation clerk, Emma Wagaman, provided 56.50 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Full-time Circulation clerk, Nursel Bagsever, provided 38.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services
- Part-time Circulation Clerk, Ethan Mellen, provided 60.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Part-time Local History Clerk, Christian Wert, provided 58.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Local History. Christian is currently splitting his time between Local History and the Circulation Department with focus on Circulation due to staffing shortages
- The Circulation desk and Reference desk issued approximately 133 guest passes during the month of January. The library welcomed visitors from other states such as California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.
- Physical library card registrations for adults, young adults, and juveniles:
 - o July 2023 – 175
 - o August 2023 – 186
 - o September 2023 – 189
 - o October 2023 – 143
 - o November 2023 – 127
 - o December 2023 – 124
 - o January 2024 – 147
- Electronic library card registrations:
 - o July 2023 – 29
 - o August 2023 – 38
 - o September 2023 – 19
 - o October 2023 – 24
 - o November 2023 – 26
 - o December 2023 – 20
 - o January 2024 – 41

February 2024

- Full-time Circulation clerk, Emma Wagaman, provided 26.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Full-time Circulation clerk, Nursel Bagsever, provided 56.50 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services
- Part-time Circulation Clerk, Ethan Mellen, provided 55.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Part-time Local History Clerk, Christian Wert, provided 27.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Local History. Christian is currently splitting his time between Local History and the Circulation Department with focus on Circulation due to staffing shortages.

- The Circulation desk and Reference desk issued approximately 108 guest passes during the month of February. The library welcomed visitors from other states such as Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.
- Physical library card registrations for adults, young adults, and juveniles:
 - o July 2023 – 175
 - o August 2023 – 186
 - o September 2023 – 189
 - o October 2023 – 143
 - o November 2023 – 127
 - o December 2023 – 124
 - o January 2024 – 147
 - o February 2024 – 162
- Electronic library card registrations:
 - o July 2023 – 29
 - o August 2023 – 38
 - o September 2023 – 19
 - o October 2023 – 24
 - o November 2023 – 26
 - o December 2023 – 20
 - o January 2024 – 41
 - o February 2024 – 33

March 2024

- Full-time Circulation clerk, Emma Wagaman, provided 20.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Full-time Circulation clerk, Nursel Bagsever, provided 58.50 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services
- Part-time Circulation Clerk, Ethan Mellen, provided 51.50 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Youth Services.
- Part-time Local History Clerk, Christian Wert, provided 32.00 hours of desk coverage/additional help to Local History. Christian is currently splitting his time between Local History and the Circulation Department with focus on the Circulation due to staffing shortages.
- The Circulation desk and Reference desk issued approximately 118 guest passes during the month of March. The library welcomed visitors from other states such as Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas.
- Physical library card registrations for adults, young adults, and juveniles:
 - o July 2023 – 175
 - o August 2023 – 186
 - o September 2023 – 189
 - o October 2023 – 143
 - o November 2023 – 127
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 - o February 2024 – 162
 - o March 2024 – 159
- Electronic library card registrations:

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- o January 2024 – 41
- o February 2024 – 33
- o March 2024 – 24

February 2024 Youth Services Board Report

Notable things to report in Youth Services:

- Kathleen continues to regularly provide coverage for the Youth Services Department. Youth Services staff very much appreciate this assistance.
- Staff illness resulted in the cancellation of 10 Youth Services programs in February.
- Violet attended a local school librarian meeting on February 1.
- BCPL has partnered with Binghamton University’s Institute of Justice and Well-being to offer weekly robotics classes for youth in Grades 3-5. This program is a huge success.
- Kelsey attended the Head Start Policy Council meeting on February 28 to present information about BCPL’s upcoming children’s events.
- Our Borrow a Grandparent program is becoming so popular that we have expanded the hours of the program to meet the demand. Grandma Sherann reads and works on homework with children of all ages.
- Attendance for in person programs:
 - Borrow a Grandparent-every Monday-Thursday and every other Saturday-Average attendance of 5
 - Biweekly Lapsit Story Time-Average attendance of 15
 - Biweekly Preschool Story Time-Average attendance of 8
 - Weekly Project SPARK: Science Programming & Robotics for Kids-Average attendance of 16
 - Weekly Teen Thursdays -Average attendance of 5
 - Bimonthly Therapy Dogs-Average attendance of 38
 - Bimonthly LEGO Club-Average attendance of 29
 - Monthly Story Time for Adults-Attendance of 14
 - February 20-Ukrainian Story Time-Attendance of 12
 - February 23 Pokémon Club-Attendance of 15
 - February 28- Teen Dungeons & Dragons -Attendance of 6

Upcoming in Youth Services:

Upcoming programs:

- Biweekly Lapsit Story Time
- Biweekly Preschool Story Time
- Weekly Teen Thursdays
- Weekly Tween Fridays

- Weekly Project SPARK: Science Programming & Robotics for Kids
 - Bimonthly LEGO Club
 - Bimonthly Therapy Dogs
 - Monthly French Story Time
 - Monthly Ukrainian Story Time
 - Monthly Story Time for Adults
 - Monthly Crocheting Club for Homeschoolers
 - Monthly Teen Dungeons & Dragons
 - Rainbow Pride Family Hour on March 9
 - NASA Eclipse Program on April 8
- Gill is working with Violet on a monthly French Bilingual Story Time.
 - Michelle is coordinating sewing and crochet classes and a Science Fair for homeschool families in 2024.
 - Grab-N-Go bags and extra programs will be offered during the Spring Break in April.

Respectfully submitted by

Kelsey Matoushek

Librarian II

March 2024 Youth Services Board Report

Notable things to report in Youth Services:

- Kathleen continues to regularly provide coverage for the Youth Services Department. Youth Services staff very much appreciate this assistance.
- BCPL has partnered with Binghamton University's Pride and Joy Families organization to offer a monthly Rainbow Pride Family Hour for LGBTQ+ youth and their families. The first session was offered on March 9 and was attended by 21 people. Staff received a great deal of positive feedback, and the next session is scheduled for April 27. Each session will include a story time, craft, and discussion.
- Much of the month was spent planning for the upcoming April 8 Eclipse Program, including making 100 Grab-N-Go bags with eclipse glasses and science activities for children.
- Youth Services staff met with County employees Amanda Wahl and Megan Olmstead on March 15 to discuss next steps for installing a communication board in the Children's Room and Garden.
- Violet Kravitz and Gill Friedlander offered our first bilingual French Story Time on March 16. This will be a monthly program.
- Michelle Ford provided two field trips for Family Enrichment Network classes in March. Michelle offered a story time and craft program for the 43 children that participated in the field trips.
- Our Borrow a Grandparent program continues to increase in popularity, so we have expanded the hours of the program and have added a second Foster Grandparent to meet the demand. Grandma Sherann and Grandma Victoria read and work on homework with children of all ages.
- Preparation for the Summer Reading Program has started. Two performers have been booked.
- Attendance for in person programs:
 - Borrow a Grandparent-every Monday-Friday-Average attendance of 4
 - Biweekly Lapsit Story Time-Average attendance of 18
 - Biweekly Preschool Story Time-Average attendance of 9
 - Weekly Project SPARK Robotics Club-Average attendance of 14

- Weekly Teen Thursdays -Average attendance of 5
- Bimonthly Therapy Dogs-Average attendance of 42
- Bimonthly LEGO Club-Average attendance of 22
- March 9-Rainbow Pride Family Hour-Attendance of 21
- March 11-Story Time for Adults-Attendance of 8
- March 15-Drop-in St. Patrick's Day Crafty Kids-Attendance of 5
- 44 craft kits were handed out as Grab-N-Go bags
- March 16-French Story Time-Attendance of 12
- March 19-Ukrainian Story Time-Attendance of 23
- March 23- Teen Dungeons & Dragons-Attendance of 5
- March 29- Pokémon Club-Attendance of 15

Upcoming in Youth Services:

- Upcoming programs:
 - Biweekly Lapsit Story Time
 - Weekly Preschool Story Time
 - Weekly Project SPARK: Science Programming & Robotics for Kids
 - Weekly Teen Thursdays
 - Weekly Tween Fridays
 - Bimonthly LEGO Club
 - Bimonthly Therapy Dogs
 - Monthly Ukrainian Story Time
 - Monthly Story Time for Adults
 - Monthly Crocheting Club for Homeschoolers
 - Monthly Family Game Day and Teen Game Day
 - Monthly Teen Dungeons & Dragons
 - Kids Create on April 2
 - Family Makerspace on April 3
 - Family Movie Day: Elemental on April 4
 - Crafty Kids on April 5
 - Crochet Class for Homeschoolers on April 5
 - NASA Eclipse Program on April 8
 - Rainbow Pride Family Hour on April 27
- Kelsey, Michelle, and Kathleen will be interviewing candidates for the vacant clerical positions in early April.
- Michelle is coordinating crochet classes and a Science Fair for homeschool families in Spring 2024.
- Michelle is collaborating with the Health Department to offer a lapsit story time about the topic of immunization.
- Kelsey and Violet will be participating in a Family Literacy Day, hosted by the Jewish Community Center on May 22.

Respectfully submitted by

Kelsey Matoushek

Librarian II

Account	Budget	Encumbered	Feb-Apr 25th	YTD	Remaining		
Salary and Benefits							
6001000 SALARIES FULL-TIME	920,950		207,215	258,103	28%	662,847	72%
6001001 SALARIES PART-TIME	149,560		21,743	27,562	18%	121,998	82%
6001002 SALARIES TEMPORARY	20,070		9,490	12,001	60%	8,069	40%
6001003 SALARIES OVERTIME	-		565	669		-669	
Total Salary	1,090,580		239,012	298,334	27%	792,246	73%
6008001 STATE RETIREMENT	136,887		25,086	32,403	24%	104,484	76%
6008002 SOCIAL SECURITY	82,514		17,459	21,806	26%	60,708	74%
6008004 WORKERS COMPENSATION	6,304		1,576	1,576	25%	4,728	75%
6008006 LIFE INSURANCE	285		24	32	11%	253	89%
6008007 HEALTH INSURANCE	143,359		33,312	41,215	29%	102,144	71%
6008009 RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE	351,529		112,811	112,811	32%	238,718	68%
6008012 EMPLOYEE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	3,500		-	-	0%	3,500	100%
6008014 NYS Voluntary Defined Contribution	6,967		1,596	1,994	29%	4,973	71%
Total Benefits	731,345		191,863	211,838	29%	519,507	71%
Salary and Benefits	1,821,925		430,875	510,172	28%	1,311,753	72%
Contractual Expenditures							
6004012 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,000	782	39%	1,217	1,445	72%	(227) -11%
6004021 BLDG MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	1,000	1,747	175%	618	618	62%	(1,365) -137%
6004022 FUEL AND HEATING SUPPLIES	26,000	-	0%	5,870	7,116	27%	18,884 73%
6004023 BLDG AND GROUNDS SUPPLIES	4,300	6,138	143%	1,133	1,133	26%	(2,970) -69%
6004030 FOOD AND BEVERAGES	100	-	0%	-	-	0%	100 100%
6004048 MISC OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	5,785	-	0%	41	41	1%	5,744 99%
6004055 COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SUPPLIES	70,684	-	0%	69,619	69,619	98%	1,065 2%
6004056 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT(NON CAPITAL)	5,000	-	0%	311	311	6%	4,689 94%
6004070 BOOKS ADULT SERVICES	67,550	35,452	52%	19,815	24,455	36%	7,643 11%
6004071 JUVENILE BOOKS	54,000	26,560	49%	15,256	18,518	34%	8,921 17%
6004073 SUBSCRIPTIONS	7,563	-	0%	-	-	0%	7,563 100%
6004074 AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS	33,000	30,902	94%	6,579	7,098	22%	(5,000) -15%
6004075 ELECTRONIC ACCESS MATERIALS	33,650	17,515	52%	17,845	17,845	53%	(1,710) -5%
6004100 POSTAGE AND FREIGHT	700	485	69%	233	233	33%	(18) -3%
6004105 DUES AND MEMBERSHIPS	1,500	-	0%	-	-	0%	1,500 100%

6004112 BLDG GROUNDS AND EQUIP REPAIR	2,060	3,289	160%	330	1,602	78%	(2,831)	-137%
6004113 WATER AND SEWAGE CHARGES	3,200	-	0%	946	946	30%	2,254	70%
6004115 ELECTRIC CURRENT	48,000	40,000	83%	12,165	13,724	29%	(5,724)	-12%
6004117 BUILDING AND GROUNDS EXPENSES	42,807	8,716	20%	8,855	9,065	21%	24,027	56%
6004136 OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	3,000	-	0%	-	-	0%	3,000	100%
6004137 ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION EXPE	3,000	-	0%	843	962	32%	2,038	68%
6004138 OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	16,000	12,008	75%	5,416	5,838	36%	(1,846)	-12%
6004147 OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES	15,000	-	0%	300	300	2%	14,700	98%
6004160 MILEAGE AND PARKING-LOCAL	700	-	0%	212	212	30%	488	70%
6004161 TRAVEL HOTEL AND MEALS	2,000	-	0%	77	77	4%	1,923	96%
6004162 EDUCATION AND TRAINING	2,000	-	0%	702	702	35%	1,298	65%
6004165 ADVISORY BD/TRUSTEES EXPENSES	175	-	0%	-	-	0%	175	100%
6004193 HARDWARE MAINTENANCE	8,610	-	0%	2,800	2,800	33%	5,810	67%
6004196 COPYING MACHINE RENTALS	7,000	4,440	63%	2,484	3,008	43%	(448)	-6%
6004504 OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES	12	-	0%	8	8	64%	4	36%
6004573 OTHER FEES FOR SERVICES	9,260	3,500	38%	392	392	4%	5,368	58%
Total	475,656	191,534	40%	174,064	188,067	40%	95,056	20%

Chargebacks

6004602 INSURANCE PREMIUM CHARGEBACK	26,181			6,545	6,545	25%	19,636	75%
6004604 DPW SECURITY CHARGEBACKS	105,991			26,498	26,498	25%	79,493	75%
6004606 TELEPHONE BILLING ACCOUNT	5,963			-	-	0%	5,963	100%
6004609 DATA PROCESSING CHARGEBACKS	56,892			5	5	0%	56,887	100%
6004617 DUPLICATING/PRINTING CHARGEBACK	166			-	-	0%	166	100%
6004618 OFFICE SUPPLIES CHARGEBACK	8			-	-	0%	8	100%
6004619 BUILDING SERVICE CHARGEBACK	5,000			1,250	1,250	25%	3,750	75%
Total Chargebacks	200,201			34,298	34,298	17%	165,903	83%

Debt

6006000 PRINCIPAL ON SERIAL BONDS	6,849			6,849	6,849	100%	0	0%
6006001 BANS Principal	47,578			-	-	0%	47,578	100%
6007000 INTEREST ON SERIAL BONDS	628			416	416	66%	212	34%
6007001 BANS Interest	7,592			-	-	0%	7,592	100%

Grand Total (operating):	2,560,429	191,534	7%	646,502	739,801	29%	1,628,094	64%
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Fund Balance **773,346**
Trust Account Balance **9,803**

Projects & Grants									
6004117	STATE CONSTRUCTION AID - 2022	378,023	-	0%	-	-	0%	378,023	100%
6004117	STATE CONSTRUCTION AID - 2023	157,447	-	0%	-	-	0%	157,447	100%
Friends	HOYT GRANT - Reading Garden	50,000	-	0%	-	-	0%	50,000	100%
Friends	KRESGE GRANT	31,700	-	0%	-	25,123	79%	6,577	21%
Friends	COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	5,000	-	0%	1,139	2,939	59%	2,061	41%
Friends	COMMUNITY FOUNDATION #2	2,000	-	0%	-	1,259	63%	741	37%
Friends	KLEE GRANT	90,000	-	0%	12,588	74,224	82%	15,776	18%
Total Projects & Grants		714,170.00	0.00	0%	13,727	103,545	14%	610,625	86%

Account	Budgeted	Feb-Apr 25th	YTD		Remaining	
Revenue						
5000100 LIBRARY COPY FEES	12,000	3,510	4,238	35%	7,762	65%
5000177 RENTALS & FEES	8,500	1,200	1,800	21%	6,700	79%
5000189 OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	846,573	-	-	0%	846,573	100%
5000312 RENTAL CHARGEBACKS	49,000	-	-	0%	49,000	100%
5000426 MISCELLANEOUS	10,000	1,625	1,625	16%	8,375	84%
5000431 MISCELLANEOUS	15,000	(245)	-	0%	15,000	100%
5000451 INTEREST AND EARNINGS	17,500	0	-	0%	17,500	100%
5000530 REFUNDS OF PRIOR YEARS EXPENDIT	-	-	-		500	
5000531 GIFTS AND DONATIONS	500	-	-	0%	100	20%
5000545 CREDIT CARD REBATES	100	-	-	0%	500	500%
5000562 TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND	1,500,059	-	1,500,059	100%	-	0%
5000569 TRANSFER - DEBT SERVICE FUND	1,770	1,791	1,791	101%	-21	
5000808 OTHER STATE AID	98,690	150,002	150,002	152%	-51,312	-52%
5000952 ARRA DEBT REIMBURSEMENT	237	-	-	0%	237	100%
Total Revenue (operating):	2,559,929	157,884	1,659,516	65%	900,913	35%

Projects & Grants						
5000808 STATE CONSTRUCTION AID - 2022	378,023	-	340,221	90%	37,802	10%
5000808 STATE CONSTRUCTION AID - 2023	157,447	-	141,702	90%	15,075	10%
HOYT GRANT - Reading Garden	50,000	-	0	0%	50,000	100%
KRESGE GRANT (Friends)	31,700	-	31,700	100%	-	0%
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (Friends)	5,000	-	2,500	50%	2,500	50%
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION #2 (Friends)	2,000	-	2,000	100%	-	0%
KLEE GRANT (Friends)	90,000	-	90,000	100%	-	0%
Projects & Grants Revenue	714,170		608,123	85%	105,377	15%

Annual Report 2023

Jeffrey P. Kraham Public Library



broome county
public library





A note from our Library Director:

Dear BCPL community,

Each year, this letter provides me with the opportunity to reflect on the progress, challenges and changes that have shaped the work that we do on behalf of the community at the Broome County Public Library. As I enter my 4th year as BCPL's Library Director, I am proud to present this report and all of the hard work and dedicated service that it represents.

The statistics that we have compiled for 2023 capture an interesting transitional moment in the work that we do at BCPL and in the library field more broadly: you will see that our door count is finally approaching pre-COVID levels but that our circulation of books and other traditional library materials is lagging behind this trajectory. At the same time, our programs and more innovative collections and services are seeing record growth. All of this clearly indicates that we are staying relevant to this community through ongoing innovation and reinvention. Our society is suffering from a period of profound loneliness, social isolation, and polarization. BCPL is here to provide an open, welcoming space free of commercial or political pressure.

I continue to be very proud of the excellent team that we have assembled. Our staff remains quite small for the size of our facility and for the amount that we accomplish, but their dedication, creativity and empathy are truly mighty! Moreover, with strong support from Broome County and the City of Binghamton, we have been able to add several new positions, each of which has an enormous positive impact on our ability to serve the community. Take a look at our new website and online calendar—2023 was our first full year using them—for the results.

Thank you for your ongoing patronage and support of our Library!

Josias Bartram
Library Director



A note from our new Board President, **Kate Miller-Corcoran:**

For the past five years I have had the honor to serve on the Broome County Library Board of Trustees. During this time I have seen the library transform - and the building I walk into today is not the same one I did five years ago.

This is thanks in large part to an incredible and hardworking Library staff. They are dedicated to upholding the idea that libraries are one of the “last bastions of democracy” - one of the few places left in our society where people can enter without the expectation of payment, and where people can access knowledge in a number of different ways, not just through books. The Library staff does this through the programs they run, the questions they answer, and the space they create for our community each day.

I am honored to enter 2024 serving as your Board of Trustees President. As a Broome County native - raised in Windsor, and now living on the West Side of Binghamton - I grew up enchanted by the Carnegie Library building at 78 Exchange Street and the knowledge and adventures that it held. All these years later, I hope to help keep that same feeling alive at 185 Court Street.

We have been very lucky to have had JoAnne Hanrahan leading us as Board President for the past three years. With she and Josias guiding us, the Library has come out of the limited access pandemic days and is growing into a vibrant, well used community space.

Of course innovative programming and beautiful spaces don't pay for themselves. An immense amount of gratitude is due to the Friends of the Library, the Broome County government, the City of Binghamton, the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation, the Community Foundation of South Central NY and every single person who makes a purchase at the Friends of the Library booksales.

We hope this year you'll join us for one of our great programs, like Lego Club, Dungeons and Dragons or the Hungry Ear, or just come visit and sit in our Reading Garden to rest for a bit.

Respectfully yours,

Kate Miller-Corcoran
Board President

Facts at a Glance:

Our statistics increased in several areas between 2022-2023:

2022

2023

220,795 → **253,073** total library visits

5,131 → **5,684** facebook followers

853 → **1,009** instagram followers

564 → **882** programs offered

7,029 → **8,829** total program attendance

1,917 → **2,146** new patrons registered

15,382 → **19,677** public computer sessions

298,976 → **543,951** wireless sessions

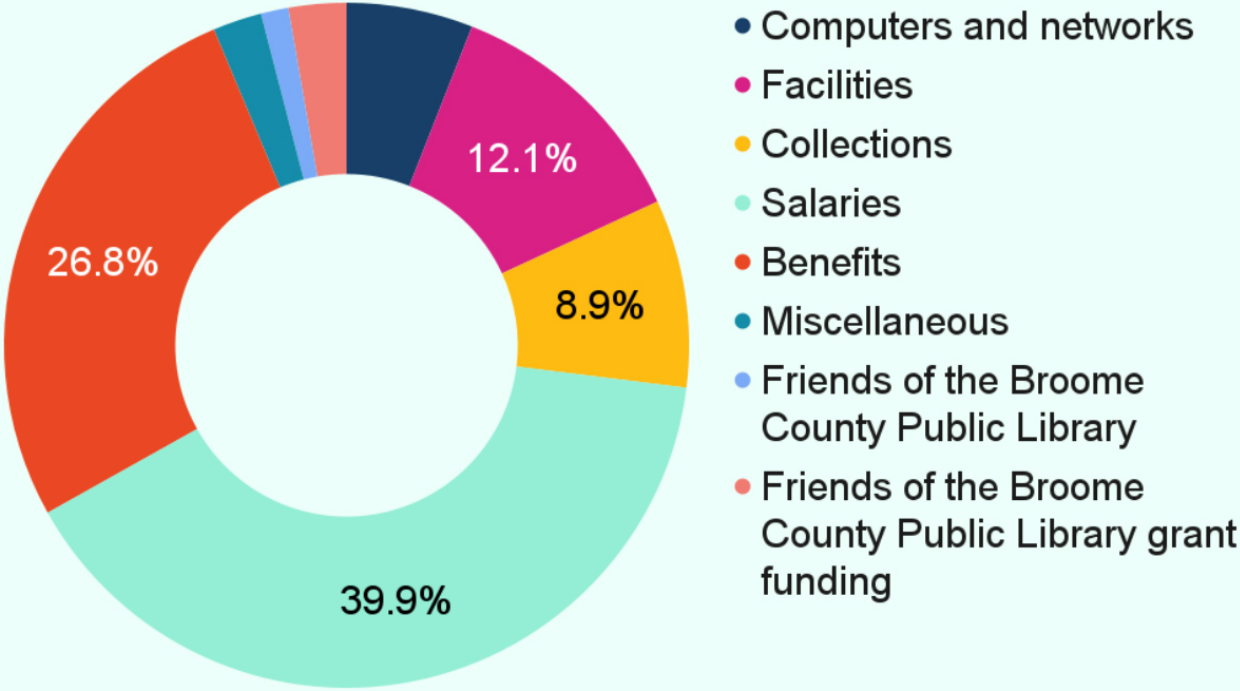
Door Count:

Door count continues to increase, nearly to pre-pandemic levels:

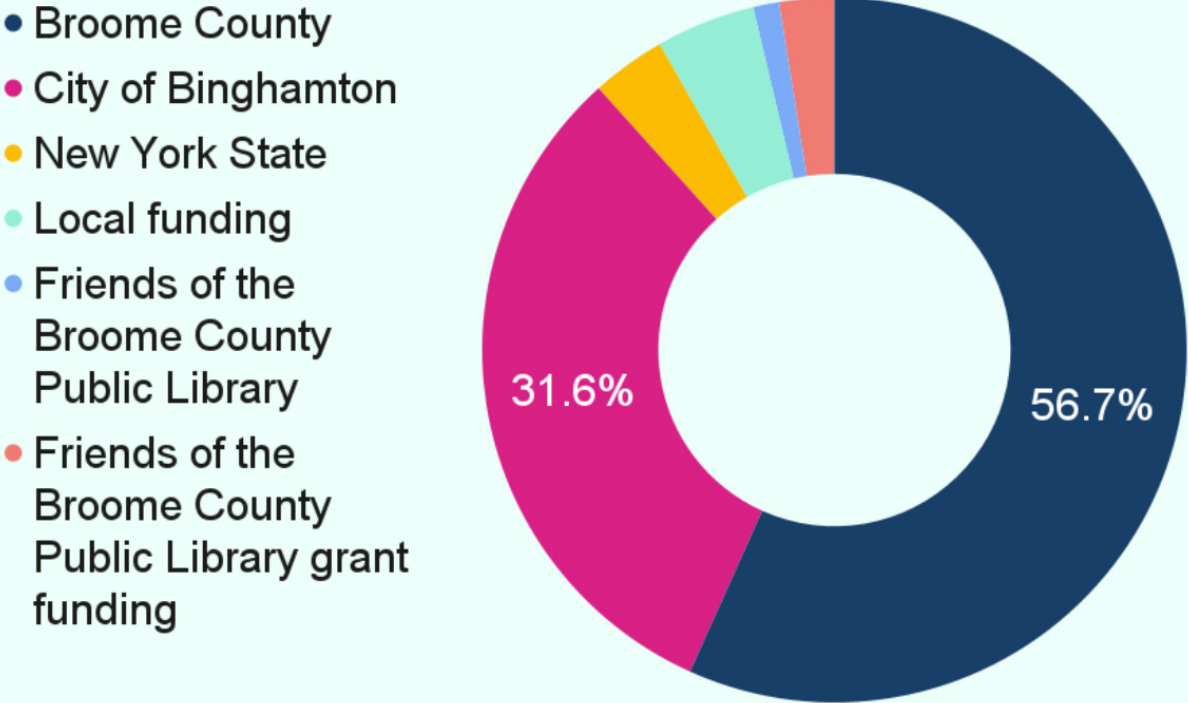


Financials:

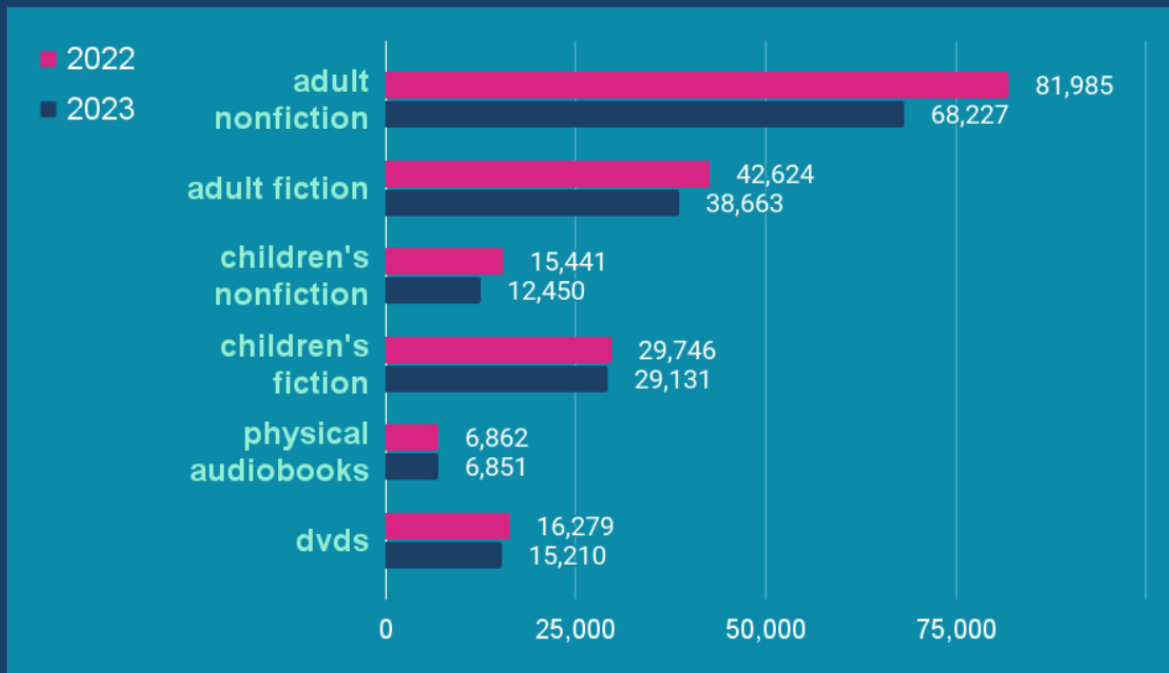
Expenses



Revenue

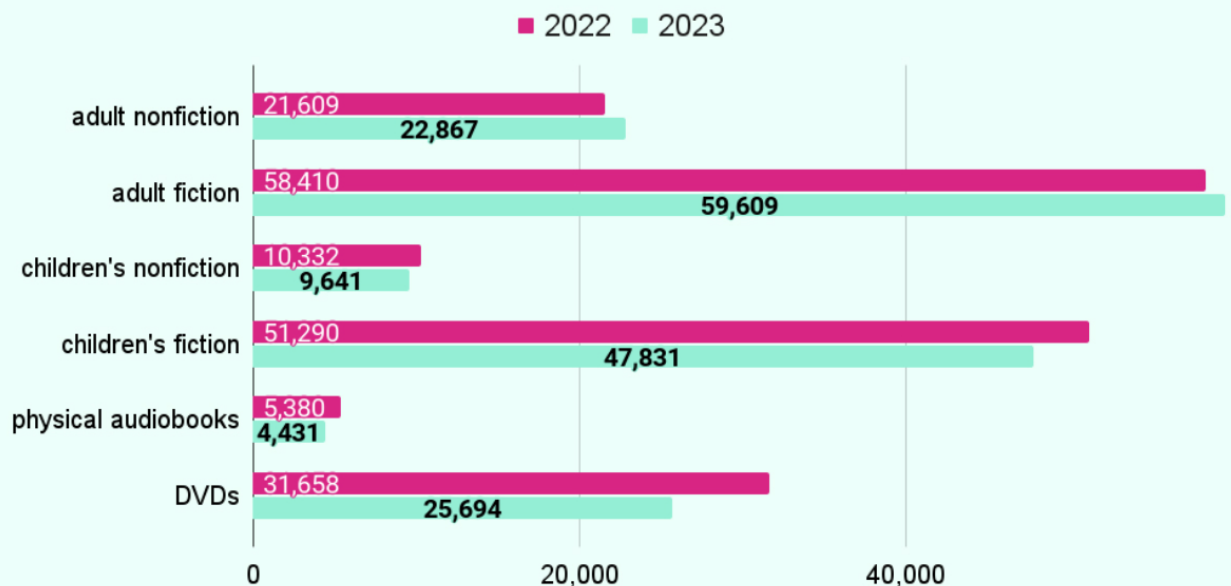


Collections:



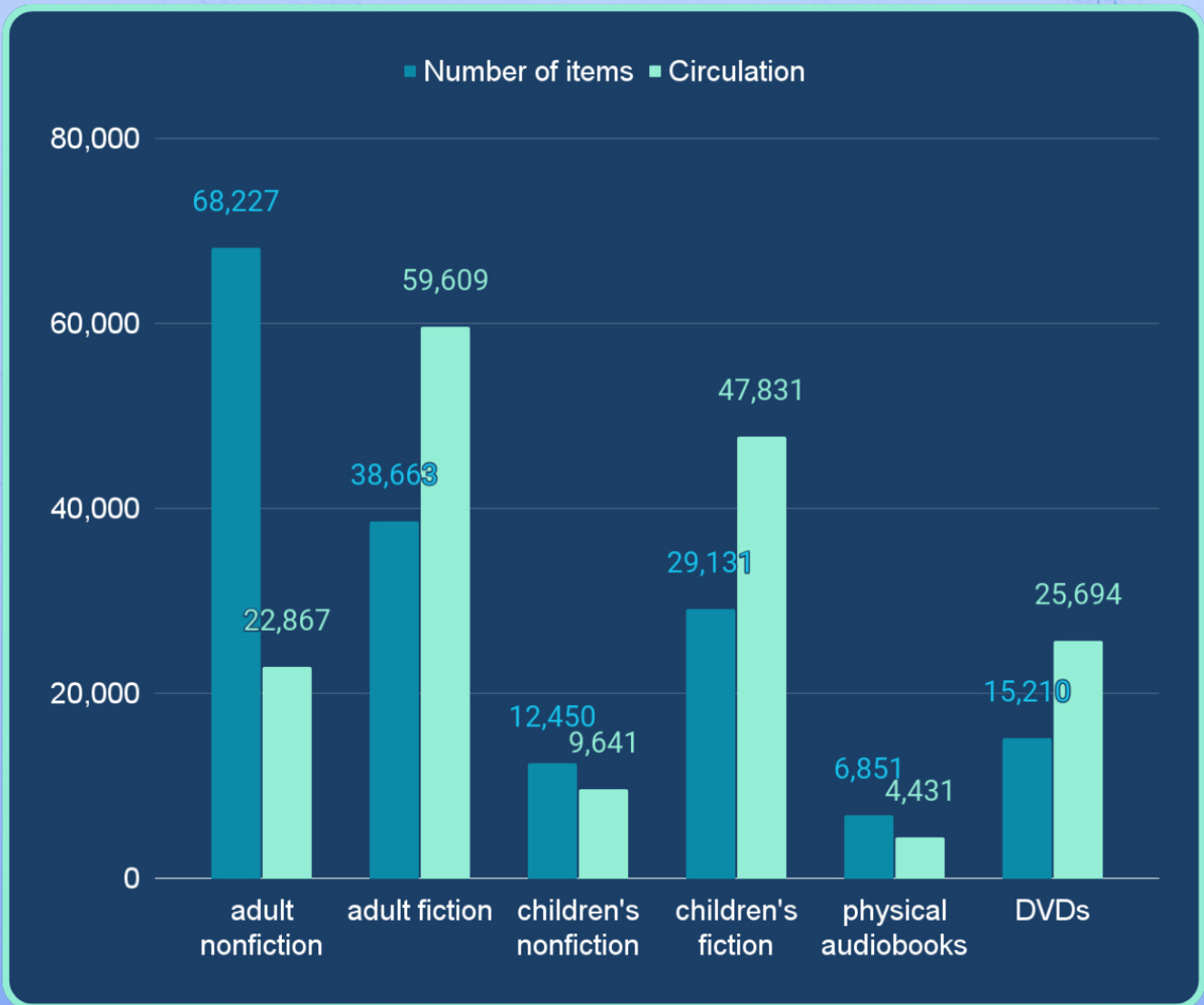
Our collection numbers have decreased as we weed our collection to ensure that the materials we provide for checkout are in good condition, are relevant, meet DEI standards, and are up-to-date. We also need to make space on our shelves for new books.

Circulation:



Circulation increased for adult fiction and nonfiction, but decreased in other areas. Though we are decreasing our collection, our circulation has increased. We track the circulation of recently added books.

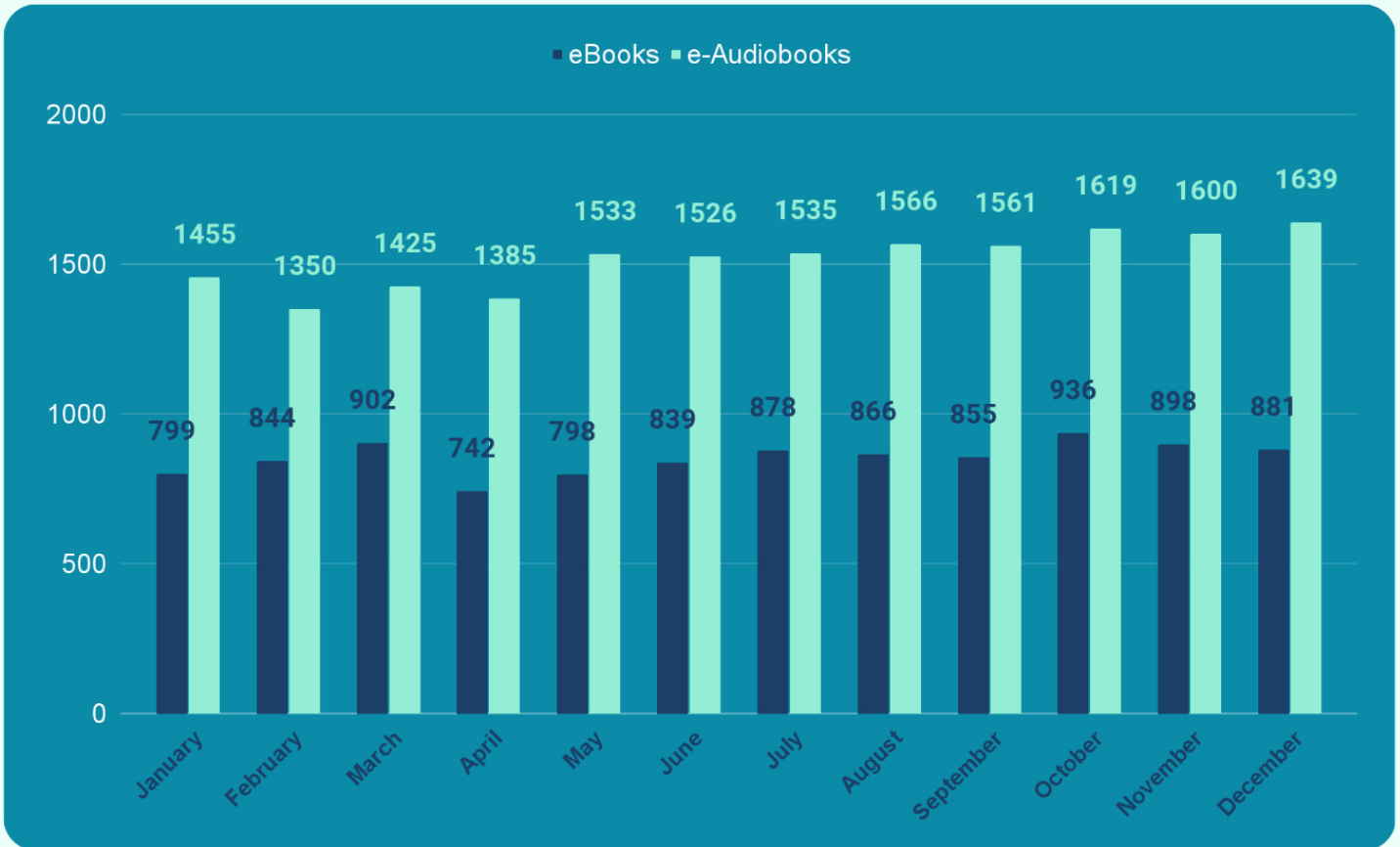
Comparison of Collection to Circulation



This is a visualization of a comparison between the amount of items in various collections throughout the Library versus the amount of times those items circulated. Young adult books are included in adult fiction and nonfiction. Of the categories shown on this graph, fiction makes up the largest portion of total circulation at 58%.

Digital Content

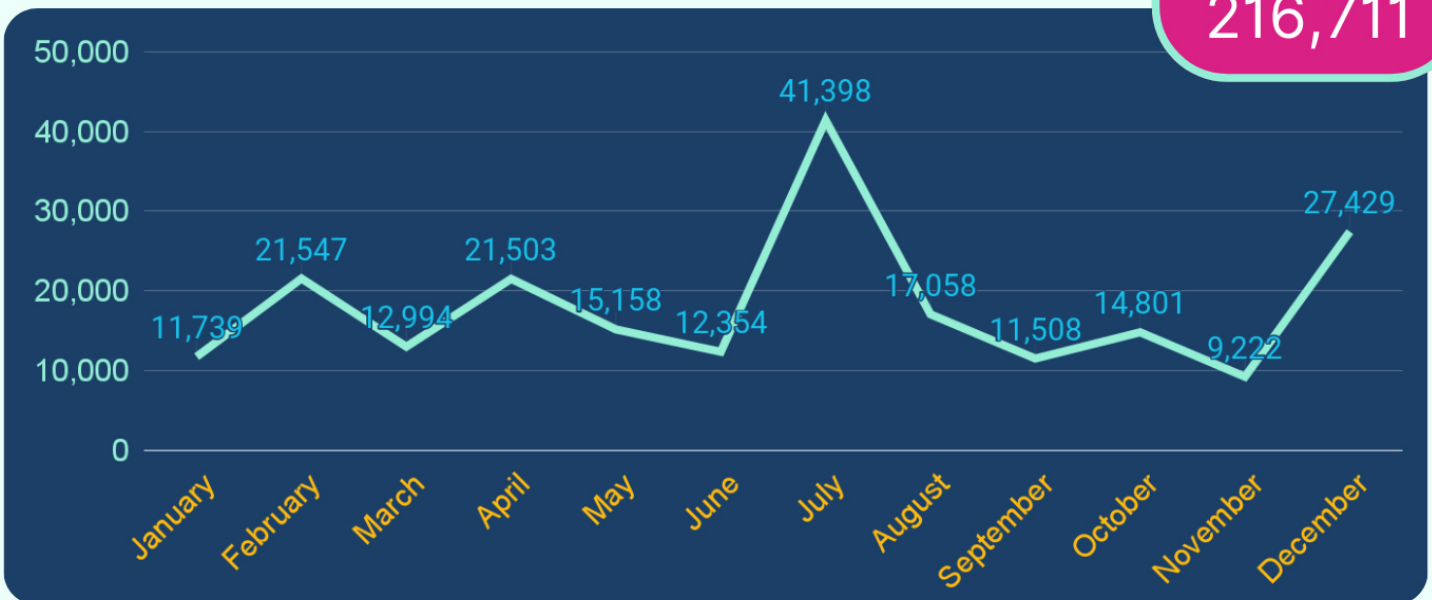
This graph shows the number of eBooks and e-Audiobooks that were checked out by BCPL patrons via both Libby and Hoopla in 2023. e-Audiobook usage seems to be on an upward trend.



Social Media:

This graph shows the **reach** of our Facebook page in 2023. Reach is the number of people who saw content on our page.

Total reach:
216,711



Staff Spotlight: Gill Friedlander



For our staff spotlight this year, we spoke to Gill Friedlander, Librarian I for Information Services. Gill is an integral part of the Information Services team and works tirelessly to provide the community with innovative programs and services. Gill is the founder of Queer Coffee Hour, a popular social club for queer adults, and she also runs many art programs for adults. We highlighted her perspective below.

1. What are you passionate about and how have you brought that to BCPL?

I'm passionate about public libraries! We have the power to make positive impacts on the communities we work within, and we have the ability to help communities have the resources, spaces, and tools needed to grow and thrive. I went into this field after working within the community engagement department of a slightly larger urban public library, because I loved how the work gave me endless opportunities to connect with my community and help connect people, especially those part of marginalized communities, with our services and resources. I got to see firsthand the impact we had, and I wanted to keep doing it. This job lets me bring my passion for community engagement, advocacy, and social justice to my workplace, and it offers me chances to find creative ways to help create change.

2. What do you like about working here?

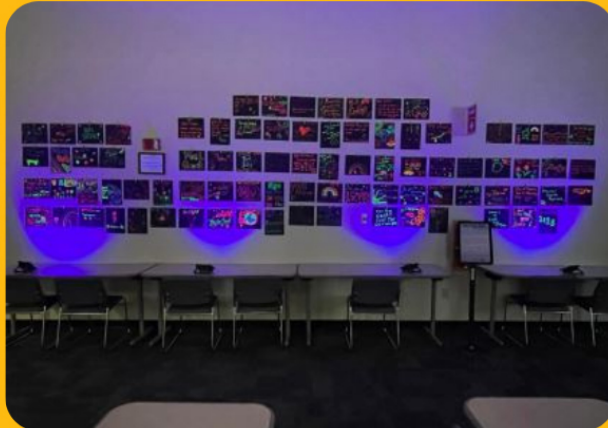
I love how we can essentially try anything, as long as we can provide justification. I appreciate that my advocacy, drive, passion, and creativity are viewed positively, and that we are given room to do work that fuels our individual passions. I also love that our department embraces failure as a learning tool. We are given space to experiment with different ideas, and if they fail we evaluate and move ahead. We feel comfortable to take big leaps, because we have the needed support no matter what happens. I've gotten to increase our harm reduction tactics; I've started an LGBTQIA+ social group; I've helped launch a Period Pantry. There's trust that we'll do good work and produce good results, and it makes us better employees. I also love working with our community. It's not always easy, but I chose public librarianship because I love working with people. I enjoy helping people, creating safe spaces, and making myself a trusted and soft landing space for our community. I learn so much from our community members, and I never take that for granted.

3. What's the best book you've read recently?

I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself by Marissa Crane. It's set in a near-future dystopian society, and it follows a person named Kris struggling to raise her new baby after her wife dies. It's raw, honest, and so incredibly beautiful, and it captures ideas of loneliness, grief, and community amazingly. Kris is a delightfully messy human, and I loved to see that wholeness that books so often skip over. It broke my heart over and over, but it also reminded me of the power of found family and love, especially within queer communities.

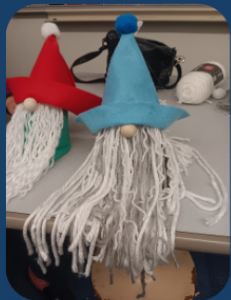
Adult Programs

We offered 401 programs for adults in 2023. Here are some highlights:



We partnered with BC SAFE (Broome County Suicide Awareness for Everyone) to present the Chalk the Walk Gallery Opening. Chalk the Walk is a suicide awareness campaign where Broome County residents are encouraged to create chalk drawings with messages of hope and resilience. There are prizes for different categories, such as best use of color and most inspiring message. At the event, all chalk entries are displayed in the colonnade and prizes are awarded. In 2023, there was an addition of an open mic portion of the evening, as well as a black light display of inspiring messages created at the Chalk the Walk booth at LUMA Projection Arts Festival. We had 40 attendees, and will also be hosting the event in 2024.

Our other offerings included:



Our DIY sock gnome program was a popular craft, with 19 attendees.

- First Thursday Book Club
- Take and Makes
- Playshop for Adults
- Read Between the Dines
- Group Reiki
- Beginner/Advanced Beginner Yoga
- Gentle Yoga
- Coloring Club
- Tech Thursday
- Journal Decorating
- One-Shot Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Blood Drive
- Queer Coffee Hour
- Acoustic Jam
- Cozy Café
- Sit and Stitch
- Mini Painting
- Quilting Club
- Monkeypox Vaccine Clinic
- Cult Classic Film Night
- The Hungry Ear
- Bingo
- Silent Book Club
- Sound Bath Immersion with Reiki
- Acrylic Paint Pouring
- Fuse Bead Art
- Knitting Group
- Binghamton Poetry Project
- Rock Painting
- Coaster Decorating
- Splatter Painting
- Ridiculous Art Night
- Crime and Craft
- Candle Holder Painting
- Queerly Reads
- Financial Crisis Counseling
- A Conversation with Hugh Ryan
- Afternoon Book Club

Youth Services Programs

We offered 228 programs for children and teens.

Our offerings included:

Family Game Days Crafty Kids

Family Movie Days Winter Reading Program

Grab-N-Go Bags Preschool Story Time Family Story Time

Homeschool Art Classes STEAM Days Summer Reading Program

LEGO Club Queer Coffee Hour for Teens Tween Wednesdays

Family Pride Event Family Shark Party Summer Camp Party

Eclipse Program Dan the Snakeman Interactive Nightmare Before Christmas Movie

Teen Game Days Columbus Park Storytime Earth Day Celebration Bubbleman

Lapsit Story Time Borrow a Grandparent Ukrainian Bilingual Story Time

Teen Dungeons and Dragons Family Halloween Party Eclipse Program

Read for the Record Trick-or-Treat Programs

Featured program: Teen Craft & Chat

As its name implies, at Teen Craft & Chat, teens are able to work on fun arts and crafts while talking with peers of their age. Our program provides the opportunity for teens to socialize with peers outside of a school environment where there is no pressure to pay strict attention or get work done on a timeline. This program has been growing in success to a consistent five or more teens every week!



In this multimedia collage, over eight people helped put something on the canvas. From paint, to stickers, to pieces of cardboard, everyone collaborated to create a fun and colorful work of art!



Tote bag decorating is a favorite activity. Sometimes teens go free hand and other times will use stencils to draw on the bags that they can then bring home to use for school or anything else!

Tabletop RPG Programs

Our tabletop gaming programs began in November 2022 and continued throughout 2023. When we launched the program in 2022, we intended to create a safe space for players, whether they are new to the hobby, new to the area, or haven't played an RPG in years. These programs are funded by the Friends of the Broome County Public Library.

D&D



Are you looking to learn how to play D&D, or are you looking for another campaign to join?

Join us for a 3 session adventure campaign! When you sign up for the adventure campaign, please be ready to commit to the three sessions. You don't want to miss out on the story! The dates are as follows:

Saturday January 28 from 1-4pm

Saturday February 11 from 1-4pm

Saturday February 25 from 1-4pm

For this campaign, the deadline for signing up is **January 21st**. After that, we will place you on a waitlist for the next campaign. If we hit our max number of players, we will place you on the waitlist as well.

Stay tuned for when the next campaign starts!

Beginners are welcome! Register at this web address: bit.ly/BCPLdnd

This program is generously funded by the Friends of the Broome County Public Library.



Many participants express that prior to playing in our programs, they wanted to get started with Dungeons and Dragons but didn't have anyone to play with. We are thrilled that our gaming programs continue to provide an opportunity for participants to socialize, make friends, and build community connections.

With sustained interest in Dungeons and Dragons specifically, we continue to book out several months in advance. We ran a total of five Dungeons and Dragons campaigns in 2023. We promoted the program very seldom, yet we remain fully booked for several months.

Tabletop RPG Mini Painting

Mini Painting meets every month on the third Monday of the month, unless the Library is closed. We have steady attendance at this program. Below are some of the minis that were painted by patrons in 2023!



You should come to **Mini Painting** on December 18th from 6:00-7:30pm! All supplies are provided, all skill levels are welcome, and there are many many mini figures to choose from!

Thank you kind maiden, I shall

For age 16+ Register on our website starting December 1st!

Introducing our new Game Master: **Wakelyn Stewart**



My name is Wakelyn! I'm 24, my pronouns are they/them, and I've been running tabletop RPGs for eight years. I'm really into progressive rock, folk horror, cowboys, and local history! I've lived in Binghamton all my life, and I'm really happy to be able to give back to the community that raised me through the programs I'm running.

1. What do you enjoy most about being a Game Master?

The best part of DMing, for me, is opening up the imaginative space, allowing those around the table to at once forget their troubles by entering a fictional world and discover more about themselves by making choices and facing situations that they never would in real life. When the players are fully immersed in the illusion, thinking as their characters would think and treating the fantasy world and the characters inhabiting it as real and complex and important, it's almost a form of magic. Like a good book, the game can uplift the oppressed and broaden the perspectives of those with power, and offering that to the community (especially fellow queer people in the community) is incredibly important to me.

2. How do you envision the future of gaming events at BCPL?

With our events, we're creating a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect and form community--as that community grows, both within the boundaries of our events and outside the library walls, I expect more people will seek active participation in the community and open up opportunities for programs we haven't even considered yet. Personally, I'm looking forward to expanding our scope further beyond just D&D: the game is a great entry point to the hobby, but far from the only one, and the vast breadth of experiences on offer in the tabletop gaming space creates plenty of opportunity to engage and empower all kinds of different people who may not be drawn in by the heroic medieval fantasy of D&D.

3. What is your favorite book you've read recently?

I've been glued to Seth Dickinson's *Exordia*, a science fiction novel about the ways stories are used to justify violence. It's equal parts thrilling, hilarious, thought-provoking, and nauseatingly terrifying; I've loved Dickinson's fantasy work, and I was overjoyed to discover that their whip-smart sociopolitical analysis and gut-wrenchingly human character work functions just as well applied to Obama-era America as it did to the workings of old-school colonialism in their *Masquerade* series.

Period Pantry

The Period Pantry was established in March 2023 after Sarah Seese and Alexis Bronson—public defenders for Broome County—saw a great need for their clients & community to have no questions, no boundaries, open access to menstrual products.

The Period Pantry is funded solely by community donations and grants. There is an Amazon wishlist which is shared periodically, and interns from Binghamton University have hosted fundraisers on campus where they have either collected product or monetary donations for the Pantry. The Broome County Period Pantry has also been the recipient of grants from the Binghamton Rotary Club, The Small Community Fund & The CFSCNY Community Hygiene Product Fund.

It is kept stocked by Sarah, Alexis, and their interns.

These individuals stock the Pantry with products nearly every other day, which highlights how much of a need there is for these items in our community.



Produce Pantry



The Farm to Library program started in June 2023 to welcome community members to share in the local bounty found in Broome County and beyond.

All members of the community are invited to give or receive free produce from local gardens, farms, and other sources during the Library's hours when surplus is available.

The initiative is a collaboration between the Broome County Public Library and the Broome County Department of Health's Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program (CHSC), with assistance from the Rural Health Network of South Central NY and their Public Health AmeriCorps program.

Displays

We put up several new displays every month. Here are some highlights from displays that made an impact in 2023.

Banned Books:



This was a display of banned books in May 2023 that featured descriptions of why each book was banned on pieces of paper shaped like flames, to evoke Fahrenheit 451. We got a lot of positive feedback on this display, with 120 likes on a post featuring the display on Facebook. We particularly wanted to do this display to feature the justifications for banning that may be surprising for our patrons, like the justification for banning the beloved classic *Strega Nona* which was “depicting magic and witchcraft in a positive light.”

Tough Topics:

This display was created with young readers and their grown-ups in mind. The idea was “tough topics”, things that adults might have difficulty addressing with their children. Topics included consent, body positivity, racism, gender identity, and LGBTQIA+ families. Some examples of titles include “Want a Hug?: Consent and Boundaries for Kids” and “Say the Right Thing: How to Talk About Identity, Diversity, and Justice.”



We would like to thank the following for their support of the Library:

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Robert C. Cavanaugh, II
Nate R. Hotchkiss
Hadassah J. Mativetsky
Michael Kosty
Michael J. Dundon

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