

**STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING**

DATE: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

TIME: 6:30 P.M.



STOUGHTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
The heart of our community.

LOCATION : Stoughton Public Library – Carnegie Meeting Room, 304 S. Fourth St. in downtown Stoughton ****PLEASE NOTE**** This is a hybrid meeting with a virtual option via Zoom. Access with a computer via Zoom Meetings - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6269031450?omn=82218880038>. Members of the public may also attend using dial-in number (301) 715-8592, access code 626 903 1450.

I. Call to Order by President Lora Klitzke

II. Review of Agenda & Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

III. Consent Agenda *

- A. Review/Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2025 (enclosure)
- B. Review/Approval of Fund 215, Fund 217, and Stoughton Area Community Foundation account statements for May 2025 (enclosures)
- C. Review/Approval of Fund 215 & Fund 217 Bills for June 2025 (enclosures)

IV. Friends of the Library Report – No report this month

V. Recognition Opportunities

VI. Public Comment Period

VII. Review/Discussion of Correspondence

VIII. Education Updates

IX. Board In-service: American Library Association's "State of America's Libraries" report (enclosure)

X. Director's Report

- A. Statistics for May 2025 (enclosure)
- B. Administration report (enclosure)

XI. Committee Reports

- A. Finance: did not meet
- B. Personnel: will meet soon to review library personnel requests for 2026
- C. Planning: did not meet
- D. Policies: will meet soon

XII. Old Business

- A. Welcome to new Student Trustee, Libby Phillips

XIII. New Business

- A. Assignment of 2025-2026 Committees by Library Board President Klitzke (enclosure)

XIV. Pending Agenda Items

- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress towards the annual Board Goals throughout the year.
B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations
C. Discussion of General Fund balance
D. Review of goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

XV. Adjournment *

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 16, 2025

*An * indicates an action item.*

If you are disabled and in need of assistance in order to attend, please call 873-6281 prior to this meeting.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Phil Caravello, City Council Representative
Lora Klitzke, President
Jean Ligocki, Vice President
Brandon Maly
Sharon Meilahn Bartlett
Christine Melland
Libby Phillips, Student Representative
Trista Richards
Katie Roberts
Mande Shecterle, SASD Representative

Finance: TBD
Personnel: TBD
Planning: TBD
Policies: TBD

cc: Mayor Tim Swadley, City Attorney, City Council Members, Department Heads, City Hall Receptionist, Library Staff, Stoughton Newspaper

Agenda Notes: Library Board meeting of June 18, 2025



XII. Old Business

- A. **Welcome to new Student Trustee, Libby Phillips** – We will formally welcome our new Student Trustee for 2025-2026, Libby Phillips, who was appointed at the last Library Board meeting on May 21. President Klitzke will likely move this item to the top of the agenda.

XIII. New Business

- A. **Assignment of Committees by Board President** – Per Article IV, Section 1 of the Board By-laws, President Klitzke will make appointments to the Board's four standing committees: Finance, Personnel, Planning, and Policies. A draft of the 2025-2026 appointments is included in the packet.

XIV. Pending Agenda Items

- A. **Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress towards the annual Board Goals throughout the year** – This item was added to pending agenda items at the request of President LeSage at the Board meeting on January 17, 2024, as a reminder to the standing committees throughout the year regarding their 2024 Board Goals.
- B. **Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations** – This item was added to pending agenda items at the request of Jean Ligocki at the Board meeting on May 15, 2024.
- C. **Discussion of General Fund (215) balance** – This item was added to the pending agenda items at the Board meeting on February 19, 2025. The Board would like to discuss the use of fund balance to purchase additional materials to fill in gaps in our collection identified by the diversity audit of our collection to be conducted later this year.
- D. **Review of goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2023-2026 Strategic Plan** – This item was added to the pending agenda items at the Board meeting on March 19, 2025. The board would like to review and reaffirm its commitment to the goals in the strategic plan related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, @ 6:30 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING IN CARNEGIE ROOM
& VIA ZOOM



PRESENT: Phil Caravello, City Council Representative; Lora Klitzke, President; Jean Ligocki; Brandon Maly; Sharon Meilahn Bartlett; Christine Melland; Trista Richards; Katie Roberts (virtual); Mande Shecterle, Stoughton Area School District Representative; Siri Vienneau, Student Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Ramsey, Library Director; Sarah Monette, Administrative Assistant; Mary Ostrander, Children's Librarian

- I. CALL TO ORDER. 6:32 P.M. by President Lora Klitzke
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA & CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW. Klitzke moved item XII.A. *OLD BUSINESS: New Board members Phil Caravello, Brandon Maly, and Christine Melland---welcome and introductions* to immediately follow item III. *Consent Agenda.*
- III. CONSENT AGENDA. *Motion to approve:* Meilahn Bartlett. *Second:* Roberts. *Vote:* 8-0.
- IV. NEW BOARD MEMBERS PHIL CARAVELLO, BRANDON MALY, AND CHRISTINE MELLAND---WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS. Everyone introduced themselves.

[Ligocki arrived at 6:33 P.M.]

- V. RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES. Ramsey explained that he had gotten a gift certificate to Ink Cap Books for Vienneau, in honor of her three years of service on the board.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. None.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE. Ramsey shared a thank you from the Juneteenth committee, a thank you to Amanda Bosky, Adult Services Librarian, from the Stoughton Wellness Coalition, for participating in their Reality Maze; an email from the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library describing their positive experience helping people with Norwegian genealogy questions at Syttende Mai.

[Vienneau arrived at 6:36 P.M.]

- VIII. EDUCATION UPDATES. Meilahn Bartlett shared a post about the Madison Public Library's non-searchable walk-in collections. Ramsey commented that Stoughton also has such a collection in the form of our Lucky Day books and DVDs.
- IX. BOARD IN-SERVICE: Ostrander presented the Library's Summer Library Program for kids ages 0-10

[Ostrander left at 6:58 PM]

- X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.
 - A. Statistics for April 2025. Ramsey presented.

- B. Administration report. In addition to his written report, Ramsey shared that the HVAC replacement project is *mostly* done; they just have to finish setting the controls. A federal judge in Rhode Island has ordered a halt to the dismantling of IMLS. DPI got half the expected award, which is enough to keep DPI itself functioning, but SCLS does not expect *any* LSTA money this year and is looking for other sources of funding for things like Trustee Training Week.
- XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS.
- A. Finance: did not meet.
- B. Personnel: did not meet.
- C. Planning: did not meet.
- D. Policies: did not meet.
- XII. OLD BUSINESS.
- A. Report from ad hoc Student Trustee Recruitment Committee with recommendation for appointment of new student trustee. The committee said the decision was extremely difficult, but they recommend Libby Phillips as the 2025-26 Student Trustee. *Motion to appoint Libby Phillips as Student Trustee:* Klitzke. *Second:* Meilahn Bartlett. *Vote:* 9-0.
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS.
- A. Report on results of collection diversity audit. Ramsey presented. The Ingram representative said that Stoughton was in the 90th percentile for diversity among the libraries they have audited. 19% of Stoughton's collection qualifies as inclusive. We are weakest in Middle Eastern and Jewish interest, which tells us where to strengthen our buying. Meilahn Bartlett asked about assessing the children's picture book collection for women authors and female presence in the stories. Ligocki asked, Now that we have this information, what do we *do* with it? Ramsey pointed out that it informs purchasing. Ligocki asked how it's going to inform the strategic plan, how we're going to educate the public, what we're going to do on social media? Meilahn Bartlett pointed out that the Juneteenth celebration, at which the Library will have a presence, would be a great place to showcase the diversity of the Library's collection, particularly its strength in books of Black interest. She also asked about putting a visual marker on the books that we purchase as a result of the audit. (We have done that for books we bought with grants from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's East Asian and African Departments.) Roberts suggested consulting community members for suggestions. Shecterle pointed out that we need to be careful about how we label books; people may not be comfortable right now being seen with a book that has a label pointing out its inclusivity, and any labeling also carries the danger of pigeon-holing. Meilahn Bartlett said that the school district has "Belonging" as one of its focuses. Melland remarked that the Friends of the Library's mini-golf event was actually a great way to showcase the collection and get people to look at shelves they might not otherwise see. The Board is glad we did the audit and pleased with the results.

[At 7:35 P.M., the power went out for five seconds. Roberts was absent from the meeting for approximately ten minutes while the Wi-Fi router rebooted.]

- B. Nomination and election of Board Officers: President and Vice President. *Motion to elect Lora Klitzke as President: Richards. Second: Ligocki. Ramsey asked three times if there were any other nominations. Vote: 7-0, Klitzke abstaining.*

[Roberts returned at 7:47 P.M.]

Motion to elect Ligocki as Vice President: Meilahn Bartlett. Second: Caravello. Ramsey asked three times if there were any other nominations. Vote: 8-0, Ligocki abstaining.

- C. Discussion of 2025-26 committee assignments. Committee assignments are the prerogative of the President. Klitzke said she would be emailing everyone to ask about their preferences in the very near future.
- XIV. PENDING AGENDA ITEMS.
- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress toward the annual Board Goals throughout the year.
- B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations.
- C. Discussion of General Fund balance.
- D. Review of goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2023-2026 Strategic Plan
- XV. ADJOURNMENT. *Motion to adjourn at 7:52 P.M.: Ligocki. Second: Maly. Vote: 9-0.*

Minutes taken by Sarah Monette.

PERIOD ENDING 05/31/2025

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025		YTD BALANCE		ACTIVITY FOR		AVAILABLE	% BDDT USED
		AMENDED BUDGET	2025	NORMAL	05/31/2025 (ABNORMAL)	MONTH 05/31/2025 INCREASE (DECREASE)	BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)		
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND									
Revenues									
Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT									
215-55100-43330	FED GRANT - COVID-19	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY									
215-55110-41110	PROPERTY TAX - OPERATIONS	711,285.00		296,368.75		59,273.75		414,916.25	41.67
215-55110-43315	FEDERAL GRANTS	280.00		0.00		0.00		280.00	0.00
215-55110-43720	DANE COUNTY SERVICE FEES	315,017.00		315,017.00		0.00		0.00	100.00
215-55110-43725	OTHER COUNTIES SERVICE FEES	15,297.00		15,301.09		0.00		(4.09)	100.03
215-55110-46110	MISC. REVENUE	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-46710	LIBRARY FEES	4,000.00		1,775.10		202.63		2,224.90	44.38
215-55110-46712	COPY MACHINE	5,000.00		3,402.12		706.88		1,597.88	68.04
215-55110-47301	CHARGES TO DANE COUNTY	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-47302	CHARGES TO MUNICIPALITIES	250.00		238.16		0.00		11.84	95.26
215-55110-48110	INTEREST INCOME	11,500.00		6,197.44		780.75		5,302.56	53.89
215-55110-48500	DONATIONS	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-49210	TRANSFER IN - GENERAL FUND	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		1,062,629.00		638,299.66		60,964.01		424,329.34	60.07
TOTAL REVENUES		1,062,629.00		638,299.66		60,964.01		424,329.34	60.07
Expenditures									
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY									
215-55110-50110	SALARIES	97,115.00		40,959.36		7,470.40		56,155.64	42.18
215-55110-50120	WAGES	248,851.00		194,126.59		35,443.45		54,724.41	78.01
215-55110-50126	OVERTIME	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50127	WAGES - PART TIME	283,182.00		30,553.49		5,929.05		252,628.51	10.79
215-55110-50128	SUNDAY HOURS	11,497.00		5,470.62		833.22		6,026.38	47.58
215-55110-50129	WAGES - LONGEVITY	6,404.00		0.00		0.00		6,404.00	0.00
215-55110-50153	SELF INSURED LOSSES	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50160	FICA TAXES	48,974.00		19,854.97		3,624.39		29,119.03	40.54
215-55110-50161	WRS - GENERAL	30,571.00		13,611.59		2,452.95		16,959.41	44.52
215-55110-50163	HEALTH INSURANCE	123,613.00		53,556.79		10,249.28		70,056.21	43.33
215-55110-50164	DENTAL INSURANCE	4,883.00		2,660.70		532.14		2,222.30	54.49
215-55110-50165	LIFE INSURANCE	939.00		463.00		92.60		476.00	49.31
215-55110-50169	HSA RETIREMENT PAYOUT	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50200	MISC OUTSIDE SERVICES	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50210	TELEPHONE	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50211	POSTAGE	900.00		439.07		183.97		460.93	48.79
215-55110-50212	TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	2,000.00		472.00		15.00		1,528.00	23.60
215-55110-50213	SALES TAX	275.00		113.66		31.70		161.34	41.33
215-55110-50216	OUTSIDE SERVICES/CONTRACTS-2	200.00		4,200.00		0.00		(4,000.00)	2,100.00
215-55110-50217	OUTSIDE SERVICES/CONTRACTS-3	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50218	SHARED DELIVERY AND OUTREACH	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
215-55110-50220	UTILITIES	18,800.00		4,155.52		855.48		14,644.48	22.10
215-55110-50221	UTILITIES-BUILDING 2	5,100.00		2,601.91		195.34		2,498.09	51.02
215-55110-50240	EQUIPMENT MAINT & REPAIR	4,500.00		2,152.95		361.29		2,347.05	47.84
215-55110-50289	TECHNOLOGY COSTS	57,500.00		54,101.69		231.94		3,398.31	94.09
215-55110-50300	MISC EXPENSES	400.00		81.45		0.00		318.55	20.36
215-55110-50313	PROGRAMS/PUBLICITY	5,000.00		2,734.11		655.19		2,265.89	54.68
215-55110-50320	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS (NOT SOFTWARE)	175.00		59.92		0.00		115.08	34.24

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 05/31/2025 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 05/31/2025 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDT USED
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND						
Expenditures						
215-55110-50326	PERIODICALS	5,400.00	3,773.06	56.00	1,626.94	69.87
215-55110-50327	E-RESOURCES	22,000.00	18,072.85	0.00	3,927.15	82.15
215-55110-50328	AUDIO VISUAL	9,000.00	2,520.43	663.51	6,479.57	28.00
215-55110-50329	BOOKS	53,500.00	15,950.83	4,010.37	37,549.17	29.81
215-55110-50340	WORK SUPPLIES - OPER EXP	4,500.00	437.64	0.00	4,062.36	9.73
215-55110-50341	OPERATING EXPENSES-SPECIALIZED-1	50.00	10.77	0.00	39.23	21.54
215-55110-50342	OPERATING EXPENSES-SPECIALIZED-2	6,000.00	1,651.70	167.19	4,348.30	27.53
215-55110-50350	BLDG REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	10,000.00	2,443.28	492.14	7,556.72	24.43
215-55110-50408	EMPLOYMENT TESTING	0.00	14.00	0.00	(14.00)	100.00
215-55110-50409	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT (NONCAPITAL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50444	NON-COLLECTION DAMAGE CHARGES	1,300.00	321.76	106.98	978.24	24.75
215-55110-50810	CAPITAL-EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50820	CAPITAL- COMPUTERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50900	CONTINGENCY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
215-55110-50930	TRANSFER TO OTHER FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		1,062,629.00	477,565.71	74,653.58	585,063.29	44.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,062,629.00	477,565.71	74,653.58	585,063.29	44.94
Fund 215 - LIBRARY FUND:						
TOTAL REVENUES		1,062,629.00	638,299.66	60,964.01	424,329.34	60.07
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,062,629.00	477,565.71	74,653.58	585,063.29	44.94
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	160,733.95	(13,689.57)	(160,733.95)	100.00

Fund 215 LIBRARY FUND

GL Number	Description	Balance
*** Assets ***		
215-00000-11100	PRIMARY CHECKING	701,076.80
215-00000-11102	US BANK - CC	12,250.49
215-00000-13012	RECEIVABLES-PRIOR YEAR	0.65
Total Assets		713,327.94
*** Liabilities ***		
215-00000-21700	ACCRUED PAYROLL	32,073.24
215-00000-26600	DEF INFLOW - PROPERTY TAXES	414,916.25
Total Liabilities		446,989.49
*** Fund Balance ***		
215-00000-39501	NONSPENDABLE - PREPAID ASSETS	1,438.39
215-00000-39600	FUND BALANCE RESTRICTED	47,940.70
Total Fund Balance		49,379.09
Beginning Fund Balance - 2024		49,379.09
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures - 2024		56,225.41
*2024 End FB/2025 Beg FB		105,604.50
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures - Current Year		160,733.95
Ending Fund Balance		266,338.45
Total Liabilities And Fund Balance		713,327.94

* Year Not Closed

PERIOD ENDING 05/31/2025

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 05/31/2025 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 05/31/2025 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDGT USED
Fund 217 - LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND						
Revenues						
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
217-55110-48110	INTEREST INCOME	15,000.00	6,759.35	1,371.40	8,240.65	45.06
217-55110-48500	DONATIONS	115,000.00	64,649.07	113.05	50,350.93	56.22
217-55110-48510	DONATIONS - UNDESIGNATED	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
217-55110-48530	DONATIONS -FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-49910	FUND BAL APPLIED - TAX LEVY	(40,000.00)	0.00	0.00	(40,000.00)	0.00
217-55110-49940	FUND BAL APPLIED - DEFICITS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		91,000.00	71,408.42	1,484.45	19,591.58	78.47
TOTAL REVENUES		91,000.00	71,408.42	1,484.45	19,591.58	78.47
Expenditures						
Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT						
217-55100-50499	DEPT DEFICIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55100 - COMMUNITY COMMITMENT		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dept 55110 - LIBRARY						
217-55110-50499	DEPT DEFICIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50500	DESIGNATED	90,000.00	20,370.80	7,507.52	69,629.20	22.63
217-55110-50501	UNDESIGNATED	1,000.00	563.47	0.00	436.53	56.35
217-55110-50502	BUILDING FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50503	DESIGNATED-FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
217-55110-50936	TR OUT - FUND 215	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 55110 - LIBRARY		91,000.00	20,934.27	7,507.52	70,065.73	23.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		91,000.00	20,934.27	7,507.52	70,065.73	23.00
Fund 217 - LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND:						
TOTAL REVENUES		91,000.00	71,408.42	1,484.45	19,591.58	78.47
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		91,000.00	20,934.27	7,507.52	70,065.73	23.00
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		0.00	50,474.15	(6,023.07)	(50,474.15)	100.00
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS						
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		1,153,629.00	709,708.08	62,448.46	443,920.92	61.52
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		1,153,629.00	498,499.98	82,161.10	655,129.02	43.21
		0.00	211,208.10	(19,712.64)	(211,208.10)	100.00

Fund 217 LIBRARY SPECIAL GIFT FUND

GL Number	Description	Balance
*** Assets ***		
217-00000-11100	PRIMARY CHECKING	64,439.39
217-00000-11102	US BANK - CC	1,527.16
217-00000-11302	WISC INVESTMENT FUND	357,574.67
217-00000-13012	RECEIVABLES-PRIOR YEAR	(0.65)
Total Assets		423,540.57
*** Liabilities ***		
Total Liabilities		0.00
*** Fund Balance ***		
217-00000-39501	NONSPENDABLE - PREPAID ASSETS	2,703.34
217-00000-39600	FUND BALANCE RESTRICTED	326,043.41
Total Fund Balance		328,746.75
Beginning Fund Balance - 2024		328,746.75
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures - 2024		44,319.67
*2024 End FB/2025 Beg FB		373,066.42
Net of Revenues VS Expenditures - Current Year		50,474.15
Ending Fund Balance		423,540.57
Total Liabilities And Fund Balance		423,540.57

* Year Not Closed

Stoughton Area Comm Foundation

Many goals. One you.

Sure, you may be saving for retirement - or retired and working to ensure your money lasts. But we know those aren't your only goals. Maybe it's affording your first house, a vacation home, or a retirement community. Or maybe you just want to make sure your loved ones are taken care of should the unexpected happen. Whatever your goals, we can help you develop strategies to achieve them. Ask your financial advisor today.

Corporate - Select

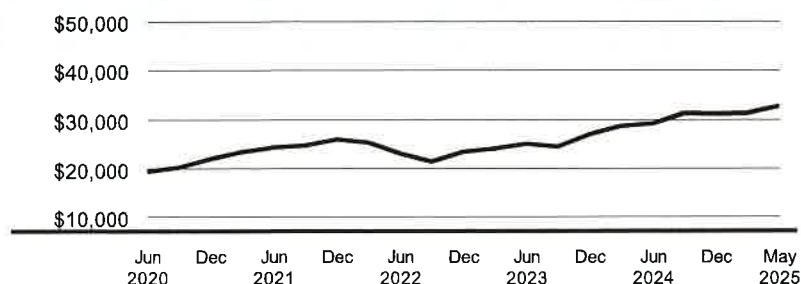
Portfolio Objective - Account: Balanced Toward Growth

Account Value

\$32,656.38

1 Month Ago	\$31,025.53
1 Year Ago	\$28,663.76
3 Years Ago	\$24,433.66
5 Years Ago	\$19,510.98

Value of Your Account



Value Summary

	This Period	This Year
Beginning Value	\$31,025.53	\$31,096.62
Assets Added to Account	0.00	0.00
Assets Withdrawn from Account	0.00	0.00
Fees and Charges	0.00	0.00
Change In Value	1,630.85	1,559.76
Ending Value	\$32,656.38	

For more information regarding the Value Summary section, please visit www.edwardjones.com/mystatementguide.

Rate of Return

Your Personal Rate of Return for Assets Held at Edward Jones	This Quarter	Year to Date	Last 12 Months	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized
	4.13%	5.00%	14.77%	10.13%	10.79%

2025 EXPENDITURES: FUND 215
JUNE

Inv. Date	Payment	Line Item	Vendor	Description	Amount
05/29/25	AB prepaid CC	50211	USPS	USPS 0.52925 211	\$ 2.04
05/31/25	06/18/25	50211	Baker & Taylor	fuel surcharge	\$ 32.11
05/31/25	06/18/25	50211	Baker & Taylor	fuel surcharge	\$ 3.16
05/31/25	06/18/25	50211	Ingram	fuel surcharge	\$ 39.00
06/05/25	06/18/25	50221	Alliant Energy	AE 060525 util	\$ 73.55
05/17/25	06/18/25	50240	Gordon Flesch	GF copier 2 JUN	\$ 159.82
06/03/25	06/18/25	50240	Gordon Flesch	GF copier 1 JUN	\$ 138.25
05/15/25	JR prepaid PC	50289	Zoom	ZM 051525 TECH	\$ 168.70
05/28/25	JR prepaid PC	50289	Donor Tools	DT 052825 TECH	\$ 39.00
05/06/25	CS prepaid CC	50313	Autumn Pearl	AP 050625 313	\$ 60.00
05/11/25	SB prepaid CC	50313	Amazon	AZ 050925 TE SLP	\$ 246.55
05/27/25	CS prepaid CC	50313	Walmart	WM 052725 SLP TE	\$ 86.69
06/10/25	06/18/25	50313	DCLS	DCLS 061025 GBR	\$ 134.40
05/25/25	AB prepaid CC	50326	New York Times	NYT 052525 326	\$ 56.00
06/02/25	06/18/25	50326	W. T. Cox	WTC 060225 SI kids	\$ 30.35
05/15/25	06/18/25	50328	Playaway	CH materials	\$ 1,029.63
05/28/25	06/18/25	50328	Playaway	AD/TE materials	\$ 136.78
05/31/25	06/18/25	50328	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	\$ 248.85
05/31/25	06/18/25	50328	Ingram	AD/TE materials	\$ 163.83
05/31/25	06/18/25	50329	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	\$ 1,070.34
05/31/25	06/18/25	50329	Ingram	CH materials	\$ 1,381.03
05/31/25	06/18/25	50329	Ingram	AD/TE materials	\$ 1,256.53
06/11/25	06/18/25	50329	Cengage Group	AD/TE materials	\$ 710.80
06/03/25	06/18/25	50340	Complete Office	CO 060325 OS	\$ 143.40
05/22/25	06/18/25	50342	Demco	DM 052125 LS	\$ 109.19
05/23/25	SB prepaid CC	50342	Amazon	AZ 052125 LS	\$ 31.67
05/23/25	SB prepaid CC	50342	Amazon	AZ 052025 LS	\$ 134.18
05/31/25	06/18/25	50342	Baker & Taylor	processing	\$ 54.60
05/31/25	06/18/25	50342	Baker & Taylor	processing	\$ 6.30
05/31/25	06/18/25	50342	Ingram	processing	\$ 96.03
05/16/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Amazon	AZ 051625 CITY (1)	\$ 59.00
05/16/25	CITY prepaid	50350	Amazon	AZ 051625 CITY (2)	\$ 333.20
06/09/25	06/18/25	50444	Mowry, Jamie	JM 060925	\$ 26.99
06/09/25	06/18/25	50444	Wieland, Shannon	SW 060925	\$ 19.90
06/12/25	06/18/25	50444	Angell, Tiffany	TA 061225	\$ 18.99

2025 EXPENDITURES: FUND 217
JUNE

Inv. Date	Payment	Vendor	Description	Stream	Material	50500	50:50:50503
04/17/25	06/18/25	Haque, Fareed	FH 041725 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 350.00	
05/02/25	MO prepaid CC	Westfield Comics	WC 050225 SUN	Sunday	program	\$ 96.80	
05/03/25	JR prepaid CC	Fosdal	FOS 050325 ANT	Sunday	program	\$ 34.20	
05/03/25	JR prepaid CC	Wildwood	WW 050325 ANT	Sunday	program	\$ 40.00	
05/08/25	JR prepaid CC	Championship Awards	CH 050825 KUNTZ	Kuntz	plaque	\$ 197.99	
05/10/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 050925 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 58.79	
05/11/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 050925 KV	Kvamme	supplies	\$ 19.64	
05/13/25	MO prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 051325 F CH PR	FoL	program	\$ 41.84	
05/14/25	SB prepaid CC	Amazon	AZ 021425 M AD	Misc	video games	\$ 69.00	
05/22/25	CS prepaid CC	Dollar Tree	DT 052225 F PR TE	FoL	program	\$ 81.25	
05/22/25	JR prepaid CC	Stoughton Chamber	SCH 052225 ZTE	Sunshine	giftcards	\$ 50.00	
05/22/25	CS prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 052225 F PR TE(1)	FoL	program	\$ 235.79	
05/22/25	CS prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 052225 F PR TE(2)	FoL	program	\$ 86.46	
05/28/25	CS prepaid CC	Walmart	WM 052825 F PR TE	FoL	program	\$ 25.11	
05/31/25	06/18/25	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	Lucky Day	books	\$ 105.57	
05/31/25	06/18/25	Baker & Taylor	AD/TE materials	Lucky Day	AV	\$ 21.56	
05/31/25	06/18/25	Ingram	IM 042525 F REPL	FoL	books	\$ 120.56	
06/10/25	06/18/25	Wildeman, Jim	JW 061025 F PR TE	FoL	program	\$ 250.00	

The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

★ ★ ★ A Snapshot of 2024 ★ ★ ★

**TOP TEN MOST
CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2024**

PAGE 9


CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

PAGE 10

*Nearly 3 in 4 book challenges are from
pressure groups or government sources*



BOOK RÉSUMÉS



Unite
Against
Book Bans

A Free Resource to Fight Censorship in Your Community.

Book Résumés from Unite Against Book Bans is a free tool to assist teachers, librarians, parents, and community members in defending the freedom to read. **Each book résumé details a title's significance and educational value** and is easy to download and print for sharing with administrators, book review committees, and the public at board meetings.



Created in partnership with publishers, librarians, and *School Library Journal*.

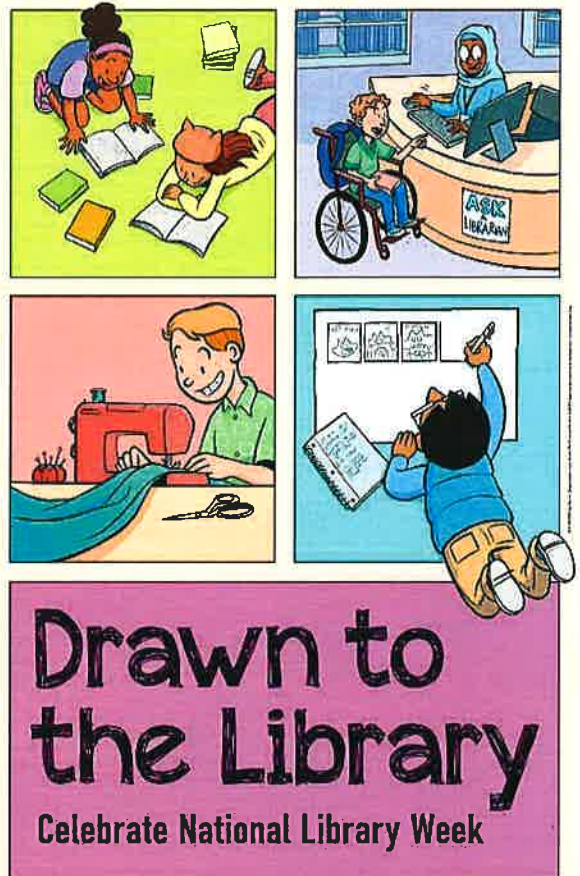
The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

A Snapshot of 2024

Produced April 2025

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ALA's Celebrate National Library Week poster.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries Face Challenges But Continue to Serve

by LESLIE BURGER



As I sit down to write this introduction and look back at 2024, it seems like such a long time ago. The State of America's Libraries report is meant to be a snapshot-in-time of the year that's past, and this year's report will cover the great work libraries of all kinds did in the past year.

That will include the lead-up to the election, when the American Library Association teamed up with the League of Women Voters for our Reader. Voter. Ready. campaign, which was picked up at libraries throughout the country. Our libraries worked hard to get the vote out, not for specific candidates, but for people to freely choose their next leaders. That's what democracy is all about.

Before the end of 2024, we had the results of that election. Since then, we learned that the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the only federal funding dedicated to libraries, is slated for elimination and grant funding will be stopped. Library services throughout the U.S. are in jeopardy because of this action. We don't yet know how the rest of 2025 will unfold, but I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge how much our library world is changing and how quickly. Check out our [#ShowUpForOurLibraries](#) campaign for more information.

But the work of libraries in 2024 is not to be ignored because library professionals continued to lead the way in their communities, and libraries continued to be the bedrock of our country.

Here are three major trends from 2024:

Censorship

We continued to deal with book bans and adverse legislation, and you'll see that reflected in this report. But we also saw some states working to protect libraries and people showing up for our libraries. Plus, libraries and their communities continued to take advantage of resources on the [Unite Against Book Bans website](#).

Artificial Intelligence

It's not enough to understand how to use artificial intelligence (AI) in libraries, although the library world continues to do so. Library workers are also busy understanding the ethical issues of using AI, from baked-in biases to copyright. We know libraries of all kinds have always led the way when it comes to technology, and the understanding of AI is top of mind.

Sustainability

Libraries are playing a bigger role in helping their communities navigate environmental disasters, which are happening with greater intensity and frequency. From wildfires to hurricanes, libraries were there in 2024 with internet, shelter, and information for people who lost everything after climate-related events. In addition to reacting quickly in times of need, libraries are working ahead of tragedy to preserve collections and protect community culture by digitizing collections and strengthening infrastructure.

As always, our libraries are absolutely critical to our communities, our society, and our democracy. They continue to provide hope in dark times, and for that I could not be more grateful. 🌟



ALA's Banned Books Week poster.

Leslie Burger is interim executive director of the American Library Association.

Don't Believe the Hype! Libraries of All Kinds Remain Essential to Their Communities

by CINDY HOHL



Some headlines might have you believe that all libraries are caught up in the political divide. But surveys show that libraries remain strongly supported by people from both sides. The stories in the news aren't wrong, but the forces that would remove books simply because they are about LGBTQIA+ people or people of color are highly organized pressure groups. Turns out, most people want an educated United States of America, and libraries of all kinds are the purveyors of the services that help everyday Americans live better lives.

Not only do libraries garner wide support in our country, but in my travels and in my own city, people genuinely love their libraries. People speak warmly about their experiences in libraries. And most people aren't even aware of all that libraries provide. They might know about childhood literacy, summer reading programs, and all those books on the shelves. But libraries in the digital age have captured the hearts of people who listen to audiobooks or read digital versions of books on their apps (all you need is a library card!). Many don't know that libraries help people:

- Get a GED
- Apply for jobs
- Start a new business
- Use a 3D printer
- Connect with telehealth services

The list goes on and on. Libraries are the very heart of their communities, and each library tailors its services to its community. Here are a few examples:

Strong broadband

Tribal libraries are near and dear to my heart. I am a member of the Santee Sioux Nation, and one of our concerns among Indigenous Peoples in our country is strong internet. Working with the American Library Association, we have seen more

libraries benefiting from government programs to provide internet to our Indigenous populations.

Mental health

Library Media Specialist Diana Haneski has helped survivors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, navigate the trauma of a mass shooting that took the lives of 14 students and three faculty. Haneski, who survived the shooting herself, has become a leader in the community's healing by providing a space in the school library for students to commune with her trained therapy dog, River, or to meditate in the Zen room. Haneski was one of 10 library professionals nationwide recognized early in 2024 with the American Library Association's I Love My Librarian Award.

Tailoring to a rural community

In Bethel, Alaska, the library serves as a satellite of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and as the community library for this remote city that can only be reached by plane or boat. Kuskokwim Consortium Library Director Theresa Quiner pays close attention to her community's needs, from classes that teach camp cooking and canning to a partnership with local organizations to address homelessness. Quiner was also selected for the I Love My Librarian Award.

Stories like these abound in communities across our nation. It's no wonder that people love and appreciate their libraries. When libraries are threatened, whether by organized groups or by governments withdrawing financial support, we must show up for our libraries. Libraries create welcoming spaces where everyone feels and knows that they belong. Let's ensure they are there for us for years to come. 🌟

Cindy Hohl is the 2024-2025 president of the American Library Association and director of policy analysis at Kansas City Public Library.

Freedom to Read Continues to Come Under Fire

by DEBORAH CALDWELL-STONE



By any measure, 2024 represented a difficult time for libraries, library workers, and all those who champion the freedom to read. The number of demands to censor and restrict library resources remained at record levels, with 821 attempts to censor library books and

materials across all library types reported to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom in 2024.

While this is a decrease from 2023, when 1,247 attempts to censor library materials were reported to ALA, it is still the third-highest number of book challenges recorded by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom since it began documenting library censorship in 1990.

Organized censorship campaigns

These demands to remove and restrict books and other library materials are not the result of any grassroots or popular sentiment. The majority of book censorship attempts are now originating from well-funded, organized groups and movements long dedicated to curbing access to information and ideas. Pressure groups, elected officials, board members, and administrators initiated nearly 72% of demands to censor books in school and public libraries. Parents only accounted for 16% of demands to censor books, while less than 5% of reported book challenges were brought by individual library users.

The harms inflicted on our freedom to read by organized censorship campaigns can be seen in the numbers. From 2001–2020, during the two decades prior to the start of the organized censorship campaign, an average of 46 titles were challenged per year by pressure groups, board members, administrators, and elected officials, who brought 2.8% of the total documented challenges. In 2024, these groups targeted 4,190 titles for censorship, 71.6% of the total documented; these were primarily books addressing the lives, experiences, and concerns of LGBTQIA+ persons, or books addressing the

We are witnessing an effort to eliminate entire genres and categories of books from library shelves in pursuit of a larger goal of placing politics and religion over the well-being and education of young people and everyone's right to access and find information in our libraries.

lives, experiences, and concerns of Black persons, Indigenous persons, and persons of color.

Attacks on those defending freedom

Not reflected in these numbers are the relentless attacks on library workers, educators, and community members who stand up to the censors and defend the freedom to read. These attacks are creating an environment of fear in which library workers are afraid to buy books or report censorship. Barriers to user access grow ever higher, with books under lock and key in "adult only" rooms that require ID to access, held in staff areas and available only upon request, or require parental permission, if the materials they're looking for are even still available.

We are witnessing an effort to eliminate entire genres and categories of books from library shelves in pursuit of a larger goal of placing politics and religion over the well-being and education of young people and everyone's right to access and find information in our libraries. It is impacting our youth and our communities.

- In Virginia, the board of the King George County Schools restricted access to more than 100 titles at the urging of a 76-year-old preacher, who is related to two board members. The books are now under lock and key or kept behind the librarian's desk, and the board has taken control of book selection.
- Nearly 400 books were removed from school libraries in Wilson County, Tennessee, after state legislators adopted a law that barred Tennessee schools from making any books available that "in whole or in part" contain sexual conduct, excess violence, or something that is "patently offensive." As a result, students lost access to many acclaimed works of literature, including Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*, John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, and Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
- At the Community Library Network in northern Idaho, 140 young adult and non-fiction titles were removed from circulation at the urging of representatives from the organization Clean Books 4 Kids, denying the entire community access to those books.

State legislation's impact on access

Legislatures in several states support and reinforce the efforts of pressure groups by adopting new laws that are intended to restrict readers' access to disfavored books in libraries and schools. Some of these laws censor books containing broadly defined "sexual content," like Tennessee's "Age-Appropriate Materials Act" and Utah's "Sensitive Materials Act."

Other proposed laws would allow library workers and educators to be criminally prosecuted or susceptible to private

right-of-action lawsuits for simply making books available in the library that a single person deems inappropriate for minors.

Other laws passed in 2024 create regulatory regimes that eliminate or restrict library workers' involvement in developing library collections or institute statewide control of library resources, eliminating local control of community libraries.

The most insidious attack on the freedom to read in 2024 is the coordinated and ongoing effort by several state attorneys general to overturn decades of legal precedent that hold that public libraries are public spaces intended for people's access to information and ideas that operate under the First Amendment. They seek a declaration that libraries and their collections are nothing more than an expression of elected officials' opinions that can be censored at will to deny people access to the ideas and opinions they do not like.

Courts overturning book ban laws

Fortunately, courts are rejecting the claim that libraries belong to politicians and pressure groups rather than members of the community the libraries serve. Courts are overturning laws that infringe on our freedom to read. Federal courts in Arkansas, Iowa, and Texas have firmly rejected the claim that library users have no First Amendment rights.

Indeed, the federal court in Arkansas permanently barred enforcement of Act 372 (Arkansas' book ban law), holding that it violated the rights of both adult and minor library users. Library users, authors, publishers, and civil liberties groups are similarly challenging book bans and library censorship around the country, with active lawsuits challenging discriminatory book bans in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, South Carolina, Texas

"The work that we're engaging in, our work defending intellectual freedom, is nowhere near as complicated as rocket science or as high stakes as world domination. It will be hard, but we know it is worth doing, because the freedom to read is also the freedom to question what is out there, the freedom to share knowledge and beauty, and the freedom to dream."

— ERIC STROSHANE, MLS

Legislators in California, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington adopted new legislation protecting the freedom to read and the library workers who defend that freedom for their communities. Sixteen other state legislatures are considering similar legislation.

Some states step in

Legislators who appreciate what libraries do for their communities and who take seriously their duty to protect constitutional liberties, are stepping up as well. Legislators in California, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington adopted new legislation protecting the freedom to read and the library workers who defend that freedom for their communities. Sixteen other state legislatures are considering similar legislation.

Communities speak out for library workers, educators

At the same time, communities are rejecting the rhetoric of book banners, speaking out on behalf of free speech and standing up for library workers and educators:

- In New Castle, Indiana, dozens turned out to oppose a proposal to remove several books from the middle school library. “Removing or banning books is a slippery slope to government censorship and the erosion of our

country’s commitment to freedom of expression,” said one grandmother. All of the challenged books were retained by the board.

- Nearly 100 residents of Lapeer County, Michigan, turned out to support the library director and staff after rumors of a possible book ban reached the community. Commenters supported a decision to retain challenged books in the library’s collection, insisting that decisions regarding materials in libraries should be left up to the library directors and staff. “A person can decide that they do not want to read a particular book and that they do not want their child to read a particular book,” said one person. “But they cannot decide that an entire community cannot read a particular book.”

Celebrating library workers

The courageous front-line librarians who stand up for the freedom to read and who stand against book bans are being recognized and celebrated. “The Librarians,” a documentary by director Kim Snyder and producer Sarah Jessica Parker, shines a spotlight on librarians Suzette Baker, Becky Calzada, Carolyn Foote, Martha Hickson, Amanda Jones, Nancy Jo Lambert, and Audrey Wilson-Youngblood, who all persevere in their defense of their users’ freedom to read despite being fired, harassed, stalked, and threatened with jail time.

Their commitment to the First Amendment right to receive information and ideas and their brave stand against censorship are the hallmarks of librarianship. Those who work in libraries understand that the official suppression of ideas and opinions harms both individuals and the society they live in and that libraries are fundamental to freedom in the United States. That is why they take on the hard work of protecting the public’s right to access a wide range of materials representing diverse viewpoints and ideas. It is work that will continue in 2025. 🌱

Deborah Caldwell-Stone is director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom.

TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2024

The American Library Association documented **821 attempts to censor** materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2024. The most common reasons for challenges were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ characters or themes; and dealing with topics of race, racism, inclusivity, equity, and social justice. Of the **2,452 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2024, here are the top 10 most frequently targeted.

1



All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto
by George M. Johnson
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/allboysBR

2



Gender Queer: A Memoir
by Maia Kobabe
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/genderBR

3/4



The Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/bluestBR



The Perks of Being a Wallflower
by Stephen Chbosky
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/wallflowerBR

5



Tricks
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/tricksBR

6/7



Looking for Alaska
by John Green
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/alaskaBR



Me and Earl and the Dying Girl
by Jesse Andrews
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/earlBR

8/9



Crank
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/crankBR



Sold
by Patricia McCormick
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/soldBR

10



Flamer
by Mike Curato
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/flamerBR



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

CENSORSHIP

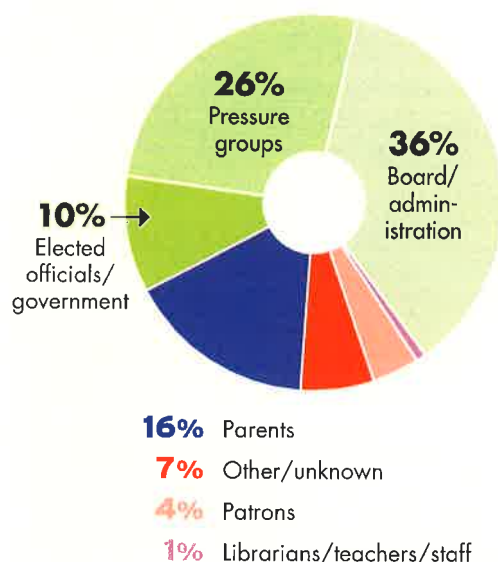
BY THE NUMBERS



The American Library Association documented another year in an unabating deluge of efforts to censor library materials in 2024, continuing an extremist campaign to suppress access to books that began in 2021. Last year, **2,452 unique titles** were challenged, the third-highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 unique titles over the period from 2001–2020. **Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.**

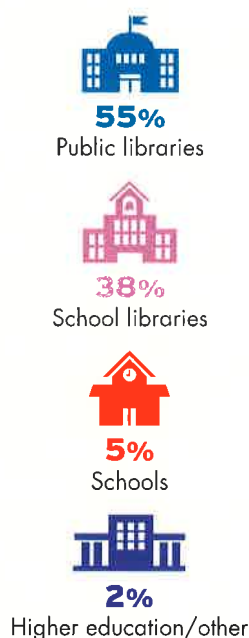
WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS?

Nearly **72% of censorship attempts** in 2024 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers who have been swayed by them.



Statistics based on 5,813 book challenges.

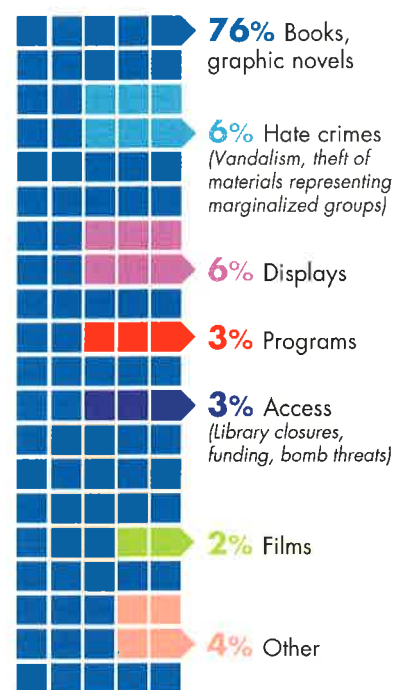
WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



Statistics based on 804 cases with known locations.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **821 censorship attempts** in 2024. Here's the breakdown:



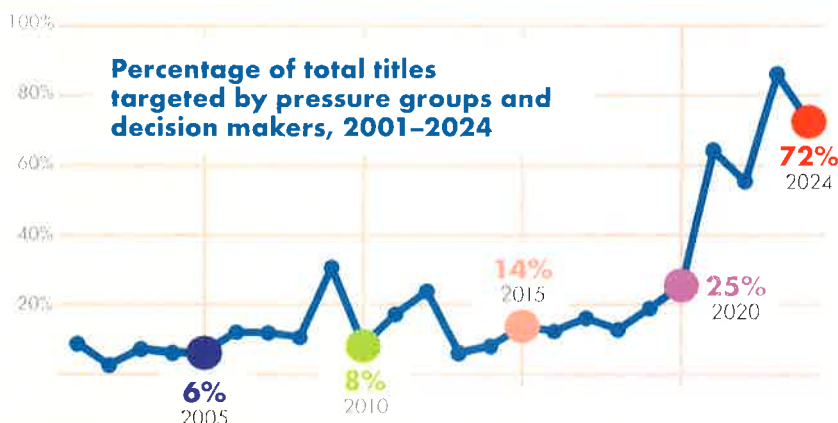
CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The majority of library censorship can be tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the administrators, board members, and elected officials they influenced targeted 4,190 total titles in 2024. From 2001–2020, this constituency attempted to remove an average of 46 titles per year.

CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:



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American Library Association



Welcoming All to the Library

edited by PHIL MOREHART

Upheaval and uncertainty have rocked the library world in recent years, from record book bans and challenges or threats to library workers' lives and livelihoods for simply doing their jobs. But despite it all, librarians soldiered forward and deployed innovative ways to introduce communities and students to everything that the library offers.

Prioritizing mental health

Public libraries across the US are supporting those in their communities who are seeking help with mental health issues by designating shelves with books that address mental illness, addiction recovery, and other stigmatized topics—materials they intend to give away or don't expect to see returned.

San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) provides free addiction recovery materials through its Read to Recovery program. Staff are trained to use Narcan to reverse opioid overdoses, but with the city in the throes of an addiction crisis, it isn't enough, says Doreen Horstin, manager of SFPL's Park branch.



Doreen Horstin, manager of San Francisco Public Library's Park branch, adds a book to the Read to Recovery shelves, which provide free addiction recovery materials to patrons.

PHOTO: JAIME WONG/SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

"We can't just administer Narcan and not do anything else," Horstin told [American Libraries](#). "We're all about books. That's what we do. It's still the number one service that we offer."

In 2022, Horstin started expanding the system's collection of addiction recovery materials before connecting with Matt Dorsey, now a member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. Dorsey suggested that some people might want to keep and annotate their books, especially workbooks like those published by Alcoholics Anonymous. Together, they [successfully advocated](#) that the city board make these items free for all.

High levels of demand have spurred SFPL to invest heavily in Read to Recovery. Currently, four locations have these no-checkout shelves, and library staffers are working to roll out the initiative to all 28 locations and its Jail and Reentry Services program. Between January 2023 and July 2024, SFPL used almost \$66,000 from its Library Preservation Fund to purchase materials covering a variety of approaches to addiction recovery. Read to Recovery gave away 3,703 recovery-related books in the fiscal year that ended in June 2024.

Exploring the universe

NASA voyaged a little closer to home when it held a [workshop](#) for Tribal libraries at New Mexico State Library in August 2024.

Facilitated by Christine Shupla and Claire Ratcliffe Adams from the [NASA Science Activation program's NASA@ My Library](#) project and with input from area Tribal libraries, the Co-Design Space Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program explored an array of space-related programming and activities that libraries could adapt, from passive programming to physically engaging activities and even engineering design. Advisors also stressed the need to make the activities culturally relevant for their Tribal communities.

After a crater-creation activity, participants discussed replacing the materials with local materials and incorporating aspects of the local topography and even local art. Throughout the workshop, Shupla and Adams reiterated that the participants' thoughts and input were critical—that they were the keepers of knowledge of their communities and that their voices were respected.

"I like how the instructors were reassuring throughout the session," said one participant. "Making sure everyone was comfortable and making it feel safe to share ideas." Another participant said, "I tend to not participate, but observe, because I'm not a scientist. It was awesome (feeling comfortable) to design too!"

The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning, in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA), Cornerstones of Science, Lunar and Planetary Institute, and Education Development Center, leads the NASA@ My Library program.

Walking for freedom

For the past two years, students at Tom C. Clark High School in San Antonio, Texas, have been able to learn about censorship and freedom-to-read issues thanks to a program initiated by the school librarian. "It's important for students to be aware of what they have access to," Lucy Podmore, librarian at Tom C. Clark High School in San Antonio, Texas, [told I Love Libraries](#). Understanding the myriad factors that impact that access, however, can be another story.

So, during Banned Books Week in 2023, Podmore decided to reconsider typical programming and switch to a freedom-to-read perspective—one that could educate students and their families about what goes into decisions affecting library bookshelves. Central to that event was what Podmore dubbed the Freedom Walk, an outdoor path on the school's campus with interactive stations along the way.



A stop on the Freedom Walk at Tom C. Clark High School in San Antonio, Texas.
PHOTO: TOM C. CLARK HIGH SCHOOL

Collaborating with social studies teachers to align with curricula, the Freedom Walk occurred in the school's central courtyard during student lunch periods and was comprised of five interactive stations centered around censorship issues: First Amendment rights, censorship terms, school district collection development and reconsideration policies, books as windows and mirrors, and voter registration/education. The stations gave nearly 500 students the opportunity to reflect and learn about their own experiences with censorship through games and introspective prompts.

In 2024, Tom C. Clark High School received a [Sara Jaffarian Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming](#) for its Freedom Walk initiative. It was the first time the award had been granted to a high school. The \$5,000 award is presented annually by the ALA's Public Programs Office and is sponsored by ALA's Cultural Communities Fund in cooperation with the American Association of School Librarians.

The best part about the experience, says Podmore? "The students were really getting into it."

"They were asking a lot of questions," she recalls. "I thought, 'Holy smokes, they're interested in this.'"

Providing access

Georgetown, Delaware, is the county seat of Sussex County and a rural community characterized by numerous farms and agricultural activity. Despite being the hub of county governance, many areas in and around Georgetown lack access to essential internet infrastructure. Even within town limits, some residents either do not have internet access or cannot afford it, creating significant barriers to education, employment, and connectivity in today's digital world.

Thanks to [Community Connect: Fostering Digital Access](#), a grant program launched by ALA and Capital One that provides rural public libraries with resources and support to assist patrons in establishing and sustaining affordable and high-speed home internet connections, Georgetown Public Library (GPL) was able to give its patrons access to the internet through its hotspot lending program. GPL was one of 30 libraries to receive five Wi-Fi hotspots (including service contracts) and five laptops for lending to patrons. It also received a \$2,000 stipend to support implementing financial capability and digital literacy programs.

Throughout the grant period, GPL circulated their hotspots 122 times and laptops 28 times. Patrons were able to check out hotspots and laptops for up to one week. Those without home internet due to cost or rural location were excited to have access.

“The hotspots seemed to be the biggest success,” a GPL library worker said. “They never sat on our shelves. As soon as they were returned, they were put on the holds shelf for another patron.”

GPL also partnered with a local financial advisor to offer an investing workshop to a local homeschool group as well as a personal finance workshop targeted towards adult patrons. It also offered a computer basics class for Spanish-speaking patrons, which used the Digital Learn curriculum and met on Saturdays for 12 weeks.

“For me this was a very important experience to be able to work in my business and be able to make a document or presentation,” said a GPL patron. “This class has been very important for me and my family.”

Meeting neurodiverse needs

To fill in service gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Warren County (Ky.) Public Library (WCPL) opened four satellite libraries. These one-room, full-service satellites, housed by community partners, are meant to support populations that would otherwise struggle to visit a full-size branch because of socioeconomic, transportation, or other barriers.

Continuing with that outreach, WCPL began working with LifeWorks at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, a 28-unit residential community that offers two-year stays for neurodiverse young adults and focuses on independent living and job readiness. WCPL opened a satellite location at the facility—making it the state’s first public library branch dedicated to serving neurodiverse patrons.

Warren County Public Library opened a satellite location at the facility—making it the state’s first public library branch dedicated to serving neurodiverse patrons.



Participants at LifeWorks, a residential community for neurodiverse young adults, hold bags from Warren County (Ky.) Public Library (WCPL). WCPL recently opened a satellite branch at LifeWorks.

PHOTO: WARREN COUNTY (KY.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Earl Willis, WCPL’s special populations liaison, hosts several programs every week. The satellite is designed to be a sensory-sensitive environment, enabling individuals with autism, ADHD, or other learning differences—who can become overstimulated in crowded public areas—to concentrate on their studies, read a book, or browse digital library resources. With natural light from two large windows and carpet to reduce noise, the space is conducive for learning. Its location away from living spaces and LifeWorks’ main activity area provides a calm place for participants to spend time without distractions.

Because of his decades of library experience, Willis is incredibly familiar with the neurodiverse population and can build strong bonds with LifeWorks participants by being there daily. He provides detailed training sessions on how to access and utilize the library’s services, like Hoopla and Libby, which are enhanced even further by the enrichment activities and social groups he’s created. There are book, poetry, and music clubs where participants can share and learn from others.

Library classes and workshops are offered at a variety of times to accommodate LifeWorks participants’ unique schedules. Additionally, those interested in careers in library services can shadow Willis to learn what it might take for them to also become professional librarians. Several have expressed interest in library work after volunteering with him.

Willis notes that he has already seen a change in the way participants view the library, primarily because the satellite

is less intimidating than a typical library branch. “It’s a more personal experience,” [he told American Libraries](#). “While the public library may not have been a familiar environment before, they now know about the many resources available to them.”

Creating a sense of place

Northwestern University (NU) in Evanston, Illinois, and the Chicago office of the national nonprofit World Relief work together to offer free summer programming for families who are refugees or seeking asylum. In 2021, after the U.S. military withdrew its final troops from Afghanistan, tens of thousands of Afghan families fled to the U.S. That’s when NU’s Seeley G. Mudd Library (ML), its science and engineering library, joined the partnership, hosting dozens of these families’ children in its makerspace each summer.

The student-named Fun Summer Program encourages participants to gain new academic skills, develop leadership experience, and build connections in their new community. The partnership’s success helped earn ML librarian Ted Quiballo a 2024 I Love My Librarian Award from ALA.

Each summer, nearly 70 students participate in the program. On a typical day, students build mini robots and program their movements with block-based coding, create

On a typical day, students build mini robots and program their movements with block-based coding, create 3D prints, laser-cut name tags, or learn about the intersection between sports and technology.

3D prints, laser-cut name tags, or learn about the intersection between sports and technology through tools like the HomeCourt app, which uses artificial intelligence to record reaction times and helps users practice hand-eye coordination.

The program is facilitated by interns recruited from across Chicago who often share similar cultural, religious, or language backgrounds with the students. The interns are trained in ML’s technologies as well as pedagogical practices that are culturally responsive and support social-emotional learning. For example, after a lesson, students teach what they just learned to one another rather than instructors taking charge. Students and interns engage in joyful moments of play and connect by conversing in Arabic or Dari and discussing their family traditions during Muslim holidays.

“Kids in the program tell their parents how excited they are to go each day,” [wrote Quiballo and Sarah P. Lee](#), a graduate researcher in NU’s Learning Sciences program, in [American Libraries](#). “We hope the students also notice how we center their interests and value their knowledge, skills, and experiences as a form of expertise. We know there isn’t a one-size-fits-all approach to this work, but we lead successfully when we prioritize authentic connections and care.” 🌱

Phil Morehart is a communications manager at the American Library Association.



Ted Quiballo (right), instructional technologies librarian at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, shows interns for World Relief Chicago's youth summer program how to use a 3D scanner.

CREDIT: NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Leveraging Generative AI: A Proactive Approach for Future-Ready Libraries

by LEO S. LO

Imagine a student receiving personalized reading recommendations that ignite a lifelong passion for learning, or a librarian swiftly identifying misinformation to protect their community. Thanks to artificial intelligence (AI), these scenarios are becoming a reality in libraries today.

Over the past two years, libraries have rapidly shifted from cautious exploration to actively integrating AI—particularly generative AI—into their operations. The 2024 [Clarivate global survey](#) found more than 60% of libraries now evaluating or planning AI projects, making AI their top technological priority. This accelerated adoption highlights the urgent need for librarians across all types of institutions to develop AI literacy, enabling them to effectively, ethically, and confidently integrate AI into their daily work.

Defining AI literacy

I define [AI literacy](#) as “the ability to understand, use, and think critically about AI technologies and their impact on society, ethics, and everyday life.”

AI literacy encompasses technical knowledge of foundational concepts like machine learning and neural networks; ethical awareness to address algorithmic bias, privacy, and accountability; critical thinking to evaluate AI-generated content for accuracy and bias; practical skills for hands-on proficiency with AI tools; and understanding AI’s societal impact on equity, economics, culture, and sustainability.

Strategic importance of AI literacy in libraries

The strategic importance of AI literacy in libraries is clear. As shown by our [study with Association of Research Libraries](#)

[\(ARL\) library leaders](#) and supported by Clarivate’s findings, libraries have rapidly moved from exploring AI to actively integrating it into their operations. By 2025, nearly one-third of ARL libraries had begun implementing AI, while most continued exploring its uses.

Public libraries view AI as essential for content discovery, operational efficiency, and research support, and school libraries are similarly adopting AI through initiatives like “[LibraryReady.AI](#),” highlighting their commitment to enhancing educational services.

Despite optimism about AI’s potential, libraries face key challenges, including resource gaps for smaller libraries, varied staff attitudes requiring tailored professional development, and the rise of AI-generated misinformation that demands increased ethical vigilance from library professionals.

The path forward

To successfully navigate these opportunities and address the associated challenges, libraries must prioritize AI literacy through targeted training and accessible professional development, supported by strong internal and external collaborations. By investing in AI literacy, libraries reinforce essential community values like trust, inclusivity, and democratic participation, ensuring their continued relevance and leadership in an increasingly AI-driven world. 🌱

Leo S. Lo is dean and professor of the College of University Libraries and Learning Services at the University of New Mexico and President of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)

Investing in libraries' civic and broadband infrastructure in 2024

by SHAWNDA HINES



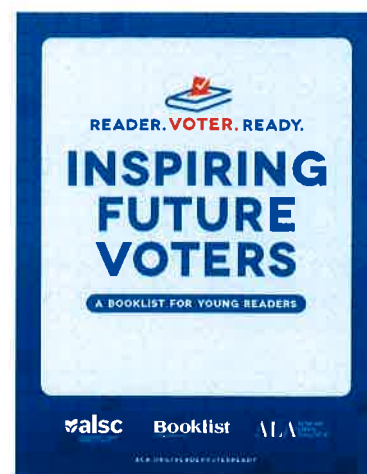
Civic participation was a thrust of library advocacy in the leadup up to the 2024 elections. Voting is one of the greatest privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, but turnout in national elections is consistently less than two-thirds of eligible voters. As institutions that provide access to information, resources, programs, and public spaces for all, libraries are a cornerstone for civic engagement.



In April 2024, ALA launched the Reader. Voter. Ready. campaign to inform and prepare library workers and supporters to build on this foundation and support voter engagement in the November elections.

As part of this effort, ALA undertook a national

partnership with another trusted local institution: the League of Women Voters. The organizations released a collaboration toolkit for local libraries and leagues and co-hosted live webinars featuring partnerships between local Leagues and public, academic, and school librarians. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) contributed to Reader. Voter. Ready. with the September release of a booklist for young readers, "[Inspiring Future Voters](#)."



Inspiring Future Voters, ALSC's Reader. Voter. Ready. booklist for young readers.

With single-party control of both houses of Congress and the executive branch, ALA is preparing for anticipated cuts in library and education funding for FY2026 in the 119th Congress.

Following the 2024 elections, ALA leaders and staff pivoted to policy analysis in preparation for a second Trump Administration and the 119th Congress. In November, ALA launched a popular semi-monthly, member-exclusive webinar series to inform members of the range of issues and actions expected to arise in 2025.

White House budget prompts #FundLibraries campaign

Meanwhile, the annual congressional appropriations cycle circled back in March 2024, when the White House presented its budget proposal. The administration's \$30 million recommendation for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy school library program matched the FY 2023 level of support. More disappointing, President Biden recommended [a decrease](#) for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Shortly thereafter, ALA launched its #FundLibraries campaign, hosting a congressional fly-in with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies in Washington, DC. Library advocates responded: In one month, a record 20,000 advocates called on their members of Congress to sign "Dear Appropriator" letters in support of library funding.

As has been the case for years now, all work on congressional funding stalled. House and Senate appropriators provided some indication of their willingness to support library funding through LSTA and [the Innovative Approaches to Literacy \(IAL\) program](#). The House FY2025 spending bill

called for significant cuts in funding for LSTA and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—the largest source of federal funding for America's libraries—while the Senate spending bill called for an increase in LSTA funding.

Congress was unable to enact any final spending bills last year and passed a temporary spending measure (called a Continuing Resolution) to keep the government operating through March 2025, maintaining the funding rate for LSTA at \$211 million and IAL at \$30 million—level with FY24—until work on the final bills is wrapped up.

At press time, Republicans are seeking to move a full-year Continuing Resolution with cuts to some domestic spending, though it's unclear if library funding will be cut. Passage of this proposal is uncertain. With single-party control of both houses of Congress and the executive branch, ALA is preparing for anticipated cuts in library and education funding for FY2026 in the 119th Congress.

Changes in IMLS leadership

Also in March, IMLS [announced](#) the departure of Director Crosby Kemper following the end of his four-year term. In 2025, President Trump appointed Deputy Secretary of Labor Keith E. Sonderling as Acting Director of IMLS.

Learn Without Limits E-rate funding

ALA also led efforts to improve another vital source of funding for public libraries and schools—the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-rate program. The Learn Without Limits initiative championed by FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel was unveiled at the 2023 ALA Annual Conference and enabled support for a cybersecurity pilot, Wi-Fi on school

Almost half of public libraries (46.9%) currently offer hotspots for patrons to check out—an increase of 14.6 percent since 2020.

buses, and hotspot lending through libraries and schools in 2024.

Almost half of public libraries (46.9%) currently offer hotspots for patrons to check out—an increase of 14.6% since 2020—according to the [2023 Public Library Technology Survey](#), published by the Public Library Association.

“Until everyone has an affordable home internet connection, hotspots are a promising alternative in most communities—and America’s libraries have proven success in lending them,” ALA President Cindy Hohl said.

More than half of all public libraries each year apply for [E-Rate](#) funding to support the broadband capacity needed to serve communities nationwide. Unfortunately, E-Rate is one of four programs within the FCC’s Universal Service Fund (USF) that is being contested in federal courts. In November 2024, the Supreme Court accepted a case challenging the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund from the Fifth Circuit Court. ALA has filed amicus in support of the E-Rate program and overall Universal Service Fund.

ALA is also showing up for libraries in the courts, where many battles will be fought over the next few years. ALA will monitor and be vigilant, preferably in concert with other major national organizations, and act strategically when warranted.

White House recognizes libraries’ efforts to save lives from overdose

On October 8, 2024, the White House [recognized](#) the efforts of libraries to save lives from overdose. ALA President Cindy Hohl participated in a discussion of the issue in Washington with Administration officials and national leaders.

ALA is one of more than 250 organizations and businesses that have made voluntary commitments to the White House Challenge to Save Lives from Overdose, a nationwide call-to-

ALA is one of more than 250 organizations and businesses that have made voluntary commitments to the White House Challenge to Save Lives from Overdose, a nationwide call-to-action to stakeholders across all sectors to increase training on, and access to, life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications like naloxone.

action to stakeholders across all sectors to increase training on, and access to, life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications like naloxone.

ALA—led by its division, the Public Library Association—has developed [resources](#) to help libraries respond to the overdose crisis, supported by funding from the IMLS. ●

Shawnda Hines is deputy director of communications for the American Library Association’s Public Policy and Advocacy Office.

About This Report

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About ALA

The American Library Association (ALA) is the only non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated entirely to America's libraries and library professionals. For almost 150 years, ALA has provided resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. The ALA serves academic, public, school, government, and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.



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Library
Association



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHECKOUTS

MO.					2025			2024-25	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	PRINT	AV	e-RES	TOTAL	%CHANGE
JAN	11,232	17,665	18,072	19,182	12,628	2,585	5,989	21,202	10.53%
FEB	11,241	16,644	16,384	18,070	10,962	2,413	5,529	18,904	4.62%
MAR	14,070	18,440	19,521	19,906	12,844	2,907	6,080	21,831	9.67%
APR	11,899	17,721	17,196	19,078	10,819	2,353	5,309	18,481	-3.13%
MAY	12,363	16,012	16,985	17,873	10,822	2,240	5,399	18,461	3.29%
JUN	16,371	18,553	18,928	20,829				0	-100.00%
JUL	17,776	18,278	19,932	21,174				0	-100.00%
AUG	17,389	19,112	18,944	19,194				0	-100.00%
SEP	15,337	16,010	17,304	16,869				0	-100.00%
OCT	16,052	16,050	18,318	17,050				0	-100.00%
NOV	14,952	15,972	17,970	18,667				0	-100.00%
DEC	14,282	15,445	18,279	17,655				0	-100.00%
TOTAL	172,964	205,902	217,833	225,547				0	-100.00%
AVG	14,414	17,159	18,153	18,796				0	-100.00%

COMPUTER USE**COMPUTER USAGE 2025**

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	AD	CH	TOTAL
JAN	440	882	1,082	441	332	57	389
FEB	800	764	771	377	375	45	420
MAR	838	893	825	967	386	65	451
APR	1,687	1,104	611	1,047	360	38	398
MAY	1,328	596	761	571	297	47	344
JUN	1,336	756	881	817			0
JUL	1,086	721	784	795			0
AUG	1,177	956	1,116	840			0
SEP	749	669	635	868			0
OCT	1,215	731	903	745			0
NOV	1,277	957	1,240	992			0
DEC	948	768	893	3,340			0
TOTAL	12,881	9,797	10,502	11,800	1,750	252	2,002
AVG	1,073	816	875	983	350	50	400

In 2025, we are changing the way we collect computer usage data to better reflect the actual in-library use of computers by our patrons.

Programming Statistics
for May 2025

LOANED THROUGH DELIVERY

2024-25

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	8,985	8,763	8,484	8,569	9,380	9.46%
FEB	8,737	8,082	8,030	8,336	8,161	-2.10%
MAR	11,069	8,866	9,137	8,530	8,726	2.30%
APR	8,709	7,975	7,896	8,141	7,736	-4.97%
MAY	8,359	7,468	7,501	7,587	7,250	-4.44%
JUN	8,151	7,563	8,038	7,808		-100.00%
JUL	8,076	7,647	7,858	8,338		-100.00%
AUG	8,012	8,267	8,272	7,734		-100.00%
SEP	8,080	7,695	7,802	7,894		-100.00%
OCT	7,885	8,003	8,374	8,405		-100.00%
NOV	7,804	7,992	7,976	7,908		-100.00%
DEC	8,033	7,298	7,481	7,694		-100.00%
TOTAL	101,900	95,619	96,849	96,944		-100.00%
AVG	8,492	7,968	8,071	8,079		-100.00%

BORROWED THROUGH DELIVERY

2024-25

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	5,543	5,756	5,632	5,257	6,169	17.35%
FEB	5,741	5,121	4,964	4,907	5,298	7.97%
MAR	6,887	5,701	5,454	5,384	5,682	5.53%
APR	5,953	5,452	4,972	5,439	5,441	0.04%
MAY	5,048	5,031	4,826	4,785	5,090	6.37%
JUN	5,153	5,290	4,607	5,054		-100.00%
JUL	4,963	4,819	5,039	4,895		-100.00%
AUG	5,148	4,897	5,155	4,867		-100.00%
SEP	5,440	4,569	4,899	4,798		-100.00%
OCT	5,254	4,519	5,161	5,215		-100.00%
NOV	4,925	4,541	4,930	5,032		-100.00%
DEC	5,104	4,469	4,980	4,834		-100.00%
TOTAL	65,159	60,165	60,619	60,467		-100.00%
AVG	5,430	5,014	5,052	5,039		-100.00%

WIRELESS USE

2024-25

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	920	1,341	1,830	1,677	1,464	-12.70%
FEB	875	1,269	1,801	1,806	1,499	-17.00%
MAR	1,003	1,643	2,152	1,895	1,749	-7.70%
APR	1,033	1,711	2,187	2,068	1,725	-16.59%
MAY	1,378	2,170	3,041	2,187	2,090	-4.44%
JUN	1,286	1,775	2,161	1,763		-100.00%
JUL	1,412	1,917	2,623	2,467		-100.00%
AUG	1,253	2,138	2,155	2,099		-100.00%
SEP	1,312	2,243	2,184	2,071		-100.00%
OCT	1,677	2,231	2,310	2,118		-100.00%
NOV	1,499	1,961	2,213	1,806		-100.00%
DEC	1,545	1,801	2,147	1,615		-100.00%
TOTAL	15,193	22,200	26,804	23,572		-100.00%
AVG	1,266	1,850	2,234	1,964		-100.00%

DOOR COUNT

2024-25

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	0	5,425	7,504	6,975	7,687	10.21%
FEB	0	5,826	7,000	7,545	7,171	-4.96%
MAR	0	6,385	8,810	8,212	8,791	7.05%
APR	0	6,482	7,634	8,282	8,025	-3.10%
MAY	1,462	8,119	10,109	9,943	10,690	7.51%
JUN	4,155	7,296	8,237	8,109		-100.00%
JUL	5,158	7,301	7,810	8,730		-100.00%
AUG	4,809	7,900	8,125	8,364		-100.00%
SEP	4,915	7,135	6,832	7,653		-100.00%
OCT	6,061	7,696	7,776	8,208		-100.00%
NOV	5,620	7,126	7,525	7,381		-100.00%
DEC	5,280	6,188	7,308	6,627		-100.00%
TOTAL	37,460	82,879	94,670	96,029		-100.00%
AVG	3,122	6,907	7,889	8,002		-100.00%

June 2020: SCLS has changed the way they collect this stat

SELF-CHECKOUTS

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%TOTAL
JAN	0	8,190	9,342	8,942	10,445	68.66%
FEB	0	8,181	8,344	9,063	8,685	64.93%
MAR	0	9,086	10,361	10,155	10,373	65.86%
APR	0	8,378	7,993	n/a	9,393	66.28%
MAY	1,146	7,100	7,931	8,433	8,473	64.87%
JUN	6,690	9,544	8,729	11,021		
JUL	7,053	9,276	9,658	10,724		
AUG	6,585	9,707	9,193	10,323		
SEP	7,210	7,646	8,252	8,474		
OCT	7,254	7,424	8,826	8,742		
NOV	7,417	7,912	n/a	9,355		
DEC	7,176	6,908	6,776	7,832		
TOTAL	50,531	99,352	95,405	103,064		
AVG	4,211	8,279	8,673	9,369		

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS

2024-25

MO.	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%CHANGE
JAN	3,984	4,695	4,486	5,363	5,649	5.33%
FEB	3,952	3,751	3,912	4,815	5,258	9.20%
MAR	4,998	3,968	5,152	5,727	5,142	-10.21%
APR	4,701	4,268	4,816	5,767	4,985	-13.56%
MAY	4,092	4,008	4,528	4,963	5,182	4.41%
JUN	4,818	3,954	5,323	5,788		-100.00%
JUL	4,206	4,768	4,991	5,935		-100.00%
AUG	3,936	3,915	4,874	5,247		-100.00%
SEP	3,448	3,501	4,173	4,891		-100.00%
OCT	3,471	3,342	4,178	5,050		-100.00%
NOV	3,457	3,609	4,312	4,218		-100.00%
DEC	3,519	3,352	4,337	4,426		-100.00%
TOTAL	48,582	47,131	55,082	62,190		-100.00%
AVG	4,049	3,928	4,590	5,183		-100.00%

Programming Statistics
for May 2025

Date	Platform	Event	0-5	6-11	Teen	Adult	All Ages
5/1/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Time (DF)					
5/1/2025	St Anns	Outreach Story Time (AMH)	19				
5/1/2025	Fire Department	Adult Craft Club (SB, AH)				26	
5/3/2025	Carnegie Room	Antiques Appraisal w/ Mark Moran (JR)				42	
5/4/2025	Stoughton Yoga	Yoga Sundays (CS)				19	
5/5/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Time (MO)	26				
5/6/2025	Carnegie Room	Rainbow Readers (CS, MO)			6		
5/6/2025	Carnegie Room	Baby Story Time (DF)	8				
5/6/2025	Carnegie Room	Graphic Novel Book Club (MO)		7			
5/6/2025	Childrens Area	PJ Story Time (AMH)	15				
5/7/2025	Carnegie Room	Kindermusik	34				
5/7/2025	Online live	LSC David Rosmarin				5	
5/7/2025	Carnegie Room	Film/Director Q&A: Alice's Ordinary People (AB)				4	
5/8/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Time (MO)	21				
5/8/2025	Learning Tree Presc	Outreach Story Time (AMH)	35				
5/8/2025	Learning Tree Presc	Outreach Story Time (AMH)	21				
5/8/2025	Carnegie Room	Teen Art (CS, EM)			19		
5/10/2025	Carnegie Room	Love to Read Book Club (AMH)				2	
5/12/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Time (MO)	23				
5/12/2025	Carnegie Room	Dungeons & Dragons (MO)			9		
5/13/2025	Carnegie Room	Baby Story Time (MO)	10				
5/13/2025	Carnegie Room	Writing Group (volunteers)				4	
5/14/2025	Carnegie Room	Pokemon Club (MO)		40			
5/14/2025	Online live	LSC: Liann Zhang				1	
5/15/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Time (MO)	17				
5/15/2025	Online asynchronous	Restorative Justice 4/15/25 recording views				5	
5/16/2025	2nd Floor	Norwegian Genealogy Assistance day 1 (Naeseth staff				18	
5/17/2025	Mezzanine	Scandinavian handicrafts demo					1308
5/17/2025	Outside library	Saturday Story Time (AMH)	60				
5/17/2025	2nd Floor	Norwegian Genealogy Assistance day 2 (Naeseth staff				36	
5/19/2025	Carnegie Room	Kids Craft: Garden Stakes (MO)		31			
5/20/2025	Carnegie Room	Story Explorers (AMH)	11				
5/21/2025	Weebleworld Presc	Outreach Story Time (AMH)	20				
5/21/2025	Online live	LSC Rachel Bergstein				5	

Programming Statistics
for May 2025

5/21/2025	Stoughton Health	Dr. Zorba Paster talk (sponsored by Library)						90	
5/22/2025	Carnegie Room	Teen Chocolate Fountain (CS, EM)					43		
5/27/2025	La Petite Preschool	Outreach Story Time (AMH)		20					
5/27/2025	Pumpkin Patch Pres	Outreach Story Time (AMH)		23					
5/27/2025	Pumpkin Patch Pres	Outreach Story Time (AMH)		22					
5/27/2025	Pumpkin Patch Pres	Outreach Story Time (AMH)		21					
5/27/2025	Head Start Preschool	Outreach Story Time (AMH)		8					
5/27/2025	Sandhill	SRP 2nd Grade (MO)			72				
5/27/2025	Sandhill	SRP 3rd Grade (MO)			72				
5/27/2025	Sandhill	SRP Kindergarten and 1st Grade (MO)			126				
5/27/2025	Sandhill	5th Grade (CS)				67			
5/27/2025	Sandgill	4th Grade (MO)			67				
5/27/2025	Carnegie Room	Page Turners (AB)						7	
5/28/2025	St. Ann's	SRP 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades (CS)				46			
5/28/2025	St. Ann's	SRP 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades(MO)			26				
5/28/2025	St. Ann's	SRP Kindergarten 1st Grade (MO)			15				
5/28/2025	Senior Center	Outreach: Page Turners (AB)						7	
5/29/2025	Kegonsa	SRP Kindergarten (MO)			48				
5/29/2025	Kegonsa	SRP 1st Grade (MO)			52				
5/29/2025	Kegonsa	SRP 2nd Grade (MO)			61				
5/31/2025	Online asynchronous	Archive views LSC						1192	
			414	617	190	1463	1308		

		May Self-Directed	Number of Participants				
Date	Platform	Event	0-5	6-11	Teen	Adult	All Ages
5/3/2025	Library	Free Comicbook Day (staff)					150
5/31/2025	2nd floor	All ages sticker mural					29
5/31/2025	2nd floor	Teen art cart					29
5/31/2025	Mezzanine	All ages puzzle					29
			0	0	0	0	237

Director's Report

June 18, 2025



Library news:

- The HVAC system replacement project that began at the end of March stretched well into June as the technicians worked to set the controls and bring the system online. (I had originally reported that the project was set to wrap up around the middle of May, which was in keeping with the original timeline the contractors provided.) The system has been partially running through most of the last month, providing some relief from outside temperatures that reached into the 80s. I know I speak for all library staff when I say we are looking forward to having this project completed!
- On May 22, we held a virtual all-staff meeting in which we discussed the summer reading program, the diversity audit of our collection, and the current situation regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and federal funding for libraries. A recording of the meeting is available for those staff members who weren't able to attend live.
- I attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Wisconsin Library Association's Library Development & Legislation committee on May 23 at South Central Library System headquarters. The main topics of discussion were: the search for a new WLA Executive Director; an update on state aid to library systems in the 2025-2027 biennial state budget; and a discussion of the situation at the federal level regarding the proposed elimination of IMLS.
- On June 2, Wisconsin's 15 library systems introduced a postcard campaign entitled "Speak Up For Your Library" in which patrons are invited to send a postcard to their representatives in Congress explaining why libraries are important and, more specifically, why federal funding is vital for Wisconsin's libraries. Patrons are encouraged to complete a postcard and leave it in the drop box at the library. Cards will be mailed by the library systems later this summer. More information is available at mywisconsinlibrary.org/



- I finished the final two annual performance appraisals for staff that I supervise directly and submitted them to the city's Human Resources Department.

Stoughton Area Community Foundation Fund Report

The report for the period Apr 26 – May 30 shows an increase in value of \$1,630.85 to the account because of market conditions. The overall value of the account as of May 30 is \$32,656.38.

Youth Services (from Mary Ostrander)

- Library Assistant Anna hosted a special Syttende Mai Story Time on May 17 outside in the library's outdoor programming space. 60 people attended and many families were grateful to have a festival event for younger kids.
- Beaded Garden Stakes was a very colorful craft event on May 19. 31 friends joined us to make beaded garden stakes, decorate terra cotta pots, and plant some zinnias.
- Summer Reading Program visits to schools went very well. Between Sandhill Elementary, Kegonsa Elementary, Fox Prairie Elementary, and St. Ann's, Mary and Cynthia visited about 1,000 kids to tell them about summer reading at the library.
- The Shrinky Dink craft on June 4 brought in 34 friends to make all sorts of key chains and tokens.
- Children's staff was busy **decorating the kids' area** to make it ready for summer reading program by adding lots and lots of color.
- Summer



Reading Program Volunteer Training on June 5 went extremely well. There are 15 teens that are ready to help check kids in for the summer reading program as well as help with different programs throughout the summer.

- **Troll Beach Party** on June 7 was a great way to kick off the summer! The Friends of the Library sponsored the event and Viking Day Camp donated raffle prizes. About 170 people came to the beach for all sorts of fun.



- June Upcoming Programs:

Saturday Story Time (6/14), Story Time and Baby Story Time resume (6/16), Dungeons & Dragons (6/16), Graphic Novel Book Club (6/17), Kindermusik (6/18), Paper Lanterns (6/18), Art and Popsicles (6/19 and 6/26), Ice Cream in a Bag (6/24), Outdoor Story Time (6/25), Pokémon Club (6/25), Perfect Harmony Chorus Concert (6/28)

Tech Services & Technology News (from Sarah Bukrey)

- Technical Services Library Assistant Zi Wei's last day was May 19. During her absence, Sarah, our volunteers, and other library staff are helping to get items ready for circulation.
- In all, 58 applications were submitted for the position of Technical Services Library Assistant. On June 3, Sarah, Amanda, and a representative from the city's Human Resources Department interviewed five candidates for the position. Jen Holman-Dodds, who currently works as a Shelves, accepted the position and will begin in mid-June.



- "Crafting for Good" was our theme for Craft Club on June 5 as we hosted 18 people to create **braided dog toys** which will be donated to local

shelters/rescues. Sarah was glad to have Library Assistant Amy Hynek back to co-host!

- 432 items were added in the month of May.

Circulation Services (from Robin Behringer)

- The Circulation Team met on May 27 and the Shelver Team met on June 11. Both teams discussed staffing changes and upcoming projects.
- Robin attended South Central Library System's virtual Circulation Refresher training on May 28. This month's topic was patron records, including registration and record clean-up.
- The Shelver Team was already down two staff members before Jen Holman-Dodds was hired as the new Technical Services Assistant. With Jen's impending move to the Technical Services department, Robin has been working with the City HR Department to hire three new Shelves who will start in mid-June.
- Even though the Shelver Team has been short staffed, the Shelves have stayed on top of the workloads, covering extra shifts and working extra hard to make sure the work is done in a timely matter. Staff members from other departments have also helped out by shelving materials and pulling pick list items.

Adult & Teen Services (from Amanda Bosky)

- We were excited to welcome the Norwegian American Genealogical Center staff back for the second year in a row to host one-on-one sessions about Norwegian genealogy at the library during Syttende Mai. Chris and Dana were both here over the Friday and Saturday to help people learn the basics of exploring their Norwegian roots, which is significantly more complicated than European or American genealogy. 54 people participated, and we plan to make this an annual partnership between our two organizations.
- Amanda continued to on-board and train our newest library substitute, Kirsten.
- On May 21, the library hosted a talk by Dr. Zorba Paster about caring for someone with dementia. The talk was presented at Stoughton Health, in partnership with them as well as the Senior Center and Dementia Friendly Stoughton. This was a great opportunity to use some gift funds we received for programming without needing to assign anyone from our small staff to plan, host, or attend the program. 90 people attended, and a group viewing of a recording of the program is planned at the Senior Center in July.

- In preparation to move some Outer-Library Loan (OLL) procedure duties to Circulation staff, Amanda created a training manual with many visual examples of OLL materials and gave it to Circulation Supervisor Robin Behringer in late May. Once new shelvers have been on-boarded and trained, and the Summer Reading Program is over, we will put the finishing touches on these training materials and officially move some OLL duties from Adult Services to Circulation Services. Currently, Adult Services staff complete these tasks while covering the public service desk, which means the process is usually interrupted many times, causing more mistakes. Circulation staff will be able to work on OLLs during project time behind the scenes, which will allow for more focus on the task at hand.
- Teen Services Assistant Cynthia Schlegel's teen programs during this time included Chocolate Fountain (with Library Substitute Erin); Summer Library Program visits to 5th graders along with Children's Librarian Mary Ostrander; Rainbow Readers with Mary; and the Troll Beach Summer Library Program kickoff with Mary, in partnership with Parks & Recreation.
- On June 3, Amanda assisted Technical Services Supervisor Sarah Bukrey in interviewing candidates for the vacant Technical Services Assistant position. Once the chosen candidate is on-boarded and trained in Tech Services, Amanda will begin training them to staff the Adult Services Information desk on Thursday evenings.

Looking Back *from The Stoughton Courier*
January 7, 1971

Library's Open House For Art Reproductions Begins

Not too many years ago, libraries were places to check out books or to do term papers, however, that stereotype is no longer.

A few years ago, the Stoughton public library added recordings that are now being lent, and next week, a collection of 35 framed oil reproductions of famous art prints will be available to area library card holders.

Before the prints are available on a lending basis, they will be on display at the library on Friday and Saturday.

When the prints are ready for lending next Monday, borrowers may first look over a notebook that contains both a picture and brief history of the artist and work of each print and the residents

can select the print they desire from that notebook, rather than thumbing through the prints.

The prints will be loaned for two-month periods, with a limit of one reproduction to a family. A carrying portfolio will be provided to transport the print between the library and home.

Included in the collection are works by famed American, Flemish, French, English, German, Italian and Australian artists, like Homer, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Manet, Renoir, Utrillo, Constable, Edzard, and Eakins.

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2025-2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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