



City Library Report: February 2024

René Battelle, Administrator for Public Services

Branch Libraries

February Recap

- ❖ It was a spotlight month for local quilters at our libraries! The Quilt Show at Betts drew submissions from over 80 quilters – a record in the history of this annual show. Each quilt is stunning and unique, and this year’s display includes a flamingo-patterned quilt, a row of quilts celebrating each month, and a special piece by Betts staff member Joann who restored her grandmother’s wedding quilt. Quilters were also celebrated at Beauchamp Branch, on an episode of “More Than Just Books” that highlighted the work of the Sankofa Piece Makers: <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/more-than-just-books-sankofa-piece-makers>
- ❖ Soule Branch staff continue to make meaningful connections with community partners. In February, they had meetings with a local table-top gaming club to help plan their inclusive gaming program, with staff at the Le Moyne College Gardening Club to discuss a community garden, and with staff from the Mary Ann Shaw Center at SU about an upcoming exhibit at Soule on the important role Ukrainian libraries play in safeguarding Ukrainian culture.
- ❖ A representative from the Ben Snow Foundation visited White Branch to tour the library and talk about potential grant funding for the Food Access Program. This is a grant submitted by the American Heart Association to help White Branch purchase a fridge for community food distribution in partnership with SOFSA, bring healthy eating programs to the library, and purchase books and materials to support nutritional literacy.

Coming Up

- ❖ City branch libraries will be celebrating the Solar Eclipse on April 8 with fun programs on that day and throughout March, including educational programs led by the MOST, crafts and activities that have eclipse-themed elements, and special viewing parties on the day of the eclipse. You can find information about programs throughout OCPL at: <https://www.onlib.org/events/2024-eclipse-programs-and-events-ocpl>
- ❖ Petit Branch Manager Carol is coordinating our CLRC Catalyst Grant for Central and the branches to host special kitchen literacy workshops, including regional recipes, programs to learn more about food and where it comes from, and hands-on food prep to make delicious, nourishing low-cost meals.
- ❖ We are interviewing throughout March for an Administrative Assistant at OCPL, and a Librarian I for Adult Services at White Branch, and looking forward to making appointments to these two key positions in April.

Branch Statistics

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	18524	17284	24266	24657	22743	28434	27133	28914	25278	27486	24079	19856	288654
Total Circulation	33525	30659	36735	31211	32308	34145	36366	37279	32904	34147	30811	33298	403388
Physical Circulation	27684	25339	31028	25477	26297	28054	29706	30529	26397	26792	23745	25485	326533
Digital Circulation	5841	5320	5707	5734	6011	6091	6660	6750	6507	7355	7066	7813	76855
Computer Use	2943	2135	3588	3999	3276	3846	4146	4009	3439	3932	2707	2741	40761
Reference	4810	4471	5987	5210	4804	4904	4526	4660	3423	3895	2294	2354	51338
Programs	166	163	210	213	185	190	225	186	132	174	125	118	2087
Program Attendance	1445	1710	2553	2360	2248	3570	2579	1967	1433	2185	1286	987	24323
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	23248	25113											48361
Total Circulation	37014	32428											69442
Physical Circulation	28606	23299											51905
Digital Circulation	8408	9129											17537
Computer Use	3242	2751											5993
Reference	3518	5201											8719
Programs	112	130											242
Program Attendance	1020	1263											2283
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	26%	45%											
Total Circulation	10%	6%											
Physical Circulation	3%	-8%											
Digital Circulation	44%	72%											
Computer Use	10%	29%											
Reference	-27%	16%											
Programs	-33%	-20%											
Program Attendance	-29%	-26%											



Central Library

February Recap

- ❖ The MakerSpace recording studio is officially open, and Saptarshi is conducting weekly certification trainings. Once patrons are certified to use the software and equipment, they are able to book appointments to record music in the space. Saptarshi has also restarted the MakerSpace's 3D printing services, making custom print jobs and helping people learn about this technology.
- ❖ Dan got a special request from Sofia Janak, a researcher with the PBS program "Finding Your Roots", in search of a 1916 marriage certificate for a guest with a Syracuse ancestor. While we are not able to provide actual marriage certificates, Dan gave Sofia information on how to find the certificate number and request the document from Vital Statistics. In other Local History news, Kate got a chance to attend the RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City and explore topics on effective FamilySearch research, reconstructing military records, and preservation that will help her in her daily job and special presentations for LHG.
- ❖ Deb and Nate helped a patron over a couple of weeks who was applying for jobs. Afterwards, the patron came in to the library and said "I just want to thank you both for helping me out. I got the job and I am getting an apartment. I could not have done it without your help – God bless you both!"

Coming Up

- ❖ We are excited to be celebrating this year's Ossie Golden Trustees' Award recipient Dan Smith with a special ceremony on April 9 at 3:30 here at Central.
- ❖ Central's part-time clerk Nate Lawson has gotten a full-time clerical position at Beauchamp Branch and will be starting in mid-March. We'll miss Nate, but wish him the best in his new role. This leaves a part-time clerk position vacant at Central, and we will be moving to fill that in April.
- ❖ We are looking forward to a new Librarian II list coming out shortly, to fill positions in the children's departments at Mundy and here at Central.



Central Statistics

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	5642	5423	6459	5388	5500	5585	5898	6225	5421	5732	5732	5349	68354
Total Circulation	13854	12553	13395	12187	12701	12662	12933	13665	12412	13868	13804	14719	158753
Physical Circulation	7464	7474	8051	7100	7320	7357	7612	8219	7097	10626	7802	8601	94723
Digital Circulation	5390	5079	5344	5087	5831	5305	5321	5446	5315	3242	6002	6118	63480
Computer Use	1733	1495	1772	1565	1428	1771	2070	2000	1529	1523	1600	1498	19984
Reference	1218	984	1445	1057	1198	1161	1697	1495	1307	1238	1434	1186	15420
Programs	23	26	25	29	29	34	26	28	21	22	15	18	296
Program Attendance	361	454	383	309	378	398	436	651	314	254	332	193	4463
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	6010	5525											11535
Total Circulation	15712	14137											29849
Physical Circulation	8966	7892											16858
Digital Circulation	6746	6245											12991
Computer Use	1424	1317											2741
Reference	1468	1610											3078
Programs	11	16											27
Program Attendance	473	175											648
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	7%	2%											
Total Circulation	13%	13%											
Physical Circulation	20%	6%											
Digital Circulation	25%	23%											
Computer Use	-18%	-12%											
Reference	21%	64%											
Programs	-52%	-38%											
Program Attendance	31%	-61%											



Board Support

- ❖ Help us publicize our Solar Eclipse programming in March and April. Each branch and Central will be giving out eclipse viewing glasses (limit 2 per household) beginning March 25. Find out more about our eclipse programs at: <https://www.onlib.org/events/2024-eclipse-programs-and-events-ocpl>
- ❖ Check out a book by a FOCL author. This year's series has book selections for every taste, including a captivating mystery by Brendan Slocumb called *The Violin Conspiracy*, and several great fantasy and graphic novel titles by upcoming authors Neil Gaiman and Art Spiegelman.
- ❖ Library advocacy isn't just reserved for special days – it can happen in every day conversations. Help us spread the word about our resources, like recommending an upcoming program or encouraging your friends to check out our collection before they opt to buy the latest bestseller. Thank you for all you do to support our work!

