



City Library Report: March 2024

René Battelle, Administrator for Public Services

Branch Libraries

March Recap

- ❖ Beauchamp, Central, Hazard, Mundy, and White Branch Libraries were proud to serve as polling places for the primary election on April 2, and Beauchamp was also an early voting site. Staff at these libraries work with Becky, CET, and Facilities to schedule early opening and late closing hours on election days, and these efforts are greatly appreciated by the Onondaga County Board of Elections.
- ❖ Our Eastside libraries geared up for the Total Solar Eclipse in several unique ways in March. Paine had fun eclipse-themed family activities including bingo night and a STEM program presented by a resident from Upstate Medical Hospital; Petit hosted an informational session with eclipse facts and safety tips by the MoST; and Soule unveiled a beautiful new Eclipse StoryWalk® funded by CLRC, and hosted an informational session presented by a Solar System Ambassador for NASA and JPL.
- ❖ After a successful kick-off, Soule's "Play Together: Inclusive Community Gaming" program, made possible by a CLRC Catalyst Grant, will have weekly drop-in games for adults with disabilities. Attendees have 3 hours of playtime to socialize and use the library's collection of games, puzzles, and coloring books. Soule's Adult Services Librarian Sarah connected with staff from Play the Game Read the Story and Exceptional Family Resources to help make this program a success.

Coming Up

- ❖ Thanks to the collective efforts of the Librarian III staff and myself, I am proud to say that we are in great shape to have all of our currently funded full-time branch and Central positions filled by the end of this year, if not sooner. We are also moving fast to hire for many part-time positions that help us expand patron services at the branch, Central, and system levels, and help new staff members see exciting career paths in our organization. In the 7 months I have been Administrator for Public Services, we have filled 12 part-time positions and 6 full-time positions, with another 3 part-time and 4 full-time positions currently in the works.
- ❖ To help ring in spring, our branches have a lot of fun activities celebrating nature in the second half of April. On April 22nd, Paine is doing an egg carton flower craft while Hazard has an upcycled birdhouse craft; on April 23rd, Paine has a Master Gardener program on native plants; and on April 27th Paine has a program on gardening for birds while Petit's Librarian Assistant Hannah is teaching kids about the eating habits of reptiles and amphibians with live demonstrations in their "Cold Blooded Brunch"!
- ❖ Mundy and White Branches are both preparing for special Earth Day clean-up events. White's will be part of the City of Syracuse's Proud Places Project and will be an all-day event. Mundy's event is in collaboration with the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and ArtHouse Alliance, with a goal to clean up the Rowland Street pocket park.

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	22406										70767
Total Circulation	37014	32428	35141										104583
Physical Circulation	28606	23299	27062										78967
Digital Circulation	8408	9129	8079										25616
Computer Use	3242	2751	3583										9576
Reference	3518	5201	7178										15897
Programs	112	130	182										424
Program Attendance	1020	1263	2346										4629
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	26%	45%	-8%										
Total Circulation	10%	6%	-4%										
Physical Circulation	3%	-8%	-13%										
Digital Circulation	44%	72%	42%										
Computer Use	10%	29%	0%										
Reference	-27%	16%	20%										
Programs	-33%	-20%	-13%										
Program Attendance	-29%	-26%	-8%										



Central Library

March Recap

- ❖ On April 9th, we were excited to celebrate with Dan Smith as he accepted this year's Ossie Golden Trustees' Award. Dan has spent 4 decades with OCPL in various roles at branches and Central. He currently serves as Local History Librarian, overseeing vital digitization projects for OCPL and answering hundreds of questions each year from patrons, staff, and members of the media on local history and genealogy topics. Congratulations, Dan!
- ❖ Central's partnership with 100 Black Men is a great opportunity to provide high-interest programs to teens and tweens on evenings and Saturdays. In March, MakerSpace Librarian Saptarshi facilitated a robotics program attended by 20 kids and mentors from 100 Black Men. Central Library Clerk Theresa Bradford was a big help in managing this large group in the MakerSpace during which participants got to experiment with building and programming robots.
- ❖ Access Services Librarian Trudi and MakerSpace Librarian Saptarshi were featured on a March episode of "More Than Just Books". They talked about all the great features of the MakerSpace and the regular Thursday afternoon programs hosted by Trudi and Teen Services Librarian Nan on a wide variety of topics including plants, art with paint and clay, and neurographic art, which is a way to calm stress by drawing lines and curves that reflect inner thoughts. You can see the full story at: <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/more-than-just-books-makerspace-at-the-central-library-for-music-and-art>

Coming Up

- ❖ With Saptarshi's input, upgrades to software and equipment in the MakerSpace are underway. Special thanks to FOCL for donating the funds to allow us to give this special library space some much needed attention.
- ❖ Nan is working on a special indoor StoryWalk® at Central that will lead kids on a magical tour through the library while they enjoy a good story.



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	6127										17662
Total Circulation	15712	14137	14518										44367
Physical Circulation	8966	7892	8121										24979
Digital Circulation	6746	6245	6397										19388
Computer Use	1424	1317	1453										4194
Reference	1468	1610	1183										4261
Programs	11	16	22										49
Program Attendance	473	175	308										956
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	7%	2%	-5%										
Total Circulation	13%	13%	8%										
Physical Circulation	20%	6%	1%										
Digital Circulation	25%	23%	20%										
Computer Use	-18%	-12%	-18%										
Reference	21%	64%	-18%										
Programs	-52%	-38%	-12%										
Program Attendance	31%	-61%	-20%										

Board Support

- ❖ We need your input! Don't forget to take the board/staff and public surveys to help us create our OCPL Strategic Plan. The board/staff survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCPLplanning> and is open until April 18. The public survey can be found on our website later this month, and will be open until the first week in May.
- ❖ If you have tickets to a Redhouse show, don't forget to check out our pop-up library! The pop-up is located in the lobby area next to the concessions booth, and features books on topics inspired by the current show. Patrons can take books with them, and return them to any OCPL location by the date on the slip inside.
- ❖ 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!