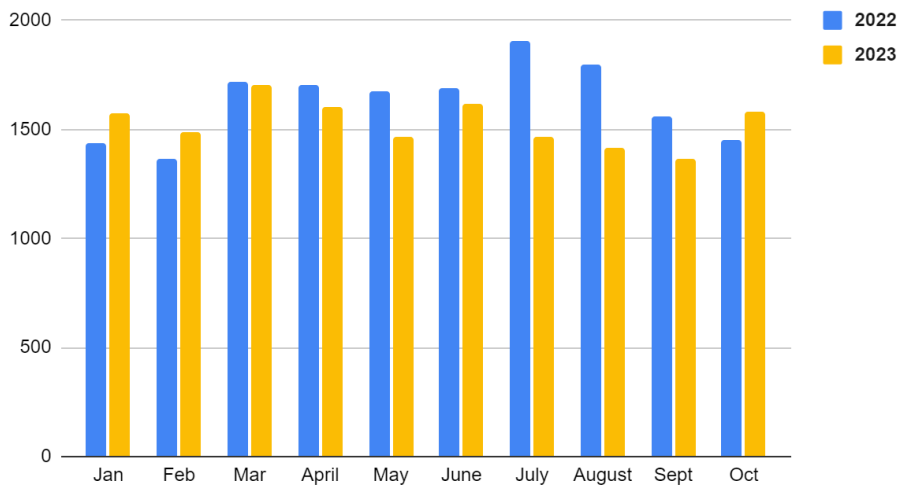


NOVEMBER 2023 DPL Board Mtg
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LIBRARY & RESOURCE USE

Physical Circulation - It's up from last month; still lower than this month last year, but that trend is not unique to Dover. The graph below compares total items circulated Jan through October 2023 with the same time period in 2022. Our circulation dipped a lot over the summer, but that's likely due in large part to having fewer programs in summer 2023 than summer 2022, having anticipated the bookmobile being available more. Keep in mind that this chart is tracking items, not patrons.

Total Items Circulated



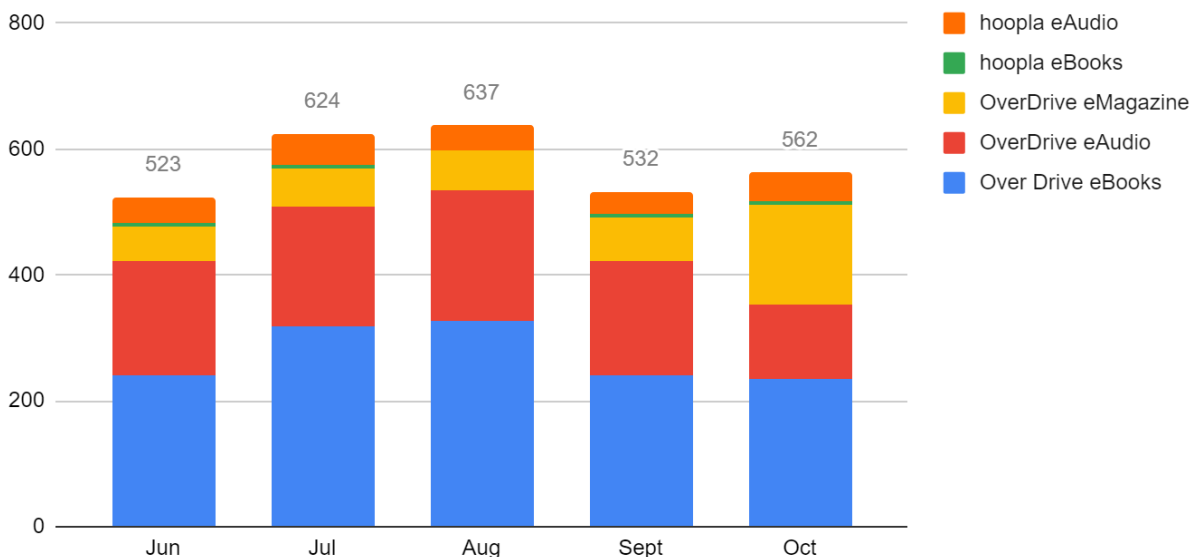
Programs - DPL had 20 programs for adults and 5 for kids with a total attendance of 282 people (252 adults and 30 kids). For reference, last month there were 15 programs total (11 for adults and 4 for kids) with a total attendance of 155 people (138 adults, 17 kids).

We're continuing to increase the total number of programs each month and as we hire more staff, Lisa will have more time to focus on program development. We aren't yet addressing our goal to increase the offerings for kids and families. The programs in coordination with Dover Rec's Seniors started in October and the paranormal investigator was a very popular pre-Halloween program. November is a Tech Help session and December is Knitting and Crochet. All Abilities Adults and Cooking the Books are newer programs also growing in attendance. Finally November brings two more new programs for adults, a one-time Machine Sewing 101 on a Saturday morning and a new Kindle-based Romance Book Club.

Both these last new programs are part of my vision for launching DPL's Library of Things as one features the sewing machines and the other the Kindles - all of which can be borrowed by library card holders.

E-Resources - These continue to be popular, especially when you compare the totals to the totals for physical items circulation in the chart above. All of the checkouts in the chart below are Dover patrons. I've been spending our collections budget to reflect the community's use patterns on Libby and proposed an increased e-collections budget for 2024 due to this.

Libby & hoopla Use Jun-Oct 2023



STAFF

I finished all the meetings with staff for third quarter reviews since the last Board meeting. Each staff member has identified goals for their NYS-required tech training and some have started or even completed theirs already.

MHLS is changing the public-facing online catalog from the current program, Encore, to a new one called Vega. Lisa and I attended training sessions for Vega in September when it was being previewed for staff. MHLS announced that the shift will go public on Dec 6. I've asked everyone to take training in Vega with three options - recorded online webinar, live online training or in-person training. This is in addition to the mandatory tech training. Lisa and I both like Vega so much more; there's a lot patrons can do with it and it will make some reference questions easier to answer also. But, it's new so patrons will have questions and staff must know how to use it in order to do their jobs.

Bethany Lowe resigned in October so that she could have more time for her return to college and her family. She'll be missed. As we will discuss in New Business, I posted the job opening for a new clerk and we have received applications.

We've been very lucky to have a substitute clerk who regularly works at Pawling Library. Rose Mancuso has been a lifesaver and a delight to have at DPL. Rose is interested in staying on as a permanent substitute which will be an enormous help for all of us.

Lisa and I went to the Fall Into Books conference in Newburgh in October. Fall Into Books is organized jointly by MHLS, RCLS, BOCES and SENYLRC - a lot of acronyms for organizations that care about literacy and youth. Fall Into Books is unique in that participants sign up for particular sessions and are sent a reading list for each one. Lisa attended one for picture books and one for graphic novels. I attended one for YA fiction in verse and another for young teens. Lisa's takeaway, "It got me out of my comfort zone because I attended sessions with themes I didn't know before - folk tales and graphic novels." All sessions involved discussion with other youth services and school librarians.

I went to NYLA in Saratoga Springs last week. I attended sessions for administrators about workplace bullying, designing community-centered library spaces, and legal compliance. I also went to more inspiring sessions such as a conversation panel with the president of the ALA who emphasized ways to redefine public libraries to communities and society in general. I went to a session that is more geared to developing programs; it was about libraries hosting peer support groups and partnering with community organizations for those. It wasn't about AA; it was more like new parents with few community connections getting a peer connection to more experienced parents who have been in the community for years - as an example. Finally, I went to a session on defining values for yourself as a leader and for your library.

All of the things I participated in have useful takeaways for my work at DPL. I think the most direct and short-term useful ones will be the perspectives I gained from the session that talked about community-centered libraries and how space is allocated. Even without any changes to the building, there's ways in which I want to reorient our space to reflect what current library users need from us and in ways that I hope will foster more connection with the library.

BOOKMOBILE

Lisa and I met the director of Amenia Library at Tally Ho for book delivery/ request and tech help. We worked with three residents - one of them needed tech help with her phone and had book requests, one needed only tech help putting Libby on her phone, and the third borrowed books on CD and a CD player from the Bookmobile. We've committed to going there every other Monday. Lisa and Chris went earlier this week and again helped 3 people.

Lisa and I took the Bookmobile to the final Friday night at Kelly's Creamery and Kelly's Husband's Food Truck. The weather was amazingly good and the bookmobile was very popular. We created 7 new cards and checked out 15 books. We had 36 visitors to the bookmobile and many who hung out and admired it. We're very excited about the Bookmobile for next Spring and Summer. But, we will keep visiting Tally Ho until the weather is a problem. At that point, Lisa or I will go deliver books to the folks who want resources over the winter.

BUILDING

Lights are the topic du jour and not the halogens; this time it's the fluorescent lights in the drop ceilings. Two units are out completely and 2 more units are half out. Town Rec said they don't replace the lightbulbs because it is cheaper to replace the entire unit. Town Rec ordered 4 units and Dodie will let me know when she has transit info on them.

I would like to suggest that when we propose lighting to replace the halogens in the main room, we also propose to switch the fluorescent lights in the drop ceilings to LEDs.