

FEBRUARY 2024
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LIBRARY & RESOURCE USE

Programs

In January, the library debuted three new programs for kids. Petit Picasso is a program that Kelley is running that has preschoolers painting with tempera paints. It's adorable and has grown in popularity already doubling attendance in 3 weeks. Lisa has been teaching some tweens and a young teen to crochet in Art Afterschool. Next week starts a 2-week unit on collage that I'll teach. Finally Where in the World? Happens once a month. This past month had the kid detectives tracking thieves around NY through books until they found the mirror ball stolen from Times Square. In February, they'll search for missing treasure from ancient Egypt. The attendance was only 3 kids but it had to be postponed due to weather so not an awful start.

The Adult ESL class also started in January and it's been great so far. 4 students the first session and 5 the second. I've also matched each student with a tutor from Literacy Connections so that they have one individual session and one group session every week, because they wanted 2 classes per week.

In total there were 24 programs in January (7 pre-K, 5 juvenile and 12 adult). Total attendance was 228 program participants. Zoom yoga classes continue to be the most highly attended of all DPL's programs. Attendance at both types of youth programming included 44 kids, 1 teenager and 23 adults. Youth programs continue to be the area most in need of growth and the area currently being developed.

Physical Circulation

January's circulation was up at 1931 (December: 1452, November:1905 items)

There were 180 holds placed for Dover in January which is also up and one indicator of how much the community is using the library. (December: 119, November: 146)

E Circulation

MHLS updated the OverDrive circulation stats, so we have annual totals as well as January ones. Total e-resource checkouts for 2023 was 6127, mostly e-books (3043) but other formats as well (e-audio:2160, e-magazines: 924). For all of 2023, DPL had 190 unique users, adding 60 users new to Libby over the course of the year.

For January, OverDrive usage was 637 checkouts (ebooks: 295, e-audio 209, e-magazines: 119). Circ staff continues to report that more people have been coming into the library asking for assistance with Libby. The majority of questions have been about adding the partnering library systems to people's accounts. Second is people new to Libby. I credit the terrific social media campaign that Michelle has been creating and posting.

Use of hoopla adds 76 more circulations with 7 new Dover users for a total of 31 unique users in the month. On average, patrons who use hoopla are borrowing 2.5 items.

STAFF

Quinn Jordan is joining the staff. They'll be doing graphic design work which will take stuff off my plate and also, in time, will likely do some teen program planning. In addition, they will be working some Friday desk hours, filling in as a sub and eventually join the Saturday rotation. Currently Quinn works part-time at Millbrook Library doing social media, programs and working the circ desk. Before that, they worked at the Hyde Park Library as well. We're lucky to get them since they can fill several niches we need filled that each were too few hours to hire someone for, but Quinn can fill all those niches. Lisa and I met with them earlier and we are both delighted. Michelle and Quinn will work as a team on some things and independently on other projects.

Staff individual meetings for setting goals for 2024 are starting up next week. We agreed on a monthly staff meeting on the fourth Tuesday from 7-8 pm. This will help a lot with making sure everyone gets the same information. At the last meeting, I introduced everyone to the Library of Things & forms, as well as the Community Room Use Agreement & application.

I'm asking 3 staff members to review the Employee Handbook since it consists primarily of the policies relating to the expectations the library has of staff, what staff can expect from the library and general policies that establish the conditions of their workplace. I feel strongly that their input is useful both to the development of DPL's policies and also an important way in which I want to engage them.