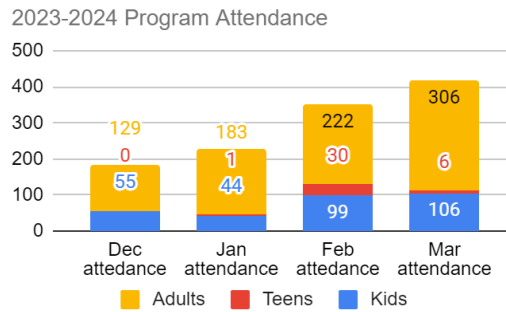
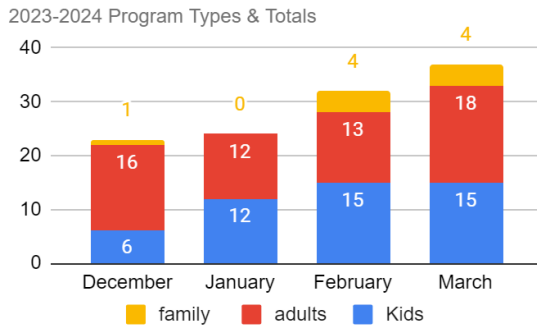


**LIBRARY & RESOURCE USE**

**Programs:**



The takeaway here is that we are headed in the direction we need to be going. Over the first quarter of 2024, we steadily increased both the number of programs and program attendance. The difference is coming from youth and family programs. The vast majority of adult programs are yoga over Zoom which maintains a steady range of 9-21 participants with a rough average of 14.

New programming includes a second weekly preschool program, both weekly & monthly afterschool programs and, for March, a robust slate of youth programs during Spring Break. Having new programs across a range of interests attracts new participants to more established programs as well. However, the biggest reason for increases in attendance at established programs is increasing use of an organization and planning system that means DPL is planning ahead which allows for adequate marketing time through social media and the schools.

A program highlight for March was Zoomba Battle Bots. A collaboration with Pawling Library, the program had kids aged 9-14 using mini robot vacuums as the bases for challenges. On its face, the program may not sound educational, but in practice kids in teams of 2-3 had to work together, use the Scientific Method and principles of physics in order to be successful in both the group challenge of herding ball pit balls across a finish line and in the individual team challenge of balloon joust. After 2 and a half hours the kids still wanted to do more and we promised future programs in the same vein. Working with Pawling was an advantage as we were able to share the expenses of the robots and ensure that we could keep some robots always charging while still having enough teams to make it fun and interesting.

**(Raw Numbers for anyone who prefers to read this format.)**

**March:** total 37 (15 kids, 18 adults, 4 family) attendance: 418 people (106 kids, 6 teens, 306 adults)

**February:** total 27 (15 kids, 13 adults, 4 family) attendance: 330 (99 kids, 30 teens, 222 adults)

**January:** total 24 (12 kid, 12 adult) attendance: 228 people (44 kids, 1 teen, 183 adults)

**December:** total 23 (6 kid, 16 adult, 1 family) attendance: 184 (55 kids, 129 adults)

## COLLECTIONS

### Circulation

**Physical** Circulation is down slightly compared to last month, but the trend is in keeping with first quarters generally. As the weather improves, circulation tends to dip. The only number I'm unhappy about is the 97 holds. These are holds requests to be picked up in Dover; so I like to see these on the rise as they're an indicator that people are using the library. But, as a staff member pointed out, there may be fewer holds because people are finding more that interests them on the new shelves. Also, this year Spring Break was in March which is anomalous.

<b>March 2024:</b> 97 holds, 2823 total circulation	Mar 2023: 112, 1735
<b>February 2024:</b> 155 holds, 2912 total circulation	Feb 2023: 99, 2537
<b>January 2024:</b> 180 holds, 3198 total circulation	Jan 2023: 103, 2647

**Digital** Circulation is comparable to previous months generally speaking. The Libby March 2024 numbers are not yet compiled, but generally DPL has 500-525 circulations there each month. The e-magazines have been re-packaged and are incredibly easy now, so we will do a feature on those in one of the Libby social media posts in April. Hoopla is similar to January usage, though patrons are choosing newer and thus slightly more expensive items.

#### *Libby/ OverDrive*

**February 2024:** 527 total items on Libby (240 e-books, 192 e-audio, 95 e-magazines)

#### *Hoopla*

**March 2024:** 70 total items (22 e-books, 48 e-audio) Total Cost: (\$180.23)

**February 2024:** 59 total items (15 e-books, 38 e-audio, 1 music album, 4 tv shows) (\$152.12)

**January 2024:** 76 total items (23 e-books, 42 e-audio, 1 e-comic, 7 movies, 2 tv shows) (\$169)

## STAFF

I finished individual meetings with each staff member; we set goals and expectations for 2024. I'm excited by several people's enthusiasm for trying new things and accepting more responsibilities.

Kelley, Lisa and I have had 2 meetings about program planning in the past 3 weeks and we have another scheduled for next week. We have the spring programs blocked out and also have a schedule in the works for summer programs. The Bookmobile season is also upon us and we're filling its schedule in also. It will be very helpful to have 3 staff member drivers and high school interns and employees who are eager to work Bookmobile events too. (NECC's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) will likely provide the library with 2 additional DHS student part-time employees.)

The March Staff Meeting included detailed information about the Simple IRA and other benefits approved at the March Board meeting.

## BUILDING

A locksmith, electrician, lighting expert and an engineer walk into a library... not the start of a bad joke. It's what happened in March. The locksmith took measurements and added the library's bathrooms to his work schedule. The electrician looked at the stairwell fixture that the Town has a replacement for but can't

reach and the electrical conduit mounted to the public computers' island. He will be changing that conduit to a flat floor outlet with a cover before April 6. The electrician also sent his lighting expert who managed to stop by when I was out, but he took measurements also and I've called to follow up.

The DES & WES combined Art Show is hanging in the library's lobby and mezzanine. It's really terrific. Thanks to Barry and Joe for installing the additional galley ledges in the lobby. These two extra allowed 15 more kids to participate in the show. Thanks to my mom for hanging out with me while I painted the lobby wall that had been behind a bulletin board.