



# DIRECTOR REPORT

**To:** Plymouth District Library Board  
**From:** Shauna Anderson, Library Director  
**Date:** April 13, 2022

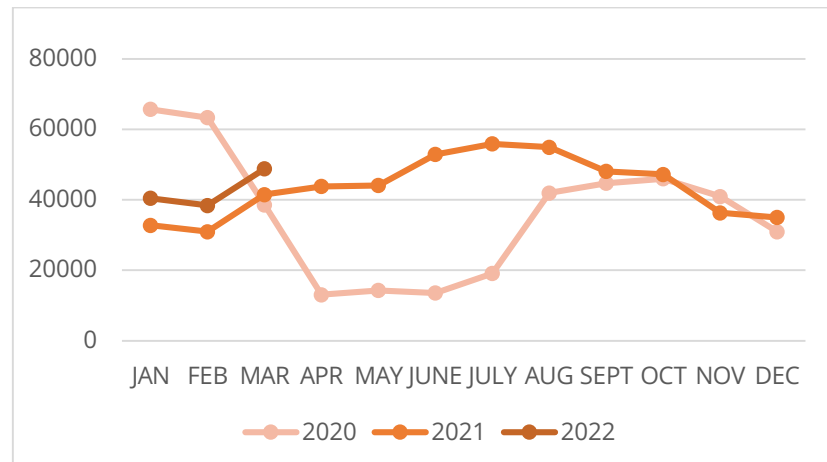
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Physical circulation and eResources continue to show steady increases.		Outreach events, public relations messaging, and social media	
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Storytimes, computer classes, and a popular writer's workshop. Door count is increasing.		Preparing for spring	
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WiFi usage, computer sessions, updates on technology projects		Conference reports & course follow-up	

# CIRCULATION

## PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Our physical collections continue to demonstrate increases over the previous year. Soon, we will be releasing our first Library of Things sub-collection, which we hope will increase these numbers further.



## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

eResources continue to see gains over the previous year. Overdrive has just begun to discuss changes after their acquisition of Kanopy. The current Kanopy app will be getting some upgrades, but eventually Kanopy will merge with Overdrive into a single checkout experience.

## FEBRUARY'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

*The Women of Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell  
*The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave  
*One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus  
*The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom  
*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

# PARTICIPATION



PDL began hosting small group storytime programs in-person for the first time in two years. The program consistently fills up each week with more on the waitlist.

quickly filled up. Smaller class sizes allow for more individualized support and social distancing in an enclosed space. We will be hosting multiple classes each month this spring.

## YOUTH WRITERS WORKSHOP

We received this lovely note from a parent after her child attended the writing workshop hosted by youth librarian, Sarah Perry:

*"Thank you so much for a thoughtful Writers workshop for youth. My daughter really enjoyed it and can't wait for the next time. Appreciate you..."*

## IN-PERSON COMPUTER CLASSES RETURN

The library re-launched in-person computer classes again, and sessions

↑ 16,573

Library Visits

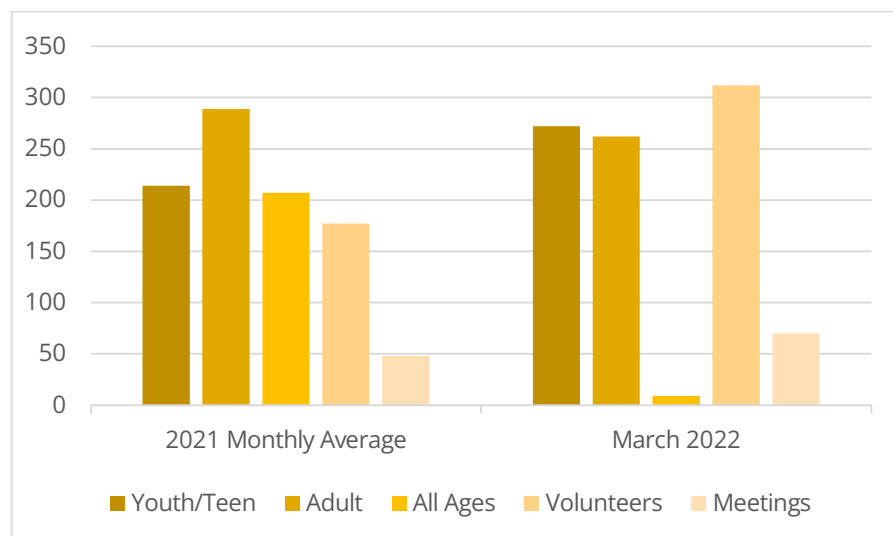
↑ 2,922

Questions Answered

↑ 48

Total Programs

March saw a marked increase in the number of people visiting the library—over 130 more people per day than we saw in February—although we saw a dip in per-program attendance. Volunteerism again provides a strong avenue for public participation.



# TECHNOLOGY

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Financial Software Implementation

Implementation and training for the new BS&A Financial Software required significant support throughout March. Melanie Bell and Kwamsia Seals worked with BS&A specialists daily to transfer data, setup workflows, and test all aspects of the cloud-based software. The system allowed us to re-tool financial processes to provide more transparency and oversight to the purchasing process. Staff are now required to submit requisitions for approval before all purchases are made and approve invoices prior to payment.

### 3D Printing

Public requests for 3D printing began to pick up throughout the month, and the current rate of printing has been manageable for IT staff to support. IT staff also supported a drop-in 3D printing workshop for all ages.

### Dunning Foundation Grant Proposal

PDL submitted a grant proposal to support technology upgrades in the Walldorf and Dunning meeting rooms. A representative from the Dunning Foundation will be meeting at the library in April to see the rooms and discuss the proposal in-person. The Foundation's board will meet this summer to consider the proposal.

↑ 13,583

WiFi Sessions

↑ 676

Computer Sessions

↑ 168,484

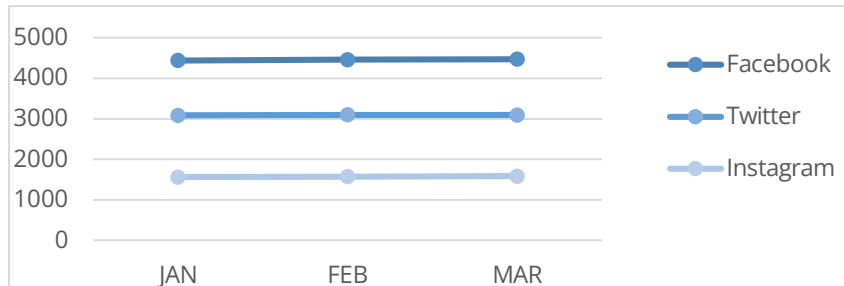
Website Hits

↑ 5,426

Mobile App Uses

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## ONLINE AUDIENCE



## PROJECT UPDATES

### Community Collaborations

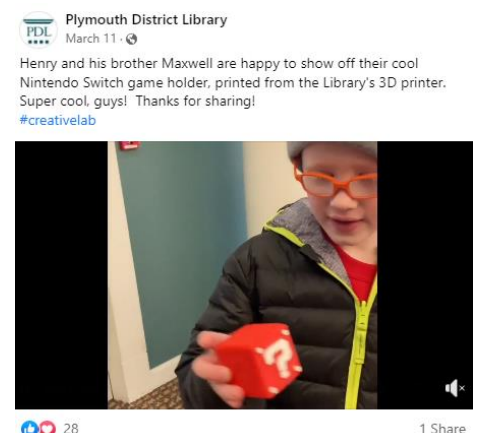
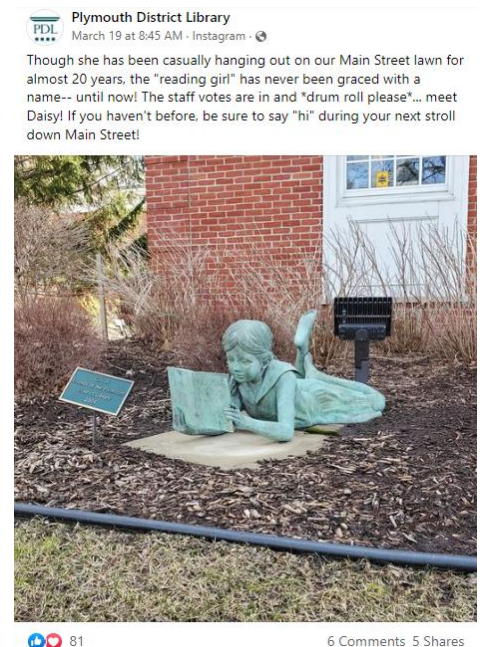
PDL hosted the first Red Cross blood drive since COVID, and it was well-supported by the community. We also served as a donation hub for the Salvation Army's toiletry collection. Wayne County Commissioner, Melissa Daub, also handed out COVID test kits to the public at the library in March.

### Friends Book Sale

Heather Pacheco supported the Friends of the Library's big book sale in March, which raised over \$3,000 to support library programs. The library also donated old furniture items to the sale to help us clean out the basement storage area.

### Platform for Local Support

This month, we used our platform in the community to support various causes. Heather Pacheco and I attended the Community Safety meeting hosted by Plymouth service groups and shared about the event on social media. Staff created a display to highlight the Palette and Brush exhibit at Plymouth Community Arts Council and shared information about their scholarship opportunity.



# FACILITIES

## Roof/Gutter Repair

Yong Heo brought out Esko to evaluate and repair the source of the water damage on the library's porch ceiling. This repair will set the stage for the eventual repainting of the columns.

## Spring Grounds Preparations

PDL brought in a tree trimming service to address the height of the maple trees framing the library entrance. These trees will likely need to be removed in the future, as their roots are set to outgrow the stone planters in which they sit. Over the next few weeks, we will be re-evaluating planting schemes to include more native plants and pollinator-friendly species.

## Humidifier Maintenance

We worked with BC Ten Air to replace expired humidifier canisters. This pro-active move will improve the functioning of the humidifier system.

# PERSONNEL

## Employee Anniversaries

Charlie Stratton	03/26/18	4 years	Technology Assistant
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February FTE Count: 43.88

## MLA SPRING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE REPORT

Jessica Keeler, Youth Librarian

### Sessions Attended

Author Talk: Angeline Boulley

#LibraryTikTok: Libraries take over TikTok!

Library-School Partnerships: One Box at a Time

Save the Date: 365 Days of Community Connections

Moral Injury, Vocational Awe, and Impact: Leveling Up When the Chips are Down

Promoting Diversity Without Making Waves

Listen While You Work: Starting a Library Podcast from the Ground Up!

What did you learn? How do you think this conference will influence your work going forward?

I learned some valuable things about the amount of time the Fowlerville library puts into their TikTok. Prior to this, I had hoped that ours would take off a bit more once we get our bearings but the Fowlerville employee who manages their TikTok account spends 40% of her time on it. I don't think that's realistic for us.

The Library-School Partnerships session was extremely interesting. They started this program small and now serve 98 classrooms across 29 locations with what they call the Blue Bin program. They offer it to classrooms that serve infants to 3rd grade and deliver a bin of 25 library books to each classroom which they hang onto for 4 weeks. The teacher has the opportunity to send in special requests within a certain timeframe and they keep refreshing the books every 4 weeks. It takes a lot of logistical work and now has its own budget and collection but it started with no funding. Extremely interesting. I have a lot of notes about it.

The 365 Days of Community Connections session also had a lot of great ideas. Lake Orion covered a few of their bigger programs and it turns out they have a book bike! It sounded like we may want to consider adding throttle and break assist to the bike down the road but they didn't have it either when they first got it. I loved all of the programs they highlighted but I'll share a few here. One of the best ideas I heard from them was taking the bike to school recess to promote summer reading! Also, they did a storywalk with local businesses by posting the pages in participating windows instead of mounting them on stands. Lastly, I'll highlight their Neighborhood of Stories program in which they partnered with nearby libraries to do a visiting storytime in their local parks. They had a lot of great advice for establishing relationships with community organizations.

Promoting Diversity without Making Waves was interesting but I'm not sure I gained too much knowledge I didn't already have. I did learn that it may be preferable to use the term "Latine" instead of "Latinx", recognize the indigenous land in our email signatures by name, and avoid digital blackface. I haven't heard that term before and she didn't define it but it's given me something to educate myself on.

Lastly, the podcast talk: this was interesting. We walked away with some information about equipment and resources we would need to start a podcast but it sounded like each library on the panel primarily served adults. They had some occasional Youth crossover but nothing exclusively Youth. It was interesting to hear all of their different perspectives.

#### Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

I would really love to explore some variation of the Blue Bin program. I don't think it's something we could do on a large scale without depleting our collection but it sounded like it was a huge service to the schools that used it. The schools in their area don't have libraries of their own, which I don't think is the case at PCCS but it might be a valuable resource for preschools. I'd also love to tackle so many of the things in the 365 Days of Community Connections session. I have detailed notes of different things but especially the storywalk with local businesses. I think Plymouth would be a perfect setting for something like that. She also stated that after a few tries, they realized that they really didn't need to use big books. I think their Neighborhood of Stories program and taking the book bike to schools during recess sounds really interesting as well. Unrelated to any of the sessions, I established a pretty good relationship with three different librarians at Canton - one of which is their programming librarian - and they all sounded very eager to partner with us on things!



## LIBRARY JOURNAL COURSE REPORT

Holly Hibner, Adult Services Coordinator

### Sessions Attended

Week 1: Robin Bradford/Becky Spratford, Betsy Bird, Dontana McPherson-Joseph, and Colleen Wood

Week 2: Jennifer Baker, Mahasin Abuwi Aleem/Hadeal Salamah, Carson Williams, Kara Stewart, and Overdrive

Week 3: Caldwell Turnbull/Kristi Chadwick, Dr. Kimberly N. Parker

### What did you learn? How do you think this conference will influence your work going forward?

Various ways to audit collections, including random samples, reverse audits, order cart audits, and complete audits

Using diversity tags in cataloging - I'll follow up on this with Katie Page to see what's possible in Symphony.

Auditing strategies

Being aware of multiple terms for identities (American Indian, Native American, Indians of North America, First Nations, Indigenous)

I learned about lots of resources for finding diverse books: blogs, websites, vendor tools, booklists, award lists: American Indians in Children's Literature, Queer Cartoonists Database, Cartoonists of Color Database, CCBC Diversity Statistics Book Search, First Nations Development Institute: Books

I also learned about some new online sources for diversity demographic data: Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, National Alliance to End Homelessness, UCLA School of Law Williams Institute LGBT Data & Demographics

This class validated our approach to setting collection diversity benchmarks and filled in some gaps on finding and categorizing diverse materials. It was also helpful from a readers advisory standpoint as well. I'll be able to use all of these resources to diversify the collections I manage, and also to make decisions on how to categorize materials when we start to audit our collections.

### Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

A lot of files and resources were shared that we can use when starting our audit.

I will also be sharing the diverse books resources with Reference Staff to aid in their selections, readers advisory, and displays.

## LIBRARY JOURNAL COURSE REPORT

Sarah Vargas, Adult Librarian

### Sessions Attended

Actively Anti-Racist Service to Leisure Readers, Conducting a Diversity Audit of Your Collections and Ordering, Auditing Your Non-Fiction Collection, Stereotypes, Tropes, and Cultural Appropriation: A Collection Development Deep Dive, Equity, Representation and Your Digital Library, Reading, Writing, and Reviewing Diverse Books: A Conversation, Librarianship Through a Racial Reckoning

### What did you learn? How do you think this conference will influence your work going forward?

While a lot of the information presented I have learned from other sources previously, I learned a lot of really valuable information about the different sub-categories within different diversity areas that I had no idea about before. I'm definitely going to pay more attention to that moving forward with purchasing for my collections. Also considering starting some sort of review resource for other adult librarians looking for diverse materials in nonfiction-- it's the only area that seems to be lacking out there!

### Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

I really love the suggestion of a "titles of concern" list for more problematic materials. Controversial titles are added to a list (that the public is welcome to submit titles to for consideration) and their circulation is tracked more closely than other print materials. As soon as they have reasonably outlived their usefulness, they are weeded. They are also not listed under new title lists or put on the new shelf. Some of the suggestions were books like *American Dirt* and *Irreversible Damage*. I think this is a really good solution to not censoring titles that are inflammatory but also recognizing that they are problematic in their themes or intentions.

## LIBRARY JOURNAL COURSE REPORT

Katy Kramp, Adult Librarian

### Sessions Attended

Diverse Collecting, How to Perform a Diversity Audit, How to Audit Nonfiction Collections, Stereotypes, Tropes & Cultural Appropriation, How to Spot Muslim Stereotypes & Tropes, Sharing Queer Stories, Native Perspectives, Overdrive's Diversity Audit, How Publishing Has & Hasn't Changed, Workshop with Megan Emery Schadlich, Workshop with Kim Parker, probably 1 more.

### What did you learn? How do you think this conference will influence your work going forward?

I learned that we need to do more work to get all staff on board with the need for diversity and paying attention to it in collections - we just can't do as much coming from a handful of dedicated people. There's a lot of good information on tracking purchases and circulation counts, where to find good books, plus lots of different stereotypes and tropes to look out for. The road is long and progress will be slow. Accept that, and look for the next right step from wherever we are.

### Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

I've already been giving diverse books more leeway when weeding. I'd like to take their suggestion of making a list of these books by topic that RAs and others making displays can use to help fill them - both helping them with diversity in displays and bringing more attention to books that could use some love.

## LIBRARY JOURNAL COURSE REPORT

Lauren Baker, Youth Services Coordinator

### Sessions Attended

3- part class on Diverse Collections

What did you learn? How do you think this conference will influence your work going forward?

I learned quite a bit during these sessions. We had about 12 different speakers throughout the course. The course was very forgiving in terms of how quickly libraries need to re-adjust our collection management tools. It took years for systemic racism to happen so it will take time to undo because it will not happen overnight. Not only do libraries need to do their part but so does the writing and publishing industry. In 2018 diversity in children's books was pretty low, 50% was classified as white and 27% was classified as talking animals with diverse books making up 23% of books published. I was shocked that there were more books with talking animals than there were diverse books! There was a great quote by Nic Stone "So while you're reading those books about racism, please also read books about black people-especially black kids just being human." That quote was eye opening and my book group on staff day touched on this topic a bit. Yes, we should be reading/making titles available about all races/cultures being human and not just the stereotypes we hear on the news or in textbooks.

Moving forward with my collection work I do have a list of resources that I can fall back on to help diversify my ordering. Deb Reese has a helpful website for recommending books in regards to American Indians in Children's Literature. Another great place to start would be making sure we have all the up to date award winners. Quite a few awards highlight diverse books/authors. We should be making sure that we have those books in our collections. A big first step will be me just finishing a heavy weed of the picture books. The collection is very old and needs to be diversified more. I know that we are going in the right direction because I have had staff and patrons compliment on how diverse it has gotten over the past 18 months.

### Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

A useful tip we learned was to keep a spreadsheet with "Titles of Concern" These titles could include books with questionable content. We can still circulate these titles but keeping them on a list will help us weed them in the long run.

Audits are time intensive. Break up the audit by collection, DO NOT do the whole library at once, it will be too overwhelming and inefficient. Start with smaller collections. Once you target your collection, you can approach the audit by keeping track of diverse titles that are ordered. Over time that will automatically make your collection more diverse and will eventually audit itself. We are starting that approach by working with the benchmarks that Holly, Sarah V., Katy K. set up. I have found the benchmarks to be very useful. There are so many picture books (my collection) published every year, we have the budget to purchase a majority of them which is great. If we have that capacity, then we should be making sure that the titles we offer represent everyone regardless of their background/interest. I think over time the more you are intentional about adding diversity to your collections (or displays) the easier it will be.