



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: April 12, 2023

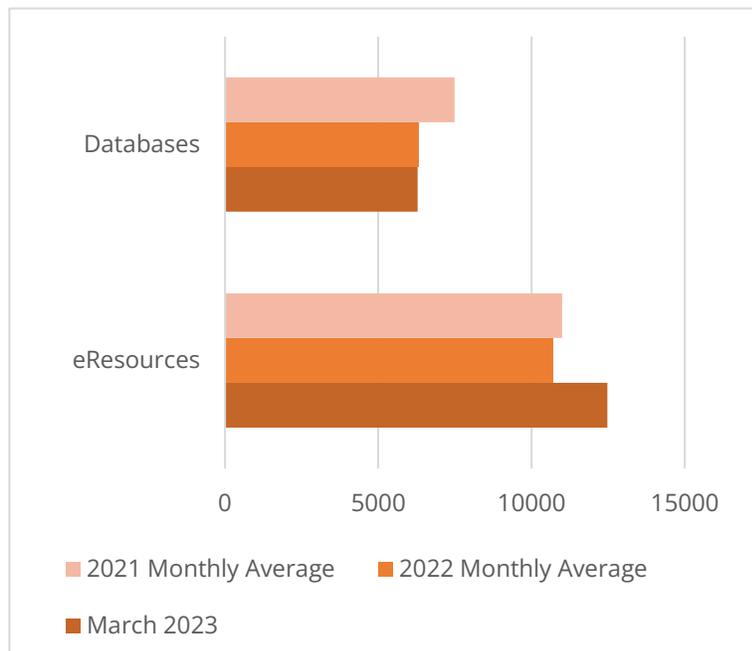
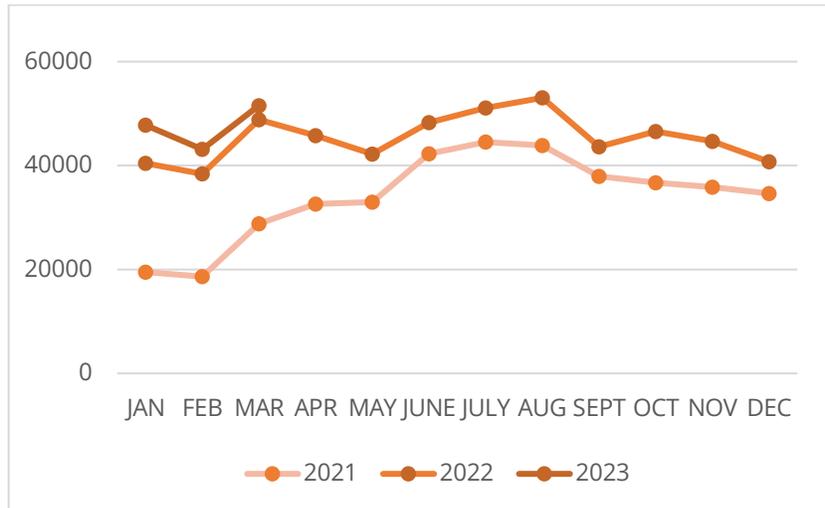
CONTENTS

Circulation	2	Technology	5
Circulation increased, particularly in online resources, likely due to the new website.		New payment system and updating Adobe licensing	
Participation	3	Facilities	6
Attendance and participation continue to increase.		HVAC repairs, gutter service, and Friends Room revamp	
Community Engagement	4	Personnel	7
Community support activities, teen volunteer experiences, and upcoming Gala		Conference reports for MLA Spring Institute and Computers in Libraries	

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Circulation rose significantly in March. We also launched another aspect of our Library of Things—technology that includes projectors, GoPro cameras, and telescopes that can be checked out by patrons 18+.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Digital collections increased significantly in March, likely due to the implementation of the new library website making online resources more accessible. LinkedIn Learning and Wowbrary, in particular, saw tremendous increases in usage.

MARCH'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

- Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham
- The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes
- A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny
- Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes

PARTICIPATION



Patrons built with legos and blocks and made marble runs in the Storytime Room.

RETURN OF SUNDAY CONCERTS

Pre-COVID, PDL had a longstanding tradition of Sunday concerts. We brought that format back with *Edna Reilly: Songs and stories of Ireland*. 110 patrons attended the event, demonstrating renewed interest in musical performances.

PI DAY

The youth department celebrated science with a day-long festival for Pi Day (3/14). STEAM activities were available throughout the lower level, and over 100 patrons took part.

PARTNERSHIP WITH D.A.R.

Daughters of the American Revolution hosted a very popular genealogy workshop alongside the library. We value the contributions that this organization makes to our community!

↑ **19,896**

Library Visits

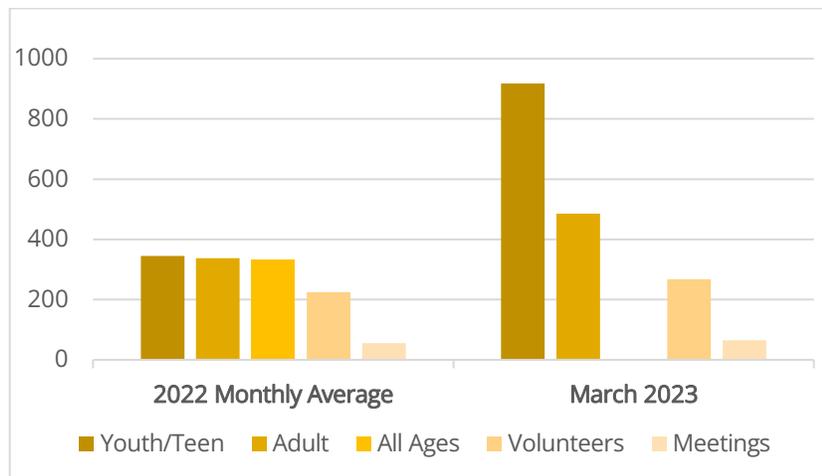
↑ **3,038**

Questions Answered

↑ **79**

Total Programs

Youth and adult program participation continues to skyrocket. Increases are likely due to both an increase in the number of programs provided and the engaging topics that our librarians are supporting.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

Community Support

PDL hosted another blood drive that exceeded goals for participation. We also hosted a donation box for the Plymouth Democrats "Seats & Feet" collection drive.

New Teen Volunteer Opportunity

The teen department created a new opportunity for teens to participate in the life of the library while gaining service hours. The Board of Library Teens (BLT) meets monthly to plan activities and provide input on library services.

Centennial Gala

We continue to promote the library's Centennial Gala on April 29 from 7-10pm, as tickets are still available. We expect about 200 attendees.

 Plymouth District Library
March 4 · 🌐

We have visitors! Don't worry little penguins, the library will open at 10am, though the parking lot is still deep. Our librarians will have lots of recommendations for you!

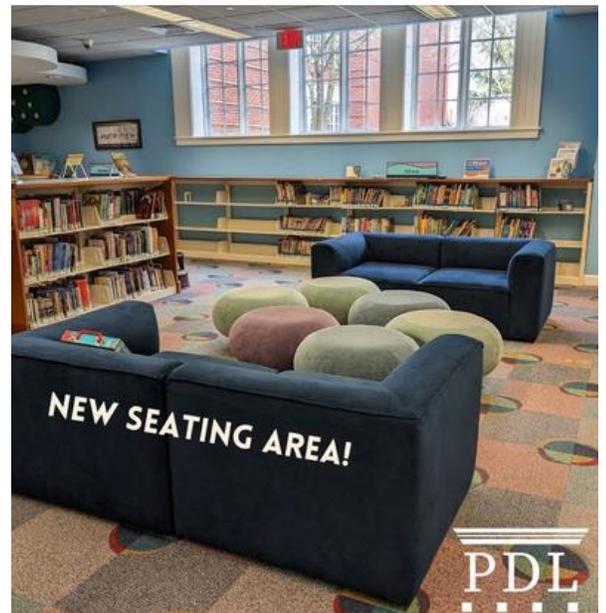


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 Plymouth District Library
March 21 at 12:01 PM · 🌐

One of the library's core values is comfort. We want our entire community to feel like there is a place for them in our building! We've recently added this seating area on the Youth Floor so our patrons have one more place they can unwind together. Bonus: easy access to graphic novels and the STEAM collection!



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TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

New Payment System

After our cash register crashed, we sought out a new system to accept credit cards as a form of payment. After looking at many different pricey vendors, we ended up working with one of our current payment processing vendors, Michigan Retailers Association, to setup a new payment system without any added equipment costs. This new system allows for us to take in online sales and donations with extremely low costs. Circulation staff were trained on the new system, and it was integrated into our new website. So far, the system has been meeting our needs very well.

Adobe Licensing

One of the important services that we offer the public is in-house access to Adobe Creative Suite. This is expensive software that many people use only occasionally. However, Adobe is not setup well to support public access like this with their current licensing model, and it requires us to setup a complex system on our end to navigate and pay for access to the software in a way that makes sense for our library. IT Coordinator has been revisiting our setup to streamline both the number of licenses needed and the way in which we administer those accounts.

↑ 13,250 ↑ 1,545 ↓ 135,269 ↑ 5,507

WiFi Sessions

Computer Sessions

Website Hits

Mobile App Uses

FACILITIES

HVAC updates

Robertson Morrison was brought in to address baseboard heater in the ML women's restroom that was whistling at the end of the cold weather season. They also addressed a faulty thermostat.

BASS Controls addressed FPB, VAV, and controller repairs to the library's HVAC control system.

Gutter Service

Allied Building Services was brought in to address overflowing gutters on the NW corner of the building. Additional service will likely be needed to address the gutters at the corners of the main entrance where sediment regularly builds up and causes overflow.

Friends Room Updates

Green Earth Coatings removed wallpaper and painted surfaces in the Friends Board Room. The space was given new window treatments and new appliances for the kitchenette. We are working to schedule the installation of the carpet in the coming weeks. Additionally the 39 star flag that was donated to the library is being re-framed for inclusion in the space.

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

Summer Library Intern Applications due April 28 at 4pm

New Hires

Samantha Cooney Youth Librarian Starting May 1

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

None

Employee Anniversaries

Alice McCardell	04/03/00	23 years	Adult Librarian
Lynne Volker	04/29/21	2 years	Page

February FTE Count: 39.37

MLA SPRING INSTITUTE

Sarah Perry, Youth Librarian

Sessions Attended

Opening Keynote with author Kyle Lukoff

Story Project: Helping Kids Publish Books for Your Collection

Self-Regulation Tools and Tricks in Storytime

Pop-Up Farm Storytimes

Trans Staff and Patrons: Where to Begin, Next Steps

Books Build Better Brains: How Promoting Literacy is Key to Early Brain and Child Development with Dr. Dipesh Navsaria

Recipes for Successful Partnerships: Cook the Kit

Getting Outdoors: A 1000 Hours Outside Series

Word Smart & Picture Smart: Happily Ever After with author Matt Faulkner

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

I learned some great rhymes and activities for storytime from the Self-Regulation talk. I'll already be using one of the activities I learned at my next storytime this week.

I got a lot of interesting programming ideas that could be adapted to work here as well.

The closing keynote for day one on Trans staff and patrons was very insightful and good information to add to my knowledge base for how to best serve trans co-workers and/or patrons.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

1000 Hours Outside series sounds like a fantastic opportunity for low cost intergenerational programming. If Staff across departments would like to partner and share offering things for that theme, I think it could be a really cool program for our patrons.

Dana Bussard, Youth Librarian

Sessions Attended

Training and Outreach with MeL Resources
Self-Regulation Tools and Tricks in Storytime
Pop-Up Farm Storytimes
Bridging the Gap Between Public Libraries & Schools
Integrating Your Makerspace into Youth Programs

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

I feel like I got a little something from every session.

It is always good to get a reminder and update on all the resources from MeL. After the demo, I think that I will switch from Worldbook online to Britannica online when I do the "Computer Expert" badge for the girl scouts.

I would like to add some of the "Self Regulating" tips to my storytimes as well as maybe a "Mindfulness" storytime.

Not sure about the Farm pop-up storytimes, but they had great tips if we did do something like that.

The Orion Township librarians had some great suggestions to help collaborate with schools.

The Makerspace session was amazing, with tons of ideas and resources for how to use makerspace equipment to make useful items to augment youth programs.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

I would like to add a "mindfulness" storytime. I was thinking of having a re-occurring set of "wellness" storytimes, maybe one a month, that would focus an aspect of wellness. We could do Jessica's Yoga storytime, a mindful storytime and a sensory storytime. I feel this might address the rise in childhood anxiety that has occurred since the pandemic.

Lauren Baker, Youth & Teen Services Coordinator

Sessions Attended

Keynote with Kyle Lukoff

Books Build Better Brains: How Promoting Literacy is Key to Early Brain Development

Performer Showcase

Training and Outreach with MeL Resources

Self Regulation Tools and Tricks in Storytime

Putting Community Partnerships in Practice

Integrating Your Makerspace Into Youth Programs and Beyond

SPEAKER/PRESENTER for Bridging the Gap between Public Libraries and Schools

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

I learned quite a bit about MeL resources and how to better utilize them in our community. Self Regulation Tools and the session on Books Build Better Brains were my two favorite sessions. They go hand in hand and each session educated us about stress/trauma in children and how it affects their development. Books Build Better Brains talked about the trauma aspect and Self Regulation gave great tools to help children during programming. We are finishing up Summer Reading planning currently and will start on Fall programming soon so it will be nice to put some ideas into action.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

A great idea that came about from the MeL session was inviting the local teachers for a training on MeL resources/PDL resources. If not using PDL space then maybe working our way into a staff meeting. MeL staff will also go to a Library to train staff on their resources if we do not have a staff member comfortable training others. We can also do programs based around databases (even non MeL databases). Another idea that I would like PDL to expand on is our Yoga Storytime. I think that we should do a broader approach and have a mindfulness/wellness series of storytimes. Maybe we do a series that includes Yoga, mindfulness, special needs. Something to talk about with the Youth Staff. We can also bring these practices into our everyday programs. A take away from the Community Partnerships session included a passive story walk program. Patrons developed Poems for the story walk and the local art council did the illustrations. They were then on display for a season. The Makerspace program was fun, great resources were given on how to utilize a Makerspace in your library. I liked the idea of take and make kits, where we film doing a project then send the project home with the patron to complete on their own. Some of the ideas were very basic of creating 3D pieces to go along with an existing program (like Pokemon, D&D, etc)

Overall I really enjoyed Spring Institute this year. Presenting was also fun, we had over 150 attendees in the audience! We also came away with new ideas from our own session that were passed on from other libraries. I am excited to meet with other staff that attended to collaborate on improving our services.

Colleen Kingsbury, Teen Librarian

Sessions Attended

- Opening Keynote (Kyle Lukoff)
- Training and Outreach with MeL eResources
- Find Your Way in MLA
- Totally TUBular: How Rotating TubBased Activities Can Simplify Your Teen Programming
- All-Conference Session: Trans Staff and Patrons: Where to Begin and Next Steps
- Morning Keynote: Books Build Better Brains: How Promoting Literacy is Key to Early Brain and Child Development
- Bridging the Gap Between Public Libraries and Schools
- Integrating Your Makerspace Into Youth Programs and Beyond
- Closing Keynote with Matt Faulkner: Word Smart & Picture Smart: Happily Ever After

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

I mostly came away with new program ideas—both from sessions and networking with other librarians. I also feel more connected to the profession and my peers, and I have applied to be in the Thumbs Up! Award workgroup.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

There was one suggestion I thought was interesting! At one library, during their monthly meeting, librarians take turns doing a solo 10 minute (or so) presentation on a resource or database. This leads to librarians being an “expert” in at least one resource, while continually reintroducing the whole reference staff to resources. Or, there are also apparently free courses on MeL resources (I believe they mentioned EduPaths, REMC, and Michigan Virtual?) that might be a good refresher for reference staff. Additionally, a minor suggestion that I thought was a good idea was asking everyone who signs up for a new card “Is there a different name you prefer to go by?” This makes it safe for trans people to add their preferred name to their account, while also including all the people who simply go by nicknames.

COMPUTERS IN LIBRARIES

Mary Kelly, Emerging Technologies Librarian

Sessions Attended:

Tuesday Keynote: Digital Equity in our Communities

Wednesday Keynote: Phaedra Boinodiris

Thursday Keynote: Libraries & Information Opportunities Next Gen Skills

Special Wednesday Keynote: Lee Rainie Director of Internet and Technology research Pew Trust

Super Searcher: Tips for making an impact

Impactful Curated Intelligence: tips and Tools

AI driven Search Engines

Become an API magician

Racial and Gender Bias in Search

Out of the Wreckage with Community Partners (disaster preparation)

Innovative Digital Programs and Platforms

Library Tech Update

Boundaries: Values in Action

Changing Library Spaces: Re-evaluate, repurpose, and DIY (Lib pandemic response using catalog)

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

Typically, CIL is a "big picture" conference and also about new tech trends.

AI themes were infused in almost every program. Although machine learning and AI are not new concepts, the recent explosion over Chat GPT will probably be a significant factor in how the general public views research. Traditional opinions reminded me of the changes in early adopting of computers and websites as sources for legit research. Think of teachers saying that they wouldn't accept anything from the web, as it was unreliable or when Wikipedia started. Much of the library community was concerned since there is a proprietary or black box type of thinking for chat gpt and other AI type programs. What did the algorithm consider? What were the sources? Additional sessions included how chat gpt can be used for reference and research. Additionally there was a session on racial and gender bias. Of course this is not new. The presenter cited the book Algorithms of Oppression by Safiya Umoja Noble (2018). I read this book and the presenter and the author said (overly simplified) that white men dominate the Internet and that the chat utilizes everything including attitudes. Because the creators of chat gpt (and others like it) don't share the "how" of the algorithm, it will be necessary to educate patrons/students on the inherent weakness and bias.

The handful of those of us over 50 or so, recognized that this discussion is just another wave in the technology. Hand wringing first, then things shake out and then it probably will be just part of the tech landscape.

There was an additional program on disaster programming for a library that had a major tornado that destroyed part of the police station and the library stepped up and became a major player in emergency readiness as they offered space to many city departments (police and some other departments)

Besides this case study of disaster planning, another presentation focused on serving during COVID. This branch of a New Mexico university used the catalog as inventory control for most of the tech. It was genius and aggressive. I appreciated this whole case: no support staff beyond a handful of librarians and 1 or 2 full time tech people. Even more impressive, no one had that much specialized training or skill set. These people managed to use the inventory and circulation functions of the catalog which are let's be honest, kind of crappy and not built to manage inventory and maintenance of hundreds of tech items.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

Many good ideas. For the management of library collections and equipment, continuous review of inventories and processes are important for staff and patrons. More formalized (Mel showed me how Bamboo HR will be doing a lot of this equipment management internally). Already KMP and Mel are thinking along these lines, but I am thinking this should be a responsibility across all staff. This also extends to more attentive collection management. The disaster like the tornado or even COVID suggests that libraries need to be thinking that anything can happen and that includes everything from the books, equipment, and the building itself.

As for the AI and things like chat gpt, we will have to have some training and some best practices for librarians. (I doubt that there will be some awesome document coming from ALA) This also says we need to think about new tech regularly within staff meetings or whatnot. I want to continue to write up some of my notes (and the CIL conference slides are due up soon) and maybe develop some staff helps and marketing materials talking about AI.