



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: November 14, 2023

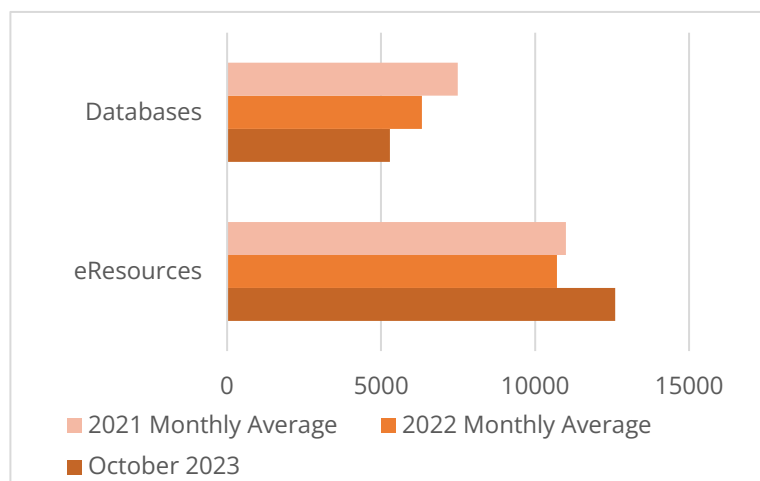
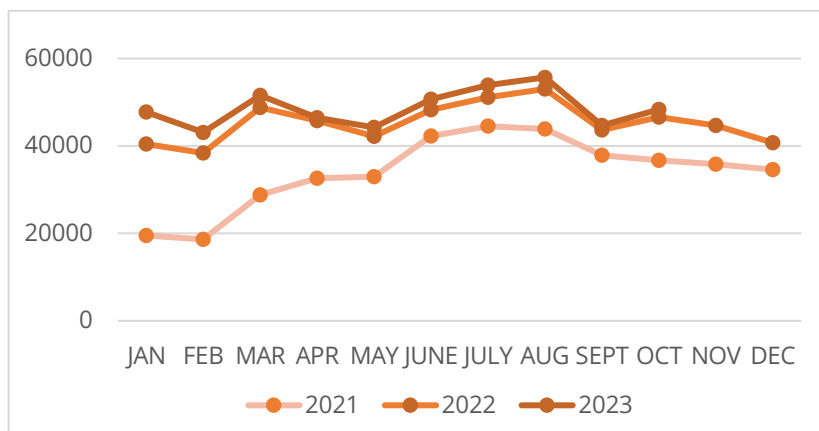
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Checkouts are back up and on track to reach over 500k by the end of the year.		New computer/print management software deployment, updates to The Lab	
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Exciting author visits and increases in adult participation		Amphitheater construction, new water fountain, and custom, handcrafted furniture	
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Collaborations with MI Humane Society, TLN, Interfaith Leadership Council, and PCCS		Celebrated Fern Edgar retiring after 32 years, ongoing hiring for multiple openings	

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Circulation rose after last month's significant dip to an anticipated level based on prior year trends. PDL is on track to reach over half a million checkouts in 2023.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

eResource usage rose back to levels comparable to the summer. Databases showed a decrease in usage. This is likely attributed to updates to the Morningstar platform, a popular online investment resource.

CARDHOLDER REPORTS

One of the unforeseen affordances of the TBS computer system upgrade is that it has incentivized regular computer users to either sign up or update their library cards. Last week alone, in the days following the TBS implementation, we saw an increase of 50 new cardholders and 95 re-activated cardholders.

JUNE'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

- Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- Happy Place* by Emily Henry
- None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell
- Exchange: after the firm* by John Grisham

PARTICIPATION



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The first Sunday afternoon concert since COVID, a violin/piano duo, garnered 81 attendees and received lots of feedback to provide similar events in the future.
- The October lineup for online author talks was phenomenal in October—Ruth Ware, John Irving, and Rick Steves! Lots of authors are scheduled for in-person events in 2024, including Michigan Poet Laureate, Nandi Comer and Great Michigan Reads author, Angeline Boulley.
- Books on Tap has become our most popular book discussion, with 25 people attending. This is a distinct shift from pre-COVID patron preferences for day-time book clubs aimed at seniors. The Books on Tap group is intergenerational and represents diverse interests.

↑ 19,273

Library Visits

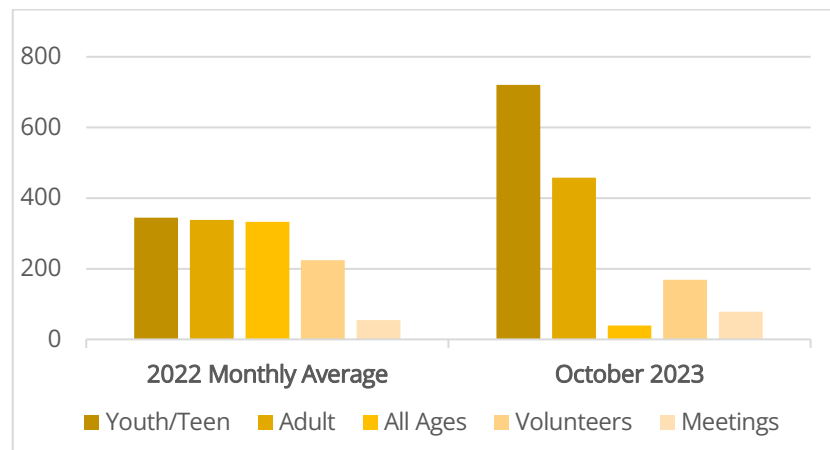
↓ 2,525

Questions Answered

↑ 77

Total Programs

Adult program attendance continues to increase. Youth program attendance also remains higher than expected based on last year's data. Upcoming additional storytime programming is sure to increase that even further in the new year.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

School Collaborations

PDL staff participated in the Open House for PCCS Specialized Services, with staff displaying library materials and resources for families involved in special education.

Bridging to Belonging

Heather Pacheco, Zach Hose, and Melanie Bell participated as PDL representatives in the Interfaith Leadership Council's Bridging to Belonging program. This group taught skills related to interpersonal communication while forging relationships with individuals from under-represented groups in the community.

Local Outreach

Heather Pacheco represented the library at the Plymouth-Canton Human Services Collaborative meeting. This group promotes resource-sharing among social service organizations.

PDL also served as a collection point for donations to the Michigan Humane Society during the month of October, collecting piles of blankets and other linens for use at animal shelters across the state.

The Library Network

Director Shauna Anderson joined the Steering Committee for The Library Network and was voted in as chair-elect. This group sets the agenda for over 70 local public libraries to work together toward "Universal Library Access for All" and sets up the library to have significant influence over the direction of our local cooperative.



We're making way for our Centennial Grounds Improvement and the new Wilcox Amphitheater, and we have (specific) plants available for the taking! Interested gardeners should bring their own shovels and containers and PLEASE ask at the Circulation desk and we will walk you to what's available.



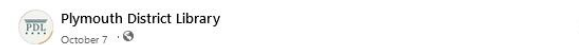
25 6 comments 42 shares



In the spirit of community and connection, Plymouth District Library and the Muslim American Society invite you to Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor - Sunday, October 14 from 2-4pm. There will be hands-on activities such as calligraphy, Islamic Arts, henna and more. Snacks will also be provided. We hope you will come to this family-friendly event to learn about your Muslim neighbors and help build a bridge in our community.



32 1 comment 1 share



We're closing out Banned Books Week by reflecting on books that were important to us. Having the freedom to read has allowed us all to find books in which we can see ourselves. Representation is a powerful thing. Celebrate #LetFreedomRead Day today by taking action! Visit <https://bannedbooksweek.org/let-freedom-read-day/> to learn more and check out our blog post at the website!



44 4 comments 5 shares

TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

TBS Computer and Print Management Software

TBS software was deployed on all public PCs and public print solutions. This upgrade caused the upper level computer commons to shut down for two days, but the result has already improved processes for the IT team.

Public Computer Software

IT staff deployed another solution called Deep Freeze on all public PCs. This software allows IT staff to interact remotely with public machines and to wipe all PC history upon restart.

Updates from The Lab

The Lab is now home to a new sublimation printer, allowing users to print directly on to t-shirts, mugs, and other items. This feature upgrades the functionality available for patrons to use in fabrication and design. The Lab was also used to custom-engrave the pavers for the Amphitheater project, using the laser engraving machine.

↓ 12,872 ↓ 1,410 ↑ 138,749 ↓ 5,319
WiFi Sessions Computer Sessions Website Hits Mobile App Uses

FACILITIES

Amphitheater Construction

Work began on the construction of the Wilcox Amphitheater by Michigan Hardscape. The contractor has been phenomenal to work with, and the hardscape portion of the project is nearing completion. Planting will begin in the spring, and the space will be in regular use during the summer of 2024.

Heartfelt gratitude to all individual donors who purchased bricks for the stage. We received word from the contractors that they are able to replace bricks going forward, so we can continue to grow the number of engraved stones on the stage to include more community members who wish to contribute.

Main Level Water Fountain Upgrade

Allied Building Services is currently in the process of upgrading the main level water fountain to include a water bottle refilling station, like the model installed on the upper level earlier this year. A leak was fixed last month behind the old model by Genson Plumbing, and the decision was made to upgrade to provide a better patron experience.

New Furniture

Yong Heo produced a handcrafted setting for the recently donated gaming table from Kiwanis. The piece is located on the lower level, in the newly added "tween hangout area."

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

Technology Specialist
Marketing & Visual Design Specialist
Intern

New Hires

David Franchock Library Page

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

Fern Edgar (after 32 years!)	Effective 10/27/23	Technical Services Clerk
Tamra Krogmeier	Effective 10/28/23	Substitute Circulation Clerk
Emily Weckesser	Effective 11/2/23	Library Page

Employee Anniversaries

Michelle Berens	11/1	1 year	Reference Assistant
Jill Taylor-Christian	11/2	24 years	Library Page
Mary Kelly	11/2	14 years	Emerging Technologies Librarian
Katy Kramp	11/4	21 years	Adult Librarian
Lisa LeBlanc	11/4	10 years	Library Page
Dorothy Mulroy	11/26	22 years	Library Page

September FTE Count: 42.9