



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: April 9, 2024

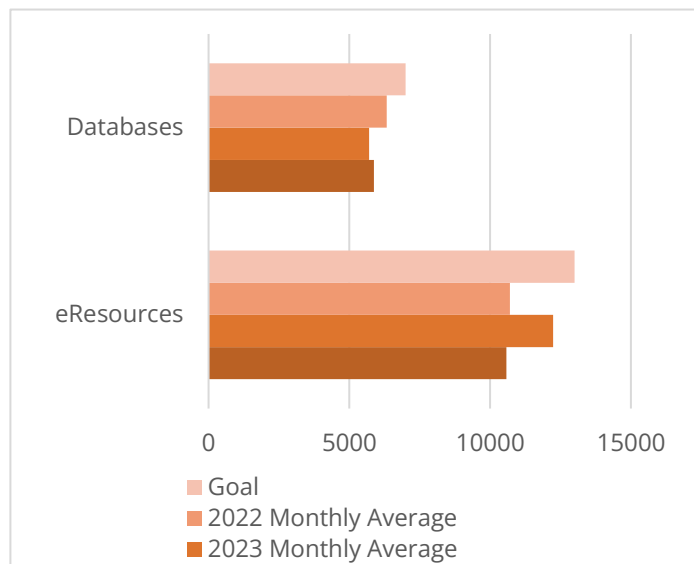
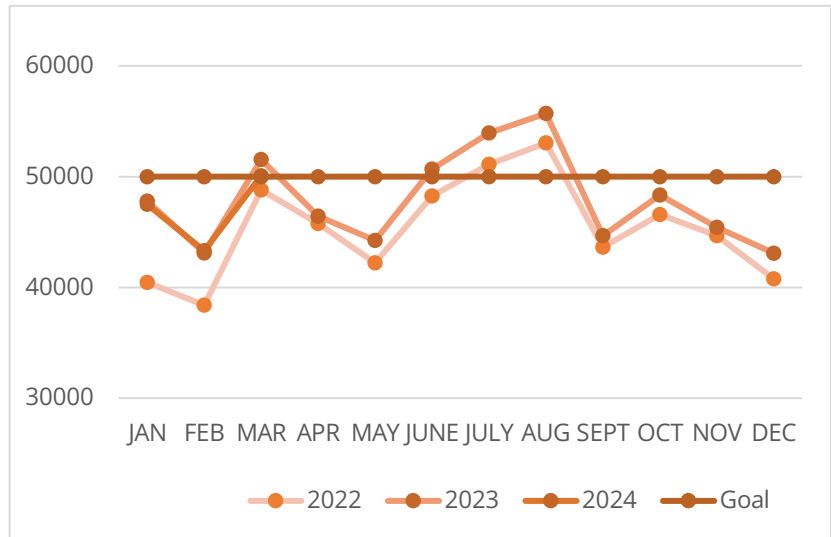
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Circulation dipped below expectations. New KPIs implemented going forward.		Custom stat collection module and updates throughout the building	
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Packed lectures and a new March reading program for kids.		Ongoing work in Teen Zone and Electrical Room.	
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Lots of school support and outreach		Conference Report for MLA Spring Institute	

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Circulation in March dipped below prior year numbers for the first time since 2019. The lack of a mobile application is having a large impact on our library users, who demonstrate a preference for mobile technology. Our new app is slated to go live in May.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Both online reading and database usage decreased over the prior month, despite the longer time period. Due to updates at the consortial level, we are analyzing our approach to eResources with item availability at the forefront. Costs for eBook and eAudiobooks are increasing rapidly, hold ratios are skyrocketing, and other libraries are pulling out of shared systems. We added a new analytics module to our catalog to help us learn more about our collection usage in anticipation that potential changes may be needed.

MARCH'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

- Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell
- The Exchange* by John Grisham
- The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose
- The Women* by Kristin Hannah

PARTICIPATION



Participants enjoy a packed lecture entitled Say Yah to Yooper Talk, Eh!

↓ **18,310**
Library Visits

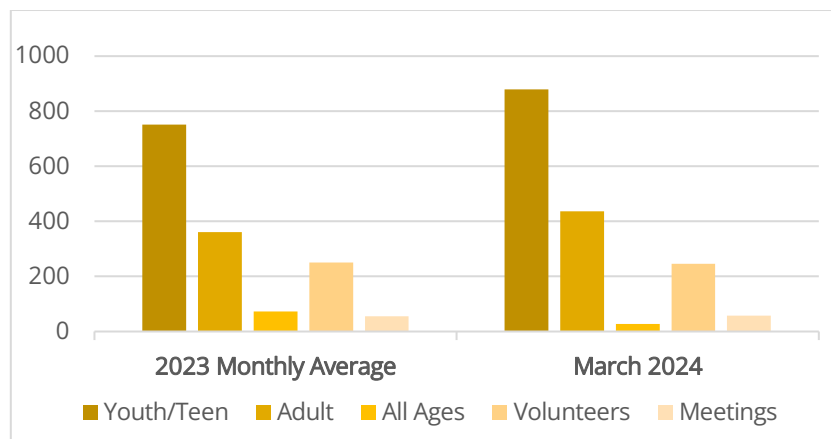
↑ **3,397**
Questions Answered

= 75
Total Programs

Both adult and youth participation increased over the prior month and the prior year. This interesting piece of data reinforces the fact that those who checkout materials are a distinct population from those who participate in library programs and in-person opportunities

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The youth department offered a reading incentive program to celebrate Reading Month in March. 170 kids signed up for the challenge.
- Through a collaboration with MSU Extension, we are offering partner programs to our Seed and Plant Library. The first offering in March was about native plants. The next offering in April will be a hands-on workshop about seed-starting.
- The library continues to recruit and train participants for the Human Library event in May.
- Last-minute eclipse-viewers bombarded the library starting three days before the event. The library logged 75 phone calls within the first 10 minutes the library was open on 4/8, all related to eclipse glasses!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

School Connections

Community Relations Specialist, Heather Pacheco, and I met with an interdisciplinary team at PCCS to discuss the development of a field trip program sponsored by the BOSCH Community Fund. The library also hosted the first of many *Nurturing Little Minds* programs alongside PCCS early childhood educators, and library promotional material was included in the most recent Kindergarten Roundup parent handouts.

AARP Tax Support


Through the library's partnership with AARP's TaxAide program, 69 seniors were provided with individualized tax prep support.

Food Drive

PDL hosted a food collection bin to support the Gleaners *Food for Thought* campaign alongside a number of area libraries.

Small Business Support

Through a growing partnership with SCORE, we are offering a new series on small business ownership. Sessions this month focused on IT systems for small businesses and mentorship opportunities for new business owners.

 **Plymouth District Library**
Published by Later · March 22 at 9:36AM · ...

Good morning, hearty Michiganders! We just wanted to let you know that Plymouth District Library IS OPEN. Be careful out there!



  84 5 comments 5 shares

 **Plymouth District Library**
Published by Later · March 21 at 9:00AM · ...

Plymouth District Library is pleased to participate in the One Seed, One State initiative. Pick up your pack of Mammoth Long Island Dill (next to our seed library on the upper level) and join gardeners all across Michigan in growing this heirloom herb.

This variety is great for container growing and companion planting and serves as host plant for Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillars. It's also part of Michigan's great pickle growing and processing heritage. Michigan is the ... See more



  Chelsea District Library and 494 others 12 comments 100 shares

TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Digital Signage

The library began testing a Yodeck player on the Teen Zone monitor to see how the system could work to support a new approach to digital signage throughout the library. This system includes a cost-effective content management software and is run through Raspberry Pi microcomputers.

UPS Replacement

After a power outage messed with the library's digital services, the IT team replaced a backup battery in one of our network closets, to ensure more seamless recovery after outages.

Custom Stat Collection Module

Our new programmer is developing a custom stat collection module to allow us to capture patron transactions more seamlessly and with more customization. The new module will allow us to easily pull data and visualize how patrons are interacting with staff throughout the library.

Teen Zone Upgrades

The IT team rewired the Teen Study Room to accommodate a new table with upgraded AV. They also removed the TV screen for painting and reinstalled it in the upgraded space.

↑ 14,128

WiFi Sessions

↑ 1,623

Computer Sessions

↑ 578,567

Website Hits

N/A

Mobile App Uses

FACILITIES

Electrical Room Upgrades

The area surrounding the custodial water tub was upgraded after a crack in the old tub caused significant water damage. Tiles and baseboards were replaced with on-hand stock from our basement, showerboard was installed around the perimeter, and additional gaps throughout the room were filled with foam and sealant to protect against future damage.

Office Re-Keying

Five office doors were rekeyed so that all offices belonging to supervisory staff utilize the same key. Keys to administrative offices, where confidential information is secured, utilize a different key that is more limited among staff.

Teen Zone Painting

The Teen Zone underwent a full re-painting. Page staff removed all books to carts and replaced them after the project was completed ahead of schedule. Staff from across the library supported the transition, and we are thrilled with the new look and feel.

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

FT Youth Librarian

New Hires

None

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

Jessica Keeler	Effective 4/12	Youth Services Librarian
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Employee Anniversaries

Lily Fronden	4/3	1 year	Technology Specialist
Alice McCardell	4/4	24 years	Adult Services Librarian

March FTE Count: 45.2

MLA SPRING INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH SERVICES

Samantha Stachowiak, Youth Services Librarian

Sessions Attended

Opening Keynote → Unlock Your I.M.P.A.C.T → Princess Castleberry

Breakout Session → Dynamic Displays → Becky LeBoeuf & Marissa Boicclair

Breakout Session → Beyond Storytime → Cathy Lancaster, Becky Leboeuf & Josefa Rogocki

Afternoon Keynote → Kate Reynolds → From Lavender Librarian to Storytime Solidarity: An Alliterative Autistic Adventure

Morning Keynote → Tirzah Price → Safe in the Stacks

Breakout Session → Tender Topics: Helping Families with Difficult Conversations → Emily Vickers

Final Keynote → All of the Voices are Equal → Eric Hemenway

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

- Progressive Muscle Relaxation is a great tool to help relieve stress, pain and anxiety.

- Suggested use of ChatGPT/AI programs to brainstorm or help write down mundane steps or processes. You can layer your own intelligence on top of the intelligence of technology.

- Learned about the organization Storytime Solidarity (<https://storytimesolidarity.com/>)

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

Book Display Ideas

- Setting up small tables “bookstore style” with some books laid flat on the table.

- “Recently Returned” Display - thought this could be useful for when we are short on pages but high on circulation in the summertime.

- Utilizing “voting boards” in displays! Have two topics on a board and kids can put stickers next to their favorite topic to “vote” for a winner. To minimize damage to the library, the stickers can be kept at the circulation desk for library staff to pass out. Thought this could be a great passive programming opportunity for summer reading, with a different “poll” each week. They also mentioned the results of these polls can be great ideas for programming.

- Bracket-Based voting - can change every week (e: best book characters, superheroes, magical creatures, etc.)

- Parenting Book Display

- Blind Date with a Book - definitely not a new idea, but they offered a new twist, to do it themed around “mood reading”, a term I’ve definitely heard floating around the internet book sphere recently.

- Lift-the-flap interactive displays

- Staff and their pets display!

- Flow-chart book recommendations
- I Spy Display - could be a great use of the glass cabinet.

Potential LOT or STEAM kit ideas

- Includes yoga cards for regulating their systems
- "Calm Down Cubes"
- Dolls
- Cards with different emotions for children with autism / emotional perception difficulties

Great ideas for Tough/Tender Topics Booklists

- Potty Training Booklist
- Going to the Doctor / Dentist Booklist
- Moving / Having a family member move in with you
- Death
- Deployment
- Alternative Custody Arrangements (living with grandparents, foster parents, legal - guardians, etc.)
- Dementia / Alzheimers - Potential staff training opportunity - how can we make the library more accessible for these patrons?
- Illness / Cancer Diagnosis
- Pregnancy Loss
- Chronic Illness

Fun locations for outreach events

- Schools
- Orchards
- Museums
- Galleries
- Humane Societies
- Farms
- Farmers Markets