



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: May 13, 2026

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Circulation maintains higher usage than prior years.

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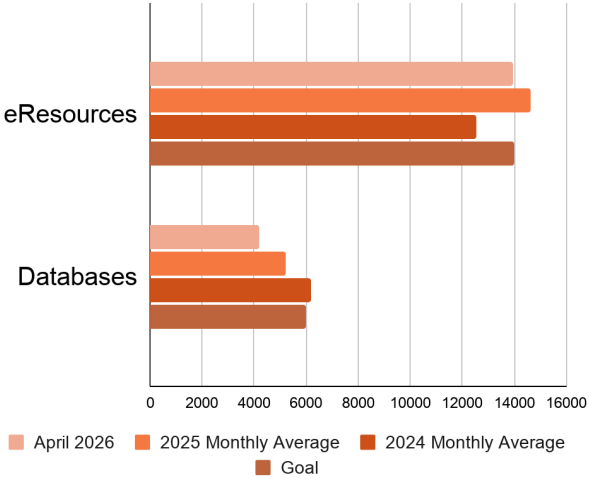
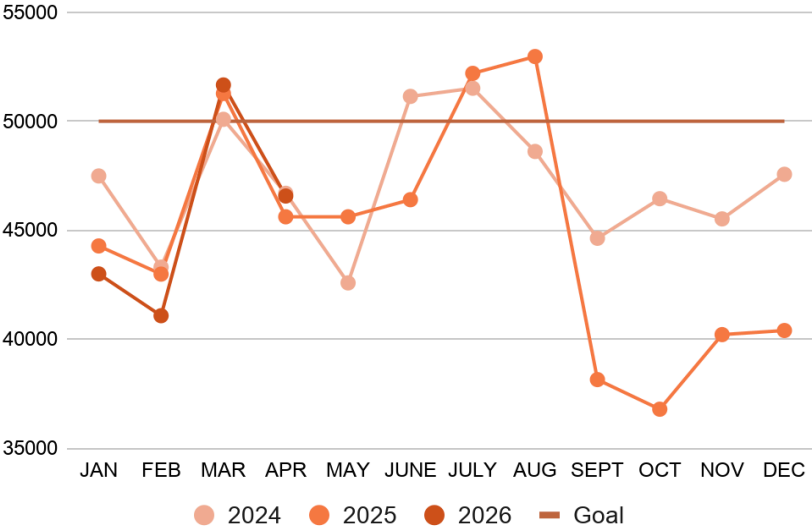
Facilities 6
The play area is on track to be completed for our June 10th reopening of the lower level.

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Hiring underway for teen internships and conference attendance reports.

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

While collection usage dipped slightly over last month, it is still higher than previous years, and we are starting to see increases in key youth collections, which we expect to increase significantly with the reopening of our youth department in June. Our collection utilization flattened at 12%.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

eResources dipped slightly under last month's usage. Database usage decreased by almost 30% compared to last month. We are looking into the data to determine possible causes for this.

We ended the month with a combined circulation of over 261k, which is 93% of our monthly goal.

Our collection size is 168,747 with 2,143 new items added this month and 1,1319 withdrawn.

APRIL'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

- Everything I Learned I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin
- Buckeye: a novel* by Patrick Ryan
- The Widow* by John Grisham
- The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans
- Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

PARTICIPATION



(Above) Participants pick out houseplants donated from patrons at the first-ever Houseplant Swap.
 (Below) Teens try inventive candy flavors at the International Taste-Test event.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 74 people attended *The History of Chris Craft Boats* on 4/22. This is a lot of folks for a very niche topic. The presenter is a local resident with a passion for historical boats. He was very knowledgeable on the subject and a very engaging speaker.
- PDL hosted our first-ever *Houseplant Swap* that included 91 participants.
- Our youth librarians hosted the annual *Stuffie Sleepover*, which included 59 human children and 21 stuffed animals that actually were left in the library overnight. Kids picked up their stuffies in the morning with a breakfast storytime and watched a video with pictures of their animals causing mayhem in the library overnight.

↓ **21,467**

Library Visits

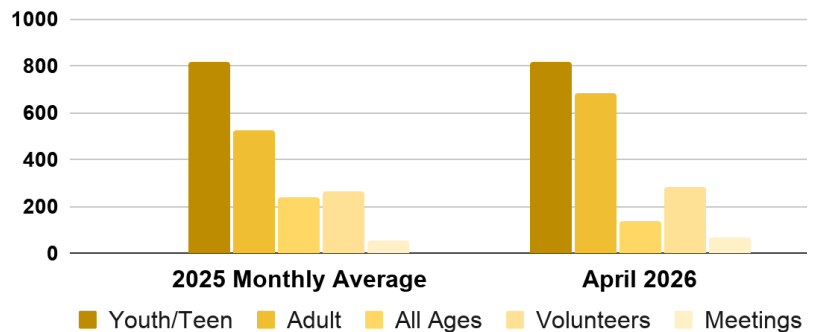
↓ **3,867**

Questions Answered

↓ **95**

Total Programs

Participation went back to normal levels after an intense month in March, but adult participation remained higher than average.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

Mental Health Fair

PDL staffed a table at the PCCS Mental Health Fair. We provided take-home kits for making a worry stone, displayed topical books on the book bike, and checked those books out to patrons.

School Outreach

Youth staff gave a presentation to middle schoolers at Ivywood Classical Academy about information literacy and how to find articles via our databases for their current biography project.

Staff also presented a storytime at Academic Gardens preschool and welcomed a parent/tot group from St. Peter's for a behind the scenes tour and storytime.

PDL also staffed a table at the PCCS Special Education Fair.

Little Free Pantry Coming Soon

Later this month, a local eagle scout will be installing a Little Free Pantry at PDL where folks in need will be able to grab donated food items. We will hold an initial donation drive and then work with local groups to keep the pantry stocked.


MARKETING DATA

eNewsletters	81,884 sent (42% open rate)
Top Links Clicked	Senior Services Blogpost & Monthly Events
New Cardholders	211
Social Media Reach	22,599
Engagements	7.82%
New Followers	75

Plymouth District Library
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For today's National Library Week post, we're celebrating our incredible staff for National Library Workers Day 📖

Our hardworking team helps keep our shelves full, our programs running, and the library a wonderful community gathering space. Thank you to library workers everywhere!



👍 205 🗨️ 13 🔄 6

All comments ▼

Bruce Koldys
miss y all 🥰
3w Like Reply Hide 4 🗨️


Dorothy Needham Moreno
You have a superb library and library staff!
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

👤 Top fan
Alice McCardell
Best group of folks out there!
3w Like Reply Hide 5 🗨️

Julia Striegel replied · 1 Reply

Lynn Benefiel
Great photo!
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Anahid Bogosian-Takessian



3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Barbara Tillock Bullotta
It's a wonderful library with a very helpful and personable staff!!
3w Like Reply Hide 2 🗨️

Lachelle Seymour Laney
Thank you for all you do!
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Sally Musselman Bazuin
Not all heroes wear capes. Thank you for everything you do!
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Tom Gilliam-RE/MAX Classic
Happy National Library Workers Day to the incredible team at Plymouth District Library! 📖 The work you do goes so far beyond books — you create a space where the whole community can come together, learn, and connect. As someone who has spent 24 years helping families put down roots in communities like Plymouth, I always tell buyers that a great library is one of the true signs of a thriving neighborhood — and Plymouth has one of the best! Thank you for everything you do for this community! 🙌
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Kristel Dobson
One of my favorite libraries!!
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Vickie Betz
As a one of the PDL staff, I am thankful for all of your positive comments! I truly work in the best place, with the best people, providing for the best patrons! 📖 🙌
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

Colleen Redmond Berlingieri
Love this! Beautiful library - great staff 🙌
3w Like Reply Hide 1 🗨️

TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

External Offsite Backup System

The IT team enabled the use of a new offsite backup system that has been months in the making. The work that went into preparing for this has streamlined our IT infrastructure and created a more reliable system overall.

Cleanup & Electronics Recycling

IT staff have been removing hard drives and RAM from decommissioned PCs to prepare for recycling. They have also done a sweep through our IT closet to clean up our backstock and recabled in the Walldorf Dunning closets to ensure that equipment is functioning properly.

ILS Updates

Select staff have been given better access to our ILS database so that we can start pulling reports directly using SQL queries. This will allow more custom and simplified reporting from our catalog. Additionally, we are working with our vendors to ensure that our OPAC mapping is easier to understand from the patron perspective.

↓14,820

WiFi Sessions

↓1,466

Computer Sessions

↓468,292

Website Hits

↓12,679

Mobile App Uses

FACILITIES

Work Orders Processed

Facilities staff worked through a total of 84 work orders this month (22 of which are still open). Support was regularly requested this month related to additional janitorial help outside of normal duties and building maintenance.

Maintenance Projects

Facilities staff performed routine maintenance on the book bike after we've had difficulty scheduling a tune-up from local bike shops. Staff additionally resolved breakroom garbage disposal issues, including a mechanical blockage and detached piping, and installed a new monitor on the Lower Level, next to the self-checkout.

Recycling

Since the large collection projects caused by the interior renovation have subsided, we now have additional capacity to provide more cardboard recycling. Facilities staff now have additional bins set aside for breaking down large boxes to divert landfill waste.

Indoor Plant Service

A few of the new indoor plants were having difficulty acclimating to our building, so they were replaced by Ambius. It appears that the new plants have adjusted much better to our light levels and building humidity.

Building Renovations

Construction is wrapping up on the Lower Level play area. Turf is currently being installed, and the millwork team is wrapping up installation of all the custom pieces. The final lighting pieces are being installed and/or converted throughout the department. Paint and vinyl applications are the last piece to finish off the space. Additional artwork will also be hung on the Lower Level to finish everything out. We are on track for our June 10 Grand Reopening Celebration.

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

Teen STEM Interns
Teen Journalism Interns
Technology Assistant

New Hires

None

Promotions

None

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

None

Employee Anniversaries

Lynne Volker	5/11	5 years	Page
Patty Soter	5/16	9 years	Clerk
Lauren Baker	5/29	19 years	Coordinator of Youth & Teen Services
Aaron Cunningham	5/31	4 years	Facilities Technician

April FTE Count: 43.7

CONFERENCES

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPRING INSTITUTE 2026

Sean Glasgow, Teen Librarian

Sessions Attended

Thursday | 11:00 – 11:45 AM

Staying On Your Toes: Improv Acting Skills in Library Programming

Thursday | 1:45 – 2:30 PM

Design a Teen Program with Joy

Thursday | 3:00 – 3:45 PM

Gaming in Libraries: Bridging Educational Gaps for Teens

Friday | 10:45 – 11:30 AM

Community-Led Programming

Friday | 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

A Successful Model for Circulating Yoto Cards and Yoto Players

Friday | 2:15 – 3:00 PM

Engaging Your Teens with Multiple Volunteer Programs

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

I learned a lot at this conference. I attended the Improv Acting breakout to try to improve my Dungeons and Dragons program, and that paid off on the Monday of my return. I'd been working on a plan for the session, but it still needed more work, so I simply improvised the entire session. The teens had a lot of fun, despite me walking in with no plan at all. The presenters also demonstrated how improv skills can be used in day-to-day librarianship, and some tips for staying cool when a situation gets a little hairy.

The Design a Teen Program with Joy highlighted that teens feel joy when they are seen, safe, and empowered. While I do feel that teens in my programs already feel these things, it got me thinking about how I can make these feelings more central in my program planning. This paired well with Community-Led Programming. Much of that focused on passive programming, programs that lead on patron-to-patron interaction like Reading Buddies or The Human Library, and asking program attendees what they want from the program. We get lots of feedback from the BLT, and I often ask the D&D attendees what they want to see in the next session. This really got my gears turning, though, on how I could facilitate teen volunteers planning and running their own programs.

This idea was touched on with Engaging Your Teens with Multiple Volunteer Programs. The bulk of this session was about the various teen volunteering opportunities available at the presenters' library. They have three staff who all work on teen volunteer programs, so I won't be trying to copy their work, they did give me some great ideas for getting teens more involved. For example, they have their teens help with youth programs, hand out SRP prizes, prep program materials, and design passive programs. These are all things we could adopt here at PDL to improve both our service to the public, and expand volunteering opportunities for teens.

The first chunk of Gaming in Libraries: Bridging Educational Gaps for Teens highlighted how detrimental the pandemic was to today's teens, as well as the negative impacts of ACES and being from a low socio-economic status family. It then pivoted to how supportive games can be in aiding adolescent development, and how making them available can help in bridging the gaps created by the influences mentioned above. It was discussed how games can improve or promote a wide array of functions like lateral thinking, executive function, spatial reasoning, logic, collaboration, can improve memory, problem solving, and mood, all while creating or deepening the bonds with their community. Several games were highlighted.

Finally, A Successful Model for Circulating Yoto Cards and Yoto Players showed me what a library is doing with Yotos that is working for them. This one was an eye-opener. I learned more about how the cards and players function, and what worked and what didn't for them. One of the big things is that the content of a Yoto card doesn't stay on the Yoto player like it does with Tonies. Patrons will need to download an app to a smart phone in order to use the Yotos, and patrons will be able to play the content on their phones as well as on the Player. This, I think, will be a huge benefit to teen and adult patrons who might want to listen to a Yoto audiobook on their phone, rather than through a player that looks like a toy. This also means that I won't have to take on programming the Yoto Cards onto the Players like I did with the Tonies.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

The main focus of my breakout session selection was on teen services, so I'll be discussing with the teen department how we can implement the above ideas to improve our services. I really like the idea of creating more opportunity for patron feedback, though, and giving teens more direct involvement in the planning and facilitation of programming.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

Colleen Kingsbury, Teen Librarian

Sessions Attended

- Opening Session with Bryan Stevenson
- Activating Teen Services in Rural Communities
- Not Your Typical Makerspace: Creating STEAM-Based Summer Programs for Youth
- Transforming Library Public Policy and Advocacy in a New Political Era
- Teens Lead Internship: Building a Sustainable Future for Libraries
- Fostering Connections: Building Babies Brains Across a Community
- Libraries as Launchpads: Helping with the Next Steps in Education
- How to Create Engaging Book Displays That Connect With Your Community
- How Gen Z Use (and Don't Use) Public Libraries: New Data and Analysis
- Making Space for Teens at the Library
- How to Build a Teen Newsletter (That Actually Gets Read)
- Responding to ICE at the Library: Real World Approaches
- Sensory Adventures: Creating Inclusive Library Experiences on Any Budget
- Closing Session with Chef Sean Sherman

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

PLA continues to be my favorite conference because it is large enough for me to mostly attend teen-focused sessions. I often find the most exciting things I “learn” at conferences are small, but exciting tidbits of inspiration. For example, one teen session mentioned take & make volunteering kits called “Crafting for a Cause” and another briefly mentioned gamifying book talk presentations at schools by creating a “Judge That Book By Its Cover!” presentation which allowed students to guess at a book’s genre. I especially loved one “How To” stage session on book displays, which encouraged creating displays around bookish experiences in the way that tourism destinations like the Picture Book Museum or Emily Dickinson Museum do. This came with a lot of really unique ideas, like scratch-off cards that reveal a literature quote, commissioning artists for physical pieces to enhance a storywalk, and creating an author-themed community plant garden.

A practical outcome of attending the conference is that I was able to obtain a lot of free books that will be used as summer reading prizes. This was important, as my stock is quite thin this year. I was also able to network more than I have at previous conferences. In particular, I spent a while chatting with Gigi, a new Teen Services Librarian at RHPL, and it was really nice getting to know a new TLN librarian!

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

The session I was most excited by was Sensory Adventures, which was a very detailed overview of how to run a genre of program they called “Sensory Museums.” These programs were born of a Developmental, Cognitive, and Intellectual Disabilities

Committee that had been created with the aim of addressing service gaps to teens and adults with disabilities in their multi-branch system.

First, I think the existence of this committee is a very cool idea, because I think disabled teens and adults are a population that often does slip through the cracks of library services. In addition, I would be interested in exploring a "sensory museum" program at PDL! That said, the presenters suggested directly contacting organizations and therapists affiliated with disabled adults, and I'm honestly not familiar with those in the Plymouth area.

EVERGREEN CONFERENCE 2026

Melanie Bell, Assistant Director

Sessions Attended

Permissions & Report Work Group

System Admin Work Group

Keynote

Foundations of Evergreen Infrastructure

Using Reports for Collection Development

From "Huh?" to "Aha!": Making Training Programs That Click

Angular Circulation - What is it?

Administering Evergreen the PINES Way

From Opt-In to Opt-Out Notification Settings in Evergreen and the Quest for Clarity

Data, Dashboards, and More!

Batches, Baskets, and Buckets

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

The Keynote speaker Heidi Daniel, Executive Director of King County Library System was amazing. I want to cover the highlights of the conference but I want to include a decent coverage of some of the information she provided because it looks to the future of libraries:

- AI is reshaping the foundation of the knowledge ecosystem.
- Info is abundant, trust is scarce. Systems that have upheld public knowledge are being destabilized. The role of libraries is becoming more important not less as libraries have always been trusted places of knowledge.
- Deep thinking is in structural decline. Neuro science is telling us people are reading less than ever, engagement is shallower, and long term knowledge harder to sustain. These are not just reading and thinking skills, these are human skills.
- Libraries can no longer just passively support reading. We are among the last promoting deep thinking. We are stewards of culture and knowledge
- Another force shaping our future is physical space. Public spaces that are free, welcoming, non-commercial and open to all.

- We are living in a loneliness epidemic. Loneliness creates greater health risks.
 - Libraries are one of the last free spaces. Libraries offer structured places where we can be alone together and we are a critical health infrastructure.
- Libraries need to Innovate, Elevate & Anticipate
- Innovate - not chasing trends but positioning ourselves as credible truth sayers.
 - Make ourselves expert in AI, so that we become the place people can identify what's real and what's not.
 - Tech should free up time. Every task we automate is an opportunity to re-invest in human interaction
 - Elevate - We must elevate thinking and reading.
 - Don't resist change, respond to it. If brains are changing then we need to develop new ways to involve patrons in deep thinking, new pathways to stories , and culture. Literacy is not the only thing at stake, the capacity for depth is also at risk in a world focused on speed and efficiency.
 - Anticipate the future. Our buildings aren't just buildings. They're environments for experiences. Spaces for connection, learning and belonging.
 - To anticipate we need to build flexible spaces that are accessible to everyone. Create places where individuals with different need can still meet together
 - Evergreen is a proof of concept that we can shape our future: Libraries thought that an ILS could be better. They wanted to build the future they needed. Something grounded in collaboration, transparency, and shared ownership
 - Shared ownership can outpace outdated vendors
 - We built the software we needed for our libraries.

Right now the stakes are really high. The role of libraries in a world where attention is fractured and truth is doubted is critical. The future of libraries is something we're creating right now and we need to do so boldly.

The Permissions and Report Work group was really helpful in providing templates on useful reports in Evergreen and some recommended permissions for different staff roles

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In the System Admin work group I learned that there could be issues with automate renewals and automated processes that mark things as lost if you have hundreds of items checking out on the same dates.

The Using Reports for Collection Development session gave me a lot of tips and tricks about the right way to get information out of the Evergreen system. I've documented these and passed them on to our staff.

The session about training programs was extremely helpful. There's a consortium called Missouri Evergreen Libraries. They have created Evergreen cataloging training and other libraries are welcome to use it. They put the training on a open source learning module called Odo. They also had link to a number of other useful training resources. I've included links to this information in a message to all staff.

The session on Angular Circulation was also informative. A lot of Evergreens code was originally done in Angular JS and has been moving to Angular. They just updated the circ modules in the beta version of Evergreen (3.17) to use Angular. This streamlines a number of the circulation interfaces. There's a community test server that is available to play with. We'll need to have some of our staff start playing with the 3.17 test servers so we can be ready for when that becomes available.

The last really useful session I had was Data, Dashboards and more. CW-MARS is a large consortium from Massachusetts. They walked through the steps to install some open source free software called Metabase. Metabase gives you more direct access to the database that runs Evergreen and is a very powerful reporting tool that I think could simplify some of our struggles with getting nice reports out of Evergreen. Metabase is for getting reports out of any database and I really encourage anybody working with reports from databases to look into it.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

As mentioned above I think there were several training resources and templates that could prove very useful for staff pretty much immediately. I'm also very interested in implementing a Metabase server of our own that can help us get better data from our ILS.

GEN AI SUMMIT, EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Melanie Bell, Assistant Director

Sessions Attended

Data Preparation with Generative AI
How to Work with AI to Build Tools that Improve Your Life
Leading AI: Fourteen Conversations Every Organization Needs to be Having
Bridging the AI Gap: Improving AI Usage
AI in Action: A Meta-Learning Journey in HRD
Finding and Evaluating Information in the Age of Generative AI

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

Attending the Generative AI Summit provided several tips and tricks that should improve our approach to AI integration. A particularly valuable session on 'Data Preparation with Generative AI' offered practical guidance: backing up data before applying AI transformations is paramount, alongside ensuring transparency by capturing the AI-generated code used for cleaning. This ensures repeatability and builds trust in the process.

In the session 'Leading AI: Fourteen Conversations Every Organization Needs to be Having' I was able to get a copy of questions and considerations to discuss. Its

framework for managing AI adoption will be extremely helpful as we develop a hosted AI solution for PDL; I plan to share the template with our IT team to help us structure our approach.

Discussions throughout the conference highlighted critical considerations for successful AI implementation. Key takeaways include understanding AI's strengths (data analysis, simple problem resolution) and limitations (struggles with complex, multi-step problems, lack of transparency). Another key takeaway was the importance of setting guardrails—such as source citation, and accuracy estimates— to leverage AI and provide transparency.

Presenters consistently noted AI's broad knowledge base (as a generalist) but acknowledged its lack of deep expertise. Successful AI implementation will take this into consideration for selecting what tasks get assigned to AI.

Regarding security, two different presenters mentioned that self-hosted AI was essential for being able to secure an organization's data.

Finally, the session featuring EMU librarians underscored the growing importance of AI literacy. The need for training and tools to discern AI-generated content was highlighted as a critical skill for the future, positioning libraries as key developers in this space

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

Based on the conference, here are some key considerations for implementation at PDL:

- **Self-Hosting for Security:** We are investigating the possibility of self-hosting our AI LLM on library servers. This is seen as the most secure approach, allowing direct control over data and the ability to implement custom guardrails and logging for usage tracking.
- **Structured Governance:** The 'AI Conversations' template identified in the conference will be crucial for initiating structured dialogues within PDL about AI's appropriate use, risks, and benefits. We plan to share this with relevant departments.
- **Ensuring Replicability:** Lessons from the data preparation session highlight the importance of transparency and replicability when using AI for data manipulation. We will consider incorporating these principles into any data processing workflows involving AI.
- **Focusing on AI Literacy:** Recognizing the growing importance of AI literacy, we plan to research and develop resources for both staff and patrons. We are particularly interested in exploring the examples from the Toronto Public Library's 2024 PLA presentation, as they offer a model for robust patron education on AI.

NOTE: I used a locally-hosted test AI running on library equipment to help me write this report.