



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: August 7, 2026

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HVAC, irrigation, and entry door repairs completed this month

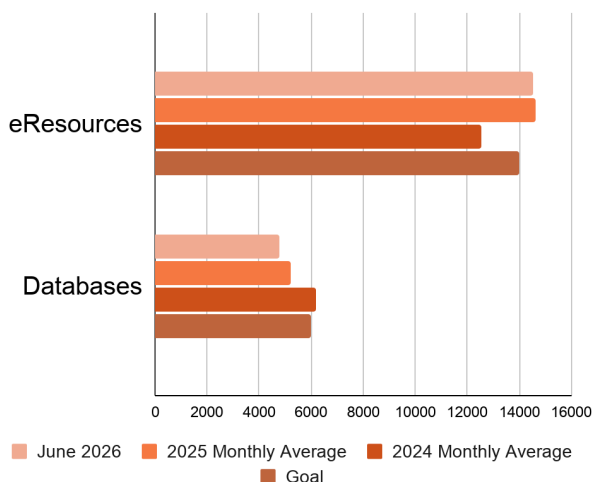
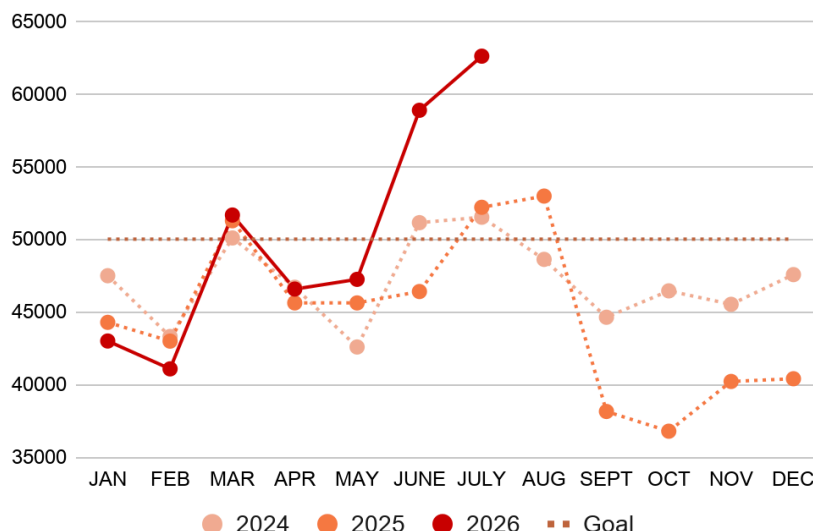
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Lots of employee anniversaries

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Collection usage continues to grow. We continue to see increased usage in all collection areas. Our collection utilization increased to 15%.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

eResources increased slightly while Database usage increased significantly over the previous month.

We ended the month with a combined circulation of over 496k, which is 101% of our monthly goal.

Our collection size is increasing once again to 173,971 with 2,295 new items added this month and 556 withdrawn.

JULY'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke

Whistler by Ann Patchett

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

The Night We Met by Abby Jimenez

PARTICIPATION



Attendees enjoy games at the American Girl Tea Party (above). Friends work together to build with blocks at Outdoor Fun (below).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Paul Vornhagen Jazz Trio performed recognizable jazz standards for a crowd of 54 people.
- PDL held an American Girl Tea Party for 68 participants with their dolls.
- Staff provided a 4-day camp for kids 8-12 to learn about journalism and produce their own edition of *The Plymouth Express*.
- Summer Reading continues to grow, with close to 3k community members tracking their reading and earning coupons to local businesses. Due to the increased participation, we will likely need to adjust the program next year to scale it for the increasing size of our audience.

↑33,784

Library Visits

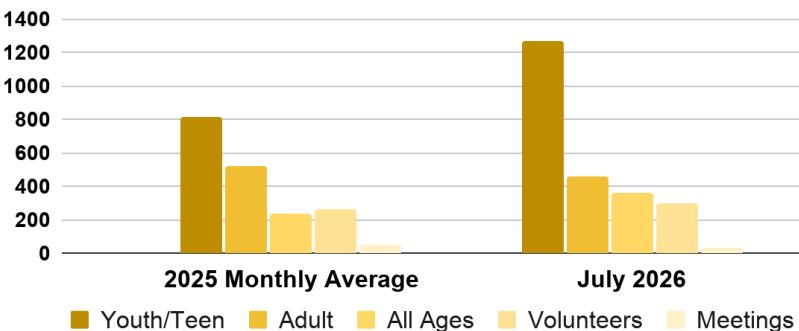
↓5,214

Questions Answered

↓90

Total Programs

Participation maintained consistently strong numbers, especially for our youth programming, which has been very popular this summer.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

4th of July Parade

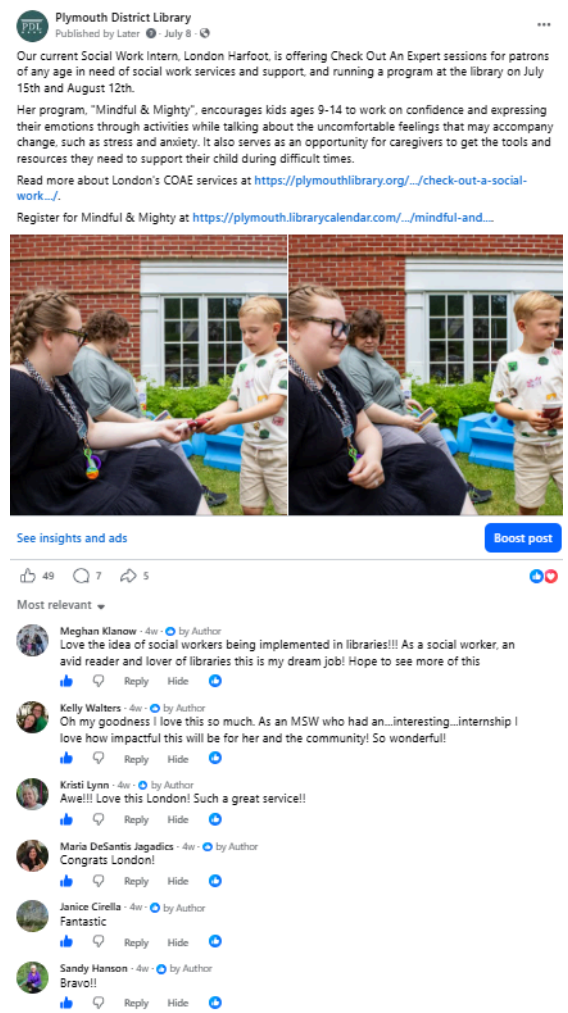
The Book Bike rode in the 4th of July parade, accompanied by local patrons and families on decorated bikes.

Art in the Park

PDL staff offered activities in the Amphitheater during Art in the Park. The size of the event makes it difficult for the library to provide regular services, so this allows us to stay engaged with the community even when the downtown is less accessible.

Additional Outreach

Our second Popsicles in the Park event in Huntington Park subdivision was smaller, with 38 attendees. Two daycare centers came to visit the library: IXL Learning and Dreamy Children's Center. PDL staff also passed out 100 take-home activity kits at the Farmers Market.



MARKETING DATA

eNewsletters	97,276 sent (50% open rate)
Top Links Clicked	Monthly Events & Homepage
New Cardholders	296
Social Media Reach	33,879
Engagements	6.48%
New Followers	201 (just passed 3k followers on Instagram)



July 10
Log in to like or comment.

TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Tech Commons Update

This summer has seen an increase in the number of users on our maker equipment in the Tech Commons. Between increased staff familiarity and the presence of our high school interns, more people are using the equipment independently and successfully. We deployed a new Sublimation Printer and worked to better manage cables in the space to support the increased usage.

New Staff Laptops

Since moving professional staff to laptops in the past few years, we are just starting to replace the original units that were used as a test case for the project. The new units had some difficulty with current docking stations, but those issues were successfully navigated by our IT team.

ILS Updates

We are working with Bibliocommons to address persistent slowness on our OPAC. We are wrapping up new internal permission schemas and will begin testing the new system next month.

↑15,981

WiFi Sessions

↓1,592

Computer Sessions

↑513,932*

Website Hits

↑21,561*

Mobile App Uses

*Highest monthly usage to date

FACILITIES

Work Orders Processed

Facilities staff worked through a total of 98 work orders this month (21 of which are still open). Support was regularly requested this month related to janitorial support, grounds maintenance, and additional bathroom cleaning with all of the additional people coming through the building.

New Fish Tank Vendor

Facilities staff transitioned our aquarium maintenance to a new local vendor. We are now being provided with faster triage support and a higher standard of care.

Building Repairs

BCTen Air replaced a faulty controller and fully restored operations to our humidifier pan alarms. Additionally, Assa Abloy serviced and inspected our main entrance doors and handicap restroom door. We also worked with All Seasons to troubleshoot issues with the front entrance irrigation zones. There was a minor wiring issue that was dealt with and all zones are now functioning appropriately.

Building Renovations

Almost all of the punchlist issues have been addressed by our vendors, but we are still waiting for the delivery of a number of mushroom stepping stones and a log crawler donated by the Friends of the Library to add to the playscape.

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

None

New Hires

None

Promotions

None

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

None

Employee Anniversaries

Alexis Williams	8/7	5 years	Clerk
Tara Wilkinson	8/11	1 year	Tech Assistant
Allory Gootee	8/11	1 year	Tech Assistant
Maryam Yassine	8/11	1 year	Tech Assistant
Melanie Bell	8/12	7 years	Assistant Director
Hiroko Stolaruk	8/14	12 years	Page Lead
Eric Klute	8/15	4 years	IT Coordinator
Griffin Zdun	8/15	4 years	Page
Donna Roraback	8/26	12 years	Page
Anne Reilly	8/26	2 years	Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Bergeron	8/26	2 years	Adult Librarian
Zachary Stone	8/26	1 year	Page
Kaitlyn Theisen	8/27	7 years	Cataloger
Holly Hibner	8/31	17 years	Adult Services Coordinator

July FTE Count: 45.9

CONFERENCES

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Samantha Stachowiak, Youth Librarian

Sessions Attended

- You're Not Just Tired: The 7 Types of Rest Library Workers Actually Need
- To Manage or Not to Manage?: Library Career Advancement for New(er) Professionals
- The State of Public Library Diversity Audits
- Crush Climate Anxiety: Use Our Librarian Superpowers to Support Kids' Love of Nature and Eco-Action!
- Why Most SEL Books Fail
- Welcoming Every Child: Cultivating Inclusivity in Your Library and Growing Your Own Skills

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

This was a very valuable conference experience that offered lots of food for thought in terms of my programming, collection development and general career trajectory. Here are some highlights my notes:

1) You're Not Just Tired: The 7 Types of Rest Library Workers Need

- This talk broke down the different types of stress that can come up, specifically in a library workplace (e: physical, mental, sensory, emotional, social, creative and spiritual.)
- The speaker then delved into organizational designs that can combat these types of stress, and then individual stress-management techniques for when those organizational structures are not in place.
- She made a point that individual stress-management strategies are only a band-aid and cannot be long-term solutions for huge organizational failures. She suggested EAPs as a good place to start if you need help advocating for better organizational support.

2) To Manage or Not to Manage

- This illuminating talk was a panel of different librarians who discussed how there is no such thing as a "natural" career progression in libraries and highlighted several paths for growth as a new professional.
- Some of these different paths included
 - Librarian I, II, & III
 - Lateral moves to other libraries with pay increases
 - Management (usually after years at the same library, but not always!)

- They also broke down three steps to assessing your long term career goals:

1) Reflect - what do you like about your job, what work would you like to do in the future

2) Treasure Hunting - Look at job posting boards to get senses of what your goals could be. Talk to your supervisor and ask where they see you in ten years. Ask for hour-by-hour breakdowns of folks whose jobs interest you.

3) Goal setting - Put pen to paper and flesh out some achievable goals.

3) The State of Public Library Diversity Audits

- This talk (also a panel of library professionals) discussed the different approaches to a library diversity audit. It made me reflect on our own diversity audit practices and how we could improve ours in the future.

- The three main methodologies that were discussed were a manual audit, a tool called Diverse Book Finder, and vendor-created audits. They all had their pros and cons, though I was personally most drawn to Diverse Book Finder, as it is manual but streamlined, offered good level of depth & nuance, does not use generative AI and is less expensive than vendor-created audits. It is currently only available for youth books, but that works perfectly within my collection, so I plan on doing more research into its usability.

4) Crush Climate Anxiety: Use Our Librarian Superpowers to Support Kids' Love of Nature and Eco-Action!

- This was a sweet and inspiring talk from librarians in Illinois who have created a program called the Blueberry Awards, which is a children's book award that celebrates books that inspire a love of nature and action for the planet for kids ages 3-10.

- Their program seems very wonderful and they offered lots of good resources on how to choose library books on climate issues without causing climate anxiety. This will help in my collection development for the J500s.

- Anti-Anxiety Criteria

- Love of nature first, climate action second. You save what you love!

- Recommend group action not doing it alone. (e: "Only YOU can prevent forest fires" is too intimidating!!)

- Includes practical suggestions for mitigating the problem of the book.

- States that adults ARE engaged. Never say it is up to you or young people alone!

- Follow child development guidelines about what kind of information kids can handle at different ages. Main Rule of Thumb: No doom & gloom before third grade!

Why Most SEL Books Fail

- This talk discussed the rising popularity of SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) books for children and how to select books that will have actionable benefits in the child's life.

- The framework used was modeled after Rudine Sims Bishop's model of Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors, and was called Mirrors, Maps and Magic.
- Mirrors - Readers self-identify with the protagonist in their emotional experience.
- Maps - Show emotional growth through experience. Do kids watch the character figure it out themselves, or does an adult character rescue the child?
- Magic - What makes a story stick with a kid? What would make a child want to read this SEL story again?

Welcoming Every Child: Cultivating Inclusivity in Your Library and Growing Your Own Skills

- This talk was an overview of different ideas and adjustments for youth programming to make them more accessible for different ethnic, racial and disability groups. Some of their more practical suggestions were:
 - Story box → A collection of items that correspond to a certain story for kids to play with during storytime.
 - Make sure there is adequate seating at all kids events.
 - Representation in toys and materials
 - Format accessibility
 - Schedule board (useful for youth and adults) during storytimes, book clubs or other events with multiple phases.
 - Content-themed programs are great ways to get different groups mixing together (e: Pokemon club, LEGO club, etc.)
 - Synchronous movement can help bond a group who is having trouble connecting. (e: everyone stand up and sing a song/shake your wiggles out, etc.)
 - Holiday programs can be a good window / mirror for patrons but also can present opportunities for stereotypes. Use social stories to prepare patrons for new or multicultural programs out on the youth floor before the program.

Anything we should consider implementing at PDL?

I definitely want to do more research into Diverse Book Finder, and see if it is something that could assist my collection development practices for myself and other youth librarians. I also really enjoyed my introduction to the Blueberry Awards and will be keeping tabs on them to make sure I am purchasing books they recommend. I may also look into creating booklists or even a display themed on the awards. I have also been taking time to reflect personally and professionally on dealing with workplace stress and my career trajectory and have found the tools I discovered in these first two talks particularly helpful.