



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Plymouth District Library Board
From: Shauna Anderson, Library Director
Date: September 9, 2026

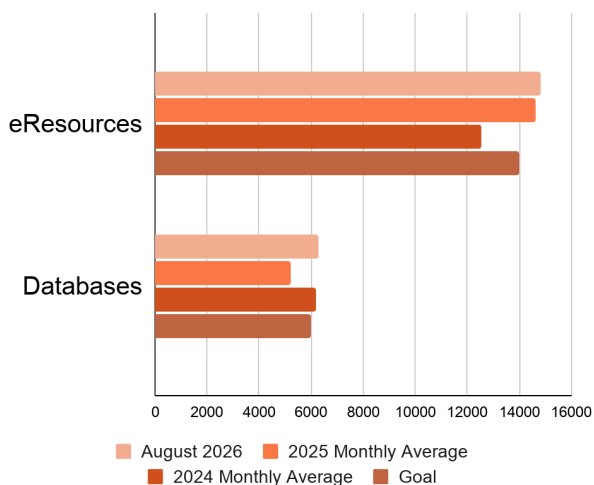
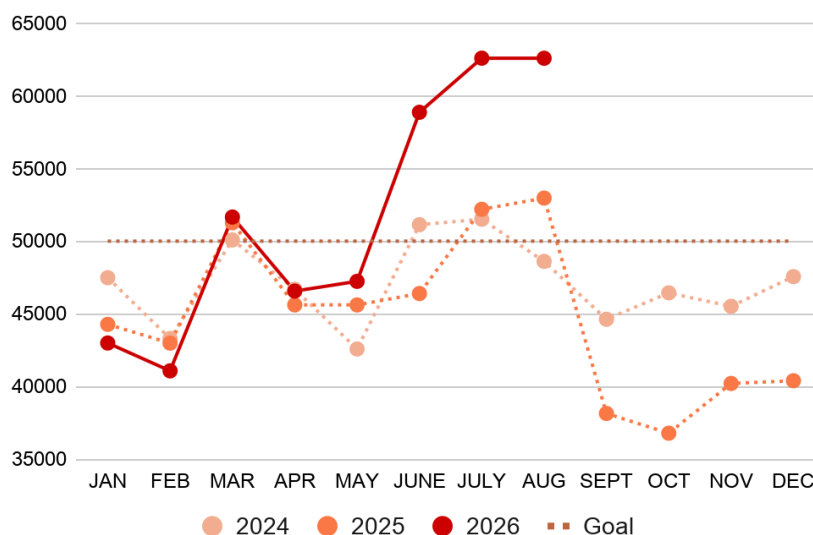
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Circulation remains consistently high		MeL interlibrary loan dealing with IT issues	
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Summer Reading had the highest engagement ever		Finishing the final pieces of the lower level renovation	
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Launched our Little Free Pantry project with lots of engagement from the community		Saying goodbye to interns but welcoming a new social work intern from EMU	

CIRCULATION

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Checkouts remained stable at a significantly higher rate than all previous years. Our collection utilization also remained fairly stable at 14%.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

eResources stayed the same while Database usage went back to an expected rate.

We ended the month with a combined circulation of over 580k, which is 103% of our monthly goal.

Our collection size is increasing to 176,811 with 2,706 new items added this month and 554 withdrawn.

AUGUST'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



Kids learn about electronics from our Teen STEM Interns at our first DiscoTech (above). Families relax for bedtime stories in the Amphitheater (below).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Great Plymouth Cookie Vote received 20 cookie recipe submissions. 10 were selected to compete in an informal election to become the official cookie of Plymouth District Library. This ongoing program includes a myriad of supplementary events aimed at promoting civic education.
- We held a storytime offsite at Chacko Farms, a local u-pick flower farm, for 55 attendees.
- Mah Jongg has become an extremely popular offering at the library, both the instructional and the open play events. There were 5 sessions this past month with a total of 98 participants.
- Summer Reading was our biggest year ever! Over 3k community members tracked over 15k hours of reading throughout the summer. 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.

↓29,760

Library Visits

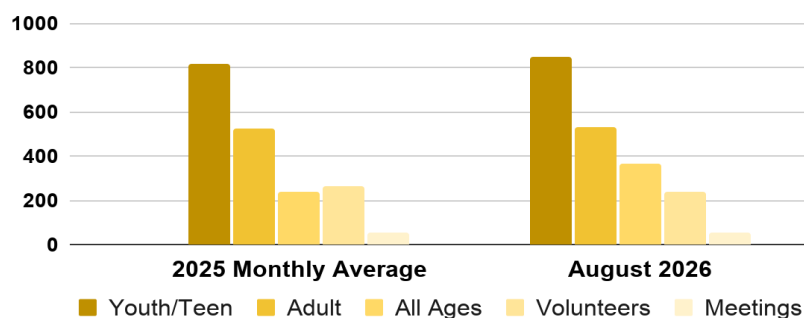
↑5,561

Questions Answered

↓82

Total Programs

Participation returned to average attendance figures after a particularly busy summer.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT UPDATES

Little Free Pantry

After a donation drive from the community and a box built by a local eagle scout, we finally opened our Little Free Pantry. It is being put to good use by the community (both giving and receiving food), and the feedback we've received has been resoundingly positive. There was especially high engagement on social media.

Farmer's Market

Our final Farmer's Market pop-ups for the season included an America 250 exhibit and visit from a petting farm. Over 350 guests got to pet, brush, and learn about farm animals on their way to the market.

Additional Outreach

Our final Popsicles in the Park event in the Westbriar subdivision included 53 attendees. PDL hosted two visits from PARClife for job "try-on" experiences. Library staff also presented storytimes at Childtime Daycare.

MARKETING DATA

eNewsletters	97,275 sent (50% open rate)
Top Links Clicked	Monthly Events & Homepage
New Cardholders	337
Social Media Reach	33,833
Engagements	10.54%
New Followers	81

Plymouth District Library
Published by Later · August 29 at 10:30 AM · 🌐

We're pleased to officially introduce our Little Free Pantry, located near the entrance of the library 📖

The goal of this resource is to share tangible support for community members in need by removing barriers to accessing healthy food.

Desired donations for the pantry include protein-rich items like tuna/chicken packets, canned beans, nut butter jars/cups, and protein-rich soups, as well as fruit cans/cups, canned veggies, and pasta/rice mixes. Please no expired food items. Canned goods with pull-tab lids are especially appreciated.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring the pantry, please contact our Community Relations Specialist, Heather Pacheco, at hpacheco@plymouthlibrary.org for more information.

We're so excited to bring this new resource to you and to continue promoting sharing in our community.



See insights and ads

Boost post

👍 417 🗨 34 ➦ 47

Most relevant ▾

Nancy Fisher · 1w · by author
LOVE this idea!
👍 🗨 Reply Hide 🔒

Deb Muncy · 1w · by author
I love you Plymouth District Library.
👍 🗨 Reply Hide 🔒

Andrea Holowicki Hug · 1w · by author

👍 🗨 Reply Hide 🔒

Sandy Mueller · 1w · by author
Best Library ever!!!
👍 🗨 Reply Hide 🔒

TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

PC Updates

IT staff are working on updating staff and public PCs to the most recent version of Windows 11. We are also working on some updates to service desk PCs that would reinstall DeepFreeze software.

ILS Updates

Due to issues with bots, the MeL interlibrary loan system has not been functioning at full capacity. Attempts by MCLS to address this have not been successful, so our patrons might have a more difficult time requesting loans from other libraries. This is a pattern that we are noticing with all of our vendors over the past few months– persistent slowness due to increasing bot attacks.

↓15,687

WiFi Sessions

↑1,788

Computer Sessions

↑590,418*

Website Hits

↑23,878*

Mobile App Uses

**Highest monthly usage to date (3rd month in a row)*

FACILITIES

Work Orders Processed

Facilities staff worked through a total of 43 work orders this month (13 of which are still open). Support was regularly requested this month related to repairs, HVAC, janitorial support, and grounds maintenance.

Building Maintenance

H V Burton completed boiler chemical maintenance testing and treatment. There was a minor boiler repair that was completed by BC-Ten Air.

Painting/Weatherproofing

Maintenance staff refurbished the Little Free Pantry that was built by a local eagle scout, reinforcing and sealing the structure to ensure it remains fully weatherproof for year-round community use. Maintenance staff also repaired, painted, and properly treated the exterior wood on the main front porch column to protect it against weather damage and restore its appearance.

Green Earth Coatings repaired and painted the 10 south exterior library windows (total of 396 window panes) and completed chip repair and sealing work in the tree fort.

Building Renovations

We are currently working through the installation of the final pieces of the LL play area. A Log Crawler and assorted mushroom stepping stones were delivered as of the writing of this report. Our contractors at Shaw will be installing these pieces permanently. Library Design Associates also came through to tighten up the edging on the carpet in the play area after the removal of baseboard created gaps between the wall and the floor. Everything looks great.

PERSONNEL

Open Positions

None

New Hires

Alyssa Leineke	Starting 9/2	Social Work Intern
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Promotions

None

Terminations, Retirements, Resignations

Ben Park	8/31	Teen STEM Intern
Parker Szymczak	8/31	Teen STEM Intern
Lexie Weitz	8/31	Teen STEM Intern
Tenaya Jendza	8/31	Teen STEM Intern
London Harfoot	8/16	Social Work Intern

Employee Anniversaries

Andrew Spongberg	9/6	9 years	Cataloger
Samantha Stachowiak	9/6	4 years	Youth Librarian
Jeff Wears	9/7	10 years	Reference Lead
Pam Hakala	9/10	14 years	Page
Cathy Boismier	9/11	8 years	Clerk
Lily Wiest	9/22	1 year	Adult Librarian
Melissa Henderson	9/25	2 years	Reference Assistant

July FTE Count: 46.1