

Indian Prairie Public Library Board Agenda  
September 20, 2023

**Budget and Appropriations Hearing**  
**September 20, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

- A. Call to Order and Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the hearing is to provide the opportunity for public comment on the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance. Page 3
- B. Public Questions/Comments
- C. Closing of Hearing

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**September 20, 2023 – 6:40 p.m.**

All agenda items may be acted upon by the Board of Trustees

- A. Roll Call  
Donald Damon, Marian Krupicka, Stacy Palmisano, Themis Raftis, Sri Rao, Christina Rodriguez, Victoria Suriano

- B. Mission Statement: We enrich people’s lives by providing opportunities to explore, connect, and be inspired.

Vision Statement: Lives are enriched and dreams are realized.

Values: We value and respect the individual.  
We empower and guide each visitor.  
We aspire to bring people together.

- C. Public Comment

- D. Communications and Announcements
  - 1. Mares to IPPL re: Thank You Page 4
  - 2. Kosieniak to Birmingham re: Thank You Page 5
  - 3. Birmingham to Sloan re: Donation Page 6

- E. Omnibus Consent Agenda Action
  - 1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, August 16, 2023 Page 7
  - 2. Action on Bills/Additional Bills Page 10
  - 3. Ordinance #2023-4 Providing for the Budget and Appropriations for FY 2023/24 Page 14
  - 4. Estimate of Revenues FY 2023/24 Page 16
  - 5. Policy 805.5 Bereavement Leave Page 17
  - 6. Policy 805.7 Employee Blood Donation Leave Act Page 19
  - 7. Policy 806.2 Victims’ Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) Leave Page 20

F.	Items Deleted from Omnibus Consent Agenda		Action
G.	Library Director's Report	Page 22	Information
H.	Department Reports		Information
	1. Deputy Director's Report	Page 24	
	2. Marketing	Page 26	
	3. Guest Services	Page 31	
	4. Programming & Outreach	Page 32	
	5. Resource Services	Page 36	
	6. Technology & Maker Services	Page 39	
I.	Staff Report		
	1. Amy Merda, Head of Programming & Outreach Report on Summer Reading		Information
J.	Reports		
	1. Treasurer's Report	Page 50	Information
	2. Building and Grounds Committee (no report)		
	3. Finance Committee (no report)		
	4. Planning/Outreach Committee (no report)		
	5. Policy Committee (no report)		
K.	Unfinished Business		
	1. Strategic Planning Process Update		Discussion
L.	New Business		
	None		
M.	Meetings To Be Scheduled		
	1. Planning/Outreach Committee (Rao, Krupicka, Palmisano) Weeks of October 16, October 23		
N.	Adjournment		

**LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held in conjunction with a Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for the Indian Prairie Public Library District, DuPage & Cook Counties, Illinois at 6:30 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time, September 20, 2023, at the Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois. Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriations Ordinance is on file and has been on file at the Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois, since July 21, 2023.

Marian Krupicka, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
Published in The Doings August  
3, 2023.  
August 3, 2023 7474636

**Letter of thanks to Indian Prairie Library Staff**

**Until I took classes provided by the Indian Prairie library I considered myself an "art appreciator" with no thought of further involvement, beyond occasional purchase. Even though I worked down the street from The Art Institute for years, and enjoyed spare moments perusing their halls, I never envisioned myself creating any real "art".**

**But after Covid and retirement, creativity has seemed to sneak its way into my life and even possibly – has landed!**

**Fully engaging in art has become possible for me because of Laura Lein-Svencner's inspirational classes at the library as well as space provided to the Way Forward group during this past year. We were thrilled (and so grateful) when we were asked to display some of the things we had created...!**

**In learning about the processes involved in collaging and mixed media, I have recognized these artistic processes as metaphors for life. I'm reminded how our experiences stamp, sand and cover our wounds, our ragged edges, shaping our very beings. By introducing the connection between meditation and art into her classes, Laura has inspired a further connection to self and to community.**

**While currently focusing on watercolor painting, I have discovered that even my thoughts wander like the water on the paper!**

**Random thoughts ebb and flow; they coalesce, with time, into meaningful, worthwhile compositions. As in all of art, stray colors inspire us, seek out one another, uncloud our vision, become forgiving and soothe the soul....**

**Therefore,**

**For the opportunity to be inspired by, and share in the creative process with, the Indian Prairie library, we are profoundly grateful! We cannot thank you enough for your interest in and support for us!**

**Gratefully,**

**Helen Mares**

## National Night Out

Geoff Kosieniak <gkosieniak@darienil.gov>

Fri 8/18/2023 10:51 PM

To: Laura Birmingham <laurab@ippl.info>

Laura,

I would like to extend a special "Thank You" to you and the Indian Prairie Library for attending and helping in making this year's National Night Out event a success!

Geoff

**Sgt Geoff Kosieniak  
Darien Police Department  
1710 Plainfield Road  
Darien, IL 60561**

**Main: 630-971-3999**

**Fax: 630-971-4326**

**Desk: 630-353-8330**

**Cell: 630-774-0973**

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401 Plainfield Road | Darien, Illinois 60561-4207

T 630/887-8760 F 630/887-1018 ippl.info

August 31, 2023

Amanda Sloan, VP/Branch Sales Manager  
Republic Bank of Chicago  
1510 75th Street  
Darien, IL 60561

Dear Amanda:

I wanted to reach out again and once again say "thank you" for the generous donation from Republic Bank. I am happy to report that the 2023 Summer Reading program had a grand total of 1,616 participants (1,091 kids, 85 teens and 440 adults). This year's participation almost triples last year's numbers - simply amazing!

Your donation made a big impact on our program and most definitely contributed it to our success. It is community partners like you that help the library achieve its mission to strengthen our community.

I look forward to future opportunities to partner with Republic Bank.

Best,

Laura Birmingham  
Executive Director  
Indian Prairie Public Library

**Board of Trustees**

Victoria Suriano /President Donald Damon /Vice President Themis Raftis/Treasurer Marian Krupicka /Secretary  
Stacy Palmisano/Trustee Sri Rao /Trustee Christina Rodriguez /Trustee Laura Birmingham /Library Executive Director

Indian Prairie Public Library  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
Regular Meeting of August 16, 2023

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
August 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

A. Roll Call

President Suriano called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Secretary Krupicka called the roll.  
Present: Marian Krupicka, Stacy Palmisano, Themis Raftis, Sri Rao, Christina Rodriguez,  
Victoria Suriano

Absent: Donald Damon

Staff Present: Kristen Lawson, Maria Wlosinski, Joe Popowitch

Others:

President Suriano asked for additions and/or corrections to the agenda. There were none.

B. Mission Statement: Secretary Krupicka read the library mission statement. We enrich people's lives by providing opportunities to explore, connect, and be inspired.

Vision Statement: Secretary Krupicka read the library vision statement. Lives are enriched and dreams are realized.

Values Statement: Secretary Krupicka read the library values statement. We value and respect the individual. We empower and guide each visitor. We aspire to bring people together.

C. Public Comment

D. Communications and Announcements

1. Birmingham to Darien Woman's Club re: Thank You for Donation
2. Doings Article re: Mobile Museum of Tolerance

E. Omnibus Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, July 19, 2023
2. Action on Bills/Additional Bills
3. Approval of 2023 Illinois Public Library Annual report
4. Local Government Efficiency Act Final Report

Rao moved, Krupicka seconded to approve the Omnibus Consent Agenda. Ayes: Krupicka, Palmisano, Raftis, Rao, Rodriguez, Suriano. Nays: none. Absent: Damon. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Items Deleted from Omnibus Consent Agenda - none

At this point Popowitch gave his staff report. He left at 7 p.m. and the Board continued with the rest of the agenda.

G. Library Director's Report

With respect to the Foundation and Friends, it was suggested that we develop a wish list for the Maker Studio, perhaps with tiered giving, keeping space considerations in mind.

H. Department Reports

Lawson reported that our Building Services Coordinator put a fresh coat of paint on the book drops and the bollards in front of the building. Painters are in the process of refreshing many walls inside the building.

- I. Staff Report – Joe Popowitch, Resource Services Librarian, spoke to the Board about our genealogy resources. We have a small collection of books as most resources are available online. Popowitch highlighted the databases and helpful links on our website. In addition we offer programs as well as equipment for scanning and digitizing. Our Genealogy Group meets every month at the library to share a wealth of information. IPPL has been a FamilySearch affiliate library since 2018 creating broader access to historical record collections for our patrons.

J. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report - backup in packet.
2. Building and Grounds Committee – no report
3. Finance Committee – no report.
4. Planning/Outreach Committee – no report
5. Policy Committee – no report

K. Unfinished Business - None

L. New Business

1. Programming Discussion – Suriano read the following statement in response to public comment at last month's Board meeting:  
 Last month, we had a number of people attend the board meeting. Those who had a public comment were generally very complimentary about the library and our programming. There was a comment about the library's cancellation of the Rainbow Club and I wanted to share some background. First of all, the library has had a Rainbow Club for teens for many years. The two high school districts that we serve also have clubs that support LGBTQIA teens. Over the past couple of years, we have seen our attendance for the club drop significantly. Last year our Rainbow Club had little to no attendance. Students indicated that they were attending the club at the high school and our club no longer interested them. We also offered a Rainbow Club for Parents and Allies and this too had little to no attendance. In general for all of our programs, attendance numbers are key in determining what programs are of interest to the community. Because of the lack of attendance, we stopped offering the Teen Rainbow Club this fall. Indian Prairie serves to support our local schools. The schools have licensed educators, social workers and guidance counselors who directly work with LGBTQIA students. We will be having conversations with our local school leaders as a part of our upcoming strategic planning process. These conversations will give us insight on how we can best support our schools and area students.
2. Strategic Plan Timeline – Lawson reviewed the timeline with the Board. The Trustees are excited to start the process.



M. Meetings

N. Adjournment

At 7:36 p.m. Rodriguez moved, Rao seconded to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: Krupicka, Palmisano, Raftis, Rao, Rodriguez, Suriano. Nays: none. Absent: Damon. Motion carried unanimously.

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Marian Krupicka, Secretary

ACTION ON BILLS AUGUST, 2023

<u>Account</u>	<u>Check #'s</u>	<u>Total</u>
Republic Bank-Bills for Approval	2562 - 2623	\$ 153,307.42
Republic Paper Pay Checks	2094 - 2100	\$ 2,359.11
Republic Direct Deposits		\$ 193,134.93
MONTH'S TOTAL:		\$ 348,801.46

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## Indian Prairie Public Library District Bill Payment List August 2023

Date	Num	Vendor	Amount
<b>10127 Republic Bank Operating Account</b>			
08/02/2023	2562	Spira Farms	120.00
08/08/2023	2563	AT&T	365.15
08/08/2023	2564	Baker & Taylor	313.58
08/08/2023	2565	Cengage Learning, Inc.	84.77
08/08/2023	2566	Center Point Large Print	60.67
08/08/2023	2567	Dancing Cranes Yoga Inc.	300.00
08/08/2023	2568	Illinois Dept of Innovation & Technology	475.00
08/08/2023	2569	Kamm Insurance Group	7.33
08/08/2023	2570	Kate Kresek	5.90
08/08/2023	2571	Kimberly McElheny	200.00
08/08/2023	2572	kristinZkreations	1,125.00
08/08/2023	2573	Lauterbach & Amen, LLP	660.00
08/08/2023	2574	Michelle NicholsYehling	175.00
08/08/2023	2575	Midwest Laser Specialists, Inc.	204.00
08/08/2023	2576	Midwest Tape	4,904.24
08/08/2023	2577	OverDrive, Inc.	3,309.11
08/08/2023	2578	Patron Point, Inc.	54.30
08/08/2023	2579	Unique	68.95
08/08/2023	2580	Wlosinski, Maria	8.52
08/17/2023	2581	AEP Energy, Inc.	3,873.37
08/17/2023	2582	Allcomm Systems, Inc.	450.00
08/17/2023	2583	Canon Financial Services, Inc.	228.88
08/17/2023	2584	Canon Solutions America Inc.	59.50
08/17/2023	2585	Chicago Tribune Media Group	163.48
08/17/2023	2586	ComEd	3,702.01
08/17/2023	2587	Current Technologies Corporation	330.00
08/17/2023	2588	Dell Marketing L.P.	15,858.00
08/17/2023	2589	DEMCO	59.34
08/17/2023	2590	Eskew, Joe	53.71
08/17/2023	2591	Groot Industries, Inc.	634.07
08/17/2023	2592	Hearst Communications, Inc. Road & Track	25.00
08/17/2023	2593	Ingram Library Services	8,068.67
08/17/2023	2594	Kanopy	233.70
08/17/2023	2595	Merda, Amy E	19.30
08/17/2023	2596	Quill LLC	2,944.12
08/17/2023	2597	Specialty Mat Service	133.70
08/17/2023	2598	The Atlantic Monthly Group LLC	44.95
08/17/2023	2599	The Library Store	11,556.25
08/17/2023	2600	Today's Business Solutions, Inc.	159.36
08/31/2023	2601	Baker & Taylor	200.97

# Indian Prairie Public Library District Bill Payment List August 2023

Date	Num	Vendor	Amount
<b>10127 Republic Bank Operating Account</b>			
08/31/2023	2602	Bank of America	9,880.05
08/31/2023	2603	Blackstone Publishing, Inc.	1,295.74
08/31/2023	2604	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois	22,485.21
08/31/2023	2605	Cengage Learning, Inc.	623.79
08/31/2023	2606	Center Point Large Print	152.80
08/31/2023	2607	CG Professional Service, Inc.	12,459.00
08/31/2023	2608	Current Technologies Corporation	7,396.83
08/31/2023	2609	Dearborn Life Insurance Company	391.65
08/31/2023	2610	DEMCO	220.41
08/31/2023	2611	Drake Painting & Wallpapering	22,280.00
08/31/2023	2612	FSS Technologies	112.50
08/31/2023	2613	Hagg Press, Inc.	8,702.00
08/31/2023	2614	Kelli Parke	16.66
08/31/2023	2615	Naperville Public Library	82.50
08/31/2023	2616	NCPERS Group Life Insurance	48.00
08/31/2023	2617	Premier Landscape Contractors	1,243.00
08/31/2023	2618	Principal Life Insurance Company	1,497.21
08/31/2023	2619	Quill LLC	1,952.78
08/31/2023	2620	RAILS	760.00
08/31/2023	2621	Scholastic Inc. Magazines	102.39
08/31/2023	2622	SWAN	70.00
08/31/2023	2623	Today's Business Solutions, Inc.	295.00
<b>Total for 10127 Republic Bank Operating Account</b>			<b>\$ 153,307.42</b>

## Bills for approval – Electronic Payments &amp; Automatic Withdrawals

**AUGUST 2023**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Federal & IL	Payroll taxes	8/2/2023	24,024.36
Federal & IL	Payroll taxes	8/16/2023	24,188.19
Federal & IL	Payroll taxes	8/30/2023	23,505.20
IMRF	Payroll Pension		Paid in Sept.
ExpertPay	Garnishments	8/2/2023	485.50
ExpertPay	Payroll taxes	8/16/2023	485.80
ExpertPay	Payroll taxes	8/30/2023	407.02
Mission Square	457 Plan	8/4/2023	50.00
Mission Square	457 Plan	8/18/2023	50.00
Mission Square	457 Plan	8/31/2023	50.00
Nationwide	457 Plan	8/3/2023	50.00
Nationwide	457 Plan	8/17/2023	50.00
Nationwide	457 Plan	8/31/2023	50.00
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/3/2023	1,089.20
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/8/2023	169.34
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/9/2023	214.90
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/15/2023	26.20
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/22/2023	52.40
DAC	Deposit to HRA	8/29/2023	17.80
Nicor	Gas	8/14/2023	848.48
ELS	License Stickers		3,114.00
ELS	ELS Fee (July)	8/3/2023	47.85
INB & Republic	Cr Card & Bank Fees	8/15/2023	268.38

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-4**  
**BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**  
**INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**DU PAGE & COOK COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

This Ordinance constitutes the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for the Indian Prairie Public Library District, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Library Trustees of the Indian Prairie Public Library District, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. The following budget and appropriation amounts are adopted for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

**Estimate of Expenditures from Corporate Fund**

	<u>Appropriation</u>
Personnel	3,250,000
Materials	525,000
Building Operations	350,000
Office Operations	45,000
Technology & Maker	200,000
Contractual Services	45,000
Insurance	25,000
Communications/Publicity	75,000
Programs	45,000
<b>Total Corporate Fund</b>	<b>4,560,000</b>

**Estimate of Expenditures from Special Tax Funds**

Audit	0
IMRF	60,000
Social Security	55,000
Liability Insurance	20,000
Building and Equipment (.02% Special Tax)	125,000

**Summary**

Corporate	4,560,000
Audit	0
IMRF	60,000
Social Security	55,000
Liability Insurance	20,000
Building and Equipment (.02%)	125,000
Special Reserve	0
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>4,820,000</b>

SECTION 2. As part of the Annual Budget, it is stated

- a. The cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year is \$3,588,715
- b. The estimated cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources is \$4,364,989
- c. The estimated expenditures for the fiscal year are \$4,240,264
- d. The estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year is \$3,713,440
- e. The estimated amount of taxes to be received during the fiscal year is \$4,129,698
- f. The estimated amount of income to be received from sources other than library taxes for the fiscal year is \$235,291

SECTION 3. Funds in the total amount of \$4,820,000 or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are hereby appropriated as specified.

SECTION 4. All unexpended balances of proceeds received annually from public library taxes not in excess of statutory limits may be transferred to the Corporate Reserve Fund.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

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PASSED by the Board of Library Trustees on September 20, 2023.

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Victoria Suriano, President

ATTEST:

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Marian Krupicka, Secretary

INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT,  
DU PAGE & COOK COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

I, Themis Raftis, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Treasurer of the INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, DuPage & Cook Counties, Illinois, and as such that I am the chief fiscal officer of said Library District.

I do further certify that the following is an estimate of fund balances on hand as of July 1, 2023 and revenues, by source, anticipated to be received by the INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT in the following fiscal year, being the fiscal year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

<u>ESTIMATE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>		<u>SOURCE</u>
1.	1,142,809	Corporate fund balance on hand 7/1/23
2.	235,291	Receipts during current fiscal year from tax anticipation warrants and receipts from other sources such as fines, gifts, grants, rentals, donations, and impact fees
3.	4,129,698	Anticipated tax collection
4.	-15,742	Special Reserve Fund
5.	6,196	Balance SPECIAL TAX funds on hand 7/1/23
6.	0	Proceeds of mortgage loan, bonds, construction grants and gifts for purchase of site or building or remodeling and improving existing building
<hr/>		
	5,498,252	Total estimated revenues and fund balances available for the 2023/24 fiscal year

I do further certify that the above estimate of balances on hand as of July 1, 2023 and revenues anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year was made in full compliance with the provisions of Chapter 35, Act 205, Section 162 of Illinois Compiled Statutes 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Themis Raftis, Treasurer and Chief Fiscal Officer of the  
INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT



## 805.5 Bereavement Leave

Absence with pay for up to five scheduled work days is allowed to full-time employees and to part-time employees working 20 hours or more per week for the death of a spouse, domestic partner, sibling, child (including a biological child, step-child, adopted child, foster child, legal ward, or any other child for which the employee stands in loco parentis), grandchild, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, stepparent, and grandparent. Absence with pay for up to three scheduled work days is allowed to full-time employees and to part-time employees working 20-hours or more for death of a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, great-grandparent or other member of the employee's immediate household.

In addition, employees are eligible for an additional unpaid leave such that the employee has 10 days total of leave time in the event of the death of a covered family member, as defined above. In the event of the death of more than one covered family member in a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to six (6) weeks of bereavement leave during that period. Employees may use any accrued, unused paid time off to run concurrently with this time. Employees must complete time off under this policy within 60 days of learning of the need for leave.

Employees may use this time to attend the funeral or alternative to a funeral of a covered family member, make arrangements necessitated by the death of the covered family member, and/or grieve the death of the covered family member. This time may also be used for absences from work due to (i) a miscarriage; (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure; (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party; (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement; (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or (vi) a stillbirth.

Additional unpaid leave time in relation to bereavement of covered family member or for bereavement of a loved one not covered under this policy may be allowed at the discretion of the Executive Director. Staff who work less than 20 hours per week may take the same amount of time as listed above in the form of unpaid leave.

### Child Extended Bereavement Leave

Full-time employees, who have been employed for at least two weeks and have lost a child due to homicide or suicide, are eligible for six weeks of bereavement leave. Five days will be paid as detailed in the section regarding family member bereavement leave and the remaining time will be unpaid.

Employees may take leave in one continuous period or intermittently in increments of no less than four (4) hours. Leave must be taken within one (1) year after the employee notifies the employer of the loss.

### 805.7 Employee Blood and Organ Donation Leave Act

A full-time employee who has been employed by the library for at least six months may take up to one hour of paid time off every 56 days to donate blood. A full-time employee donating an organ may use up to 10 days of leave in any 12-month period, and must provide medical documentation before the organ donation leave is taken. The leave may run concurrently with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). “Organ Donation” means the act of donating any biological tissue of the human body that may be donated by a living donor (other than blood), including but not limited to, the kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, intestine, bone, and skin or any subpart thereof.

An employee is required to give reasonable notice to the organization in the event that the employee chooses to use leave under this policy. A request for leave under this policy must be in writing and must include the day the employee wishes to use the leave along with a written statement from the blood bank or medical/transplant facility indicating that the employee has an appointment on the day requested for leave to donate or attempt to donate blood or an organ.

Upon an employee's return from an approved leave, the employee will be required to submit a written statement from the blood bank or medical/transplant facility verifying that the employee kept the appointment.

### 806.1 Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) Leave

The library complies with the Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act. Any part or full-time employee who is a victim of domestic violence, gender violence, sexual violence or other crime of violence, or who has an immediate family member defined as a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, a person residing in the same household, ~~someone~~ any person related by blood, by present or prior marriage, and someone who shares a relationship through a son or daughter who is a victim of domestic violence, gender violence, sexual violence, or other crime of violence, may take up to 12 work weeks during any 12 month period VESSA leave to:

Seek medical attention for, or recovery from, physical or psychological injuries caused by domestic, sexual or gender violence, or any other crime of violence, to the employee or the employee's family or household member;

Obtain victim services from a victim services organization for the employee or the employee's family or household member;

Obtain psychological or other counseling for the employee or the employee's family or household member ;

Participate in safety planning, including temporary or permanent relocation or other actions to increase the safety of the ~~victim~~ employee or the employee's family or household member from future domestic or sexual or gender violence, any other crime of violence, or ensuring economic security; or

Seek legal assistance to ensure the health and safety of the ~~victim~~ employee or the employee's family or household member including participating in court proceedings related to the violence.

Eligible employee may take up to 10 days of VESSA leave to attend the funeral or wake of a family or household member who is killed in a crime of violence; to make arrangements necessitated by the death of a family or household member who is killed in a crime of violence; or grieve the death of a family or household member who is killed in a crime of violence. Leave for these reasons must be completed within 60 days after the employee received notice of the death of the victim. If the employee is eligible for bereavement leave, the VESSA leave will run concurrently.

Upon return from VESSA leave, the employee shall be reinstated to his original job or a job of like status and pay.

An employee requesting VESSA leave is required to give 48 hours notice in the event of a foreseeable leave. In unexpected or unforeseeable situations, an employee should provide written notice at the earliest possible time. The employee is required to submit a certification demonstrating the need for leave.

The certification must be provided by the employee as soon as reasonably possible and within 15 days after leave is requested. The certification requirement may be satisfied by the submission of a sworn statement from the employee and one of the following:

Documentation from a victim services organization, attorney, clergy, or medical or other professional from whom the employee or the family/household member has sought assistance from in addressing domestic, sexual, gender, violence or crime of violence;

A police or court record;

A death certificate, published obituary, or written verification of death, burial or memorial services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society, crematorium, religious institution or government agency that a victim was killed in a crime of violence.

Information of this nature and the request for leave is confidential.

The library will require the employee to report periodically on their status and intent to return to work.

VESSA leave will be counted on a 12-month period rolling forward from the date of the first day of VESSA leave. VESSA leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced work schedule. The employee may choose to use their vacation, sick or personal time along with the VESSA leave. This does not extend the VESSA leave.

The Library will continue to pay 85% of the health insurance premium for full-time employees receiving health insurance coverage through the library for a period of up to 12 weeks. Employees are responsible for payment of their portion of the applicable insurance premiums during the leave. Employees on unpaid VESSA will not earn vacation leave, sick leave, or holiday pay unless their leave is intermittent and they work at least an average of 20 hours per week during the month.

The library will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations for VESSA, unless such accommodations would present undue hardship. Reasonable accommodation applies to applicants and employees and may include adjustment to a job structure, workplace facility, or work requirement. To request a reasonable accommodation, the employee should give a written request to the Executive Director at the earliest possible time.

## Executive Director's Report September 2023

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### Village of Willowbrook:

We will be contracting with the Village of Willowbrook for snow removal services this year. This is a great savings to us and I am confident they will do a great job.

### Strategic Plan:

I have sent out a Request for Proposal to various recommended strategic planning consultants. The due date for the proposals is October 12<sup>th</sup>. I would like to set a Planning Outreach committee to review the RFP's and create a short list of candidates to do an in-person presentation. The Planning/Outreach Committee is Sri (CP), Marian and Stacy. We would award the contract at the November Board Meeting and the process would start in the new year.

### Omnibus:

Approval of the Budget and Appropriations for FY23/24 is required by law. This was reviewed by trustees in August and has been available for public review since that time. The public hearing to allow residents to comment on this document is set for 6:30, prior to the board meeting starting at 6:40.

The Estimate of Revenues is also required by law. The board has to adopt the Estimate, which is a summary of information contained in the Budget and Appropriations, and the form is then sent to the counties.

Also in the omnibus, there are several updated policies due to an upcoming change in laws. Pritzker signed some new laws that affect personnel policies that go into effect on January 1, 2024. Bereavement Leave (805.5) now includes paid leave up to six weeks for full-time employees who have lost a child to suicide or homicide. The Employee Blood Donation Leave Act (805.7) has been updated to include paid time off up to ten days for full-time employees who donate an organ. The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) Leave (806.1) has been updated to include paid time off for part-time or full-time employees who are a victim of gender violence, sexual violence or other crime of violence. All of these updated policies are in the omnibus. The changes are highlighted.

### Summer Reading Wrap-Up:

We had a wonderfully successful Summer Reading Program this year. We had a total of 1,616 participants (Kids 1,091, Teens 85, Adults 440). Last year, we had a total of 475 participants so this is a 240% increase! Amy Merda will be reporting on highlights of the summer at this month's Board meeting.

### Personnel:

Erin Fergus has been promoted to Programming and Outreach Senior Librarian as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rachel Hofstetter's last day as Assistant Head of Guest Services was August 24<sup>th</sup>. Cindy and I are going to study the needs of the department and not replace this position at this time.

Sky Stopen has been promoted to Guest Services Supervisor as of August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Kelli Parke's last day as Programming and Outreach Specialist was August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Cornfield has been hired as our new Programming and Outreach Support Specialist as of August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy Kline, Programming and Outreach Associate, officially retired on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Denise Crylen has been hired as a Guest Services Page/Shelver. She starts on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Kate Ouwenga has been hired as a new Technology & Maker Associate. She starts on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

There are still open positions of Tech and Maker Associate, Guest Services Associate, and Guest Services Page/Shelver.

#### **IPPL Foundation & Friends:**

The Book Sale brought in \$317.75 in August. Movie Donations were \$16.

After some thoughtful conversations with the planning committee, we decided to move the date of the January after-hours art event until October 2024. Our working title is "Fall into Art" and it ties in with National Humanities Month. If the weather is nice, we can use both indoor and outdoor spaces. Details to follow as we plan.

#### **Meetings:**

- 8/22 Book Ban Roundtable
- 8/29 SWAN Fireside
- 9/5 Department Head Meeting
- 9/7 SWAN Quarterly
- 9/7 Summer Reading De-Brief Meeting
- 9/19 Department Head Meeting
- 9/20 Library Board Meeting

In August, I had 11 one on ones with 7 staff. (Mary, Kristen, Cindy, Mark, Amy, Gail & Jill)

#### **Continuing Education**

- 8/29 Three Mistakes Leaders Make: Get the Balance Right Webinar (1 hour)

Submitted by:



Laura Birmingham  
Executive Director

## **Deputy Director's Report: August 2023**

### **Building & Grounds:**

On September 7, a crew from AT&T came to try and install a handhole in order to fix the issue causing water leaks in our electrical room, originating from when the fiber optic line was installed back in 2019. In doing so, they accidentally hit the gas line that leads to our generator (not the main line that Nicor marked after a call to JULIE). We had to evacuate and close the library, but luckily no one was hurt, and we were able to reopen the next day per our normal schedule.

We have settled on a company called CG Professional Services, based in Orland Park, to replace our generator. Their quote featured pricing that was significantly better than the competing quotes, and they were able to provide references who gave them glowing reviews. I expect the project to be done sometime within the next few months, but don't have a firm timeline yet.

Painting in the public areas of the building is now complete. The new paint has already proven to be much more durable than the old; I was able to remove large shoe scuff marks off the green wall in Mid Kids last week with just a damp paper towel. The paint stayed put and now it looks good as new.

Additionally, Joe closed 41 building tickets in August. Highlights include: 1) Installed two Monarch Waystation signs near our pergola and Keshav's Garden, 2) Fixed the hot water faucet in the first-floor men's room, and 3) Installed a French drain on the east side of the grounds.

### **Meetings:**

Library Board meeting: 8/16

Regular check-in meetings with Joe, twice/week (ongoing)

Regular check-in meetings with Tony, once/week (ongoing)

### **Staff Training:**

I created and sent out a tornado siren procedure for persons-in-charge and Guest Services supervisors to follow.

After attending the Book Banning Roundtable event in August, I created training for persons-in-charge that will help them navigate materials challenge conversations. The training will be conducted in September.



I also created several new documents that will help make onboarding and initial training more standardized across departments. I'm getting feedback from the Heads in September and will be fine-tuning the documents based on what I hear.

Finally, I created a checklist for persons-in-charge that will help them navigate a slightly different closing situation due to our new 9 p.m. closing times on Monday-Thursday, starting Sept. 5.

### **Technology Highlights:**

Tony is working with TBS to configure the new public computers so they will work with our printing and user management systems. Further, he successfully installed and tested the Deep Freeze Enterprise Console on one of the new VMs he built. The new VM is fully operational now and the old one will be retired soon.

In addition to closing 23 technology tickets in August, Tony completed a lot of back-end IT work for us. Highlights include: 1) Configured and distributed four new staff laptops, 2) Tested the eight new Chromeboxes that will replace our out-of-date Chromebits throughout the building, and 3) Contacted TBS about a new vulnerability in their patron print management software; TBS immediately applied the appropriate patch for us. Tony also attended two SonicWall webinars about cybersecurity.

At the time of this writing, the WorkNet DuPage Kiosk stats for August were unavailable, so I will include them in next month's report.

Report Submitted by: Kristen Lawson

**Jill Yott, Communications Coordinator, Report for Board of Trustees  
August 2023**

**In the Gallery—August**

Display cases: **Kim McElheny**

1st floor gallery: **Oak Brook Art League**

2nd floor gallery: **Oak Brook Art League**

**Other Notable Projects/Meetings/Workshops**

- Paul and I both each had a week off in August.
- Gave Paul his second annual review—happy anniversary, Paul!
- Met with Gail about signage, databases, and other upcoming projects. We now are starting regular meetings because we have a lot of upcoming projects.
- Met with Jordan about some upcoming needs for early literacy and teen collections.
- Continued work on the Foundation website with the outside consultant.
- Met with Cindy and work on emails about transferring the nonresident cards from SWAN emails to PatronPoint emails. I had to work with PatronPoint to filter in the correct data (which they figured out), and then I created an email with Cindy. The first one is due to go out September 15. Another way we are using PatronPoint, which is super exciting.

**Summer Reading 2023**

From a marketing perspective, I loved how Summer Reading 2023 went. Below are the stats from Marketing.

Summer Reading Survey—11 percent responded to the survey, which is the national average. I was hoping for more, but the data that we got will help us make better decisions for next year's program. Thank you to TJ for looking over the questions before they were created. Here's a synopsis of the completions.

**How did you participate in the Summer Reading Program?**

Reader Zone: 47 (32.4 percent)

Paper Log: 98 (67.6 percent)

**Did you complete the Summer Reading Program?**

Yes: 138 (95.1 percent)

No: 2 (1.5 percent)

No response: 5

**Number of completions for the online form: 1,462**

Note: This email is lower than the number Amy reported for summer reading completions. Families could register once for all their kids so it won't line up.

### Communication Email Statistics

Overall, the community was engaged with the Summer Reading emails.

Type of Email	Date	Percent Open Rate
Summer Reading Survey	February 13	42 percent Note: This was sent to the entire email list of 20,000 subscribers.
First email to registrants <b>before</b> Summer Kick Off Party	Ongoing until June 3	84 percent
First email to registrants <b>after</b> sign up after Summer Kick Off Party	From June 4 until the program closed	76 percent
To adults · Upcoming library programs and a link to all the programs. · Recommendations service (they were automatically signed up). · Logging options and reminder about prize pickup	June 5	71 percent
To kids · Upcoming library program offerings including family nights, Mission Math, Chess Club, and a link to all the programs. · Logging options and reminder about prize pickup	June 5	78 percent
To kids · Logging options and reminder about about prize pickup	June 18	63 percent
To adults · Logging options and reminder about about prize pickup	June 18	72 percent
To kids · Logging options and reminder about about prize pickup. · Comics Plus · Highlighting library programs	July 1	69 percent
To adults · Logging options and reminder about about prize pickup. · Reading books on hoopla and EML · Highlighting Library programs	July 1	65 percent
To kids · Reminder on prizes · Reminder how we are your child's partner in education	July 15	67 percent

To adults · Reminder on prizes · Press Reader	July 15	61 percent
To kids · Prize Pick up reminder · Graphic Novel program for mid-kids	July 25	64 percent
To adults · Prize pick up reminder · Eclipse program	July 25	66 percent
To everyone Thanking for participating. Prize pick-up two more weeks. Survey.	August 1	74 percent
To everyone who didn't respond to August 1 email with Survey	August 8	62 percent
Prize Winner Announcement	August 21	65 percent

### Website

During the first part of August, the website was undergoing the backend upgrades. Diane, our consultant, was fabulous. This upgrade is not visible from the outside, but it's on the backend where we do our updating. It was necessary to do this because the old version was no longer supported.

Paul and I did various updates on the site. This ranged from databases to link revisions that needed to be changed as a result of the upgrade, as well as links that just simply were incorrect because the outside source changed their URL. On average, Paul has been spending about one work day per week in August (with exception of the week he was on vacation) doing changes for the website. He's been doing a great job.

### Yelp & Google

People are using Yelp and Google to access the library.

In the month of August, through Yelp 42 people used us to find out more information about the library.

In the month August, through Google . . .

- 440 called us
- 1,014 asked for directions to get to us
- 3,875 Googled our name

Here is a recent review that we got on Google. . .

#### **Five Stars from Rebecca**

I just moved in a few weeks ago, and I already love this library. There is a maker station so you can make tshirts and stuff. They have a lot of books I was looking for along with movies, games, etc. The programs coming up are so enticing. I can't wait. I do however, wish they would be more forceful for the noise. There were a few people, employees included, that talk kind of loud so it is a little distracting. None the less, it's great.

#### **Enews**

##### **General Enews Subscribers**

July 31	21,336
August 31	21,550
Loss/Gain in subscribers	+214

#### **Enews Open Rate**

Overall, people are opening our emails consistently.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Open Rate</b>
August 3	37 percent
August 10	39 percent
August 17	39 percent
August 24	40 percent
August 31	39 percent
Recommends	49 percent
Birthday Campaign Open Rate	55 percent
Anniversary Campaign Open Rate	44 percent
Library Welcome Emails	
Welcome one	72 percent
Welcome two	65 percent
Welcome three	58 percent

## Social Media

We continue to see organic growth on our channels; we lost followers on YouTube Since we haven't posted new content on the channel, it is not surprising.

Social Channel	Likes/Followers	+/- (July 31)
Facebook (likes)	2,346	+6
Facebook (follows)	2,567	+10
Instagram	1,079	+4
Twitter	1,151	+3
LinkedIn	231	+3
YouTube	220	-2

Some of the most popular posts included four photos comprised of the staff dogs (I shared one of the four), the donation of children's materials from the Darien Woman's Club, and a photo of a girl in the Maker Studio who was making embroidered towels for her little sister who was going off to college.



Guest Services  
August 2023

Circulation

The total checkouts and renewals for August was 61,685.

68% of our checkouts and renewals were done by self-service. 25% of our checkouts and renewals were done at the desk and 7% were done at the drive up.

We had 32,281 in-person visitors in August.

We had 776 patrons use the drive up in August.

We checked out or renewed 1,683 items at the drive up. 1,066 holds were placed in August for pickup at the drive-up.

There were 193 checkouts done by patrons on the mobile app.

Community

**Passports:** We accepted 89 passports in August.

**License plate sticker renewals:** We sold 26 License plate stickers in August.

**Library Cards:** We issued a total of 248 library cards. 91 were non-resident; 157 were resident library cards. 60 were initiated remotely.

**Total number of IPPL Library cards:** 26,638

**Birthday gift:** We handed out 7 birthday gifts in August.

Staff

We hired a new Guest Services Page, Denise Crylen.

Meetings

August 9	RAILS Circ Round Table	Helen Plum Public Library
August 29	SWAN Updates	Zoom

Cindy Maiello Gluecklich  
Head of Guest Services

### Programming and Outreach Department – August 2023

#### Staffing Changes

Temporary Support Associate Sara Houska’s last day was on August 18. On August 30, Betty Cornfield began as the new Support Associate.

#### Community

On August 1, Marquitta Harris, Strategist, and Kate Kresek, Specialist, interacted with 1 resident at Sunrise of Willowbrook to offer material checkouts and provide information on library services.

On August 1, Erin Fergus, Senior Librarian, presented engaging storytimes to dozens of children in 6 classrooms at The Goddard Academy.

The first Tuesday in August this year, August 1, was again National Night Out, which is a community-building partnership event between local police departments and the residents they serve. Erin Fergus and Kelli Parke, Specialist, represented IPPL at the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge event at Borse Park and logged 147 interactions with community members. Amy Merda, Dept. Head and Chrissy Wesolowski, Specialist, represented IPPL at the Darien event at Westwood Park and engaged with 200 community members. At both locations, staff offered branded giveaways, newsletters, lollipops, and a fun tossing game.



On August 2, Marquitta Harris met with Jennifer Leak, staff member at Sunrise of Willowbrook. Amy Merda and Chrissy Wesolowski visited 76 Anne M. Jeans summer campers a final time on August 2 to provide a fun activity and free book to keep to celebrate the end of summer and the end of the Summer Reading Program.

Kate Kresek and Marquitta Harris met with two Myers Commons resident activity leaders.

Sarah Zagotta, Teen Librarian, represented IPPL at the Lakeview Jr. High 6<sup>th</sup> grade Open House and interacted with 49 community members on August 14.



Also on August 14, Amy Merda represented IPPL at the Elizabeth Ide School Kindergarten Open House and interacted with 68 community members.

On August 15, Chrissy Wesolowski and Kelli Parke represented IPPL at Concord School’s Open House and connected with 286 community members.



Erin Fergus visited Elizabeth Ide to represent IPPL at their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Open House also on August 15, interacting with 195 community members.



At Anne M. Jeans School's all-day Resource Fair, Sarah Zagotta, Marquitta Harris, and Jordan Calabrese each took shifts to staff IPPL's resource table, where they interacted with 145 community members.

On August 16, Erin Fergus represented IPPL and spoke with 209 community members at Gower West School's Open House.

Chrissy Wesolowski represented IPPL at Eisenhower School's Back-to-School Picnic, speaking with 95 community members on August 18.

On August 18, Marquitta Harris met with Lida Sliz, LADSE staff member.

Amy Merda staffed an IPPL table at Lakeview Jr. High's Teaching and Learning Night on August 24 and spoke with 23 community members.

30 seed packets were taken by community members from the Seed Library during the month of July.

### **Summer Reading:**

This year's Summer Reading Program, which ran from June 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>, with the opportunity to turn in completed logs for prizes until August 15, was popular in our community with the number of participants up at 240% higher than last year's number with 1,616 overall participants and 879 completing the program. Some reasons for that increase likely include: the continued overall early and frequent marketing of the program, increased outreach visits to schools leading up to June (including earlier promotion compared to last year), an increase in attendance at the June SRP Kick-Off party, the option given of a paper log or using ReaderZone (which had 399 participants elect to use the convenient app), and the popularity of the prizes, including the very popular tote bag for those that completed the Teen/Adult logs.

Six names of IPPL community members who completed the program were randomly chosen to win the SRP grand prizes. One adult winner received a \$100 Visa gift card with the other winners each receiving 1 \$25 gift card to Anderson's Bookshop.

### **Programs – August 2023**

**In August, we had 55 programs 2,163 attended by guests.**

#### **Early Literacy/Families**

8/7	Kindergarten Bootcamp	Erin, Jordan	16
8/8	Kindergarten Bootcamp	Erin, Jordan	15
8/9	Kindergarten Bootcamp	Erin, Jordan	16
8/10	Kindergarten Bootcamp	Erin, Jordan	15
8/14	Things That Go: Bikes	Erin	13
8/15	Family Storytime	Erin	41

8/21	Things That Go: Planes	Erin	21
8/22	Family Storytime	Erin, Chrissy	44
8/28	Things That Go: Cars	Erin	27
8/29	Family Storytime	Erin, Chrissy	35



The annual Kindergarten Bootcamp was another hit with young guests (and their caregivers) with multiple activities which included the introduction of a morning routine, activity stations, a graduation ceremony, and more.

### Mid-Kids

8/9	Read to a Pet	Chrissy	7
8/19	Mid-Kids Graphic Novel Meet-Up	Jordan	0

### Teens

8/2	Microwave Chef	Sarah	1
8/24	Teen Dungeons and Dragons	Sarah	8
8/30	Teen Drop-In Lounge	Sarah	3

### Adults

8/2	Online: Chair Yoga	Cindy	15
8/3	Grow Your Own Microgreens	Kate	19
8/3	Thursday Afternoon Movie: Steel Magnolias	T.J.	15
8/8	Free Legal Consults for Immigrants	Joe, T.J.	2
8/9	Online: Chair Yoga	Cindy	18
8/10	Walking in the World	Marquitta	10
8/15	Doing Research at Allen County Library	Joe	6
8/16	Online: Chair Yoga	Cindy	17
8/17	Thursday Afternoon Movies: 5,000 Blankets	T.J.	18
8/19	Fall Homemade Cards	Kate	15
8/22	Online: What to Ask in an Interview	Joe	2
8/22	The Great North American Eclipses	Cindy	32
8/23	Online: Chair Yoga	Cindy	20
8/30	Adult Dungeons and Dragons	Sarah	18
8/30	Online: Chair Yoga	Cindy	21

### Groups

8/3	Nonfiction at Night Book Discussion	Jen	12
8/5	In-Person ESL Conversation Group	Joe	12
8/7	Adult Chess Group	Amy	13
8/9	Online: ESL Conversation Group	Joe	4
8/10	Crime Readers	Tori	10
8/14	Adult Chess Group	Amy	9

8/17	Novel Idea	Jen	15
8/19	In-Person: ESL Conversation Group	Joe	10
8/21	Adult Chess Group	Amy	12
8/23	Online: ESL Conversation Group	Joe	6
8/24	Genealogy Group	Joe	10
8/28	Adult Chess Group	Amy	8

### Passive Programs

8/1-8/31	Adult: Puzzle Table	Marquitta	4
8/1-8/31	Adult Post-It: What Makes You Happy?	Kate	23
8/1-8/31	Teen Post: What are you looking forward to?	Sarah	15
8/2-8/14	Fan Face Craft	Chrissy	320
8/2-8/11	Racecar Coloring	Erin	180
8/4-8/10	Little Maker @ Home: Maze	Erin	30
8/11-8/20	Summer Fun Coloring	Chrissy	160
8/11-8/20	Little Maker @ Home: Trace the Numbers	Erin	110
8/15-8/18	Flying Bee Craft	Chrissy	130
8/21-8/27	B is for Bird Coloring	Erin	200
8/21-8/29	Little Maker @ Home: Construction Hats	Erin	140
8/21-8/25	Back to School T-Shirt	Chrissy	160
8/31	Color by Number	Chrissy	80

Submitted by:

Amy Merda, P & O Dept. Head

9/11/23

## Resource Services Report for August 2023

Submitted by Gail Graziani, Head of Resource Services

### Collections

- Jordan rearranged collection areas in the teen space, including moving the Lincoln Awards to join the other awards books, and flipping the collection to begin with new books near the gaming area.
- Jordan purchased three Amazon Fire Kids Tablets to replace outdated devices.
- The paperback area improvements are complete, and the area now includes the console games, Romance and Mystery paperbacks, the ESL collection, the World Languages collection, Graphic Novels, and Manga.
- Audio Visual area improvements currently in process include shifting the audiobooks to create more shelving for the Anime and Foreign Film DVDs in order to add zigzag holders for easier shelving and browsing. We are also working with Jill on new signage at the top of the bays.
- Jen weeded the Science Fiction area and the shelvers shifted the collection to fill the three empty bays left by the shifting of Biography and movement of the Great Courses. Science Fiction is now off the top shelves in the stacks. Mystery is also in the process of being removed from the top shelves.
- T.J. added two new Apple TV+ Rokus for a total of eight Rokus offering Apple TV+, to meet demand.
- Following a generous donation by the Darien Woman's Club, Jordan began ordering materials, including new books in Arabic, Chinese, and French for the J World Language Section.

### Library Materials Displays for August

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

- Bottom Shelf Books
- Spotlight: Audiobooks
- Cooks and Crooks
- Science Fiction Favorites

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

- First Day of School
- Superheroes
- Back to School
- Don't Forget About Summer Reading
- Prairie (Blooms/Wildflowers)

### Monthly Highlights

- Jen created new Collection Development procedures for Mass Market Paperbacks and Adult World Language Novels.
- Tori met with Marquitta to discuss potential improvements to the Home Bound program procedures.
- Joe updated the list of Building Codes required by local governments and compared it to our collection to ensure that we are up to date.

- Joe presented to the Library Board of Trustees on IPPL's genealogy resources.
- T.J. shared ideas with Marketing for promoting Hoopla Music, Kanopy, and the new Roku.
- Anna created a plan to add new SF/F call numbers and stickers to the Science Fiction collection.
- Jordan helped facilitate the Kindergarten Bootcamp program with Erin over a four-day period with 15-16 participants per day.
- Jeanine reviewed our current Cooking subcategories and created a proposal for updates.
- Jeanine worked with Jamie to revise the procedures and submission form for commemorative book plates.

#### On-Call Librarian August Interactions

Assistance	260
Reference	57
One-to-One Training	14
Readers' Advisory	3
Directional	22
TOTAL	356

#### Community

- Tori prepared book club discussion materials for 13 book clubs, seven on new titles never before requested and six on titles that another club had previously requested.
- Jordan attended the Anne M. Jeans District 180 Resource Fair and spoke to 25 people about the library's resources and services.

#### Groups / Programs

Date	Name	Program	Attendance
8/3/23	T.J.	Thursday Movie: Steel Magnolias	15
8/3/23	Joe	Non-Fiction at Night Book Group	12
8/5/23	Joe	In-Person ESL Conversation Group	12
8/8/23	Joe	Free Legal Consultations for Immigrants	2
8/9/23	Joe	Online ESL Conversation Group	4
8/10/23	Tori	Crime Readers Book Group	10
8/17/23	T.J.	Thursday Move: 5000 Blankets	18
8/17/23	Jen	Novel Idea Book Club	15
8/19/23	Jordan	Mid-Kid Graphic Novel Meet Up	0
8/19/23	Joe	In-Person ESL Conversation Group	10
8/22/23	Joe	Goodwill Workforce: Interview Questions	3
8/23/23	Joe	Online ESL Conversation Group	6
8/24/23	Joe	Genealogy Group	17

**Continuing Education & Contributing to the Profession**

- Jordan attended the following webinars/meetings:
  - × ○ Collection Development Networking Meeting (RAILS)
  - School Library Journal Teen Live Conference
  - Youth Services Forum Meeting (ILA)
- Jen attended the following webinars/meetings:
  - Intro to Boundless
  - Collection Development Networking Meeting (RAILS)
  - Fall Adult Preview (Booklist)
  - SustainRT Chairs Meeting (ALA)
- Diane attended the following conference:
  - SWAN Expo
- Jeanine attended the following webinar:
  - Bystander Intervention in Public Workplaces (RAILS)
- Tori attended the following webinar:
  - Fall Adult Faves (Booklist)

## Technology & Maker Services Board Report

August 2023

### Classes/Programs

Number of Classes: 13 - Total Attendance: 86

### Maker Programs

Date	Time	Class	Audience	Instructor	Attendance
8/5/23	9:30-11am	Sublimation T-Shirts	All	Jack	11
8/8/23	9:30-11am	Best Friend Bracelets	G 2-6	Beth	16
8/10/23	6-7pm	3D Carvey Carving	Adult, teen	Jack	5
8/12/23	9:30-11am	Stamp Creation	Kids	Beth	4
8/14/23	6-7pm	Intro Vinyl Cutters	All	Beth	3
8/19/23	9:30-10:30a	Intro laser Etching	All	Luke	7
8/23/23	6-7pm	Intro Embroidery	All	Luke	8
8/25/23	9:30-10:30a	Intro to 3D Printing	All	Jack	7

### Technology Programs

Date	Time	Class	Audience	Instructor	Attendance
8/10/23	2-3:30pm	Microsoft Word (6 week)	Adult	PRC	5
8/17/23	2-3:30pm	Microsoft Word (6 week)	Adult	PRC	5
8/21/23	6-8pm	Intro to Chromebooks	Adult	PRC	5
8/24/23	2-3:30pm	Microsoft Word (6 week)	Adult	PRC	5
8/31/23	2-3:30pm	Microsoft Word (6 week)	Adult	PRC	5

### Statistics

- Computer Usage
  - Adult Users: 1852      Hours: 1464
  - Adult laptop: 14      Hours: 19
  - K&T Users: 885      Hours: 408
  - K&T Laptops: 3      Hours: 1
- Technology Desk Assistance- 576
- 1-on-1 Training- 14
- Wireless Usage- Total Unique Access: 7850

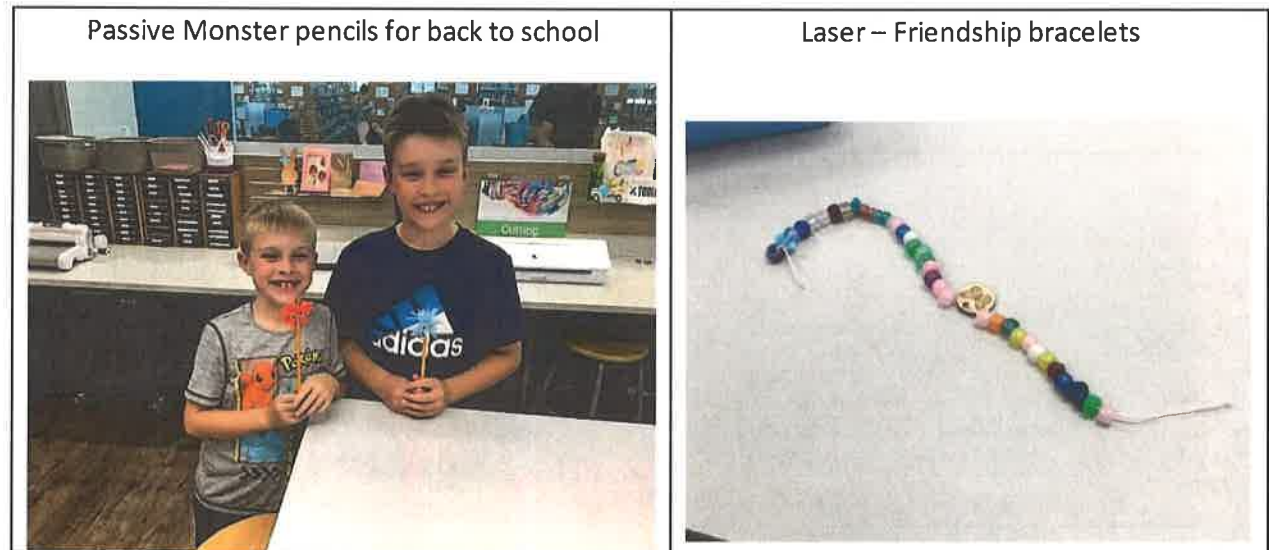
### Maker Services/Maker Studio

- Maker Studio staff have been training on the newly donated serger machine. We are learning to operate and thread the device, and using a serger instead of a sewing machine is best.
- Patrons have been discovering the new serger machine and are already asking questions and trying projects.
- Staff installed a new poster printer in the Maker Studio. The new printer offers higher quality prints at lower material costs and is more environmentally friendly with ink packaging.
- Volunteers have been assisting staff and patrons in the Studio. They have also been learning from staff and discovering new projects for maker machines. One volunteer created a chatbot to give patrons ideas of what they might want to make in the studio.
- We officially hired a new 25-hour staff person, Kate O., who will start **on September 18th**.
- Beth is moving to P&O in October, so we are looking for another 25-hour person. It is posted on the website right now.
- I sent Laura a second draft of the Maker Studio Support position for edits/approval.

### Classes/Programs

- Passive program- 1-1. Total attendance: 41

### Made in a class



### Made Using Equipment



Embroidery – Towels



Embroidery– Patches on embroidery machine



Laser – Deer wreath on laser cutter



Embroidery– Towels on embroidery machine



Embroidery – Shirt for B&B



Laser – Cutting board



Embroidery – Daughters school bag



Laser & Cutting tools – Quilt pieces



Serger Machine – Fixing towels



Embroidery - Friend scarfs



Serger Machine -Edging blanket



Vinyl & Heat Press - Sports shirts

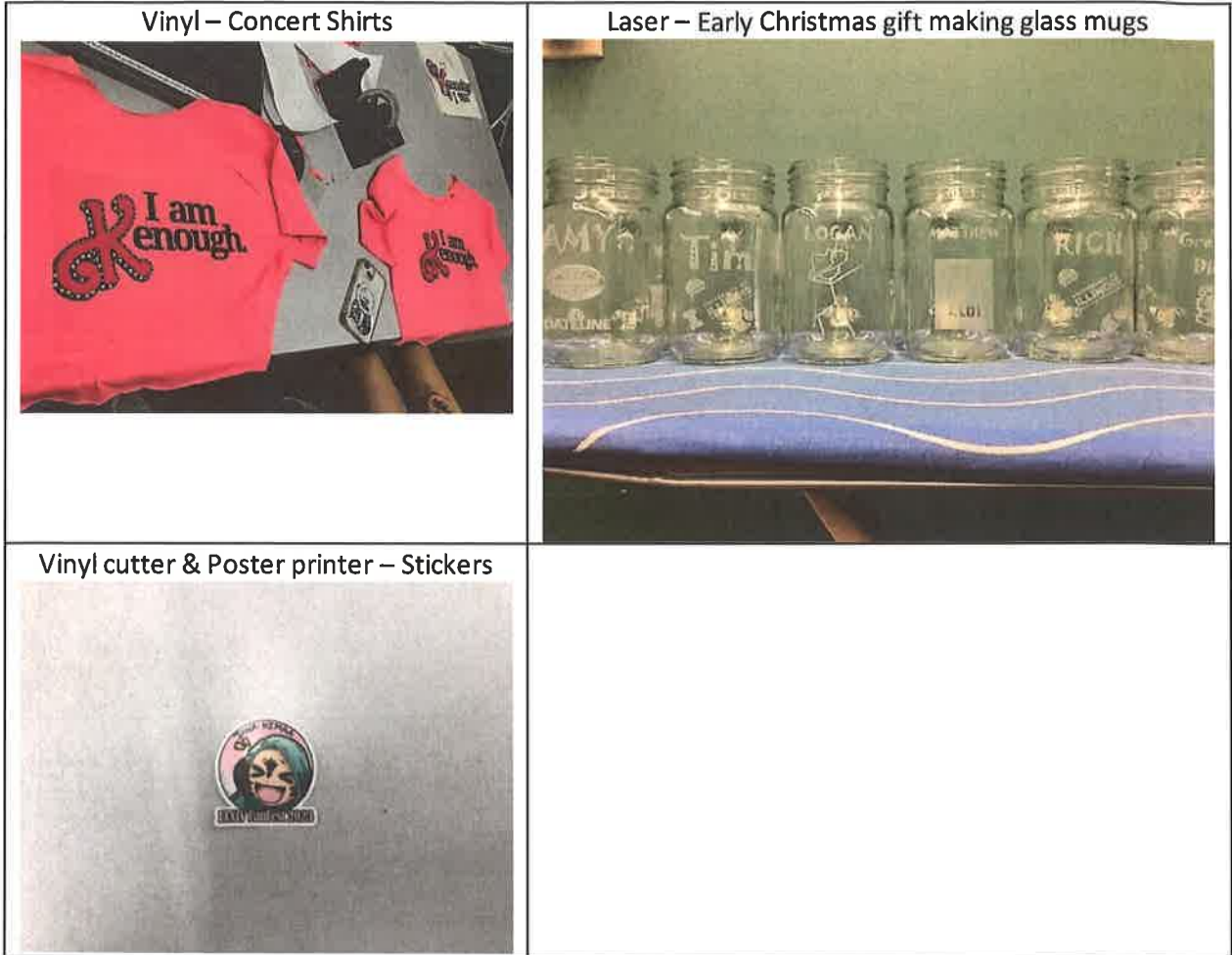


Sublimation – Shirt



Vinyl – Heat press grimace shirts





**Statistics**

- Maker Assistance- 320
- Maker 1-on-1 Training- 103

**Equipment Usage**

- 3D Printers- 31
- Button Maker- 19
- Candle Maker- 2
- Carving Machine- 9
- Cricut (Vinyl)- 12
- Digital Editing (iMac)- 4
- Embroidery Machine- 20
- Knitting Machine- 2
- Laser Cutter- 43

- Poster Printer- 12
- Laminator - 10
- Sewing Machine- 3
- Silhouette (Vinyl)- 11
- Sizzix (die cut/embossing)- 9
- Sublimation Printer- 40

#### **Outreach & Projects**

- We have two new volunteers in the Maker Studio. Lucas is a medical student who volunteers on the weekends, and Gail is semi-retired and volunteers in the maker studio on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They have both received positive feedback from staff regarding people skills and enthusiasm.
- I have contacted Mobile Beacon about the link we use for disabling/enabling hotspots. It has been down due to their migration for a couple of weeks. They state they are experiencing delays, so we cannot disable overdue hotspots. We only have one as of now, 9/13/23.
- We are planning the specifics for the 2nd-anniversary maker studio celebration.

**Mark Sloan, Head of Technology & Maker Services, August 2023**

STATISTICS FOR	Aug-23	SAME MONTH PREV. YEAR	FYTD	LAST FYTD	FYTD % CHANGE
<b><u>Circulation</u></b>					
Adult	26,853	21,773	51,765	42,685	21.27%
Teen	1,698	1,584	3,326	3,401	-2.21%
Kids	18,253	14,305	37,090	29,174	27.13%
ILLS Sent	3,930	2,715	6,564	6,149	6.75%
TOTAL	50,734	40,377	98,745	81,409	21.29%
Electronic Circulation	10,951	9,882	21,658	19,560	10.73%
GRAND TOTAL CIRC.	61,685	50,259	120,403	100,969	19.25%
% Reciprocal Borrowing	7%	10%	11%	11%	
Patron Visits	33,057	30,956	67,324	62,294	8.07%
<b><u>Current Cards</u></b>					
Resident	157	220	24,441	22,419	9.02%
Non-Resident	91	131	2,197	869	152.82%
TOTAL	248	351	26,638	23,288	14.39%
<b><u>Patron Assistance</u></b>					
Adult - Reference	2,807	2,386	5,455	4,573	19.29%
Kids - Reference	873	842	1,779	1,955	-9.00%
Technology - Reference	896	1,237	1,644	2,461	-33.20%
TOTAL REFERENCE	4,576	4,465	8,878	8,989	-1.23%
Adult - Other	133	224	241	391	-38.36%
Kids - Other	48	112	99	279	-64.52%
Technology - Other	4	45	14	70	-80.00%
TOTAL OTHER	185	381	354	740	-52.16%
GRAND TOTAL ASST.	4,761	4,846	9,232	9,729	-5.11%
<b><u>ILL/Reserves</u></b>					
Holds	9,082	6,823	17,551	14,192	23.67%
ILLS Sent	3,930	2,715	6,564	6,149	6.75%
ILLS Checked Out	4,399	4,624	8,268	8,429	-1.91%
ILLS Received	5,525	5,010	10,021	9,189	9.05%
<b><u>Programs - Adult</u></b>					
# Programs	15	17	32	42	-23.81%
Attendance	228	314	554	658	-15.81%
<b><u>Programs - Tech &amp; Maker</u></b>					
# Programs	13	11	24	30	-20.00%
Attendance	86	72	183	198	-7.58%
<b><u>Individual Technology Training</u></b>					
# of Patrons	178	414	409	732	-44.13%
<b><u>Groups</u></b>					
# Programs	12	15	24	28	-14.29%
Attendance	121	111	223	180	23.89%
<b><u>Others</u></b>					
#Programs	0	0	0	0	
Attendance	0	0	0	0	
<b><u>Programs - Teen</u></b>					
# Programs	3	0	9	4	125.00%
Attendance	12	0	36	11	227.27%
<b><u>Programs - Kids</u></b>					
# Programs	12	27	42	75	-44.00%
Attendance	250	356	967	1,522	-36.47%
GRAND TOTAL ATT.	875	1,267	2,372	3,301	-28.14%

STATISTICS FOR	Aug-23	SAME MONTH PREV. YEAR	FYTD	LAST FYTD	FYTD % CHANGE
<b>Passive Programs - Adult</b>					
#Programs	3	2	7	4	75.00%
Attendance	30	9	245	16	1431.25%
<b>Passive Programs - Teen</b>					
# Programs	2	2	4	4	0.00%
Attendance	16	95	50	145	-65.52%
<b>Passive Programs - Kids</b>					
# Programs	11	8	21	20	5.00%
Attendance	1,548	631	2,834	1,603	76.79%
<b>Computers - Patron Use</b>					
Adult Computers	1,852	1,838	3,549	3,427	3.56%
Kids Computers	885	485	1,767	1,001	76.52%
Teen Laptop	3	11	9	24	-62.50%
Adult Laptop	14	18	30	37	-18.92%
<b>TOTAL PATRON USE</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>4,489</b>	<b>19.29%</b>
<b>Hours Used</b>					
Adult Computers	1,464	1,355	2,879	2,539	13.39%
Kids Computers	408	228	850	474	79.32%
Teen Laptop	1	17	6	37	-83.78%
Adult Laptop	19	22	42	48	-12.50%
<b>TOTAL HOURS USED</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>3,777</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>21.92%</b>
<b>Wireless Total Connections</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>6,677</b>	<b>14,776</b>	<b>13,336</b>	<b>10.80%</b>
<b>IPPL Total Web Site Access</b>	<b>13,465</b>	<b>12,844</b>	<b>27,291</b>	<b>27,271</b>	<b>0.07%</b>
<b>IPPL Total Page Views</b>	<b>56,452</b>	<b>43,047</b>	<b>105,967</b>	<b>89,324</b>	<b>18.63%</b>
<b>Subscription Database Logins</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>-17.71%</b>
<b>Outreach-Homebound</b>					
Items Delivered	178	154	359	316	13.61%
<b>Volunteers</b>					
Number Active	13	7			
Hours Worked	38	18	209	177	18.08%
<b>Staff Training Hours</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-30.30%</b>
<b>Room Use</b>					
Conference Rooms	744	481	1,399	933	49.95%
Meeting Rooms					
Library	44	48	87	114	-23.68%
Non-Library	23	7	36	14	157.14%
Board Room					
Library	21	21	41	42	-2.38%
Non-Library	22	8	39	18	116.67%

BOOKS	Previous Month Totals	Added Items	Discarded Items	Current Totals	Prev. Mo. YTD		YEAR TO DATE	
					Adds	Discards	Added	Discarded
<b>ADULT</b>								
Reference	321	1	0	322	0	0	1	0
Non-Fiction	35078	201	1242	34037	177	872	378	2114
Fiction	31350	374	1294	30430	658	685	1032	1979
<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	66749	576	2536	64789	835	1557	1411	4093
<b>KIDS</b>								
Non-Fiction	11483	72	83	11472	105	64	177	147
Fiction	24941	177	150	24968	275	93	452	243
<b>KIDS TOTALS</b>	36424	249	233	36440	380	157	629	390
<b>TEEN</b>								
Non-Fiction	592	12	58	546	12	55	24	113
Fiction	3984	57	98	3943	96	303	153	401
<b>TEEN TOTALS</b>	4576	69	156	4489	108	358	177	514
<b>BOOK TOTALS</b>	107749	894	2925	105718	1323	2072	2217	4997

AUDIOVISUAL	Previous Month Totals	Added Items	Discarded Items	Current Totals	Prev. Mo. YTD		YEAR TO DATE	
					Adds	Discards	Added	Discarded
<b>ADULT</b>								
Audiobooks on CD	6337	20	323	6034	20	184	40	507
Music CDs	4518	21	0	4539	3	3	24	3
Playaway	384	1	59	326	1	0	2	59
DVDs (DVD & Blu-ray)	20486	237	91	20632	4	21	241	112
<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	31725	279	473	31531	28	208	307	681
<b>KIDS</b>								
Audiobooks on CD	591	0	1	590	0	0	0	1
Music CDs	282	0	0	282	1	0	1	0
Playaway	117	0	0	117	1	0	1	0
DVDs (DVD & Blu-ray)	4012	4	6	4010	10	3	14	9
<b>KIDS TOTALS</b>	5002	4	7	4999	12	3	16	10
<b>TEEN</b>								
Audiobooks on CD	167	1	31	137	0	0	1	31
Playaway	13	0	2	11	1	0	1	2
DVDs (DVD & Blu-ray)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TEEN TOTALS</b>	180	1	33	148	1	0	2	33
<b>AUDIOVISUAL TOTALS</b>	36907	284	513	36678	41	211	325	724

Other	Previous Month Totals	Added Items	Discarded Items	Current Totals	Prev. Mo. YTD		YEAR TO DATE	
					Adds	Discards	Added	Discarded
<b>ADULT</b>								
Console Games	559	21	1	579	47	1	68	2
Tech Takeout (except digital content devices)	169	0	6	163	2	2	2	8
CD-ROMs	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0
<b>ADULT TOTALS</b>	742	21	7	756	49	3	70	10
<b>KIDS</b>								
Kits (STEM, Book bundles, etc.)	218	0	2	216	0	0	0	2
Puzzles (New Aug. 2018)	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Playaway Launch Pads	18	3	0	21	0	1	3	1
Console Games	289	8	1	296	48	2	56	3
<b>KIDS TOTALS</b>	545	11	3	553	48	3	59	3
<b>TEEN</b>								
Equipment (CD Players, etc.)	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Console Games	46	0	22	24	0	93	0	115
Board Games	110	0	3	107	0	0	0	3
<b>TEEN TOTALS</b>	162	0	25	137	0	93	0	118
<b>OTHER TOTALS</b>	1449	32	35	1446	97	99	129	131
<b>COLLECTION TOTALS</b>	146105	1210	3473	143842	1461	2382	2671	5852



## MATERIALS COLLECTION TOTALS FOR ELECTRONIC FORMATS -

Aug 2023

eBOOKS	Previous Month Totals	Added Items	Current Totals	Prev. Mo. YTD	YTD
				Adds	Add
Hoopla- Year (ebooks & comics)	N/A	N/A	811,718	N/A	N/A
eMedia (Overdrive Consortium)	24,312	-11	24,301	-65	-76
eMedia (Overdrive Advantage)	7,330	-118	7,212	2	-116
Preloaded eReaders	183	0	183	8	8
<b>eBook Totals</b>	<b>31,825</b>	<b>-129</b>	<b>843,414</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-184</b>
AUDIOVISUAL	Previous Month Totals	Added Items	Current Totals	Prev. Mo. YTD	YTD
				Adds	Add
<b>Audiobooks</b>					
Hoopla- Year	N/A	N/A	190,904	N/A	N/A
eMedia (Overdrive Consortium)	6,773	-266	6,507	14	-252
eMedia Advantage (Overdrive)	2,068	-207	1,861	19	-188
Preloaded Adult Audiobook iPods	163	1	164	1	2
<b>Audiobook Total</b>	<b>9,004</b>	<b>-472</b>	<b>199,436</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-438</b>
<b>Music</b>					
Hoopla- Year	320,377	52,023	372,400	N/A	52,023
<b>Videos</b>					
Hoopla- Year (includes TV Episodes)	N/A	N/A	27,464	N/A	N/A
Kanopy	31,406	218	31,624	273	491
Preloaded Adult Roku Titles	1,440	35	1,475	0	35
Preloaded Family Roku Titles	219	1	220	1	2
<b>Video Totals</b>	<b>33,065</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>60,783</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>528</b>
<b>Total Audiovisual</b>	<b>362,446</b>	<b>51,805</b>	<b>632,619</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>52,113</b>
<b>Collection Totals</b>	<b>394,271</b>	<b>51,676</b>	<b>1,476,033</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>51,929</b>

## INDIAN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY TREASURER'S REPORT

8/31/2023

Balance on hand as of July 31, 2023.....	3,292,350.24
Cash Receipts for August.....	262,376.20
Cash Disbursements for August.....	428,128.66
Cash on hand as of August 31, 2023.....	3,126,597.78

Investments

Illinois Funds (Money Market) - Average Monthly Rate 5.454%	
General.....	453,516.95
MPI Investment (Corporate Fund).....	1,422,792.05
Fifth Third - Checking .....	(1,417.45)
Republic Bank - Savings - Rate 3.82%.....	1,200,908.87
Republic Bank - Checking General.....	10,632.51
Republic Bank - Payroll Account.....	36,736.82
Republic Bank - License Sticker Account.....	2,824.03
Petty Cash/Circulation.....	604.00
Balances as of August 31, 2023.....	3,126,597.78

## FUND BALANCES AS OF 8/31/2023

Corporate Fund.....	2,661,024.05
Building & Maintenance Fund.....	30,594.84
I.M.R.F. Fund.....	16,497.95
Liability Fund.....	(8,872.06)
Social Security Fund.....	(3,535.77)
Special Reserve Fund.....	-
Current Liabilites.....	430,888.77
Grand Total All Funds.....	3,126,597.78

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**Indian Prairie Public Library District  
Consolidated Revenue Report for August 2023**

Percent of Year: 16.67

	RECEIVED August 2023	RECEIVED THIS YEAR	PRCT COLL	BUDGET RECEIPTS	UNCOLLECTED RECEIPTS
<b>PROPERTY TAX &amp; LEVY INTEREST</b>					
41100 · Property Taxes	232,877.22	2,501,871.13	60.58%	4,129,698.00	1,627,826.87
41150 · Non-current Property Taxes	698.87	698.87	0.00%	0.00	-698.87
43100 · Interest-Tax Levy	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY TAX &amp; LEVY INTEREST</b>	<b>233,576.09</b>	<b>2,502,570.00</b>	<b>60.60%</b>	<b>4,129,698.00</b>	<b>1,627,128.00</b>
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL</b>					
42200 · Per Capita Grant	0.00	64,740.70	100.00%	64,740.70	0.00
42300 · LIMRICC	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>64,740.70</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>64,740.70</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>INTEREST</b>					
43500 · Interest - Investment	6,087.61	12,743.16	63.72%	20,000.00	7,256.84
<b>TOTAL INTEREST</b>	<b>6,087.61</b>	<b>12,743.16</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>7,256.84</b>
<b>DESK MONIES</b>					
45100 · Copier	246.00	430.65	21.53%	2,000.00	1,569.35
45120 · Computer Copies	1,018.26	2,004.76	16.71%	12,000.00	9,995.24
45130 · Fax	583.49	1,215.71	34.74%	3,500.00	2,284.29
45200 · Fines/Fees	324.14	846.31	16.93%	5,000.00	4,153.69
45250 · Gifts/Donations	2.10	2.10	2.10%	100.00	97.90
45300 · Lost Materials	790.96	1,396.85	25.40%	5,500.00	4,103.15
45350 · Non-Resident Fees	8,446.10	18,207.93	20.23%	90,000.00	71,792.07
45550 · Meeting Room Rental	200.00	300.00	30.00%	1,000.00	700.00
45600 · ILL Fees	64.50	93.84	26.81%	350.00	256.16
45650 · Maker Studio	598.83	1,015.69	33.86%	3,000.00	1,984.31
45700 · Passport Fees	3,115.00	6,580.00	26.32%	25,000.00	18,420.00
45800 · License Stickers	147.00	352.80	23.52%	1,500.00	1,147.20
<b>TOTAL DESK MONIES</b>	<b>15,536.38</b>	<b>32,446.64</b>	<b>21.78%</b>	<b>148,950.00</b>	<b>116,503.36</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>					
46500 · OCLC Refund	539.75	539.75	0.00%	500.00	-39.75
46700 · Miscellaneous	0.00	221.00	22.10%	1,000.00	779.00
46800 · Collection Agency Fee	40.00	40.00	40.00%	100.00	60.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>579.75</b>	<b>800.75</b>	<b>50.05%</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>	<b>799.25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255,779.83</b>	<b>2,613,301.25</b>	<b>59.87%</b>	<b>4,364,988.70</b>	<b>1,751,687.45</b>
49000 · Operating Transfer In	24,015.25	34,515.25			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>279,795.08</b>	<b>2,647,816.50</b>	<b>60.66%</b>	<b>4,364,988.70</b>	<b>1,717,172.20</b>

Operating Transfer Out reflects \$22,056.25 from Corporate Reserves

70000 · Operating Transfer Purchases - Premier Landscape Contractors, Inc. \$10,500.00; TLS K&T Desk \$11,556.25;

CG Professional Services for Generator \$12,459.00

**Indian Prairie Public Library District  
Consolidated Expenditures Report for August 2023**

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Percent of Year: 16.67

	August 23	YTD ACTIVITY	PRCT USED	WORKING BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET	APPROPRIATION	PRCT APPROPRIATION
<b>PERSONNEL</b>							
61100 · Salaries	268,345.63	442,809.45	18.89%	2,344,628.00	1,901,818.55		
61310 · Benefits - Medical / Life Ins.	17,511.10	38,060.12	16.02%	237,660.00	199,599.88		
61330 · Benefits - IMRF	23,677.34	39,216.22	17.42%	225,134.00	185,917.78		
61340 · Benefits - FICA	15,281.30	25,149.71	14.50%	173,445.00	148,295.29		
61400 · Staff Development	1,341.78	1,401.73	6.40%	21,900.00	20,498.27		
61600 · Board Development	0.00	0.00	0.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00		
61710 · Workers Compensation	0.00	4,083.00	100.00%	4,083.00	0.00		
61720 · Unemployment Insurance	0.00	943.50	26.96%	3,500.00	2,556.50		
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>326,157.15</b>	<b>551,663.73</b>	<b>18.32%</b>	<b>3,011,350.00</b>	<b>2,459,686.27</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>MATERIALS</b>							
62100 · Books	8,091.36	13,504.62	8.53%	158,300.00	144,795.38		
62200 · Periodicals	491.66	4,947.79	27.04%	18,300.00	13,352.21		
62300 · Audio	1,268.87	1,428.87	5.23%	27,300.00	25,871.13		
62400 · Video	0.00	0.00	0.00%	37,450.00	37,450.00		
62500 · Multi-Media	328.09	328.09	16.41%	2,000.00	1,671.91		
62600 · eMaterials	9,634.09	74,557.47	33.87%	220,100.00	145,542.53		
62700 · Console Games	426.32	456.20	6.08%	7,500.00	7,043.80		
62800 · Damaged Item Replacement	382.05	431.32	7.19%	6,000.00	5,568.68		
62900 · Materials Supplies	1,599.96	2,741.39	13.05%	21,000.00	18,258.61		
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>22,222.40</b>	<b>98,395.75</b>	<b>19.76%</b>	<b>497,950.00</b>	<b>399,554.25</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>BUILDING</b>							
63200 · Cleaning Service	133.70	12,867.40	15.50%	83,000.00	70,132.60		
63300 · Utilities (1-8-11 · Gas)	848.48	1,779.80	7.35%	24,210.00	22,430.20		
63300 · Utilities (1-8-12 · Electric)	7,575.38	14,814.72	26.94%	55,000.00	40,185.28		
63300 · Utilities (1-8-13 · Telephone)	235.30	235.30	9.41%	2,500.00	2,264.70		
63300 · Utilities (1-8-14 · Water/Sewer)	0.00	1,838.82	15.32%	12,000.00	10,161.18		
63300 · Utilities (1-8-15 · Garbage Disposal)	634.07	1,091.02	16.79%	6,500.00	5,408.98		
63350 · Building Supplies	733.42	2,933.47	20.95%	14,000.00	11,066.53		
63400 · Maintenance Supplies	540.91	1,452.72	13.21%	11,000.00	9,547.28		
63500 · Security System Monitoring	562.50	612.50	61.25%	1,000.00	387.50		
63600 · Property Maintenance	1,243.00	2,864.40	5.73%	50,000.00	47,135.60		
63800 · Building Maintenance/Repair	22,280.00	36,159.49	60.27%	60,000.00	23,840.51		
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>34,786.76</b>	<b>76,649.64</b>	<b>24.01%</b>	<b>319,210.00</b>	<b>242,560.36</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>OPERATIONS</b>							
64100 · Payroll Service	660.00	660.00	8.25%	8,000.00	7,340.00		
64200 · Supplies - Office	-6.39	160.39	2.67%	6,000.00	5,839.61		
64300 · Photocopy Supplies	567.95	602.92	24.12%	2,500.00	1,897.08		
64400 · Guest Services Supplies	33.69	39.19	2.61%	1,500.00	1,460.81		
64500 · Postage	-230.58	7,354.47	91.93%	8,000.00	645.53		
64550 · Passport Postage	406.56	821.51	18.26%	4,500.00	3,678.49		
64600 · Non-Payment Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00%	500.00	500.00		
64700 · Travel	101.10	101.10	10.11%	1,000.00	898.90		
64800 · Organizational Memberships	280.00	330.00	11.00%	3,000.00	2,670.00		
64900 · Bank Fees	268.38	579.19	28.96%	2,000.00	1,420.81		
<b>TOTAL OPERATION</b>	<b>2,080.71</b>	<b>10,648.77</b>	<b>28.78%</b>	<b>37,000.00</b>	<b>26,351.23</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>							
65100 · Supplies-Toner	1,134.18	1,134.18	7.56%	15,000.00	13,865.82		
65160 · Supplies-Technology Services	33.68	33.68	16.84%	200.00	166.32		
65170 · Supplies-Maker Studio	582.52	740.39	16.53%	4,480.00	3,739.61		
65200 · Technology-Prof Services	330.00	3,521.25	58.69%	6,000.00	2,478.75		
65300 · Purchase of Equipment	26,736.31	43,759.88	97.22%	45,010.00	1,250.12		
65350 · Library of Things	1,022.33	1,522.33	38.06%	4,000.00	2,477.67		

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**Indian Prairie Public Library District  
Consolidated Expenditures Report for August 2023**

Percent of Year: 16.67

	August 23	YTD ACTIVITY	PRCT USED	WORKING BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET	APPROPRIATION	PRCT APPROPRIATION
65400 · Technology Equip Mnt/Repair	588.71	588.71	2.69%	21,905.00	21,316.29		
65500 · Software	1,037.70	1,337.70	9.82%	13,626.00	12,288.30		
65600 · SWAN	0.00	13,236.20	26.11%	50,701.00	37,464.80		
65700 · Telecommunications	1,179.95	1,179.95	9.74%	12,121.00	10,941.05		
<b>TOTAL TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>32,645.38</b>	<b>67,054.27</b>	<b>38.75%</b>	<b>173,043.00</b>	<b>105,988.73</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>							
66100 · General Professional Services	1,125.00	1,800.00	5.22%	34,500.00	32,700.00		
66200 · Credit Bureau	68.95	147.75	14.78%	1,000.00	852.25		
66300 · Copier	192.06	637.60	21.25%	3,000.00	2,362.40		
66400 · Copier Maintenance Contract	59.50	119.00	5.95%	2,000.00	1,881.00		
66500 · Background Screenings	0.00	0.00		1,000.00			
66900 · Fees - Bond Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00	200.00		
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	<b>1,445.51</b>	<b>2,704.35</b>	<b>6.49%</b>	<b>41,700.00</b>	<b>37,995.65</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>INSURANCE</b>							
67100 · Multi Peril-Physical Assets	0.00	14,623.00	100.00%	14,623.00	0.00		
67200 · Bonding	7.33	1,367.33	100.54%	1,360.00	-7.33		
67300 · Officers & Directors Liability	0.00	2,153.00	100.00%	2,153.00	0.00		
67400 · Umbrella Liability	0.00	2,775.00	100.00%	2,775.00	0.00		
<b>TOTAL INSURANCE</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>20,918.33</b>	<b>100.04%</b>	<b>20,911.00</b>	<b>-7.33</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>							
68110 · Marketing Newsletter	8,702.00	11,415.20	23.98%	47,600.00	36,184.80		
68111 · eNewsletter	63.30	63.30	0.69%	9,150.00	9,086.70		
68210 · Marketing Advertising	0.00	75.00	10.00%	750.00	675.00		
68310 · Marketing Supplies	186.47	186.47	14.34%	1,300.00	1,113.53		
68410 · Marketing-Information Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00%	5,000.00	5,000.00		
68500 · Legal Notices	163.48	163.48	10.90%	1,500.00	1,336.52		
<b>TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>9,115.25</b>	<b>11,903.45</b>	<b>18.23%</b>	<b>65,300.00</b>	<b>53,396.55</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>							
68600 · Programming	1,569.87	5,443.74	14.03%	38,800.00	33,356.26		
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>1,569.87</b>	<b>5,443.74</b>	<b>14.03%</b>	<b>38,800.00</b>	<b>33,356.26</b>		#DIV/0!
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY &amp; CONTINGENCY</b>							
69200 · Special Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%		0.00		
69250 · Equipment/Furnishings	0.00	0.00	0.00%		0.00		
69800 · Operating Transfer Out	24,015.25	34,515.25	0.00%		-34,515.25		
69900 · Contingency	149.96	149.96	0.43%	35,000.00	34,850.04		
69920 · Gift/Donation Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00%		0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>478,210.82</b>	<b>914,562.49</b>	<b>21.57%</b>	<b>4,240,264.00</b>	<b>3,325,701.51</b>		
70000 · Operating Transfer Purchases	24,015.25	34,515.25	0.00%				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>502,226.07</b>	<b>949,077.74</b>	<b>22.38%</b>	<b>4,240,264.00</b>	<b>3,291,186.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>

Operating Transfer Out reflects \$22,056.25 from Corporate Reserves

# INTRODUCTION

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**I**n 2022, the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) tracked the highest level of attempted book bans since it began recording censorship data more than 20 years ago, significantly exceeding the previous record high number of book challenges reported in 2021. The spike in censorship attempts was driven by nationwide efforts of conservative organizations targeting works about the lives and experiences of those who identify as LGBTQIA+ or Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

OIF documented 1,269 attempts to censor library, school, and university materials and services (a 68% increase from 2021). These efforts targeted 2,571 unique titles (a 38% increase from 2021).

The information documented was compiled from reports made to OIF, cases that we discovered through news coverage, reports shared by state intellectual freedom chapters, and details from public records, such as minutes from school and library board meetings. Most censorship cases go unreported, so our data represents only a snapshot of what is taking place.

This report covers the 20 most frequently challenged titles from 2022, with synopses of representative challenges to each one. These are listed alphabetically by author.

A challenge to a book may result in its retention or in restriction on access to it. Such restrictions are accomplished by relocating the book, requiring parental permission to check it out, labeling it with a content warning or rating, removing it from open stacks, or withdrawing it entirely. Any act limiting access to expressions or ideas based on the belief that they are objectionable or dangerous is an act of censorship.

OIF provides confidential support to any librarian, teacher, administrator, or board member working to navigate challenges and defend the constitutionally-protected freedom to read. In 2022, 270 schools, 189 public libraries, and 10 special or academic libraries requested and received assistance from OIF.

## DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS FOR YOUTH TARGETED

Children's and young adult books and graphic novels were challenged far more frequently than titles for adults.<sup>1</sup> Collectively, children's and YA materials comprised 84% of the unique titles targeted and accounted for 86% of book challenges. Most challenges (57%) were to books in school libraries, classroom libraries, or school curricula.

The vast majority of the titles challenged were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people of color. LGBTQIA+ content and objections to content reflecting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) efforts, such as allegations of "Critical Race Theory," were given as reasons for 61% of challenges overall and 72% of challenges involving multiple titles. Nineteen of the 20 most frequently challenged titles explore themes of race, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Find a list of frequently challenged books on the ALA website:

**[ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks](https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks)**



In addition to book challenges, OIF documented 57 challenges to Pride Month and LGBTQIA+ history book displays, 37 challenges to LGBTQIA+ library programs, 7 challenges to Black and Latinx history book displays, 4 challenges to EDI programs, 19 challenges to Banned Books Week displays, and 3 challenges to Banned Books Week programs.

These book challenges occurred concurrently with legislative and judicial efforts to roll back civil liberties and impose limits on academic freedom and school curricula.

## MULTIPLE TITLE CHALLENGES DOMINATED

Starting in 2021, the number of challenges received per title escalated astronomically. In the decade before 2021, the most frequently challenged title received an average of 8 challenges during the year it topped the list. In 2022, 144 titles received 9 or more challenges and the most targeted title received 151 challenges.

Incidents in which multiple titles were challenged at one time occurred more frequently than ever before. More than one title was involved in 32% of cases in which books and graphic novels were challenged, and 10% of cases involved 10 or more titles. An average of 7 titles were challenged per case. OIF tracked 11 cases last year in which more than 100 titles were challenged. We have no record of an instance in which more than 100 books were part of a single challenge prior to 2021.

### Report censorship

Reach out to the Office for Intellectual Freedom ([oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org)) when there's a challenge or ban at your library, school, or university. You don't have to be a librarian or ALA member to get one-on-one help. Find more ways to reach us at [ala.org/oif](https://www.ala.org/oif).



## THE 5 MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS CITED in challenges against books and graphic novels



**LGBTQIA+ Content: 521** cases

**Sexually Explicit: 428** cases  
*(often used to challenge non-explicit LGBTQIA+ books)*

**EDI Content: 142** cases

**Sex Education: 83** cases  
*(typically targeting materials with LGBTQIA+ representation)*

**Profanity: 70** cases

Multi-title challenges accounted for 90% of the overall volume of books and graphic novels challenged. While this is in keeping with what OIF tracked in 2021, it is a significant change from how book challenges occurred previously. From 2011–2020, only 15% of the total volume of books and graphic novels challenged were part of multi-title challenges.<sup>3</sup>

## PRESSURE GROUPS PUSHING CENSORSHIP

Organized efforts to restrict access to reading materials are the most significant contributing factor to these trends. Use of lists developed by conservative critics and organizations is increasingly common among by local groups seeking to remove books from libraries. These lists, furnished with excerpts and talking points, are shared online through social media platforms maintained by national far-right groups, including Moms for Liberty, No Left Turn in Education, and MassResistance.

In 2022, pressure groups are known to have initiated 190 challenges, 51 of which were linked to Moms for Liberty members. Lists and resources created by such

groups have also been used by individual parents, community members, local politicians, and board members in efforts to bar access to reading materials.

Of the 20 most frequently challenged titles in 2022, 9 appeared on Texas state representative Matt Krause's target list, 19 were included in challenges initiated by Moms for Liberty members, and all 20 were targeted on booklooks.org.

These challenges often began during the public comments periods of school and library board meetings, which members of these organizations transformed into combative spectacles rife with personal attacks and overt falsehoods in an effort to subvert established processes. In tandem with these efforts, Moms for Liberty endorsed more than 500 candidates for school boards in 2022. This tactic resulted in the takeover of numerous boards by people who embrace unconstitutional and discriminatory censorship.

Many of the challenges to displays of LGBTQIA+ materials followed a template created by CatholicVote in their "Hide the Pride" campaign. The conservative organization called on their adherents to check out all books in Pride displays so that those who wanted to read them would not be able to do so. CatholicVote also provided a boilerplate letter for objecting to library books with queer characters.

## LIBRARIANSHIP UNDER SIEGE

Personal attacks against librarians, teachers, and board members who oppose censorship have grown increasingly common on social media. The attacks share a vocabulary—accusations of grooming, pedophilia, and distribution of pornography—and often originate outside of the school or library's service area.



Join organizations that defend and promote free access to information.

A list can be found at [bannedbooksweek.org](https://www.bannedbooksweek.org)

OIF documented 34 cases in which threats and harassment to library staff occurred and 25 cases in which police reports were filed against librarians over books on the shelves. This trend began in 2021 and is rooted in arguments advanced by the anti-LGBTQIA+ hate group MassResistance that falsely claim that the presence of any image relating to sex, sexuality, sexual orientation, or gender identity renders a work inappropriate for readers. This claim would disqualify countless works of classic and contemporary literature, as well as works pertaining to health, wellbeing, and the sciences, from library collections.

Another recent trend is the weaponization of library resources, such as displays, reading lists, subject guides, online catalogs, and ALA's lists of the most frequently banned and challenged titles. Tools designed to increase access to reading materials are now employed in a culture war against the representation of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals in literature. Organizations like Utah Parents United have even created YouTube tutorials on searching library catalogs for books to challenge.

These advocacy groups are also urging elected officials and governing boards to abandon the standards and best practices developed by ALA to assure access to libraries and library materials and oppose partisan censorship of library materials. In one example, the board of the Campbell County Public Library (WY) voted 4-1 to change their mission statement and remove all references to ALA and the Wyoming Library Association from their policies. Efforts like these cut off staff access to professional development opportunities and professional networks. Removing core ethical documents such as the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement from policies creates a chasm between local practice and professional standards grounded in First Amendment principles.

## ADVERSARIAL LEGISLATION ON THE RISE

Legislative efforts targeting Critical Race Theory, EDI, and civil rights increased. Model legislation from conservative think tanks like the Manhattan Institute and the Heritage Foundation found broader



adoption. Bills targeting library and instructional materials and seeking to revoke legal protections for teachers and librarians were introduced nationwide.

OIF documented 32 multi-title challenges citing legislation, such as Missouri S.B. 775 and Florida's Parental Rights in Education Act, as justification for censoring materials. Even when they fail to pass, bills like these have a chilling effect on the selection, teaching, and display of materials.

A new tactic in 2022 was the use of local ordinances to facilitate censorship. Through ordinances, city councils have sought to override collection development policies and remove trained library professionals from selection and reconsideration processes, replacing them with panels of political appointees. In League City, Texas, the city council's efforts to supplant public library policy with city ordinance were intended to deny access to LGBTQIA+ materials, as evidenced by early drafts of the ordinance.

## DEFENDING THE FREEDOM TO READ

In response to these growing threats to the freedom to read, the American Library Association launched Unite Against Book Bans ([uniteagainstbookbans.org](http://uniteagainstbookbans.org)) in 2022. This campaign empowers readers to stand together in the fight against censorship.

More than 70 national partners, including publishers and free expression and civil liberties organizations, have joined the Unite campaign, along with more than 80 state and local partners and thousands of individuals who want to support their local libraries, library staff, and the First Amendment right to read. You can join, too. If you sign up, you will receive calls to action when school and public libraries in your community need support. The Unite website provides talking points and advocacy tools that are designed to help community members come together in defense of the freedom to read by speaking out, attending board meetings, and understanding candidates' views on book censorship.

When legislation adverse to public and school libraries and the freedom to read is introduced, contact your representatives. If you need talking

### HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS?



Join the **Unite Against Book Bans Campaign** and use the action toolkit at [uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit](http://uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit) to help you get started.

points, seek them from your state library association or from ALA. When school and library board members are on the ballot, ask them to sign the Unite candidate pledge or respond to the Unite candidate questionnaire. Each vote carries greater weight in a local election than it would in a national one, so be sure to register and to vote in every election you are eligible to.

Censorship reporting is vital to OIF's work developing tools and strategies to defend library resources. If materials, displays, or programs are challenged where you work or where you live, we encourage you to report it to OIF, regardless of whether or not you need our support: [ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report](http://ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report).

### NOTES

1. Of the 2,571 unique titles targeted in 2022, 550 of them were children's books and 1,604 of them were young adult works.
2. The 2,571 unique titles that were challenged in 2022 were each targeted between 1 and 151 times, resulting in a total volume of 6,863 title-level challenges to books and graphic novels. Of these, 6,170 were part of multi-title challenges. In 2021, 3,500 of the 3,916 total volume of titles challenged were included in multi-title challenges—an effort that came to prominence in September of that year and has persisted since. Only 454 of the 2,932 titles that faced challenges from 2011-2020 were part of multi-title challenges.

# MOST FREQUENTLY TARGETED BOOKS

ALEXIE, SHERMAN

## The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (2007)

- 52 challenges
- ↑ 24 from 2021
- Included in 42 multi-title challenges

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation who decides to go to a nearly all-White public high school away from the reservation. It won the 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the 2008 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the 2008 American Indian Youth Literature Award.

On October 14, CRESTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT'S (MI) superintendent sent out a mass email informing the public that *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* was removed

from the 9th grade curriculum due to "vulgar language" and "explicit reference to male or female genitalia of a sexual nature." No formal reconsideration process was followed in the book's removal.

ANDREWS, JESSE

## Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (2015)

- 48 challenges
- ↑ 25 from 2021
- Included in 43 multi-title challenges

This coming-of-age novel tells the story of two outcast high schoolers and would-be filmmakers who befriend a young woman dying of leukemia.

*Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* was one of 32 titles that a Moms for Liberty member challenged at the HUMBLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (TX). Some of these titles were removed from middle school libraries without review. Some titles now

require parental permission for a student to check them out. The outcome for Andrews's novel is unknown.

*Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* was one of 21 titles reconsidered at FLAGLER SCHOOLS (FL), where it was withdrawn from all school libraries.

CHBOSKY, STEPHEN

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower (1999)

- 55 challenges
- ↑ 44 from 2021
- Included in 52 multi-title challenges

A coming-of-age story set in the freshman year of a suburban Pittsburgh high school, *Perks* received numerous accolades following its publication. While reviewers characterized it as a latter-day *Catcher in the Rye*, the novel has been challenged for tackling themes of sexual abuse, drug use, suicide, and sexual orientation.

A community member submitted information from [booklooks.org](http://booklooks.org) (a compilation of arguments for the censorship of library materials that is routinely used by Moms for Liberty members) to challenge 11 titles at **HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (MI)**, including *Perks*. All 11 titles were retained on the recommendation of the review committee. After the decision was announced, the individual who challenged the books posted the names of the committee members on a Facebook page, claiming they were “pornographers” and “pedophiles.”

**CURATO, MIKE**

## Flamer (2020)

- 62 challenges
- ↑ 49 from 2021
- Included in 47 multi-title challenges

Set at a Boy Scout summer camp in 1995, *Flamer* tells the tale of a Filipino American confronted with bullying, navigating body image insecurities, and struggling to reconcile his conservative religious upbringing with his homosexuality. *Flamer* was featured on a litany of best books lists, including ones from *Kirkus Reviews*, NPR, *School Library Journal*, YALSA, and the Cooperative Children’s Book Center.

Starting on September 13, members of the group Let’s Talk Hempfield began reading excerpts from *Flamer* and other titles during the public comments section of

**HEMPFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meetings in Landisville, PA. On November 22, they submitted seven police reports against the Hempfield High School, claiming that *Flamer*, *Push* by Sapphire, and *Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin were “pornography” and “obscene material.” The district attorney investigated, determined the books were neither pornographic nor obscene, and did not file charges. While nine books were targeted during public comments and through police reports, no formal requests for reconsideration were ever submitted, and all remain available.

**DAWSON, JUNO**

## This Book Is Gay (2015)

- 48 challenges
- ↑ 24 from 2021
- Included in 32 multi-title challenges

A funny, pertinent, star reviewed, and award-winning book about being lesbian, bisexual, gay, queer, transgender, or just curious, by acclaimed YA author and activist Juno Dawson.

Following a protracted period of attacks on *This Book Is Gay* made during public comments at **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (FL)** board meetings, a formal request for its reconsideration was submitted on October 7. After reviewing the request alongside the district’s collection policies, professional reviews, and the



## “Challenges” are not just complaints about books,

but rather willful attempts to remove or restrict access to library resources or programming. Challenges can be a written complaint, a form submitted to a library, or a call to action on social media.

full text of the book, the review committee voted unanimously to retain it without restriction. In response, a group paid to park a truck in front of the school with a digital display featuring the cover of Dawson’s book and the text “Why would your school board think any child needs access to an adult sex app?”

**EVISON, JONATHAN**

## Lawn Boy (2018)

- 54 challenges
- ↓ 14 from 2021
- Included in 49 multi-title challenges

“Jonathan Evison takes a battering ram to stereotypes about race and class in his fifth novel, *Lawn Boy* [ . . . ]

full of humor and lots of hope [...] Evison has written an effervescent novel of hope that can enlighten everyone.”  
— *Washington Post*

An August LGBTQIA+ Pride display in the **HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY (TX)** prompted calls from members of a pressure group to remove LGBTQIA+ titles or place them in a restricted area of the library. In September, the city manager announced the public library would cease all book displays. In October, the Huntsville Police Department responded to a report that 85 books in the public library’s collection, including *Lawn Boy*, violated state obscenity laws. Most titles

that were publicly disclosed prominently feature LGBTQIA+ themes and characters and had been included in the display. None of them were determined to be obscene. On December 20, the city council voted to turn management of the library over to a company owned by a private equity firm. The new management invited staff to reapply for their jobs.

**GINO, ALEX**

## Melissa

Previously published as *George* (2015)

- 39 challenges
- ↑ 21 from 2021
- Included in 33 multi-title challenges

Gino’s debut children’s novel tells the story of a fourth-grade girl who is struggling to be herself to the rest of the world. The simply told and tenderly written story helps kids and adults understand what it feels like to be transgender. *Melissa* received four starred reviews, a Lambda Literary Award, and a Stonewall Award.

In January, a **PUBLIC LIBRARY IN IDAHO** received a request to reconsider *Melissa* from a patron who claimed it led to the “normalization of gender dysphoria.” The book was retained without restriction.

On February 21, **OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL** John O’Connor announced his department would review 51 titles found in public school libraries to determine if they

violate state obscenity laws. Complaints from the Tulsa County Moms for Liberty chapter and from Reclaiming Oklahoma Parent Empowerment spurred O’Connor’s investigation. It concluded two days later without finding that any of the books met the statutory definition of obscenity.

**GREEN, JOHN**

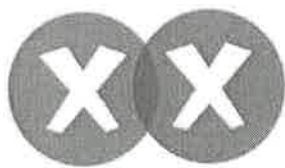
## Looking for Alaska (2005)

- 55 challenges
- ↑ 31 from 2021
- Included in 50 multi-title challenges

Green’s debut novel interweaves themes of grief and hope in a coming-of-age story set at a boarding school. *Looking for Alaska* won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award and was noted by numerous publications as the best book of the year, including *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*.

A formal request for the reconsideration of *Looking for Alaska* was submitted to a **VIRGINIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**, alleging the book was pornographic. The review committee recommended retaining the book in the school library, however the principal overrode their decision and had the title withdrawn.

*Looking for Alaska* was one of 76 titles challenged at the **DAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT (UT)** by the pressure group Utah Parents United. While 33 of the challenged titles were withdrawn, *Looking for Alaska*



## A “ban” is a removal of materials.

Sometimes the ban is a decision made by a committee, and other times an administrator or staff member removes resources without following a library’s policy. A ban can also be the cancellation of a program or display.

remains under review at the time of this writing.

**HARRIS, ROBIE**

## It's Perfectly Normal (1994)

- 44 challenges
- ↑ 26 from 2021
- Included in 27 multi-title challenges

This "caring, conscientious, and well-crafted book will be a fine library resource as well as a marvelous adjunct to the middle-school sex-education curriculum." —*Booklist*

On August 17, members of the groups Idaho Liberty Dogs and Concerned Citizens of Meridian spoke out against *It's Perfectly Normal* and *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg during the public comments of the MERIDIAN DISTRICT LIBRARY'S board meeting. They referred to the developmentally-appropriate sex education materials as "smut-filled pornography" and claimed it was "time to defund the Meridian Library Tax District." Both titles remain available throughout the library system.

*It's Perfectly Normal* was one of 58 titles withdrawn from libraries throughout the

WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (FL). The list of titles was created by the Florida Citizens Alliance and given to the head of curriculum and instruction by a teacher who is a Moms for Liberty member. As no review committee was involved in the decision-making process, the district's policies were not followed.

**HOPKINS, ELLEN**

## Crank (2004)

- 48 challenges
- ↑ 36 from 2021
- Included in 47 multi-title challenges

## Tricks (2009)

- 43 challenges
- ↑ 38 from 2021
- Included in 43 multi-title challenges

Nevada Writers Hall of Fame inductee Ellen Hopkins authors YA novels in verse that explore teenagers' experiences with drug addiction, mental illness, violence, and prostitution. The multi-award-winning *Crank* was inspired by her eldest daughter's addiction to crystal methamphetamine.

Both *Tricks* and *Crank* were removed from libraries in the ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (TX) along

with 19 other titles. No formal request for reconsideration was submitted for any of the books and no review process was followed. Prior to their removal, Hopkins' books were included on a list of titles state senator Bob Hall characterized as "obscene," which was shared with district administrators by a local parents group.

*Crank* and *Tricks* were among seven titles removed from a HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY IN MICHIGAN after a parent supported claims the books included "pornographic content" with arguments from booklooks.org. Following the removal of the initial seven, she submitted a list of 55 additional titles.

**HOSSEINI, KHALED**

## The Kite Runner (2014)

- 37 challenges
- ↑ 30 from 2021
- Included in 34 multi-title challenges

Hosseini's best-selling father-son novel spans four decades of the recent history of Afghanistan and the diaspora of its people. Among the numerous awards it garnered are the 2004 Alex Award, given to books written for adults that have special appeal to youth ages 12 through 18.

In response to one parent's formal complaint, the CEDARBURG HIGH SCHOOL (WI) removed *The Kite Runner* from the 10th grade curriculum while it was being used by two teachers. Though their

## When a challenge occurs

in your community, attend a local board meeting and explain why you think the resource should remain in the library.



child had been provided an alternate text to read, the parent believed the novel's depictions of sexual assault, depression, and attempted suicide were inappropriate and requested that teaching of the novel be suspended for all current and future students.

**JOHNSON, GEORGE M.**

## All Boys Aren't Blue (2021)

- 86 challenges
- ↑ 22 from 2021
- Included in 63 multi-title challenges

Johnson's series of autobiographical essays about growing up gay and Black deals frankly with sexual abuse. This award-winning memoir has appeared on numerous best book lists and was a Kids' Book Choice Award finalist.

The FRISCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (TX) received requests for the recon-

sideration of 28 titles from state representative Jared Patterson. When 23 of them were retained on recommendation from review committees, Patterson appealed the decision. *All Boys Aren't Blue* was among the titles removed on appeal.

**KOBABE, MAIA**

## Gender Queer: A Memoir (2019)

- 151 challenges
- ↑ 30 from 2021
- Included in 78 multi-title challenges

This illustrated autobiography is a tender, visually complex exploration of gender and family that shows the gifts and challenges of non-binary and asexual identity. As a result of organized efforts targeting *Gender Queer* for removal from schools and libraries, OIF has documented more challenges to it than to any other title. There were only two known challenges to it prior to 2021.

*Gender Queer* and *It's Perfectly Normal* were challenged at MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #6. Both were retained without restriction.

A request for the reconsideration of *Gender Queer* was submitted to the LIBERTY LAKE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY (WA), claiming the title was pornographic. The title was retained, but the outcome was appealed to the library board. The board upheld the decision by a vote of 4-2. A community member who advocated for banning *Gender Queer* was then appointed to the City Council. In December, the council proposed an ordinance changing the library's reconsideration process so the council would adjudicate challenge appeals instead of the library board.

**KUKLIN, SUSAN**

## Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out (2014)

- 47 challenges
- ↑ 25 from 2021
- Included in 41 multi-title challenges

The award-winning *Beyond Magenta* garnered starred reviews upon publication. It contains Susan Kuklin's interviews with transgender and non-binary young adults. Their words and photographs reveal



If there's a local challenge reported in the news, write a powerful letter to the editor in your newspaper.

The letter could touch on the benefits of unrestricted reading, a defense of the First Amendment freedom to read, or your personal experience with reading the book.

the varied emotional and physical journeys they've taken.

In December, **CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT (PA)** received challenges to five titles with LGBTQIA+ characters, including *Beyond Magenta*. All challenged titles were withdrawn from circulation.

Concerned Parents for Nixa (MO) held a rally during which Andy Wells from No Left Turn in Education called for the removal of books he characterized as illegal pornography. This culminated in challenges to 18 titles at **NIXA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, 12 of which were withdrawn from district libraries, including *Beyond Magenta*.

**MAAS, SARAH J.**

## A Court of Mist and Fury (2016)

- 48 challenges
- ↑ 45 from 2021
- Included in 42 multi-title challenges

The second volume in a bestselling and award-winning fantasy series chronicling an epic saga of intrigue, murder, and romance amongst human and faerie realms.

*A Court of Mist and Fury* was removed from **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL (VA)** libraries after a school board member challenged it. Following its removal from the school district, petitions seeking to bar the sale of it and *Gender Queer* on grounds they were obscene progressed to the Circuit Court

## Want to let a banned author know you have their back?

Send them a handwritten letter. Find postcards and addresses at [ala.org/bbooks/dear-banned-author](http://ala.org/bbooks/dear-banned-author).



for the City of Virginia Beach. The petitions were challenged by the ACLU of Virginia. The American Library Association and Freedom to Read Foundation were amici curiae. The Circuit Court rejected the petitions and vacated a lower court finding of probable cause for obscenity.

**MCCORMICK, PATRICIA**

## Sold (2006)

- 40 challenges
- ↑ 39 from 2021
- Included in 39 multi-title challenges

In *Sold*, McCormick tells the story of a 13-year old Nepalese girl sold into sexual slavery by her stepfather to pay off family debt. *Sold* was a National Book Award finalist and received the Gustav-Heinemann Peace Prize, the Quill Award, a California Young Reader Medal, and the Eliot Rosewater Award.

*Sold* was one of 35 titles challenged by a parent in the **COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT (PA)** for "sexual content." While McCormick's

novel was retained, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* was removed from high school libraries despite the review committee's recommendation of retaining it.

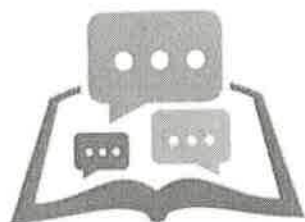
**MORRISON, TONI**

## The Bluest Eye (1994)

- 73 challenges
- ↑ 48 from 2021
- Included in 65 multi-title challenges

The first novel from Toni Morrison, who later won a Nobel Prize in literature, *The Bluest Eye* examines society's obsession with beauty and conformity, and raises questions about race, class, and gender.

On October 25, the Chief Academic Officer for **BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS (FL)** instructed all principals in the district to remove 11 titles from their school libraries due to claims they included sexually explicit or LGBTQIA+ content. The action was taken in response to a complaint from



## Suggest an enlightening

banned or challenged book as your next book club read.

Moms for Liberty members that the books violated the state's Parental Rights in Education law. Titles removed included picture books, sex education materials, and A.P. English novels.

After an unsuccessful campaign for a seat on the board of ROCKY RIVER CITY SCHOOLS (OH) on a platform advocating for a ban on Critical Race Theory, Chuck Bartsche began efforts to have *The Bluest Eye* removed from district classrooms and libraries. The district retained Morrison's novel, and it continues to be taught there as part of the A.P. English curriculum.

**PÉREZ, ASHLEY HOPE**

### Out of Darkness (2015)

- 50 challenges
- ↑ 14 from 2021
- Included in 50 multi-title challenges

This layered love story set in 1937 Texas is centered around Mexican American and Black characters striving for dignity during a time when segregation was a matter of life and death. *Out of Darkness* received numerous awards and is a Michael L. Printz award honor book.

The parents of a MCKINNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (TX) student filed requests for the reconsideration of 280 titles they believed to be obscene owing to their inclusion on a target list compiled by state representative Matt Krause. When state representative Jared Patterson publicly advocated for the books' removal, school superintendent Rick McDaniel responded that, "the school library book debate has been largely fueled by political agendas, sensationalism, and exaggeration." McKinney mayor George Fuller echoed McDaniel's sentiments and referred to the book banning efforts as "partisan pandering." All 280 titles were retained in district libraries.

**THOMAS, ANGIE**

### The Hate U Give (2017)

- 36 challenges
- ↑ 4 from 2021
- Included in 29 multi-title challenges

*The Hate U Give* received eight starred reviews and numerous awards, including the Goodreads Choice Awards Best of the Best. This powerful YA novel has transformed teen and adult readers with its story of how

witnessing a White police officer shoot and kill an unarmed Black man during a traffic stop changed everything in the life of a 16-year-old Black girl.

In response to the passage of Missouri S.B. 775, the ST. CLAIR R-XIII SCHOOL DISTRICT removed *The Hate U Give* from school libraries, fearing potential criminal penalties for school staff.

Parents challenged 5 titles in SHAWNEE HEIGHTS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 450 (KS) libraries, including *The Hate U Give*, *Gender Queer*, and *All Boys Aren't Blue*. State senator Rick Kloos publicly stated that he supported efforts to remove *Gender Queer* and held a meeting with school superintendent Tim Hallacy to discuss the matter. All five titles were retained.



### Stay updated on censorship attempts

by following the Office for Intellectual Freedom on Twitter (@OIF) and Facebook (@ALAOIF) and subscribing to Intellectual Freedom News (oif.ala.org).



# FORGETTING OUR HISTORY



## THE REPETITION OF HATE AND INTOLERANCE FUELING THE ONSLAUGHT OF CENSORSHIP

BY **PETER COYL** LIBRARY DIRECTOR & CEO OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY;  
PRESIDENT OF THE FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION

**T**here is not one playbook demagogues use to come to power and suppress others, but there are a myriad of tactics that have been used by others in the past in attempts to accomplish that goal. Many of these tactics are rooted in false information. Today, many use the internet, social media, and traditional media channels to spread falsehoods and disinformation to perpetuate hate and oppression. By comparing these tactics and how they were used throughout history to suppress thoughts and ideas, we can understand today's censorship landscape.

### OTHERING AND BLAMING

In the 19th Century the "White slave panic" was fueled by the false narrative that immigrants were enticing women into sexual slavery. This was both xenophobia and a response to women making the choice to be sex workers. While some of the laws passed in response to this ideology still exist, the portions passed that had racist and xenophobic overtones have consistently been repealed or declared unconstitutional.

Today, librarians in New Jersey, Virginia, and Louisiana (to name only a few) have been accused of being "groomers" through vandalism, social media, and in public meetings. The implication is that librarians are building relationships with children to entice them into illegal and immoral sexual activities and relationships. This moral panic is a direct response to young people discovering

their sexual and gender identities—identities that conflict with the moral beliefs of the accusers. Librarians are doing their professional duty to provide access to information on human sexuality and gender identity. No librarian has been accused by any victim or charged with a sexual crime, though the specter continues to loom.

### DRESS CODES

The passage of laws regulating clothing for specific genders started in the 1860s as an effort to curtail prostitution and to segregate immigrants who were seen as a threat to White Americans, especially in San Francisco. While there were instances in which cross-dressing was allowed (such as vaudeville performances), these laws were meant to ensure conformity and had their roots in racist and classist rationales. Similar laws were passed in more than

40 cities, which shaped modern definitions of gender norms. These laws were used as a way to criminalize the activities of sexual minorities in an effort to suppress behavior and expression. Most of these laws were overturned within the last 30 years.

In the last few years there has been a resurgence in efforts to control how adults dress and act, with at least 14 state legislatures considering legislation. While each piece of legislation is different, many seek to classify drag shows as an adult-oriented business, much as how a strip club is regulated. However, some of the bills make no mention of any sexual act but would merely ban singing and dancing while wearing clothes of the opposite gender in front of someone under 18. Legislators have claimed this action is to protect children, but there has been no evidence presented that an adult dressing in a costume while singing and dancing is harmful to children. There are, ironically, examples of lawmakers (including the governor of Tennessee) having dressed in drag at events in their youth.

## OBSCENITY AND VETTED BOOK LISTS

In 1873 the Comstock Act was passed at Anthony Comstock's urging to prevent the corruption of children through illustrations he considered obscene. The law prohibited many things, including the selling or possession of something obscene, but neglected to define what constituted obscenity. A number of books were banned under this law, including *Ulysses*, *Moll Flanders*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and *The Naked Lunch*. Court rulings later required a work to be assessed in its entirety for literary merit to

determine obscenity and not merely on passages or excerpts and its appeal to the prurient interest.

The concept of having a list of books that are appropriate has resurfaced, as well as using only select passages and not the work as a whole. In 2021, Texas state representative Matt Krause circulated a list of 850 books that he felt might make students uncomfortable due to their race or gender. He asked school districts to report if they had these titles. In 2022 Florida governor Ron DeSantis held a news conference showing select images from a number of books to demonstrate their alleged lack of merit. This led to House Bill 1467 being signed into law, requiring books in school classrooms to be vetted to ensure they are not only free from pornography but suited for the age group. Violations can result in a third-degree felony. Similar legislation (House Bill 2154, "Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022") was passed and signed into law in Tennessee in 2022.

## THE LAVENDER SCARE AND EMPLOYMENT

In the 1950s the fear of homosexuals influencing government led to the "Lavender Scare," which ran in tandem with the more infamous "Red Scare" and the eponymous concept of McCarthyism. During this time the rhetoric espoused was that homosexuals were morally inferior, godless, a threat to traditional families, and psychologically disturbed. This led to a loyalty program for government employees and a list of reasons why one could not work for the government, including "sexual perversion." If one was suspected, they were in many cases followed and assumed guilty by association. This led to thousands of workers being required to sign loyalty oaths and live in constant fear of job loss. Over time, these government loyalty tests were removed, repealed, or shown to be unnecessary and ceased to exist.

In 2022, during a public meeting regarding library books being banned in Michigan, one member of the public questioned the religiosity and the sexuality of the library director and called her a pedophile. Members of the public stated it was not a political issue, but a biblical one. A few weeks later, in that same county, a famous, well-regarded



**Visit your local library**  
to check out a variety  
of materials on an array  
of perspectives, attend  
programs, and take  
advantage of the library's  
many resources!

artist was asked by the school board to not provide a workshop to students simply because she was gay.

While overt denial of employment for certain protected classes has been made illegal, the tactics used by members of the public to question library staff members' suitability for a position based on their religion or sexuality is an echo of the Lavender Scare. If one can have their sexuality publicly questioned and used as a reason to deny or end employment, we have learned nothing from the mass-hysteria and panic of the 1950s.

## BOOK BURNING AND BANNING

While it did not take place in the United States, one of the most prescient examples comes from an infamous case during the lead up to World War II. On May 6, 1933, a group of students from the German Student Union, accompanied by a brass band, broke into the Institute for Sex Research (Institut für Sexualwissenschaft). Their mission was to destroy thousands of books not only because of their content but also their creators. The institute was singled out because it was at the forefront of studying human sexuality, including homosexuality, intersex, and transgender issues. It sought to understand and educate on the variety of sexual diversity that exists in humanity. This was, however, the antithesis of Nazi thought.

Today there have been no organized book burnings of the size and scope of those in Germany, but it is not lost on students of history that the same topics of the books destroyed are being contested, challenged, and banned in today's America, which underscores the motivations as being more about a homogeneous viewpoint than homosexuality.<sup>1</sup> Books on sexuality, specifically those on sexual minorities, are firmly in the cross-hairs under the guise of protecting children. In reality the only things censors seek to protect are their viewpoints firmly rooted in their religious beliefs.

A study of American history shows religious intolerance has been a thread woven throughout the fabric of America from the start. The first colonizers, the Puritans, came to this land in an

## CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK (October 1-7, 2023)

by attending local programs or starting your own event. Learn more at [ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks).

effort to establish a theocracy where they did not have to tolerate other religious ideas. Years later, understanding that freedom of religion is just as important as the freedom from religion, those who wrote the Constitution enshrined the prohibition of a national religion in that document.

Despite the clamoring about sexual perversion and the derision of librarians as pedophiles and groomers, there has yet to be one case brought or legal challenge in which that is evident. No child has been harmed by watching a drag performance or reading a book about human sexuality.

Librarians don't defend a particular book or concept, we defend the right to have books and the right of those who choose to read. We don't argue for one viewpoint over another, but we do argue for fact and truth. Libraries are not neutral, but principled. Those principles are enshrined firmly in the First Amendment. Propagating false information, othering and blaming, dress codes, vetted book lists, the Lavender Scare, and book bans—these tactics to censor and silence have been deployed at varying times but never all at once as we're seeing now.

Our work to protect the right to read continues and is more important than ever. We invite all to join our cause by visiting [uniteagainstbookbans.org](http://uniteagainstbookbans.org) to learn how you can join our coalition of like-minded partners dedicated to preserving the right of free people to read freely, to persist and resist efforts to remove, censor, and ban.

### NOTE

1. Further underscoring the repetition of history, the German Freedom Library was founded in 1934 in response to the Nazi book burnings to collect copies of the destroyed books, and a similar act was started in the United States when the Chicago Public Library established a "book sanctuary" in 2022.



### Meeting Ground Rules

- Respect other people, their ideas and opinions.
- Do not interrupt others.
- Try to say it in 25 words or less.
- Speak only to the topic at hand.
- No side conversations.
- When an idea has been stated previously and you agree, only speak when you have something new to add.
- Everyone gets a chance to share their opinion before someone speaks again.
- Speaking briefly and staying focused is everyone's responsibility. This will make the meeting run smoothly.
- Respond to people in a non-dismissive, respectful manner.
- Insure everyone has an equal voice.
- These are everybody's rules and everyone is responsible for seeing that they are followed.