

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Quarterly Manager's Report
April – June 2023



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ABOITE

Kris Lill, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

As part of the system-wide effort to create more of a balance between in-house programs and outreach events, Aboite staff reached out to the Aboite Civil Township Office to look into the possibility of attending the [Summer Concerts on the Green](#), held weekly every summer for the past 20 years at Indian Trails Park. We were given the thumbs-up and will start attending the concerts when they begin in early July 2023, providing children's crafts, library card sign-ups, Summer SPARK and other information about ACPL to concert attendees.



CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Several Aboite staff joined the May-rathon Steps Challenge and tracked their steps on the MoveSpring app (thanks, ACPL and HRS!) The competitive spirit is alive and well at Aboite!



INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Aboite joined a few other branches to partner with [Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana](#), an organization that provides high-quality mental health trainings at local workplaces as well as support groups, advocacy and community education. Informational presentations on grief, stress, and the connection between nutrition and mental health were offered in March, April and May free of charge to the public. Attendance was light, but those who did attend responded positively. We will continue to point patrons to MHA as a resource and hope to partner with them for future events at ACPL.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

As staff learned that we would be without a usable meeting room for another summer due to the storm damage from the 2022 derecho, we put our creative minds to work, re-arranged some furniture, and found a way to open up some space in the public area outside of Kris' office and the study room. It's working out quite nicely for teen and adult programs, [the](#) above right photo is our Electric Origami program. Shout out to Scott Mertz from the Shawnee branch for helping us out with this event.

DUPONT

Erin Warzala, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Summer is in full swing, and the Dupont Branch has been hopping! While it's still too early to share final statistics for the summer SPARK program, we are seeing its impact on our community in a variety of ways. For example, a woman shared with staff that she is babysitting two children over the summer. Prior to June, neither of the children were regular library users, and when she first suggested that they visit the library, the children groaned audibly. However, since then, they have attended all of our children's programs here at Dupont. Our programs were so much fun that the two young patrons are now huge fans of the library, and they look forward to visiting every week! They love the library so much that the babysitter plans to take them to every ACPL location by the end of summer!

We also had one young patron who was super stoked that we had the Wings of Fire graphic novels available as prizes. This patron very excitedly yelled "Thank you!" when a staff member presented them with this prize!

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

We love partnering with local organizations within our community! This past April, we teamed up with Salomon Farm Park to present two Storytime on the Farm programs. Both programs were very popular, and we even had to offer the first one twice to meet the high demand. Children and their grown-ups had a blast listening to stories and songs about farm animals, and they even had the option to go on a tractor ride!

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Branch Assistant Manager, Amber Hansen, worked diligently this past Spring to shift our nonfiction collection. In doing so, they opened up enough shelf space for our ever-growing DVD collection. This has resulted in better browsability of the DVD collection, and it's also much easier for staff to shelve!



GEORGETOWN

Stephen Platt, Branch Manager

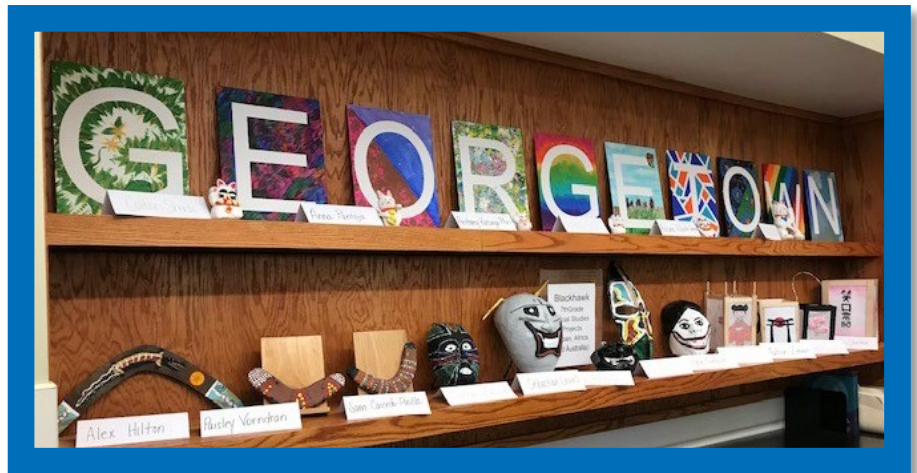
COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

SLP School Visits - The staff at the Georgetown Library worked with 14 area schools during the month of May to promote the Spark Summer Learning Program. These outreach events involved book and literature deliveries, story-times, skits and talks to classrooms and school assemblies, as well as tabling events. As COVID restrictions have been lifted we have been able to get back to normal outreach operations, and this year we formed new partnerships with two schools, Blackhawk Christian and St. Charles Borromeo. As a part of working with Blackhawk Middle School Georgetown branch showcased their Social Studies Exhibit for Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. (Pictured below)

Beacon Heights Outreach – Georgetown Library continues to partner with Library at Home and the Tecumseh Library to offer outreach and learning activities to the residents of Fort Wayne Housing Authority’s Beacon Heights Community. This past quarter the library made 6 visits and interacted with a dedicated group of residents there to bring such topics as

“Device Advice, Hot Mess Painting, Indoor Gardening, Bingo for Books and dealing with Grief and Stress”

Indiana Afterschool Network Townhall – Stephen Platt attended a town-hall sponsored by the Indiana Afterschool Network held at the Fort Wayne Boys and Girls Club. The town-hall was attended by a number of organizations who provide after-school care for area youth and was an opportunity for these organizations to share needs and opportunities for after-school care in the Northeast Indiana area.



CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Manager Swap – during April and May, Stephen Platt and Amanda Vance participated in a manager swap for a period of 3 weeks. Amanda worked out of Georgetown and Stephen worked out of the Waynedale location. Afterwards they met to debrief with administration and talk about their experience and perspectives working at a different location.

Makerspace Training – Kerstin Glaess, the part time maker guide at Georgetown was recently promoted to ACPL Makerspace Program and Partnership Specialist which is a full-time position. In her new role, she will be assisting with the development and operation of makerspace programs system wide. The librarians and managers at Georgetown are undertaking Kerstin’s former roles and responsibilities by training on the equipment so they can offer classes and trainings to the public on the maker equipment. This equipment inventory currently includes, sewing machines, a Dremel, soldering equipment, 3d printers, a laser and vinyl cutters.

Stress Management Events for Georgetown Staff

Tools for Trauma Session and Breakfast w/ Yolanda Turner – In April, during Spring Break, the Georgetown managers hosted a breakfast and speaker for Georgetown staff on dealing with stress, trauma and negativity. The speaker, Yolanda Turner is a therapist and instructor at Ivy Tech School of Social Work.

Taco Party and Relaxation Room – additionally, the managers of the Georgetown Library in conjunction with our intern Social Worker arranged a Taco Party and Sensory Beach themed picnic for the staff of the Georgetown Library. The staff of our sister branch, Tecumseh, sent cards of encouragement to the Georgetown staff.



Staff Tea Tasting for Destress and Relaxation – the managers of the Georgetown library arranged for a special tea tasting and presentation for staff the morning of April 5th. Jeb Brenneman of Dragon’s Keep Tea brought a variety of samples and spoke to the staff about the history, benefits, and proper brewing techniques for Green and Black Tea. The event was well received and so ACPL has contracted with Jeb to offer public tea tasting sessions as part of fall programming.

Managing Stress for Public Servants – On June 27th, Pam Cashdollar from Mental Health America, a non-profit, spoke to the Georgetown staff about tools and techniques from her experience that could help those who work with the public.

Graduate Studies Intern Summary – In May, Sarah Corley, social worker and IU School of Social Work Intern at the Georgetown Library wrapped up a successful internship with the Allen County Public Library. Sarah’s goal was to help the staff with the Afterschool Program and the teens who use the library afterschool. Her summary is as follows:

The Georgetown Library is a very active place with patrons having unique needs. The staff at the Georgetown Branch are dedicated individuals who make our community a better place. The after-school program is only one resource the Georgetown Library offers to the public. Most of the youth that attend identify with the LGBTQ+ population. They search for belonging and a place to find comfort and safety when the world around them is stressful. As legislation tightens down on the LGBTQ+ population the stress the youth feel is going to become harder to deal with, this in turn, will cause more stress for library staff. I ask that you continue to have trainings and discussions about trauma management, LGBTQ+ population, self-care, and staff appreciation events. I hope the contacts I have shared will help in the future. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of GEO, I have learned a lot!

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Afterschool at the Library Semester Wrap-Up

The official last day of the After-school program for the semester was Thursday, May 25th.

This semester we offered the after-school program on 87 days. Each day we had an average attendance of 28 for an overall total of 2,440 children between the ages of 10 and 14 attending.

These numbers are exactly consistent with the program offerings and attendance for the 1st semester of the school year (there was no increase or decrease in participation, indicating that this is a well-used program)



QUARTERLY MANAGERS REPORT – Q2 2023



For the 2022-2023 school semester this program had an overall attendance of 4,888 students attending the 175 days we offered it. Please note this figure is just a percentage of the actual number of children who use the library after school.

To wrap up the last day of the program the library held a party for the students which included a visit from the Kona Flavored Ice Truck, Pokemon themed crafts, a sensory room, photo booth, pizza bagels, a therapy pony and face painting. A large number of staff and volunteers put a good deal of effort into this year's concluding event.



Electronics Classes -this past quarter the Stephen Platt and Kerstin Glaess taught two introductory electronics classes. These classes introduced the participants to the proper techniques for safe and effective soldering as well as to provide information on how electronic components function in an integrated circuit to produce sound. The participants were able to put together two difference types of kits, a manual siren kit and a terribly obnoxious woodpecker sound kit. Each participant (ranging in age from child to adult) had a 100% success rate in putting together an operating device by the end of the class.



GRABILL

Rebecca Wolfe, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Branch manager Rebecca Wolfe helped staff the ACPL booth at the Disabilities Expo at the Allen County Coliseum (pictured below). We chatted with community members about library services and handed out ACPL's first ever SPARK for All Abilities Bingo sheet. We spoke with about 150 people.

Branch manager Rebecca Wolfe helped staff a table at a Juneteenth celebration at McMillen Park. It was great to see the Fort Wayne Urban League handing out free banned books for all ages.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Branch manager Rebecca Wolfe went to training at the Fort Wayne Pride Center. Director Nikki Fultz presented "Working with LGBTQ Youth." This ties in nicely with ACPL's new teen Alphabet Club, which Grabill will offer in the fall. Rebecca shared session notes with staff from branches offering this new program for LGBTQ+ teens and allies.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Librarian Susan Pratt and branch manager Rebecca Wolfe participated in Library 2.0's ChatGPT Bootcamp for Libraries and Librarians, which offered an interesting overview of ChatGPT, along with some ideas of how libraries and librarians can work with it.

It's interesting that some Grabill branch families attend Storytime in the park but do not regularly attend Storytime at the branch. The park Storytimes have been popular. We have had success for a few years now with Storytime at the town park in Leo-Cedarville. This summer, instead of competing with splash pads at the Riverside Gardens Park in Leo, we tried offering sessions at Grabill's Jack R. Harris Park, which is near a mobile home park. We've had mixed success in Grabill, but new programs often take time to build momentum. Youth specialist Michaela Cottrell does the weekly Storytime in Leo, and librarian Susan Pratt does the weekly sessions in Grabill.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Grabill branch had an engaging Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 29. Around 75 people enjoyed Storytimes, giant games, karaoke, and crafts.



HESSEN CASSEL

Edith Helbert, Branch Manager



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Hessen Cassel recently hosted two students from East Allen University who wanted to learn more about working in libraries. The students each spent a 6-hour day on two Wednesdays in April learning about the role of the Branch Assistant from Danyel Geels. Both of the students became interested in the work and expressed a desire to find employment with ACPL in the future.

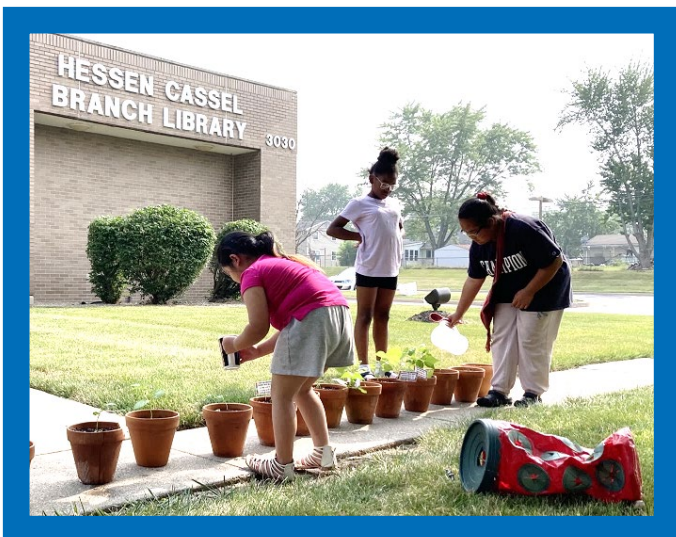
CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

We are fortunate to welcome two wonderful additions to our summer team. The LINK program, which administers the Summer Meals collaboration with FWCS and extends learning through fun activities and classes for elementary students, has been offered at our branch since its inception. This year, our programmer is a seasoned elementary teacher from EACS, and the program assistant was a Team Read employee in high school. Together with our year-round staff, Lori and Victoria have been pivotal in making the summer of 2023 extra-special for the youth of our community.



LIBRARY AS PLACE

Hessen Cassel's children's room has been hopping with hands-on learning! Children have been learning the entire process of plant cycles, as they plant beans in a self-directed activity, watch them sprout in plastic bags on a window, repot the new plants into soil, and see them grow in the Learn & Grow Library Garden, visible from a window inside the children's room. During LINK and SPARK programs, they have also learned about vermiculture and compost, extending their understanding of the world around them, which in turn supports literacy by increasing their familiarity with words and ideas which were previously outside their experience.



LITTLE TURTLE

Rachael King, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

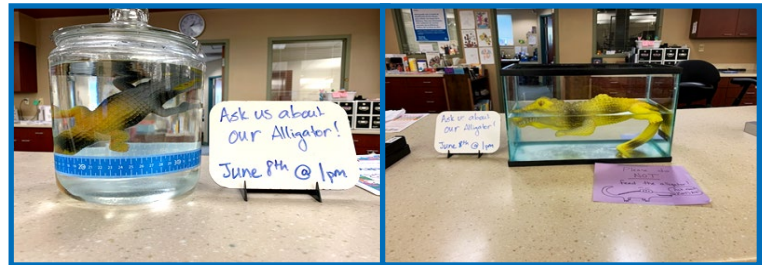
The Seed Library from the Little Turtle Branch went on the road in June and attended the Fort Wayne Garden Party Swap and Swap 2023 hosted at Ambrosia Orchard, Cidery, and Meadery. Vendors (there were over 35 of us!) started setting up on a beautiful Saturday morning and attendees started quickly showing up when the “doors”



opened at 1. Edith (from Hessen Cassel) and I talked with over 175 people that stopped at our booth. We had all sorts of ACPL goodies available, literature for services and SLP programs, and lots of seeds. Available for the patrons were “expired” seeds, these are seeds that are too old for our main collection and might have passed their viability date; donated seeds that were hybrid seeds that could not be added to our collection; and a small sampling of our excess seeds from our seed library (that houses over 200 varieties!). Patrons were so incredibly excited to see us there and so many were thrilled to learn about our seed library. We hope this is something that we’ll be able to continue to attend in the future years.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

In order to create a dialogue with patrons, our children’s librarian Haley created some delightful interactives that were housed at the circulation desk. The one that elicited the most comments from patrons was definitely our alligator/crocodile that grew bigger and bigger as it absorbed water from its container. He started roughly 5 inches and grew to almost 30 inches!



LIBRARY AS PLACE

Because Juneteenth is a federally recognized holiday, Fort Wayne Community Schools would not be delivering lunch or snacks on June 19th. Utilizing some extra funds for LINK, staff purchased enough to serve over 40 children and teens lunch that we would have had to turn away.

Our visits to North Highlands (Fort Wayne Housing Authority) has continued to go strong. On the 2nd Thursday, residents receive device advice to assist with any technology issues they may have and on the 4th Thursday, there’s a craft time that allows them to get their creative juices flowing. Normally this visit has coffee and tea available for attendees, but a new addition was able to draw the attention of residents who might not have come down otherwise...freshly baked cookies! A resident heard of the treats that would be offered, due to some hardship, they had not eaten anything in a day or so and this program addition motivated them to come down and chat with the instructors. They were then able to learn about the resources available to them to help them through this tough time.

MAIN – ADULT SERVICES

Stacey Stamas, Manager

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

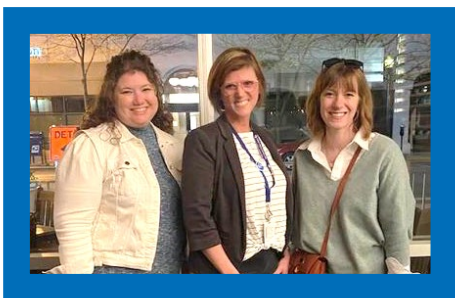
Staff have been instructed to work toward participating in 2-3 programs per month as a goal. Linda Michael was busy heading up collection management with Information Services and Adult Services staff and also working on collection management in storage. All Adult Services staff work reference desks 2-4 hours per day and work on collection management in their off-desk hours. Anna Kallemeyn is our department representative in training for the new ILS by Innovative. She is one of the Polar(is) Bears. Anna also created carousels on the ACPL website for Adult Pride month books and New and Notable books.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Staff have been involved with the following programs from April to June: Stacey Stamas headed up the “Music at the Library” series which brought Jazz Appreciation Month to Main and Branch locations (Pictured: top right). During the month of April, Dave Latchaw and Alicia Pyle each played 1-hour lunches at a total of 11 of our branches. The final concert of the month was at the Main Library, where Alicia Pyle brought her jazz combo on a Sunday afternoon. In May, the New Millennium Jazz Orchestra gave an exciting concert of big band music to finish off the Spring portion of our series. The month of June brought the beginning of our “Music on the Plaza” summer series of concerts. The 32-piece Old Crown Brass Band played during the lunch hour from 11:30-1:30 on June 14. There were food trucks and a tent with chairs set up for everyone to enjoy the show.

In the Jeffrey R. Krull gallery, Jon Detweiler coordinated the following shows:

- Purdue Fort Wayne Student Show: Art of Florence, March 4-April 2
- Purdue Fort Wayne Student Show: BFA Seniors, April 10-April 28
- University of Saint Francis Student Show, May 8-June 17
- Fort Wayne Printmakers: Pressed for Art, June 24-August 5



Craig Bailey participated in Board Games and Brews at Summit City Brewerks (May-June), Lighten the Load mental health programming with Mental Health America (April-May), Computer Basics: Guided Help (April-June), Dungeons & Dragons: Adult Gaming for Summer Learning Program (June), Great Day Café (June), Amani Cultural Competency Training event (June), Glorious Glass (June), Outreach to FWCS: Hoopla, Libby presentation (June). He was also involved with a book display highlighting MLK, Jr.’s 60th Anniversary of his visit to Fort Wayne.

Megan Bell hosted Authors & Ales Book Club (April-June), Bookends Book Club (April-June) and was also the coordinator of the interview with Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers of the podcast, Pantsuit Politics (Pictured: bottom left). Sarah Holmes participated in 3 meetings of the Writer’s Forum (April-June).

Anna Kallemeyn hosted Authors & Ales Book Club (April-June), Virtual Craft Café (April-May), University of Saint Francis Lecture Series (May), How-to Studio (May), Bookends Book Club (May), Outreach Book Club with the Northeast Indiana Paralegal Association (June).

MAIN – ACCESS FORT WAYNE, WELT, MAKER LAB

Norm Compton, Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

In June WELT participated again with Amani Family Services in World Refugee Picnic at Foster park. This annual outreach event reached an audience of 400 people in person on the radio. The ACPL Teen Film Festival that AFW's Eugene Gussenhoven coordinates had over 800 entries from all over the world. The Awards ceremony was held in Studio A on June 3rd and was attended by 35 people. Here is a link to that show:

<http://cranium.acpl.lib.in.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/31655?channel=1>

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Norm is collaborating to ordering Maker Lab equipment for ACPL, from an ARPA Grant that ACPL has been awarded. This project started last August with a "wish list" coming out of the Lab at Main. When implemented this will foster Mini Maker Labs at three additional Branches as well as bring new technology to the Make Lab at Main.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

In April, AFW presented the 2022 Annual Report to the City & County promoting ACPL's DEI work and the four themes of these reports. The report was presented live on City TV, here is the link:

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=wBkBMrnJzeip>

As part of the ARPA Grant listed above, we bought 16 VR Headsets that will be used as a new service in the Maker Lab. The goal is to provide VR Programs, to introduce the public to this technology. The long-term goal is to create local VR content.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Access Fort Wayne does many things but Rock the Plaza has to be one of the biggest events with the biggest impact. ACPL's Summer concert series is a mainstay of Fort Wayne Summer entertainment. This year's season runs for seven weeks in June and July and provides a great outlet for new talents and entertainment for 100 times more people than ACPL's inside concerts. This past Saturday ACPL debuted the band Frantic. Afterwards, Norm was asked how someone can contact the band for booking.

Access Fort Wayne records all of the bands for playback on the channels and WELT. The 500th episode of Rock the Plaza was just released from AFW. Take a look:

<http://cranium.acpl.lib.in.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/31727?channel=1>

The partnership with WBOI to record Meet the Music (MTM) here in AFW's Studio A is building momentum. ACPL sees cross over with the bands from Rock the Plaza regularly. Julia Meek, the producer of MTM promotes our partnership regularly on social media, adding to the value of this cooperative effort.

QUARTERLY MANAGERS REPORT – Q2 2023



Access Fort Wayne Monthly Report 2023

| Programs Produced | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Year Total |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|----|----|-------------|
| Local TV Prog. | 353 | 401 | | | 754 |
| Local Imp. TV | 64 | 84 | | | 148 |
| Total TV Prog. | 417 | 485 | | | 902 |
| Imported TV Prog. | 130 | 163 | | | 293 |
| Outreach Events | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| Outreach # of People | 550 | 435 | | | 985 |
| TV Workshops | 8 | 7 | | | 15 |
| Editing | 28 | 29 | | | 57 |
| Radio Workshops | 20 | 12 | | | 32 |
| Meeting Attendance | 67 | 67 | | | 134 |
| Maker Workshops | 13 | 8 | | | 21 |
| Tours | 6 | 2 | | | 8 |
| Total Attendance | 874 | 141 | | | 1015 |
| Pre-Prod. Meetings | 4 | 7 | | | 11 |
| Maker Reservations | 95 | 108 | | | 203 |
| WELT Reservations | 269 | 255 | | | 524 |
| TV Reservations | 188 | 175 | | | 363 |
| Editing Reservations | 109 | 81 | | | 190 |
| Remote Productions | 17 | 20 | | | 37 |
| Volunteers | 42 | 40 | | | 82 |
| Volunteer Hrs. | 239 | 295 | | | 534 |
| Avg. Hours Per Vol. | 16.6 | 22 | | | 38.6 |
| Patron Interaction | | | | | |
| Ref. Quest. Answer | 182 | 176 | | | 358 |
| Non-Ref. Interactions | 1192 | 1117 | | | 2309 |
| Curbside Pick Up | 1 | 0 | | | 1 |
| # Dubs Made | 167 | 54 | | | 221 |
| # of Community Messages | | | | | |
| Access Fort Wayne | 1 | 0 | | | 1 |
| General | 7 | 10 | | | 17 |
| Library | 0 | 8 | | | 8 |
| SPCA | 15 | 28 | | | 43 |
| Total | 22 | 46 | | | 68 |

| WELT Stats | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Year Total |
|---|--------|--------|----|----|------------|
| Local Programs Produced | 865 | 902 | | | 1767 |
| Local Programs Hours | 1160 | 1198 | | | 2358 |
| Local Live Hours | 189 | 224 | | | 413 |
| Import Shows | 300 | 312 | | | 612 |
| Import Hours | 336 | 346 | | | 682 |
| Total Scheduled Hours | 1496 | 1544 | | | 3040 |
| Music Rotation Hours | 664 | 663 | | | 1327 |
| Public Service Announcements | 3090 | 3094 | | | 6184 |
| Public & Community TV Access One | | | | | |
| Total Hrs. Prog. | 3214 | 3281.4 | | | 6495.4 |
| Hrs. of 1st Run Prog. | 384.9 | 464.6 | | | 849.5 |
| Community PSA's Ran | 822 | 806 | | | 1628 |
| County and City TV | | | | | |
| Total Hrs. Prog. | 1813.5 | 1891.1 | | | 3704.6 |
| Hrs. 1st Run Prog. | 70.95 | 80.7 | | | 151.65 |
| New Prog Produced | 75 | 84 | | | 159 |
| ACPL Shows | | | | | |
| Total Hrs. Played | 511 | 565.7 | | | 1076.7 |
| Hrs. 1st Run Prog. | 120.7 | 17.6 | | | 138.3 |
| New Prog Produced | 26 | 21 | | | 47 |

MAIN – CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Tiffany Bronzan, Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

In March, Dawn and Tiffany went to the outreach event called “Fort Wayne Community School Preschool Round-Up”. We spoke to 260 attendees and signed up 26 community members for a library card.

At the beginning of April, librarians went to over 50 daycares to deliver books and present Storytimes as a part of the Juvenile Delivery Collection. The Children Service’s Department continued providing outreach Storytimes to the Little River Wetlands, Charis House, Journey Besides Mother and Great Heights. Katie tabled an outreach event at Eagle Marsh for Little River Wetland’s Earth Day celebration. She handed out library information and provided a fun spring activity for children. Kelsey visited the Fort Wayne Philharmonic’s Family Series and provided library materials for check out. Tiffany tabled at the first annual Riverfront Literacy Expo and handed out library information. Leading up to summer, Kelsey visited 11 different elementary schools presenting the Summer Learning Program 20 times.

In the month of April and May, librarians continued to visit Fort Wayne’s Park and Recreation Site, Weisser Park, to present Design-It for elementary children. In June, librarians started visiting Weisser Park and Jennings Park weekly.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

April brought our newest Children’s Librarian, Melissa Machado, who observed Storytimes from around the county. The department attended a critical training, How to Identify and Report Suspected Child Abuse, presented by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). ACPL’s staff was able to ask questions and receive guidance on how to navigate these important situations.

June through July the Main Library will be offering Free Lunch service via Fort Wayne Community schools and Link Assistant, Lynda Tracy. The department served 1,071 free lunches to children and 212 free snacks.

In June Katie and Sarah visited the American Library Association (ALA) conference exhibits in Chicago on June 24, 2023. Katie and Teresa also attended a training presented by Great Kids Make Great Communities held at the Main Library. Several staff members, attended a Cultural Competency Training presented by Amani. The participants gained an understanding of different cultures that are represented in our community, specifically Latino and Burmese. Tiffany Bronzan will be leaving ACPL and Rachael King will become the new department manager starting June 26, 2023.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

During the months of April and May of 2023, the Children Service’s department welcomed 15 different groups into their department by leading them in Storytime, an informational presentation about the library, a tour of the department, tour of the building, and StoryScape play. The department theme for the month of May was “Mermay” and “Free Comic Book Day”. To celebrate Mermay, we had a scavenger hunt and mermaids decorated our windows. On Free Comic Book Day the department presented programs with the Superhero theme. Including a “Wright Stuff” session, Superhero Storytime, Superhero Academy, Make Art: Superhero Edition and LEGO Challenge.

At the beginning of June, librarians changed the theme of the two StoryScape cubbies to a veterinary hospital and an apiary. The veterinary hospital provided a dramatic area that children can practice “healing” the patients and empathy. At the apiary children can learn about how bees make honey. The department hosted two spring break magic shows, presented by Daniel Lusk, that were attended by 340 people.

MAIN – EVENTS

Leanne Bure, Manager

| | April | May | June |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events (non-library programs) | 118 | 138 | 151 |
| Attendance | 2,201 | 3,218 | 2,379 |



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- The Tunnel of Despair was a temporary display erected in the Great Hall by middle school students to bring awareness to homelessness in the community.
- Earth Day Expo in Meeting Room ABC was a public event to highlight sustainable activities.
- World Refugee Day was hosted at ACPL in partnership with Catholic Charities and brought in over 150 people to celebrate language, culture, food, and their powerful stories.
- We hosted the FWCS Free Lunch Kickoff on the Plaza with a cookout, ice cream, and music.
- The Apprenticeship Trade Fair returned to showcase jobs in the trade industry on the Plaza.
- Fort Wayne Ink Sport Award Ceremony returned to the Theater to showcase essay winners.
- The Mexican Consulate served 693 patrons between May 31-June 3.
- The ACPL presented the popular podcast program, Pantsuit Politics, to a SOLD-OUT crowd for an evening of engaging conversations with a meet and greet opportunity.
- We hosted the MTJA’s GEMmy Award Ceremony to award the Rolland Center and Genealogy Center.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

The Events Manager attended the Event Design Conference at Purdue University to gain insight on designing impactful events. We are thrilled to have Donnie David promoted to Senior Event Technician.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

The Events team along with AFW took the show on the road to LTL to broadcast the Board of Trustees Meeting. New LED Cove Lighting has been installed in the Theater to shine light on programs (pun intended).

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Displaced by construction, the Three Rivers Music Theater utilized the ACPL Theater for rehearsals. ACPL was the host site for the popular Cherry Blossom Festival for over a decade but due to their festival growth the event moved to PFW to accommodate larger crowds and amenities this year. The ACPL was honored to be a part of that growth and thrilled to see their success and continue participation in an outreach fashion.

MAIN – INFORMATION SERVICES

Traci Ward, Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Information Services had a social work intern, Conor Ross, gave a presentation to the Board detailing his time at ACPL and some of the interactions he took part in. He, along with Info Services Manager Traci Ward, highlighted the varying interactions staff have with patrons, including those dealing with food insecurity, homelessness, mental health issues, etc. Conor also spoke about a personal experience had at ACPL that indicated the need for a social worker on staff. To view this presentation you can find it at the following link at time marker 35:15.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRd3Kcp5lXk&ab_channel=AllenCountyPublicLibrary

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

A number of staff members, including those from Info Services, spent some time at the ALA Conference in Chicago in June. There was a lot of great feedback from staff about the exhibits they saw and some great conversation they had. Traci had the opportunity to attend a presentation called “Social Workers in Libraries” led by Ashley Stewart, the director and resident social worker at Caseyville Library in Illinois. Ms. Stewart had some great information to provide, some of which may be implement at ACPL.



MAIN – SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Curt Witcher, Director

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

On April 1st, the Genealogy Center, with support from the Events team, hosted the first Indiana Genealogical Society hybrid program (in-person as well as virtual) since the pandemic. One hundred and forty-six individuals attended with the vast majority attending in-person. Two concurrent tracks of four presentations each were offered throughout the day along with a small number of non-profits and the conference sponsor, VIVID-PIX, exhibiting. A nationally known presenter, Amy Johnson Crow, was onsite to deliver the four presentations of the main track. For some of the attendees, it was their first time to the Allen County Public Library and the Genealogy Center, and indeed, their first in-person meeting of more than just a few individuals since the pandemic. The evaluations of the event had nothing but positive comments for the library and the program from those attending in-person and via Zoom. Our partnership with local and regional genealogical groups continues to enable them to attract top-shelf, national speakers for family history events here at the library. The Indiana Genealogical Society was so pleased with this year's experience that they have booked an expanded state-wide conference back here at the library in 2024 (April 19-20).

We had two successful joint programs with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society in the second quarter. A program entitled "Shared History Project: 1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands" drew both virtual as well as in-person attendees on April 16th. Just before that event, we opened a display of the same title from the Leo Baeck Institute in the Genealogy Center gallery. That display attracted interested patrons for nearly two months. Karen Franklin, Director of Family Research at Leo Baeck Institute, presented the April 16th program as well as provided a very engaging review of the display. On Sunday, May 7th, veteran genealogist and author Ron Arons presented two programs in the Discovery Center and virtually entitled "Alcohol, Prohibition and Temperance Societies in Ohio and Indiana," and "Researching Criminal Ancestors."

Another first since rolling forward from the pandemic, the Allen County Genealogical Society held their 2023 annual banquet in the Main Library's first floor meeting rooms on June 14th. Forty-seven individuals attended the event, sharing a meal and networking as well as enjoying a presentation from Curt Witcher on lessons found in the past few years that can assist organizations in moving forward with the important work of finding family stories.

In June, the Genealogy Center began cooperative work with the local chapter of the AARP toward developing a family history program. Our initial efforts will be centered around an AARP Day in the Center this fall.

Curt Witcher has accepted positions on the Allen County (IN) Bicentennial Steering Committee and the 2025 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference Planning Committee (a conference that is scheduled to be held here in Fort Wayne, IN).

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Engaging virtual, hybrid and in-person programs remain a staple of Special Collections' services in support of life-long learning. The second quarter of 2023 the Genealogy Center saw 4,220 individuals attend 37 virtual programs; 2,037 individuals attend 34 hybrid programs; and 224 individuals attend 11 in-person programs. With the Rolland Center's 512 individuals participating in 28 tours, nearly seven thousand individuals participated in some active way with Special Collections.

On June 1st, Genealogy Center and Rolland Center for Lincoln Research were each awarded coveted 2023 GEMmy awards from the Midwest Travel Journalists Association, Inc. (MTJA). The GEMmys recognize attractions, tours, facilities, accommodations, and experiences that exemplify the joy, discovery, and education that travel can bring. The GEMmy is an award

created by professional travel journalists and industry leaders who are members of the Midwest Travel Journalists Association, Inc. MTJA members travel extensively around the USA and internationally, and nominate the most outstanding “gems of travel” for GEMmy recognition.

In recognizing the Genealogy Center, the association wrote, “Despite traveling the world looking for family members, we actually found their records here in Fort Wayne including family from Croatia, Germany, and Ireland,” said MTJA nominator Elizabeth Granger. “It’s incredible that years ago, a Fort Wayne librarian was enthralled with genealogy that he convinced the library to create what is now the second-largest depository of genealogy information in America. Even better than all that information is the warm welcome from those who work in the center. They’re positive, helpful, excited, and knowledgeable.”

In recognizing the Rolland Center, association representatives called the Rolland Center “a treasure trove of presidential mementos – and history – in an accessible place. The Rolland Center has created a space where we better understand the time and the challenges that faced Abraham Lincoln. Much of the success of this space is the staff that are so passionate about their subject.”

June 8-11, the library and its Genealogy Center hosted the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) Conference. 652 individuals attended the conference either in-person or virtually. The Genealogy Center team introduced Librarians Day to the IGGP and, in spite of it being a first effort for the IGGP, the response was most positive. The day was crafted to have archivists and record specialists speak with librarians and information professionals about how best to help genealogists in seeking documents and data regarding their German ancestors. Most participants indicated that they had an overwhelmingly positive general conference experience. IGGP had an unprecedented number of presentations, bringing many new presenters to the genealogical audience. There were presentations in native languages with translated subtitles. This conference had the largest-yet schedule of the very popular networking “Connection” sessions with expert facilitators and notes from each session available after the conference on a USB drive. The 800-page conference syllabus was available in both German and English. The event was such a crowd favorite that the IGGP is tentatively planning a “reunion” research trip to Fort Wayne in 2024 so people can have more time to dig into the resources at the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library and take advantage of staff expertise.

The IGGP event was successful due to the collegial assistance from across the library. The Genealogy Materials Handling Unit personnel took on public-facing roles during the four days of the conference; Maintenance and ITS reprogrammed HVAC and computers for smooth operations during the expanded hours; Security was gracious and helpful to attendees entering and exiting the building during the library’s extended hours; and EVS was absolutely awesome in supporting the hybrid “Connection” sessions that occurred in all of the library’s first-floor meeting rooms.

In the first half of 2023, the “Periodical Source Index,” continuously compiled by the Genealogy Center since 1986 and freely available from the ACPL Genealogy Center website since January 2022, was successfully searched 180,069 times with 80,104 of those successful searches coming the second quarter of this year. This index contains 3.1M subject entries covering thousands of genealogical and historical periodicals available in the Genealogy Center.

As mentioned in the Q1 report, Lincoln librarians continue to use the smaller, temporary exhibit case in the front part of the gallery to encourage more interest and more frequent visits to the Center if only to find out what's new. Our Lincoln librarians have given attention and expertise to developing a differently themed case every month this quarter. A small exhibit for Women's History Month launched at the beginning of March. The case was commented on in the last report. The April display on the Lincoln funeral highlighted the Black Easter sermons, additional funerals, and the Lincoln funeral train, including a highlight of the train and funeral in Indiana. The June display, "Emancipation and Freedom," in honor of Juneteenth received a significant amount of media attention, with all the local networks (21-Alive, WANE 15, and Fox 55) doing interviews. It also received a great amount of attention from library patrons. One notable experience involved a young man asking about the meaning of Juneteenth, and then beamed with pride, articulating on his way out of the Center that the case was his history, his story.

A sample of things seen and heard in the Rolland Center:

- A gentleman enjoying the Rolland Center Facetimed someone to show them the exhibits!
- "This is my favorite room in the library." (Referring to the Immersive Projection Room)
- A patron reading aloud in German from the Immigrant case.
- A family with a large group of preteens very excitedly used every touch screen in the space. They stopped to take multiple group pictures outside the exhibit.

The library continues to leverage marketing opportunities to draw more attention to the engaging experiences of the Rolland Center. It was great to see that ACPL and the Rolland Center were mentioned in the opening paragraph of May press release announcing that the Indiana State Library launched its new Indiana Library Passport. A link to the press release follows. <https://www.wbiw.com/2023/05/12/indiana-state-library-launches-new-indiana-library-passport-offers-new-prizes/>

Indiana State Library launches new Indiana Library Passport; offers new prizes

© MAY 12, 2023

INDIANA – The Indiana State Library has announced the release of the newest version of the Indiana Library Passport, a digital experience that encourages everyone to visit libraries across the state.

The passport showcases more than 150 main libraries and branches to explore in an easy, mobile-friendly way. The passport includes stops at the Allen County Public Library, which features the Rolland Center for Lincoln Research; the South Whitley Community Public Library, which features the Shultz Gem Collection; the Bartholomew County Public Library, which features architectural design by I. M. Pei and the Large Arch statue by Henry Moore; and many more.

MAIN – TEENS

Mari Hardacre, Department Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Art for All: Chalk Creations, an inclusive program for people of all ages and abilities, was presented at several library branches and also at Turnstone. In addition to regular size sidewalk chalk, artists used jumbo chinks and adaptive equipment from Zot Artz.

Our first ever Pridepalooza event—long requested by teen patrons—was a success with over 60 LGBTQ+ teens, caregivers, and allies in attendance. Cookie decorating was a popular activity. Thank you to The Brave Alliance, The Center for Nonviolence, Fort Wayne Pride Center, Mom Hugs, and PFLAG for attending and sharing information and support with attendees.

Teens staff represented the library at several community events, including System of Care, The Cherry Blossom Festival, Arab Fest, and The Macknificent Freedom Fest.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Charlotte Hinniger, with the help of colleagues, created a large 14-foot by 7-foot artwork for the department’s summer learning program decorations in keeping with the theme “All Together Now.”



MONROEVILLE

Chris Wiljer, Branch Manager

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

For the May meeting of the Four Presidents Corners Historical Society, a Senior Librarian from the Genealogy Center visited the Monroeville Branch to make a special presentation. This talk was titled, “If These Walls Could Talk: How to Research Your Home.” The focus was on collecting information about a home by using census records, city directories, newspapers, deeds and maps. This program offered ample suggestions on how to comprehensively research the history of a particular property.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

The Monroeville Branch ambitiously planned to offer 52 programs during the summer months of June and July. The majority of these programs are part of the system wide summer learning program. We were very pleased to see these programs well attended during the month of June. In fact, the total attendance for programs in June was around 347. The program offerings have included a variety of different topics including art, animal, craft, dancing, food and poetry programs. The three most heavily attended programs include the Whalemobile, Mark’s Arc and the Bird Beak Buffet. The Whalemobile was a repeat of a popular program which featured a full-scale blow-up representation of an actual whale named Nile. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about ocean life and the abundant resources in our seas. Marc’s Arc allowed patrons the chance to meet some amazing animals including a duck, hedgehog and a baby alligator. The Bird Beak Buffet was an educational program which examined different types of beaks and how birds use them as tools.



NEW HAVEN

Marie Kaufmann, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Sheila Hoffman, New Haven Branch's Children's Librarian stationed an ACPL table at Kid's Night Out & Kid's Market at Schnelker Park in downtown New Haven. While at the event she promoted SPARK and all of our library services to the 145 people she interacted with.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Branch Manager, Marie Kaufmann, attended an AMANI cultural competency training in June at the Main Library. While in attendance she learned about Hispanic, Latino and Burmese cultures as well as some of the best ways the library can interact with and serve the local immigrant populations.

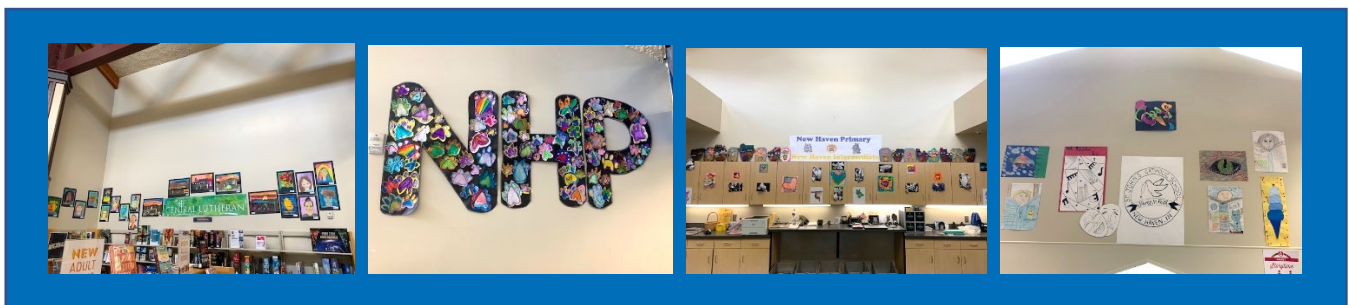
Branch Manager, Marie Kaufmann, attended the ALA Annual Conference in June. While there she attended sessions on outreach, management techniques and adult programming. She even got to see an in-person preview of Envisionware's 24/7 Holds Lockers that will debut at the Dupont Branch sometime in the relatively near future.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Senior Librarian, Christian Prater, set up a May the Fourth display in the New Haven Branch's display case. His display featured a scene from Star Wars using figures and settings from the Star Wars roleplaying game, Star Wars Legion. Kids and adults were thrilled to see the display as well as ask Christian questions about the game and how he created the figures, vehicles and ships for the scene.



Have you noticed the artwork on display at the New Haven Branch? This year's SPARK theme is All Together Now and the branch decided that a great way to convey this was to petition the local schools to see if they wanted to participate in a community art exhibit. Many parents and children have already visited the library this summer specifically to view their works of art on display.



PONTIAC

Deborah Meserve, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

In April, Pontiac branch had Amy attend a Habitat for Humanity home dedication with a welcome back from ACPL. Meisha and Hannah hosted a Literacy Night at Fairfield Elementary and promoted Summer Learning Program (SLP). In May Hannah and Meisha did a poetry outreach to the Allen County Juvenile Center, along with six school visits for SLP promotion and outreach. Deborah presented at the Latinx Monthly Meeting about the library offerings for patrons. In May, Allen County System of Care's Resource Fair and Family Fun Night was a hopping event for staff. The public also enjoyed our Big Blocks. Around 1500 attend the event each year. We also donated 800 plastic library bags for participants to use as they got items from various vendors. (Pictures on the right)



In June the FWHA's annual Family Reunion event was held with 150 people in attendance. Rachael and Deborah gave away free BRE books to the kids. (Pictured below)



CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

In April Hannah attended the State of the Child Conference and in June Deborah appreciated Helena's (from WDB) help in hosting Creative Canvas while she covered her shift at MON. Collaboration at its best! Deborah and James trained new GEO hire Eli on Wise.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

In May Pontiac staff participated in filming promos for the Summer Learning Program. In June Deborah presented a program at FWHA's Brooklyn Manor on how Thailand recycles elephant dung to make paper.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

In April Pontiac hosted a Jazz session in light of Jazz Appreciation Month. In June the free lunch program has been extremely popular. One day Pontiac served 65 children lunches! During one of our lunch hours, Healthier Moms and Babies brought their diaper mobile to Pontiac so patrons could access free diapers.

SHAWNEE

Rachael King, Branch Manager

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

This quarter meant some transition for Shawnee staffing. Our Youth Services Specialist, Scott, became our Circulation Specialist; our Youth Services Specialist, Gabi, became our Youth Services Librarian; and we hired Laura to become our All Ages-Outreach Librarian. Laura comes to us with a lot of experience of reaching out to members in the community to form relationships with her students. She's jumped into the summer outreach season with both feet, so look for her at the many festivals and events happening around the county!

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Shawnee is back to being a long-term host location for the First Steps in Music through the Fort Wayne Children's Choir. It's currently offered on Tuesday mornings but will move to Wednesday mornings in the fall.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

While making the security rounds in June, Joe discovered that a mama cat had taken the library's intent to create a welcoming environment to heart and picked our location to give birth to her four kittens. Mama Cat and her babies are all doing well and are being fostered in a loving home.

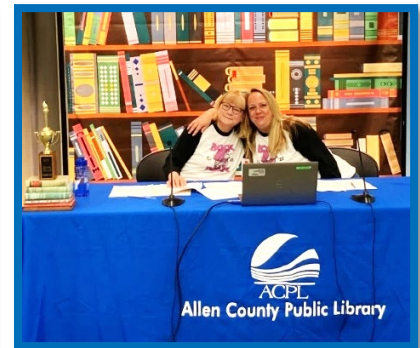


SYSTEM WIDE SERVICES – AUDIO READING SERVICE

George Johnson-Coffey, Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Along with Peg Heinz and Rebecca Wolfe, George staffed the ACPL booth at the Disabilities Expo at the Coliseum on May 13. We promoted, Library at Home, the All Abilities Club, and Audio Reading Service. We connected with 155 individuals.



Production Assistant, Alyssa White staffed ACPL's booth Fort Wayne's Juneteenth event. George participated in several of other Outreach presentations/events including a presentation at Edsall House, YMCA Senior Fair that also included Library at Home, Foster Grandparent Program, Beacon Heights Church a financial supporter of ARS, Waynedale United Methodist Church, VisionWalk, and Northwest Allen County Schools where we recruited a talented new volunteer. The outreach impact of these combine programs is 356 interactions. Along with Foundation and Friends Board member, Lisa Worrell, George Emceed the 2023 Book Bowl as a kick-off to National Library week.

In the second quarter, the Audio Reading Service received \$3,510.00 in donations. ACPL received \$16,511.81 in added value through the services of 94 volunteers (FTE=2.99) who gave 1,556.25 hours of service. We welcomed one new volunteer.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Chad Butterbaugh, Senior Production Assistant, continues contributing to ACPL's DEI Committee. Audio Reading Service volunteer, Mary Seberger, won the Daughters of the American Revolution's Community Service Awards for her ARS volunteer work (Pictured below, left). Nominated by the Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter of Fort Wayne, The Community Service Award is presented on local, state, and national levels to individuals and groups who have contributed to their communities in an outstanding voluntary, heroic, civil, or benevolent manner, or who have participated in or organized community activities.



INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

The Audio Reading Service is thrilled to receive the Best Consumer Information Program for our *Weekend* show from the International Association of Audio Information Services. It was presented at the IAAIS National Conference in June by IAAIS President, Maryfrances Evans (Pictured above, right). The reader of this program is Cari Kyle, who reads about various events taking place on an upcoming weekend, concerts, festivals, art exhibit, etc.; the engineer who produced it is Mark Lahey, our Broadcast Coordinator.

Cari Kyle's reaction, *"Wow! I am so honored. Thank you for letting me know. I really enjoy being a part of the Audio reading service and helping out someone who deals with vision problems. It's a cause that I take to heart. I'm proud to be a volunteer. Thanks again."*

Patron's comments, *"My mom listens to the Weekend program and often attends events she hears about that are going on in the Fort Wayne area."*

"I like listening to Weekend – I had no idea there was that much going on in Fort Wayne and around."

LIBRARY AS PLACE

The 2023 Audio Reading Service Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held at The Mirro Center (Pictured below). 111 of us gathered to celebrate the ARS volunteers! Library Board members, Jim Williams, and Ben Eisbart were with us, and Ben shared a personal story about his blind college roommate. Susan expressed the importance of what ARS volunteers do as it relates to ACPL's mission. Beth Boatright, an ARS reader herself, gave an inspiring, and entertaining perspective on volunteering with our service. We had great food, good music with Eric Clancy, and a lot of laughter...quite frankly, we had a blast!



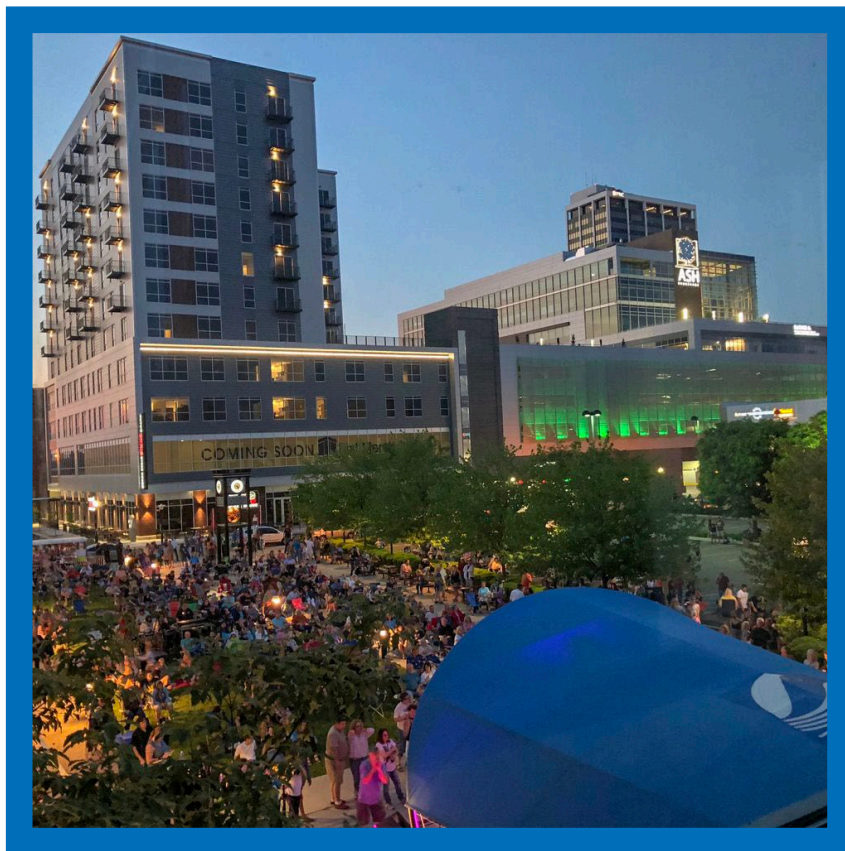
SYSTEM WIDE SERVICES – COMMUNICATIONS

Aja Michael-Keller, Director

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

We continue to be present in our local and regional media on a daily basis with **484** mentions in Q2 for a daily average of 5.37 mentions. This was up from Q2-22 numbers despite that quarter including major news stories such as Facilities Master Plan announcements and derecho impacts at three branches. We also reached markets in 11 states and 4 countries. Given the competition in the local news space during the end of the school year and active summer season, we still see consistent media presence with positive sentiment.

Some our best-performing stories included: Rock the Plaza, World Refugee Day, Juneteenth activities, the FWCS Free Lunch Partnership, the Community Impact Report, and Susan’s Op-Ed for National Library Week “There’s More to the ACPL Story”.

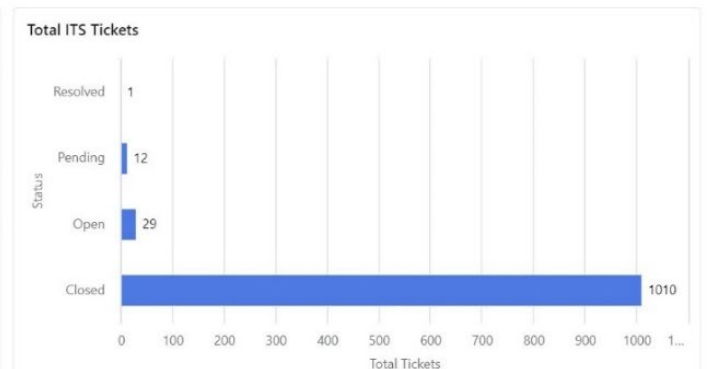
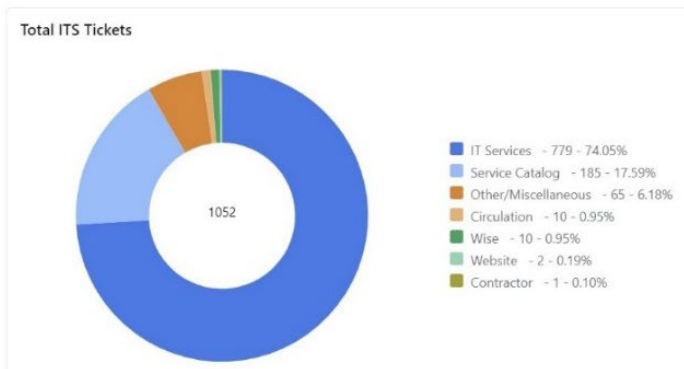
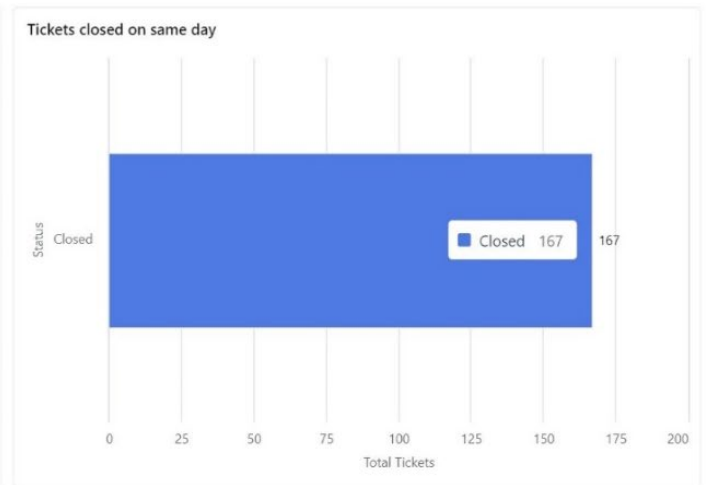
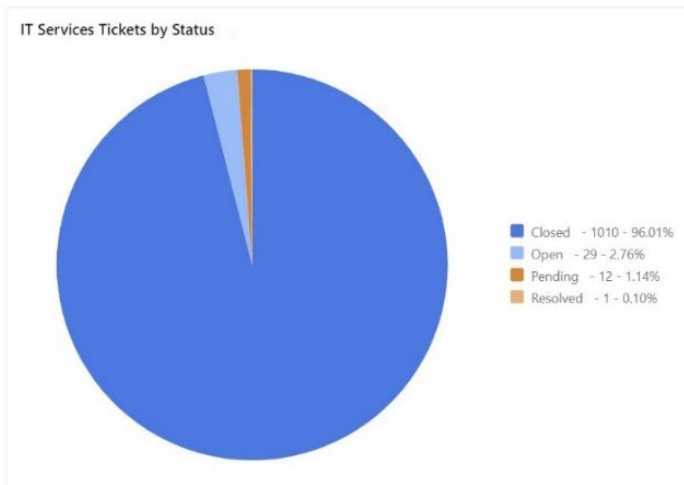


SYSTEM WIDE SERVICES – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Kevin Wells, Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Freshservice reports 2007 tickets were assigned during the second quarter of 2023. 1052 were assigned to IT Services. By the end of June, IT Services closed 1010 of our assigned 1052 tickets and 167 were closed on the same day. Our completion rate for the second quarter of 2023 is 96%. IT Services has an annual completion rate of 93.9%.



CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

IT Services staff completed several equipment replacements that were on hold in 2022. We typically look at replacing desktops and laptops that are 5 or more years old. Along with our computer replacements, we refreshed our Wi-Fi phone and cell phone inventory. We tend to keep our wireless devices longer, replacing them when the vendor or cell phone carrier no longer supports our devices with security updates. This year we migrated our carrier service from Verizon Wireless to T-Mobile. For two years now, T-Mobile has been the provider for our staff and public hotspots. Purchasing the devices used for our Wi-Fi Phones from T-Mobile offered us a unique opportunity: one year of complimentary carrier service for our Wi-Fi Phones. After that year these phones will revert to Wi-Fi only. The current thought is to keep one Wi-Fi phone per branch with carrier service. This would provide branch staff an alternate means of communication in case we experience an outage with our IP phone system.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

IT Services now offers dedicated IT support for library programs or conventions. Our first foray into this new opportunity was during the International German Genealogy Partnership Conference, held June 9 - June 11. To accommodate this conference, we adjusted Help Desk hours and technicians were onsite to quickly address any technical issues. If you would like to take advantage of this dedicated service for your next program, please provide at least two weeks lead time.

We are now using Cisco AnyConnect as our VPN client. This is an improvement over the VPN client we were previously using. It is a secure and robust solution that is user friendly and requires less overhead to manage.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Tom Manning, working with Network Solutions' sub-contractors, completed the installation of our new Wi-Fi access points. The Meraki access points support Wi-Fi 6 and offer better client management and device handoff compared to our previous Wi-Fi network. To be fully transparent, the new access points at Grabill and Monroeville are not connected to our network. This will take place later this year as Mike completes the network segmentation project. In the meantime, the older Ruckus access points continue to provide Wi-Fi service for Grabill and Monroeville.

To meet compliance requirements set by Microsoft, our guest network, which includes our public Wi-Fi and some of the network floor/wall jacks in our meeting rooms, was moved to a new DHCP server. This has to do with how we assign IP or network addresses to all the devices that connect to our network. Had we not made this change we would have to purchase additional licensing from Microsoft or limit the number of guest devices that could connect to our network. Mike also implemented a "Network Isolation" option for the Guest network. This limits users so they can only see their device and not every other device on the Guest network. This will help keep our patrons secure while connected to the Guest network.

SYSTEM WIDE SERVICES – LIBRARY AT HOME

Beth Boatright, Director of Community Partnerships and Programs

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

This quarter the Library at home team continued offering library materials, programs, and support to residents across the county who cannot physically visit a library building. Together, Jon and Peg made more than 360 deliveries to homebound patrons, developed and delivered nearly 100 mini-collections for facilities and senior living communities, and served more than 400 patrons at pop-up library stops.



Our team offered 33 programs across 11 different locations, including discussions about the Lewis and Clark expedition and a fun program featuring toys and games from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. To meet the high demand for library programs in nursing homes and senior residences, several branches are now taking outreach programs to additional locations. Our Library at Home team joined other library staff at the regional Disabilities Expo, too!

As we prepare for our transition to our new integrated library system, the Library at Home team is assessing the growth, capacity, and efficiency of our services. We are developing more efficient routes and look forward to the outreach opportunities that our new library technology will offer.



SYSTEM WIDE SERVICES – TECHNICAL SERVICES






Christine Diedrich, Manager

CULTURE OF COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND LEARNING

Our department has begun to look at how we will transition to our new ILS, Polaris, this coming fall. There will be a stretch of downtime during which we will be unable to order or catalog. It will take time to transfer our records into the new system, during which no changes can be made to the catalog. But, we will still have plenty to work on. Original cataloging can be done in WorldCat, material can be barcoded and we can work on training to make sure we're prepared for changes in our work flow. New material will continue to arrive from previously placed orders. These items will need to be organized and prioritized so that we are ready to catalog and get new material out when we come up on the new system, making sure that patrons don't have to wait longer than necessary for new titles.

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

The library circulates many different types of equipment, including the Library of Things collection, hotspots, laptops, bike locks and more. Due to heavy use, we frequently need to replace items and add more to meet demand. In the Library of Things collection, we now have two portable wi-fi projectors circulating, instead of one. This has been one of our more popular items in that collection. Our copy of the Ladder Toss game was also replaced, just in time for outdoor summer parties. All items in the Library of Things can be placed on hold.

| Categories | |
|---|---|
|  Music | ▼ |
|  Home | ▼ |
|  Outdoor Games | ▼ |
|  Tech | ▼ |
|  Art and Craft | ▼ |

TECUMSEH

Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Tecumseh programming staff performed Storytime and branch tours for the preschool classes at Forest Park Elementary School. It is a very exciting field trip for the preschoolers, as they walk up Alabama Ave. to visit the library. We issue library cards for children who don't already have them, and kids learn all about how libraries work, what amazing things that we have, and how to check out materials.

This quarter, Tecumseh staff and Georgetown staff members are performing outreach programs for seniors at Fort Wayne Housing Authority's Beacon Heights Senior Apartments complex. We offer device help with tablets and smartphones, arts and crafts programs, and a variety of speakers and activities.

Tecumseh Branch Manager Deb Noggle attends monthly North East Allen County Partnership meetings.

The Summer Learning Program encourages reading for all ages over the summer months, helping to prevent the loss of academic progress between school years. For adults, it's a great way to unplug and unwind with a great summer book. Patrons earn points for every minute that they read, and receive prizes when they reach reading milestones.



In-Person Programming

- Weekly Toddler Storytime
- Weekly Family Storytime
- Weekly Teen Program
- Weekly Family (mixed ages) Program
- Monthly Adult How-To Studio

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

Family Fun at the Library: Tecumseh Branch held a program designed for working families that was offered weekly on Saturday mornings through April. Family Fun at the Library incorporates activities that are suitable for a range of ages, preschool through middle school. We have seen the need to offer an alternative time for busy families through both statistical data (Mosaic Profiles), and word of mouth. Activities at this program support literacy and STEM, and vary from week to week.



How-To Studio: This Tecumseh born, adults-only program has grown to be offered at nine library locations within the Allen County Public Library. Programmers from all nine locations collaborate to prepare



a choice of four projects that can be performed over the 3-month season. At our branch, we offered programs on Clothespin Wreaths, and Encyclopedia Art.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

In April, to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month, Tecumseh Branch hosted the Dave Latchaw Duo in the middle of our library, which attracted a small crowd of people who sat down and lingered a little longer than usual in order to see and hear this band play.

Tecumseh Branch continued to be a popular place to be on Wednesdays and Thursdays for those seeking help with filing Federal and State taxes. The AARP Tax Help is a partner program with the ACPL, and we are very happy to host our friends, the volunteer tax preparers, each week. It is an amazing service to provide!

Summer Learning Program: Each year, the ACPL offers the very best in programming and engagement through our Summer programs. Here are some highlights from June:

- Free Lunch and LINK: Every weekday, we served a free lunch to children and teens at noon, and held a LINK program after lunch. These programs vary in topics and activities, but we are pleased to say that about half of the patrons who come for lunch then stay to participate in our LINK activities!
- Every Friday, we project a family movie onto the big screen in our meeting room for our popular Friday Movie Matinee. Kids are encouraged to bring stuffed animals, pillows, and blankets to curl up with while watching!
- The Fort Wayne Police Department Air Support Unit presented a really neat program called, “Drone Info and Fun”. Patrons were amazed as the officers flew drones over their heads and showed video from drone flights.
- Adults are not left out from all the summer fun! Each Thursday evening, we offered a program for adults or all ages, including Pressed Flower Frames, T-Shirt Tote Bags, and Creative Collage.



WAYNE DALE

Amanda Vance, Branch Manager

INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTABLE CONTENT AND SERVICES

The Waynedale branch is evolving to embrace its growing Hispanic community. We have noticed a growing number of requests for Spanish language materials. In response to these requests, in August we will be highlighting our Spanish language materials for all ages by showcasing our existing collections. We are also growing our Spanish language materials to accommodate the request.

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Charkiera and Charlotte Smith, once again, find a way to bring inviting and amazing pieces of art into our space with this giant flower garden!



WOODBURN

Paige Shook, Branch Manager

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

To celebrate National Library Week, we decided to present “If you give a librarian a pancake” themed Storytime. The participants got to make chef’s hats and table placemats, and they also whipped up and decorated their own pancakes. This Storytime was a great success and the little chefs are still talking about it today and are wanting to make more pancakes! This program was also featured on the ACPL Instagram page where it was seen by the Urban Libraries Council and was included in their national newsletter.



At a toddler fun this June the children got to adopt their very own pet rock and pet seashell! They got to dig up their rock from a pile of dirt and fish for their seashell from a tub of water. They also decorated a house for their pets to live and filled out adoption papers for their pets.

