

Quarterly Managers' Report



Allen County
Public Library

Q1 2024

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Aboite Branch

Kris Lill, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

With the return of our meeting room, Aboite programmers have been able to bring back some much-loved youth programs, including Paws to Read & Lego Challenge. We also offered a new learning experience for adults: Homesteading. Seed Swap & Recipe Share was well-received with a full registration.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Aboite started the new year with new meeting room tables! They are not only beautiful, but also stackable, lightweight, easy to move, and are so appreciated by both staff and patrons.

The final phase of Aboite's roof repair/replacement started in March; this phase is focused on the exterior of the branch. Crews have been working on removing the damaged metal roof and replacing it with a fresh new look.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

In addition to book displays, Aboite staff created several interactive activities to highlight Black History Month. Branch assistant Carissa created an engaging display about the Green Book that received well-deserved attention and positive comments from patrons. A quilt-art project was designed by branch assistant Lily in which patrons designed or colored their own paper quilt squares which were combined with "fact squares" to produce a lovely collaborative piece of art.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

In January, Max Dion started in his new role as senior librarian at Aboite, with a focus on youth. He has several years' prior experience working as a children's librarian at other public libraries, and most recently served as ACPL's youth services coordinator. Max has settled in well; he and his ukulele have brought a new energy to Aboite's storytimes.

Dupont Branch

Erin Warzala, Branch Manager

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Dupont is in the middle of a facelift! In addition to our new roof, we updated our reference desk by repurposing a couple of desk pieces from Main. We removed our circulation desk, and opened up our entryway space. They also allow us to operate from one service point.

Leading Through Innovation

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Dupont is the first branch to install outdoor holds lockers, which went live on Monday, March 11. These lockers have been very popular with our patrons, as it allows for them to pick up their holds 24/7, regardless of whether or not the branch is open. As I type this, we currently have 89 items in 49 lockers. Earlier today, as I was filling the lockers with holds, I had a patron approach me and tell me how much he appreciates the lockers and that he's glad they're doing well.



Georgetown Branch

Stephen Platt, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

February 14 marked the second annual Free Community Breakfast at the Georgetown Branch. Staff prepared a pancake breakfast and screened the PBS documentary ***The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution***. The event was attended by more than 30 people.



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SNIDER, NORTHSIDE, AND BLACKHAWK MIDDLE ART EXHIBIT

For the first time ever at the Georgetown Library the art departments of Blackhawk Middle School, Snider, and North Side high school are exhibiting student works side-by-side. This special mini exhibit will run through the end of April.

STORYTIME VISITS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

This past quarter we again hosted a number of community experts who shared their expertise with the families and children at Family storytimes. Among the groups sharing their stories and knowledge were the Fort Wayne Aerospace Modelers, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, TinCaps, Indiana State Police, 4H, Trees Indiana, and the Allen County Health Department.

FEB 7, STEAM TITLE I EVENT AT HALEY ELEMENTARY

Georgetown staff showcased new picture book database LOTE4Kids to more than 100 people passing through. LOTE4Kids is a database of digital books in world languages, created for children to enjoy books and learn language through storytelling. More than 11 languages are represented.

Georgetown Branch

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TRAINING – MARCH 2024

Led by the School Care Team, 10 GEO staff members attended this 8 hour training which introduced the concept of Restorative Justice techniques in community building over a period of two days. Restorative Justice seeks to bring communities together by exploring ways that offenders and offended can discuss misdeeds in the context of justice as a vehicle to “repair” the harm. Restorative Justice differs from traditional responses to conflict by placing a strong emphasis on dialogue, understanding, and accountability rather than solely focusing on punishment. ACPL hopes to incorporate the techniques of Restorative Justice into the current Patron Behavior Policy and build upon this initial foundation with follow up discussions and trainings. Currently, a number of Restorative Justice methods are being utilized in conjunction with the Georgetown Afterschool program.

NEW CHILDREN/TWEEN PROGRAMS – DESTINATION SCIENCE AND MAKE ART.

These are both afterschool programs aimed at the Children and Tween (ages 5-12) age group. Destination Science is a STEM-themed program, and is led by a mix of staff and outside presenters, who engage the kids in experiments surrounding the solar eclipse, density, engineering, and natural resources. Make Art explores outside-of-the-box art processes that children can use to create art. These programs are led by staff instructors and have included salt painting, color block canvas art and Calder-inspired sculptures. All programs from both Destination Science and Make Art have been well-attended and, in some cases, experience waiting lists.



Grabill Branch

Rebecca Wolfe, Manager



Connecting Community

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Since 2013, the Grabill branch has collaborated with Fort Wayne Community Schools to help adults earn HSE (high school equivalency) diplomas. Almost 150 participants have earned diplomas in this time period. In late 2023, the program at our location earned the designation "Program of Excellence," for exceeding state goals and expectations. Our program coordinator, Kathy Divelbiss, sent us a letter of appreciation, saying, "Many of the students we serve are unable to travel to Fort Wayne or elsewhere to attain their goals. Our partnership has enabled the Amish (new and old order) to have a convenient, comfortable place to study. We also attract many students who don't possess the means to drive or pay a driver consistently to get to class." Library staff are happy to have helped these students achieve their lifelong learning goals.

Hessen Cassel Branch

Edith Helbert, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

People of all ages have been thrilled to see that the pumpkin we put in a jar on November 1 has begun to sprout! The self-directed learning station allows patrons to make observations, which we then collect into a binder, available to page through anytime.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

In March, Hessen Cassel welcomed Justin MacMillan as our team's first Circulation Specialist. Justin comes to us with a wealth of experience from more than five years at Main and Georgetown. We're so excited to have him on the HSC Team!

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Our Security department staff led an excellent Active Assailant Training at our March staff meeting. Because these incidents are unpredictable, knowing what to do can be the difference between life and death. Staff discussed what they would do in an emergency, and how to escape from different parts of our building. We have reached out to contact the nearby Save-A-Lot to ask if they will be our meeting point after a tragedy, and to offer our building for their employees.

Connecting Community

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Jen FitzSimons, Senior Youth Librarian, visited 7 different community partners this quarter, bringing Storytimes and checking out books. She served over 100 children, caregivers, and families outside our building so far this year, in addition to leading 1-2 programs per week inside the library. Wow!

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Hessen Cassel is in the process of adding "Mini-MakerSpace" areas that will include 3D printers, laminators, Cricut vinyl cutters, Heat Press machines, sewing machines, and badge makers. After extensive training, Charkiera Smith began leading small classes to support the new equipment in March.

Little Turtle Branch

Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

At Little Turtle children are treated to some fun activities at the desk, scavenger hunts, and crafts all the time, so there is always something to do! One fun thing we did to chase away the winter blues was with make-a-bird trees at the desk. Kids of all ages could color a bird on shrink plastic with coloring pencils, and we shrunk them in a toaster oven to make lovely colored birds that filled our trees.

Programs for youth include storytimes, science-based programs, teen programs, crafting and more. Adults can continue learning with our computer classes, Writer's Forum and how-to/DIY programs.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

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The Seed Library collection that is housed at Little Turtle has been more popular than ever during the first quarter this year, due in part to the new marketing materials and graphics provided by the ACPL Marketing team! We use some items, like table tents, window clings, and shelf talkers to let our patrons know about the Seed Library. We are also often asked to talk about the Seed Library through outreach, and the Marketing team did not disappoint by creating stickers, handouts, and a wonderful coloring book for us to hand out when we are in the community. January-March is often when many people are planning their summer gardens, and the requests for seeds increases during this time.

Connecting Community

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Little Turtle staff made monthly visits to three daycares, and visited Nebraska Elementary School with library materials and to perform a storytime. Two of our staff participated in a parent's night at Price Elementary to promote the ACPL and answer general questions about literacy and the library.

We also participate in adult outreach in our community. Little Turtle staff make monthly visits to the North Highlands Senior Apartments. Also, each month, staff member Malcolm Rodgers leads a popular program called, "Board Games & Brews" for adults at Summit City Brewwerks.

Monroeville Branch

Chris Wiljer, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

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Monroeville celebrated reading with various displays during the past few months. One such display drew attention to Black History Month with a collection of books focusing on the lives and experiences of African-Americans. This display also included selected quotes and facts on famous African-Americans. Another display contained books by both Jewish and Muslim authors in an effort to provide different perspectives from the Middle East.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Monroeville recognized Women's History Month with a number of special programs. On March 7, participants created a number of different mocktails named after famous women as we toasted to their accomplishments. On March 11, the "Canvas and Cookies" program paid tribute to the work of Yayoi Kusama.



Connecting Community

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The Great Eclipse of 2024 has received a lot of attention leading up to the big event on April 8. Since Monroeville is one of the few towns in Allen County to be in the path of totality, the Monroeville Branch has been making plans for this rare occurrence. On April 8, MON will be offering a special program during the eclipse, "The Moon's Moment in the Sun." Dr. Jeffrey Nowak will be joining us for this program, and he will be sharing information as we prepare to view the solar eclipse. Dr. Nowak is a Professor of STEAM Education in the College of Professional Studies at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Public interest in this special interest has been extremely high and we are expecting a large number of visitors to our Branch and community.

New Haven Branch

Marie Kaufmann, Branch Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Children's Librarian, Sheila Hoffman, had her first outreach event at the Adams Township Trustee Office in February. She presented a Pajama Storytime to parents, caregivers, and their children. Children were encouraged to wear their pajamas, bring a blanket or stuffy and enjoy relaxing stories to wind down and prepare for bedtime.



Celebrating Reading and Learning

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Branch assistant, Bree Tsuleff, created a Black History Month display for the month of February. It featured information about local Black-owned businesses and community leaders. Including Taye's Treats, Rhythm & Praise 94.1, Smooth Kutz Barbershop, Terra Brantley, Thomas Brownlee & Sons Market, and Smiley's Garden Angels. Patrons enjoyed looking at the display and learning about some of Allen County's Black History.



TAYE'S TREATS

Shante Smith had been working in the restaurant industry when she decided to start her own business in 2020. She was a popular vendor at farmer's markets and events throughout Allen County. She now has a lovely storefront on Broadway Street, right here in New Haven! Taye's Treats offers a wide variety of tasty goods, including gluten and sugar free options. Gluten-free cookies and vegan items can be ordered, and Taye's Treats offers party packages as well.

521 BROADWAY ST
TUES - THURS 9-5
FRI - SAT 9-6

TAYE'S TREATS Gluten Free		TAYE'S TREATS Specialties	
Macarons	\$8.00	Chocolate	\$8.00
Macaron Bouquet	\$24.00	Vanilla	\$8.00
Cookie Bouquet	\$24.00	Strawberry	\$8.00
Macaron Box	\$24.00	Blueberry	\$8.00
Macaron Making	\$49.00	Orange	\$8.00
		Apple	\$8.00
		Peach	\$8.00
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Pontiac Branch

Deborah Meserve, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

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Jenn participated in Brightpoint's Literacy Event and both Jenn and Meisha collaborated with Lincoln Elementary to host a 5th Grade Escape Room with a Revolutionary War theme.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Deborah and staff started curating and shifting collections to make room for the new StoryScope.

Maintenance primed and painted the walls and new windows were installed!

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

We welcomed Elisha Hairston as our new part-time Branch Assistant and Joy Witherspoon as our new Assistant Branch Manager.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Our Black History Month breakfasts fed 99 community members on Saturdays in February.

Meisha and Jenn collaborated with PBS and Urban League to have PBS Morning with MLK Montessori School. Sixty students visited stations throughout the building to build towers as big as Clifford, played a literacy fishing game, explored with Ozobots, and much more.



Shawnee Branch

Edith Helbert, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

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Front-line staff have found several highlights while digging through the “Digital Resources” section of the website; LOTE4Kids which offers children’s books in a number of languages, Novelist Plus’s new “Book Chat” feature where patrons are able to ask for book recommendations through an integrated chat feature, and the Chilton’s Car repair database, which help with the repair of any system in any car.

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Laura Bohnke, Outreach Librarian, has added several food pantries to the community organizations she visits each quarter. She sets up a table to share information about our resources and activities.

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Shawnee is in the process of adding a “Mini-MakerSpace” area. We are adding 3D printers, laminators, Cricut vinyl cutters, Heat Press machines, sewing machines, and badge makers, and began teaching small classes to support the new equipment in March.

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The Security department staff led an excellent Active Assailant Training at our March staff meeting. Because these incidents are unpredictable, knowing what to do can be the difference between life and death. Staff discussed what they would do in an emergency, and how to escape from different parts of our building. Edith Helbert has also reached out to the nearby Kroger store to ask if they will be our meeting point after a tragedy, and to offer our building for their employees to use.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Scott Mertz announced retirement. Currently our Circulation Specialist, Scott has served ACPL for over 40 years, in various roles including Bookmobile Librarian and Teen Librarian.

Tecumseh Branch

Deb Noggle, Branch Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Each month, we host a program called Family Fun, where all ages can do activities together inspired by children's books. In January, we had a Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo, in February, we had a tower building challenge, and in March, we prepared for the upcoming Solar Eclipse.

Other programs for youth include storytimes, science-based programs, crafting and more. For our adult How-To Studio, participants learned to create Wire Tree Pendants, Book Wreaths, and Floral Design.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Tecumseh Branch celebrated Black History Month in February with programs and displays. We hosted a program with speaker Charlotte Smith where participants made colorful butterflies inspired by the works of Zora Neale Hurston. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art very graciously donated art photography by Michael July from his new book, Afros. We used these to make a display of books and information about notable African-Americans.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Staff made monthly visits to Beacon Heights Senior Apartments with crafts, speakers, and technology help. We also visited daycares and a literacy night at Forest Park Elementary to promote the library and literacy.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

We offer a program for seniors called My Generation with rotating topics each month. We offered low-stress chair yoga led by Mary Newell, a Fun & Games program, and an Art & Music program. The concept for My Generation is inspired by the work of the Mather Foundation, which provides low-cost programs for senior citizens. We believe that we can make a difference for seniors with this program. The most important part of the program's concept is to provide a space and opportunity for seniors to be around other people, forge friendships, and to socialize. Even though this program is still in its infancy, we hope to expand this program to more branches, and to offer it more frequently.

Waynedale Branch

Amanda Vance, Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

The Waynedale team greatly enjoys being able to welcome our entire community by highlighting diverse collections throughout the year. During Black History Month, we created several display collections across age groups, participated in the Greensboro Sit-in Commemoration, served free breakfast to highlight the program offered to communities through the Black Panther Party, and shared beautiful photographs as part of the libraries' collection from the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

This March, the branch participated in the Waynedale Shamrock Search Event. This fun event takes place over the week of St Patrick's Day, with community members solving clues to pick up shamrocks at different Waynedale businesses. Participants then bring the shamrocks to the library to win prizes donated by the community. The library participates by writing clues, planning the event, collecting the shamrocks, and giving out daily small prizes to participants. This is the second year for the event, which has had a lot of fun feedback from the community participants.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

The Waynedale Branch's new Youth Librarian, Anna Baer, has been very active in designing self-selected programs in the children's area of our branch. Through interactive bulletin boards, she included a world map and stickers for families to share the places in the world they have been and would like to go. She also has a collaborative quilt up for National Craft Month, for kids to create their own quilt square and add to the community quilt. In addition to this, she has been running themed scavenger hunts in the children's area that include fun books and pictures. This has included winter themes where kids can discover many different titles all about winter.

Woodburn Branch

Paige Shook, Branch Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

In February, the library went to Woodlan School and registered all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders for library cards. Roughly 200 students received their own library cards and were shown how to access their accounts online.

In March, our Spotlight Storytime topic was tractors, featuring TruLand Farm Equipment! For National Agriculture Month, they talked about farm safety, safety around large equipment, and gave rides in the tractor they brought.



On March 20, Woodburn's StoryScape celebrated its grand opening. Mayor Joe Kelsey declared March 20, 2024 as "StoryScape Day in our city, celebrating the dedication of our Woodburn Branch to the education and enrichment of our youngest citizens." Woodburn Branch is excited to offer this new early literacy space and its draw is already evident: returning patrons have sung its praises (the light table is a particular favorite), patrons from other locations have come to explore the amenities, and new local faces have come out to see what the hullabaloo is about. If all this is happening in just the first month, then we look forward to seeing the coming impact this will have for our community.

In February we also received new meeting room tables! While they may not be as impressive as the StoryScape, they are a great addition to the branch and will allow us to have higher program registration. The tables are also easier to move around, providing more efficient set up and take down for public meeting and program use.



Access Fort Wayne

Norm Compton, AFW Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

The podcast Pages & Voices has been a big success helping spotlight individual authors, and their published stories. Pages & Voices is recorded in AFW's Studio B and demonstrates ACPL's use of a new podcasting service.

This quarter we have also trained 8 WELT Producers and 2 new TV Producers to share their story/program with the community.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Working with CHI and Teens, The Maker Lab 3D-printed more than 500 items (beads and pendants) to support the Percy Jackson party on 2/24.

In addition, we have been manufacturing more than 400 3D-printed ACPL Bookmarks as a giveaway item for tours.

The Maker Lab at Main continues to ramp up programming, with 8 programs in January and 10 in February and March. We are teaching 50 patrons per month a wide variety of skills.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

AFW has celebrated two milestones this quarter, Ray Young with 30 years and Norm Compton with 25 years of service to ACPL. One half (5) of the AFW Team have over 25 years of service each.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We are making plans to move the Maker Lab into the former Dunkin Donuts area later this year. Ideas are bubbling to repurpose that space into a modern Maker space on the 10th anniversary of Makers at ACPL.

ACPL's first Virtual Reality program was delivered at Main at the end of March. While VR technology is not new, providing that experience to our patrons in program form is new and will be one of the hottest new things at ACPL this summer.

Adult Services

Stacey Stamas, Adult Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Staff completed KnowBe4 training each month from January – March. This training promotes computer security and diversity in the workplace.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Staff have been involved with the following programs and outreach from January to March:

Stacey Stamas continued with her Music at the Library series in January, with a performance by the Sweetwater All-Stars. February brought the Old Crown Brass Band Lite to the theater and March brought members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in a Woodwind Quintet. The three groups performed to over 265 attendees. Stacey also coordinated two How-to Studio craft classes on Watercolor Stencils and Making Sugar Scrub.

Sarah Holmes hosted three meetings of the ACPL Writer's Forum and helped out with How-to Studio programs Watercolor Stencils and Buzzworthy Mocktails in March.

In the Jeffrey R. Krull Gallery, Jon Detweiler coordinated the following exhibits:

James Gabbard and Angela Green
Collected Revelations: Edge of Visibility and Spaces

January 6 – February 10

Fort Wayne Photography Club
Shutter Symphony

February 24 – April 20

Megan Bell hosted the Bookends Book Club at the Main Library and the Authors & Ales Book Club at 2Tom's Brewing. Meg has been doing podcast interviews of local authors each month, also. The podcast, Pages & Voices launched in January and can be found at acpl.info/podcast. Meg also led How-to Studio with a class on Wire Pendants.

Craig Bailey has been hosting Board Games and Brews at Summit City Brewerks, as well as, Board Games and Brews: Tabletop Edition at Electric Works. He also helps with Computer Basics: Guided Help each month at the Main Library and participates in Idea Board coordination on a regular basis. Other programs that Craig has been involved with are the Dungeons and Dragons: Adult Campaign, Great Day Café and the Baby Fair at the Memorial Coliseum.

Adult Services

Anna Kallemeyn hosted Authors & Ales Book Club at 2Tom's Brewing and the Books & Beans Book Club at GK Café. Anna helped host the Amazing Race for Winterval in January. They had participants put a cart full of books in Dewey Decimal order before they could move on to the next challenge. Anna also led a YMCA Canvas Art program in March.

Sasha Perisic helped out with Computer Basics: Guided Help, How-to Studio Making Sugar Scrub, YMCA Canvas Art program in March, and 1-on-1 computer training.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Linda Michael spent quite a bit of time weeding Business, Science & Technology books from storage to get ready for the Materials Support Services team to shift. She also came across quite a few histories of local businesses that Genealogy ended up taking into its collection, so the weeding project ended up being as much about preservation of local history and that was time well spent. She has also been weeding in Business, Science and Technology upstairs in areas that are overcrowded.



In other collection maintenance news: In the fiction area, Anna has been pulling low circulating or duplicate books to make room for new books. She also added books to storage that have low circulation, but have a good chance of being read some day. Sarah has been working on storage Fiction, processing new AMM items and assisting with pulling DVD/Blu-ray duplicates. Meg has been weeding in the 300's and in the Fiction F area in Reader's Services on the Main floor. She has also been weeding in the Fiction area of storage. Craig is continuing to weed in the 590's in storage from the 20-year dead item list. Stacey has been weeding in the 780's in storage from the 20-year dead item list. Sasha has been working in the Oversize 759's in storage.

Audio Reading Service

George Johnson-Coffey, Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

The Audio Reading Service provided a monthly average of 728 broadcast hours, and 300 programs enriching the lives of listeners.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

In conjunction with Leadership Fort Wayne and the AWS Foundation, ARS ran a PSA for several weeks encouraging people with disabilities to register to vote and vote, so their important voices are heard.

Working with the Council on Senior Services (COSS), we coordinate the distribution of more than 2,300 Senior information Guides to ACPL locations. George also gave a presentation about the Great Day Café programs, and with Jon Frincke, Supervisor of Library at Home, gave a joint presentation on the Library's Memory Kits to COSS members.

With the combination of tours and presentations, nearly 200 people learned about ARS or other ACPL services and programs.

George gave presentations, or held informative meetings about the Audio Reading Service and other ACPL services/programs for seniors to: the Jackson Lehman YMCA Group (with Peg Heinze of LAH); the Library's New Employee Orientation; and the Geriatric Network.

Tours of ARS were given to Kim Richards, COO of The League, and to a group from Covenant United Methodist Church. One attendee from Covenant UMC, was a sight-impaired person who signed up for ARS while she was here!

During the first quarter of 2024, ARS received \$3,394.00 in financial gifts, including \$469 from the Theta Theta Chapter Psi Iota Xi Sorority who toured ARS last October.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

In the first quarter of 2024, ACPL received \$1,425 in added value through the services of 92 volunteers (FTE=2.59) who gave 1,348 hours of service. We welcomed three new volunteers.

Chad Butterbaugh, Senior Production Assistant, continues contributing to ACPL's DEI Committee.

George continues to serve on the planning team for the Library's Great Day Café programs for people with dementia and their caretakers.

Children's Services

Rachael King, Department Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Staff were hard at work this quarter to debut the Spring Preschool Puppet Show "Dude, Where's My Puppet?" The script was written by Melissa, the backdrop was designed by Haley, and the play was performed by Melissa, Megan, and Teresa. At the premiere, 165 excited members of the community helped Teresa find her missing puppet while they sang songs, learned about different animals, and the meaning of perseverance.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

A new database that we are highlighting in our department is LOTE4Kids. LOTE stands for Languages Other Than English and provides the community with access to open content stories that are bilingual or in a single language with more than 3,500 digital titles and 65 languages. Some options that staff were very excited to see were a Burmese, American Sign Language, Korean, Arabic, and a very large collection in Spanish. March saw a new high of 124 stories being viewed which was double the stories viewed in February.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

The Children's Services team is committed to building relationships with the community and say "yes" to every opportunity to connect with the community outside of our walls, as well as welcome them into our space for special events. In late 2023, ACPL unveiled the new Educational Support webpage that allowed teachers, daycare professionals, and homeschool families an easier route to request visits to the library. These will often entail a special storytime and a tour of special locations throughout the library. We saw almost 800 children come through our department as part of class, daycare, or organizational visit.

Communications, Marketing, & Web

Aja Michael-Keller,
Director of
Communications

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

If it feels like you're hearing a lot of ACPL info in the news lately, it's because you are! For the first quarter of '24, the ACPL enjoyed 707 mentions for an average of nearly 8 mentions per day (a 36% increase over the previous quarter). We had an earned media value of \$194,100 dollars and a reach of 20.99 million media impressions. The most popular stories of the quarter included Curt Witcher's "I Love My Librarian" award, Black History Month programming, limited-edition library cards, eclipse programming, and Woodburn StoryScape Grand Opening. See past news releases at www.acpl.lib.in.us/media-archive.

Marketing's impact on the Winter SPARK Program was nothing short of amazing! This year, 4513 people actively engaged with the program resulting in a 469% increase over 2023 when 794 people participated. The combined marketing efforts, including a radio campaign, web and mobile presence, and internal and external print materials, played a huge role in drawing more readers to the program.

Rosa Parks...Walt Whitman...The Blue Birds...take your pick! ACPL made history with the unveiling of three limited-edition library cards featuring local art. This generated an unprecedented number of 6012 new card sign-ups. These cards represent the diversity, inclusivity, and vibrancy of our system.

Theoplis Smith, Bryan Ballinger, and Tim Parsley lent their art for the cards, and our Marketing and Circulation teams worked together to make them a success.

“ I am pleased to unveil the Rosa Parks card, adorned with graceful pink and light blue hues, softly captivating the eye. It is embellished with a confetti of flowers, symbolizing celebration and honoring the legacy of both Black and American history. This depiction serves as a visual testament to the beauty of significance of the Rosa Parks design collaboration with the Allen County Library, encapsulating our shared commitment to history, equality, and love. This is more than a card but a token of actions we all must commit to. Respect, equality, love and peace!

Theoplis Smith

Our team of talented designers continued to produce fresh, innovative, and creative marketing collaterals for the entire system, allowing ACPL to elevate its brand presence through a diverse range of creative initiatives. This body of work includes the new Strategic Plan, Community Impact Report, Teen Literary Magazine, Poetry Contest book, and the Woodburn Storyscape. Each of these projects reflects the library's commitment to provide high quality designs. 234 projects were submitted, requiring creativity, design, and/or printing from the Marketing department.

Communications

And we're being noticed by our peers. We received the following feedback from a peer library:

“ I'm in awe of how you've managed to get a lot of detail yet not take up space with explanation. It's become my dream strategic plan.

**Doug Workerger, Assistant Director;
Kokomo-Howard County Public Library**



Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

In social media, comparing Q1 to the previous quarter, ACPL social media reach is up 144% (198k), content interactions are up 52% (9k), and link clicks are up 186% (2k). Top social media posts include Library Lovers Month; Rosa Parks Citilink Bus at the Library; Introducing New Limited-Edition Library Cards; and Dupont Holds Lockers.

A campaign to promote the new Pages & Voices: Celebrating Local Authors podcast was completed. The campaign plan included emails, paid/organic social media, and advertising on Spotify. The podcast has been downloaded 1,496 times. Director of Communications Aja Michael-Keller and Digital Communications Specialist Jeff Garver also presented "Your Website Can Do More Than You Think" to a packed audience at the annual National Computers in Libraries Conference in Arlington, VA. They spoke about the ACPL's transition to its new website alongside our system upgrade in the fall of '23.

Community Partnerships and Programs

Beth Boatright,
Director of Community Partnerships and Programs

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

As always, our libraries were a community hub for reading and learning this quarter. Across the system, we offered more than 1,100 programs to more than 24,000 attendees. Highlights from this quarter include the Fort Wayne Children's Choir First Steps in Music program and programs focused on history, culture, and art related to Black History and Women's History. We also welcomed a local NASA ambassador and our colleagues at Northeast Indiana STEM for a series of programs focused on learning about and celebrating the April 8 solar eclipse. No matter the program, our dynamic staff ensured that lifelong learning opportunities were available to everyone in our community.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

For nearly a decade, ACPL has offered hands-on learning opportunities through our makerspaces. This quarter we were pleased to launch makerspace programming at three new branches thanks to a 2023 ARPA grant. Pontiac, Hessen Cassel, and Shawnee branches are now home to new 3D printers, Cricuts, button-makers, and more. These maker programs offer new opportunities for skill-building, creative problem-solving, entrepreneurship, and discovery. In addition, after significant staff training and exploration we are now offering regular opportunities for patrons to explore VR headsets! Congratulations to Systemwide Maker Coordinator Kerstin Glaess, our maker specialists, and the Makerspace team at Main for all their success!

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Our system hosted more than 40 class visits and school tours this quarter, but we were not limited to the walls of our libraries! ACPL staff offered more than 260 outreach programs, including at Fort Wayne Housing Authority sites, Title I school events, local daycares, and community living facilities.

We continue to contribute to local partnerships that strengthen the fabric of our community. ACPL staff actively contribute to Arts United, the Welcoming Fort Wayne initiative, Everyone Home, the Region 8 STEM Ecosystem, Systems of Care, and the Allen County Health Equity Coalition. In the coming months we look forward to new initiatives in development with Fort Wayne Community Schools, Fort Wayne Youtheatre, the YMCA Youth Services Bureau, the YWCA, and Indiana Humanities.

Events

Leanne Bure, Events Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

The Indiana Music Educators Association (IMEA) returned to the library in January to gather, connect, and perform. We saw more than 800 families, friends, and students in our spaces. Switching gears, we saw 100+ patrons at the annual Pack 330 Pinewood Derby to cheer on their favorite scout.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

The library participated in the annual Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Winterval event on Saturday, Jan. 27. The community gathered on the Plaza to watch a polar bear come to life in ice. We also opened our doors for Amani to hold their Welcoming City Announcement on Jan. 23. This Press Conference was the culmination of a year-long effort to gather date and hold conversations on how to improve immigrant inclusion.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Phase Two of audio-visual upgrades in the Theater encompass BOTH innovation and functional design to deliver inclusive applications, quality live sound, recording, and streaming applications. The current InLoop ADA hearing equipment will see upgrades in March to provide a more robust intelligible audio-visual experience. Patrons can use their personal mobile device, connect via public Wi-Fi, and access an app to aid in visual access. We will provide packs to patrons that utilize T-coil systems. The Event staff will begin to train on a highly anticipated Allen & Heath SQ6 digital mixer. This audio board delivers high-resolution audio with ultra-low latency and will provide unrivaled power and audio fidelity.

	JAN	FEB	MARCH
Events (non-ACPL)	96	106	112
Attendance	1,862	2,232	2,482

Information Services

Traci Ward, Information Services Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

We had a busy quarter, hosting inclusive events such as Great Day Café and the Amazing Winterval Race, each one hosting dozens of patrons. Additionally, we provided group tours, one consisting of more than 30 people from Saint Peters Senior Saints.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We will soon have fresh, new shelving for the new materials area in Readers' Services. This new shelving will allow us to be a little more flexible with displays and provide better accessibility to patrons.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

We are continuing our collaboration with other departments and other organizations in the community. We have begun sending staff to assist in the Maker Lab when they are short—we have one employee from Info Services fully trained. We also worked closely with the Rescue Mission and they provided us with an in-depth tour of their facility—our goal is to continue that partnership. Our Social Work Intern has made quite an impact with the community as well—he has helped several patrons find jobs, find housing, and essentially get back on their feet. He was able to work with Indiana's Homeowner Assistance Fund to help a patron receive assistance after the effects of Covid-19 put him behind on his mortgage.

IT Services

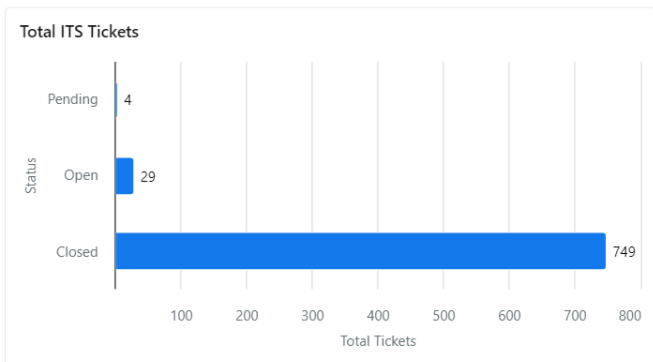
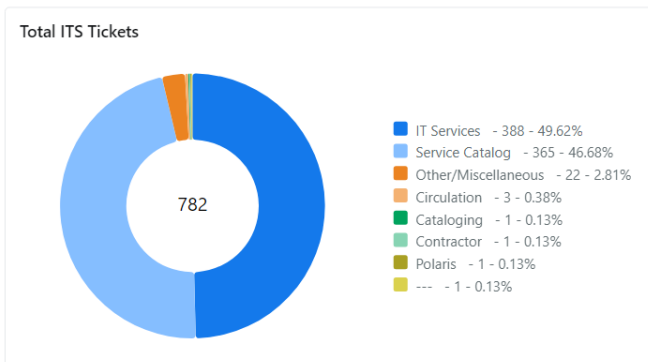
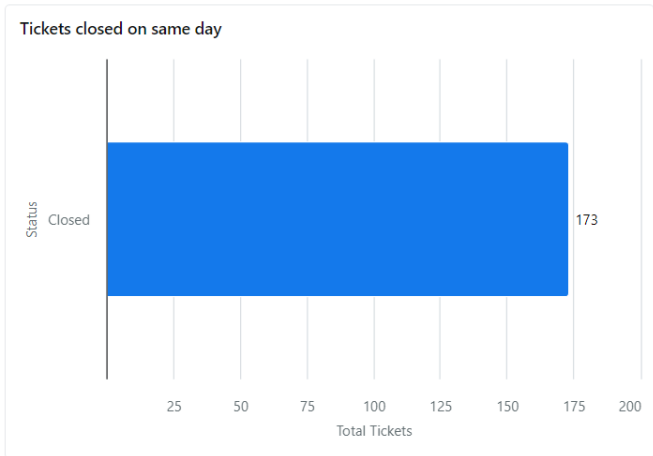
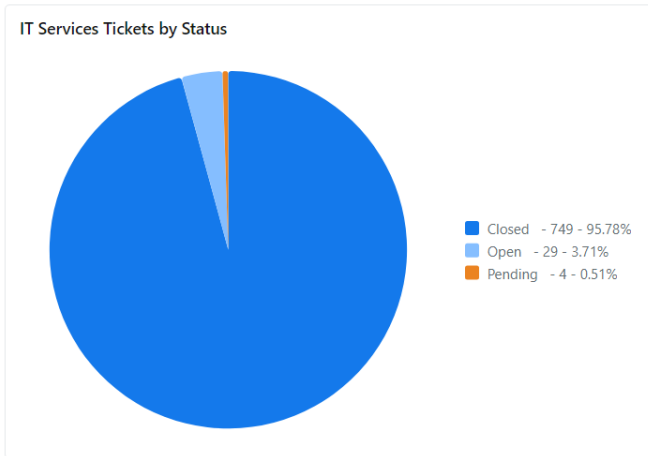
Kevin Wells, IT Services Manager

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Freshservice reports 2017 tickets were created during the first quarter of 2024. 782 were assigned to IT Services. By the end of March 2024, IT Services closed or resolved 749 of our assigned tickets and 173 were closed on the same day. Our completion rate for the first quarter of 2024 is 95.7%.

In February IT Services implemented part of our Microsoft 365 E5 Security subscription by switching our email security filter from Barracuda Networks to Microsoft Defender for Office 365. Along with email security we are working on switching to Microsoft Defender for Endpoint in late April early May to replace our current antivirus solution provided by ESET. Moving to Microsoft Defender provides ACPL with a security solution that is designed to integrate well with all our Microsoft 365 cloud services, with improved Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) over our previous security solution.



IT Services

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

While DPT was closed to the public for roof repairs IT Services worked with our Maintenance Team to set up the new Self-Checkout kiosks and move equipment to accommodate their new workflow.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

After careful review along with public and staff feedback, the public printers were upgraded in Q1. Public print use exceeded the monthly duty cycle for the Brother HL-L3230CDW printer and the duty cycle for the HL-L8260CDW printer will meet our needs. We still have some growing pains and a few issues to work on with Konica Minolta and their auto toner replacement service.



Mike Targgart (Network Services Manager, Sam Jimenez (Senior IT technician), and Maria Tostado (Network Technician) installing the self-checkout equipment.

Library At Home

Jon Frincke, Supervisor

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

This quarter, Library at Home circulated more library material, to more patrons, than ever before. We have been focusing on developing our collection of new book club sets. Local senior living communities often use these sets to host book discussions, and we have added three new or returning book club groups to our roster this quarter.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

We are experiencing amazing growth! ACPL staff across the county regularly connect us with patrons who can benefit from our service. Our new online interest form for Library at Home service and ACPL's new library card designs have both led to new Library at home sign-ups. Since November, our active patron count has grown by 65.

Thankfully, our staff is getting larger, too. This February, ACPL hired Jon Frincke to serve as our first-ever Library at Home Supervisor. This month we are thrilled welcome Kelsey Kreger as a second Outreach Specialist.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

This quarter, Library at Home made some amazing connections. Jon attended a board meeting of the Council on Senior Services with George of ARS, where we spread the word about (and heard lots of interest in) our Memory Care Kits. Susan Baier spoke eloquently about book banning to a Ladies' Luncheon group at The Towne House, one of Library at Home's long-standing partners. Jon presented information on all things ACPL to a curious and active group at the Prairie Landing community's Donuts and Java event. At the Southwest Senior Community Apartments, one residents' Library at Home service evolved into a well-attended pop-up library visit for the entire community. We also began providing a rotating collection for Avenues Recovery Center. And, finally, we celebrated Beth Boatright, one of Fort Wayne's "40 under 40," at Ceruti's in March, amid a literal who's who of community leaders.



Special Collections

Curt Witcher, Director of Special Collections

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

At their February 12, 2024 board meeting, The Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana approved funding a three-year, full-time education outreach coordinator for the Rolland Center for Lincoln Research. This is a very significant capacity build for this area of Special Collections. This position is charged with working directly with all K-12 schools in Allen County, as well as northeast Indiana. The successful candidate will be in classrooms physically and virtually, and arranging for classroom engagements in the Rolland Center and with the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection artifacts. The position was posted in the waning days of March to coincide with when education majors as well as professionals in the field are looking for new, engaging opportunities. Initial responses to the job posting are very positive both in number and quality of the candidates.

All three of the major exhibit cases in the Rolland Center were refreshed at the beginning of the year. The three new exhibits display artifacts highlighting the Battle of Gettysburg, Indiana Civil War Soldiers, and Lincoln as Wartime President. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Lincoln librarians also offered our ever-popular Black History Month exhibit case which was available through the end of February.

The cases continue to be an important community attraction. For this particular case, the library's press release garnered significant patron traffic, as well as attracting coverage from the ABC, CBS, and Fox affiliates as well as the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette newspaper. State Representative Kyle Miller even posted about it.

Our Lincoln librarians also showcased women from the Lincoln Collection with another temporary exhibit during Women's History Month in March.

Significant progress continues to be made in inventorying ACPL's historic federal government documents collection.

Whenever possible, links to digital surrogates of the collection items are included in the catalog records. Beginning this past February, Jacob and Special Collections manager Curt Witcher have been discussing with Government Publishing Office (GPO) staff about a future partnership opportunity involving the digitization of federal documents in ACPL's collection. We are interested in raising the profile of the library in the federal documents space while greatly increasing accessibility to these important resources for our patrons.

Special Collections

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

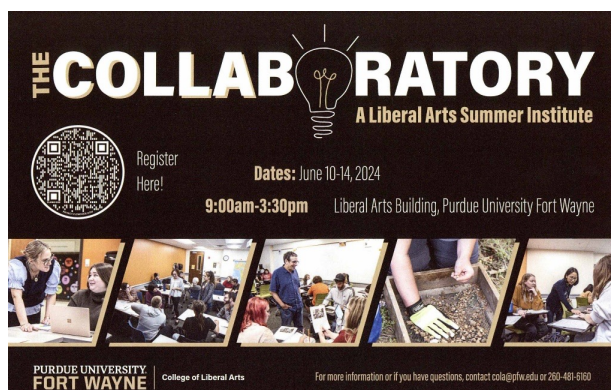
Genealogy Center staff are working with Purdue Fort Wayne's Chair of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Janet Badia, and her associate, Dr. Andrew Kopec, on developing possible collaborative activities in support of their first ever summer camp this June, "The Collaboratory: A Liberal Arts Summer Institute," geared for middle and high school students. Genealogy Services Manager, Allison Singleton, developed four hands-on activities being considered for inclusion in the program:

Exploring Historical Context through Ancestral Research

Exploring Genealogy in the Marsha Smiley African American Collection

Exploring Family History: Civil War Era and Abolition

Investigating Abolitionist Ties: Researching Individuals from Angie Quinn's Book "The Underground Railroad and the Antislavery Movement in Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana"



On March 15, the "Doc West Concert Collection" debuted as the latest Community Album collection. Taken from the Collection's splash page on the Community Album. The collection can be found at: <https://acplcommunityalbum.my.canva.site/docwestconcertcollection>. The initial collection of more than one thousand images received 3,361 views in just the first two weeks. Several thousand more images will be added to the online collection over the course of 2024. Doc West is publicizing this collection, his collection, as a part of WXKE's main webpage slide carousel as shown below.



Elizabeth Hodges, Allison Singleton, and Curt Witcher represented the library at the RootsTech 2024 international conference in Salt Lake City where many thousands attended in person, and millions attended virtually. The Genealogy Center team participated in book scanning partners' meetings, the innovation and tech forum, library and archives day, FamilySearch focus groups, and sessions on how generative AI is being deployed by FamilySearch to discover data in handwritten documents in addition to attending sessions to increase knowledge and expertise to share with Genealogy Center patrons. Allison gave a well-received presentation on "Repeating Recipes: Food and Family History." Numerous speakers and researchers were approached to provide Genealogy Center programs. The power of story resonated throughout the entire four-day event.

Technical Services

Christine Diedrich, Technical Services Manager

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Cataloger Kelsey Shanabarger was invited to attend the January ACPL DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) meeting to discuss the steps Technical Services is taking to make our catalog records more inclusive. We have, and will continue to, update subject headings with current terminology. She was able to share several sources available for updated and inclusive terms for cataloging.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

Technical Services continues to work on record clean-up projects to better improve patron and staff searches in the new system. We are actively working on magazine records, so that issues received prior to migration appear within the same record as current issues of the same title. As we find them, and as they are shared with us, we are working to fix any roll up issues within Vega. This is when items with the same title and author appear in the same search result, even when they are different items.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

I was able to attend the annual Innovative Users Group Conference. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn from other libraries who use Polaris and hear what upgrades Innovative has planned. Every presentation gave me something I was able to incorporate into my daily workflow. Especially useful was the full day preconference on Technical Services. During this we shared how our libraries approach ordering, receiving, and cataloging. A group from ACPL had the opportunity to give a panel presentation on our migration process, which was well received by other attendees who were in the process of migrating to Polaris.

Teens

Mari Hardacre, Teens Department Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

We filled 34 Lit Loot requests from teen patrons. Lit Loot is an optional once-a-month service for teens that provides three books chosen with the reader's specified interests in mind. The books are boxed up with treats and sent to the patron's chosen branch.

Designing Functional, Friendly Spaces

Through accessible, intuitive, and easy to navigate physical and virtual spaces, our patrons discover all we have to offer.

We moved the Nintendo video gaming system from the Teens lounge into the main area of the department so that the lounge will be more sensory-friendly for teens who wish to study in that space.

Leading Through Innovation

Through sustainable innovation and improvement, we thrive as a library and as a community.

Charlotte Hinniger presented with Tonya Frandle and Jacki Fulwood at the Public Libraries Association conference. Their presentation was called "The Future's So Bright: Supporting the Next Generation of Librarians." Charlotte discussed the Team Read program which promotes positive youth development and helps teens to learn more about library work and youth work as career fields.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

We created displays for Black History Month and Women's History Month and hosted programs for these celebratory months—"Butterfly Creations" with Charlotte Smith and "Create and Celebrate Women Artists" with Emily Guerrero.

Neurodivergent Teen Hangout continued at Main Library and was expanded to additional branches.

Connecting Community

Through collaborations with people and organizations, we strengthen our community and extend our reach.

Librarians provided outreach programming: Cathy Lambert to Charis House, Mari Hardacre to the alternative school & classrooms for students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Charlotte Hinniger to local Gay-Straight Alliances.

Youth Services

Jacki Fulwood, Youth Services Manager

Celebrating Reading and Learning

Through books, hands-on learning, technology, and valuing different perspectives, we celebrate individual and collective stories.

Summer SPARK preparations have been underway in Youth Services for several months, including ramping up for the annual Team Read employment cycle. Aisha Hallman and branch librarians have interviewed teen applicants, and this year, nearly 40 teen ACPL employees will bring literacy and social-emotional learning to parks and congregate childcare settings across Allen County.

Creating a Culture of Belonging

Through our team, collections, and services, everyone has a home at ACPL.

Staff cohorts from select branches, Main, and the Teen Staff Cohort completed their initial Community Based Practices (restorative practices) training with ACPL partner organization School Care Team. Staff learned strategies for building rapport and community with and between youth such as community circle facilitation and restorative chats. These techniques will help to reduce behavioral issues and suspensions in youth patrons. Youth Services continues to work with Security, Human Resources, and Public Services to roll out CBP across the system.