

Librarian's Report
May 2025

Statistics:

Programming:

Kids:

- ✚ The Egg hunt was held Saturday, April 12. There were roughly 4,000 eggs for the 384 kids to find. All had a great time and we recently received donation of another 1,000 eggs!
- ✚ The Friends of the Library generously donated a new train table and building blocks that can be used with DUPLOs to elevate the train tracks. These arrived and the kids have already had a lot of fun building! The Friends also donated new LEGOs to supplement what the Library already had.
- ✚ Summer school visits have started and Katherine does several presentations a day. She will also be at the summer kick-off event at the Outdoor Adventure Center later this month.

Teens:

- ✚ It is school visit time to promote the summer reading program.
- ✚ Preparation for Summer Reading Program (SRP) is well under way.
 - Focus this year is on established programs, with one or two special programs.
- ✚ 10 teens attended April's Workshop Wednesday, where they made a floral sign cut using the glowforge.
- ✚ Teen Hang Zone and Anime Club continue to be popular, so those will be offered every other week during the summer.
- ✚ 5 Teens came to April's graphic novel club.
- ✚ Graphic novel club and teen book club will continue to be offered this summer as well.

Adults:

- ✚ April was a slower month, but our biggest event was the Preservation Talk with Michele Christian from the Briggs Archives. 23 people attended and were all very engaged with great questions.
- ✚ The "Free for All" documentary screening was not brimming with attendees, but those who were there enjoyed the film and took part in a really great conversation afterwards.

- ✦ Fandom Fest was once again a hit! We had 182 attendees over the 7 activities (43 at the kids activities and 139 for upstairs activities) and many people took advantage of the FOL pizza fundraiser. The most well attended events were the “Learn a Board Game” program, where we partnered with the Rabbit’s Den Gaming, and the trivia game! The Sioux Empire Ghostbusters were also around all day to show off their props and take pictures with attendees. Siouxpercon had a booth to promote their upcoming event this fall.
- ✦ Pie and Puzzles: We had 30 attendees and the Valley donated all of the pie for the event.

Tech

- Nancy is looking into purchasing a second laser printer for the Maker Lab. The Friends are contributing about half the cost, and the Library’s IT Capital is covering the other half. Our existing laser printer is heavily used by both staff and patrons, but it’s over 3 years old and starting to have issues. It was used 131 times by patrons in 2024, and 2025 already looks like that number will go up! She’s waiting to make the purchase until after the Computer Lab has been moved out of the room and the Maker Lab is expanded.
- Nancy is working with City IT to purchase the Library a large-format printer with City IT funds. This would allow us to print larger documents, like posters, in house.
- After a conversation with our Hoopla rep and assessing our Hoopla usage, we’ve decided to cap audiobook cost at \$2.99 to try to save some money with the service. As a reminder: we’re charged a varying fee for each check out from Hoopla – usually anywhere from \$0.99 to \$4.00. Capping audiobook cost at \$2.99 will remove some audiobook options for patrons, but the vast majority of popular ones will still be available. Patrons are limited to 4 check outs per month. We’re averaging about \$2400 per month with Hoopla right now, and that’s not sustainable going into 2026.

Other:

- A judge has ordered an injunction against the Trump administration’s shut-down of IMLS.
- The State Library did receive the rest of 2025 IMLS funds. They are still figuring out how those funds will be distributed. We do not have a courier currently, but the ILL website is still functional. At this time the Library is mailing out interlibrary loan requests.