



2023 Annual Report

NEW LIBRARY TAKES SHAPE



2023 began with the groundbreaking of the long-awaited new library building, with approximately 150 people braving the chilly weather on Jan. 31 to see the first dirt being turned.

Progress continued at a steady pace throughout the year, with Dondlinger Construction working away on the new 25,000-square-foot facility.

The community watched the progress with great interest, and by the end of the year, the new library was close to completed. A Chamber After Hours in August provided a sneak peek of the progress.

The Campaign Leadership Committee, the volunteer group responsible for raising funds for the new library, wound down its work in the early part of 2023, having raised more than \$3.3 million dollars to augment funds from the Library and the City of Newton for the \$10.5-million facility.



LOGO GETS AN UPDATE



As the library prepared for its next chapter, it was time for an update to the NPL logo.

The logo was created by Wichita graphic artist Tracy Holdeman, creative director of Insight Design. It was rolled out to the public at the Chamber After Hours in August, and could soon be seen on t-shirts, mugs, and even banners in local holiday parades.

An inevitable question with any new logo is what it means, or what it represents. Sometimes, there is a clear answer; usually, not. Newton Public Library's new logo is fundamentally abstract, but it is intended to suggest the library's mission and role in the community.

"I kind of look at it as people coming together. The library is a hub for people of different stripes – different colors and beliefs. It's a safe place for everyone," Holdeman said.



**NEWTON PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

NPL WELCOMES NEW TECHNOLOGY LIBRARIAN



The library was pleased to add CJ Day to the staff in July. His responsibilities include assisting both patrons and staff with technology questions, and overseeing technology projects and enhancements throughout the library.

He hit the ground running, including planning technology for the new library, and ensuring a smooth transition to the new library software system in late August.

CJ graduated from Emporia State University with his Master of Library Science in December 2023,

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Left: Shoppers visit the Spring Book Sale, one of two large sales the library hosted in 2023. The always-popular events draw a crowd, and donations received are used for library programs and initiatives.



Above: Two attendees tap into their creativity during a watercolor workshop. Local artist Susan Bartel led the workshop as part of the 2023 Summer Reading Program activities for elementary students.



Left: Ann Adrian, fundraising campaign co-chair, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony held on Jan. 31 to mark the beginning of construction on the new library.

CHILDREN

The children's department offered five weekly story times: one for babies (ages 0-18 months), one for toddlers (ages 18 mo-3 years), two for preschoolers (3-5 years), and one all-ages, evening story time for families. This schedule was adhered to throughout the year, with some short breaks in May, August and December. In addition, the children's department brought story time to Bright Star Discovery Center twice a month, serving four classrooms of toddlers through preschoolers.

Summer Reading offered a full line-up of story times, a weekly STEAM session for school-aged children, art and crafts workshops and a mural-painting opportunity, along with incentives for logging in reading minutes. We hosted visits from various performers, including the always-popular "Mad Science."

During the school year, the children's department offered more variety to families with school-aged children, with a monthly Early Readers' Book Club (for grades K-2) and Stories and STEAM program (for grades 2-4).

We kicked off our Make-Your-Own-Picture-Book Project 2023 with a visit from a local author and a local illustrator, Mary Ellen Tippin and Melanie Koop, who discussed their collaboration and conducted a watercolor workshop. We received twelve original picture book submissions, which were on display in the children's area through the month of January.

- Sara Rickard, Children's Librarian



222

Children's programs in 2023, including storytimes, Summer Reading Program events, and book clubs. Up from 135 in 2022.

4,288

Total attendees at children's programs in 2023, an increase of 4% over the previous year. Attendance at early-literacy programs was up 26%.

62,588

Number of physical children's items circulated from NPL in 2023, a 5.7% increase over the previous year.

127

Attendees at the end-of-summer pool party, a reward for Summer Reading Program participation



TWEENS & TEENS

GameZone, the most popular teen program, expanded to two sessions weekly and attendance grew throughout 2023; by fall, 30-40 students (ages 10-18) attended most days. They enjoyed snacks, crafts, board games, and video games.

Besides the monthly book discussions and movies, teens attended a variety of Saturday events, including pumpkin decorating, holiday crafts, and a Harry Potter escape room.

Highlights of the 2023 Summer Reading Program included workshops by MIT and Stanford students, art activities, and a computer programming workshop.

The reading challenge for teens was a huge success, with 106 teens and tweens recording minutes through Reader Zone, and 63 of them reaching the 1000-minute goal, thereby earning a \$10 gift card for Norm's or Back Alley Pizza. The reward party, with pizza and a movie, was enjoyed by 29 young people.

- Sharon Cepeda, Teen Librarian



2023 Summer Reading Program Stats

156 registered
106 enrolled in Reader Zone
85 entered minutes in Reader Zone
63 met the 1000-minute goal
29 attended the reward party

DEPARTMENT SUMMARIES

134

Number of young adult programs held in 2023, including the new Wednesday GameZone sessions.

1,992

Attendees at young adult programs, including two sessions of SPOKES, book clubs, and GameZone.

156

Number of tweens & teens registered for Summer Reading in 2023, which included weekly reading challenges and activities.

63

Number of tweens & teens who reached the Summer Reading goal of 1,000 minutes read during June & July.



ADULTS

Adult department programs and services were planned and executed this year with an eye toward the future and the new library, as staff members looked for ways to deepen patrons' connections with the library, and with one another. Some of the most engaging special events for adults in 2023 included "Every Quilt Tells a Story," a presentation by Chris Allen; a screening of the film "Women Talking," followed by a discussion; an outdoor concert with September River; and a community discussion of the book "The White Mosque," by Sofia Samatar, that drew over 100 in-person attendees. In its second year, the hybrid online/in-person format for special events proved its enduring value, with online attendance equaling in-person attendance for many programs where the option was offered.

Having already recovered from the COVID slump, book club participation was stable in 2023, or perhaps moderately up. Staff launched a new Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, bringing the total number of library-sponsored clubs to four – plus the annual Big Read, winter and summer reading challenges, and winter and spring TALK discussion series with guest leaders. The library also facilitated book-set borrowing, via interlibrary loan, and the number of community-based book clubs using that service went up during 2023, to around seven per month.

Recurring programs such as Fourth Tuesday Photography, Cinema SocieTea, D&D Club, and the third Tuesday genealogy/local history series gave adults opportunities to socialize and connect over mutual interests. The library's VITA program had another successful year. Six volunteer preparers helped more than 360 low-to-moderate income people to file their taxes for free. Other initiatives that got started in 2023 will bear more fruit in the new library, including a 3D printer and related programming.

-Sam Jack, Adult Services Librarian



153

Total number of programs for adults, including 122 in-person programs and 31 virtual programs, with a total attendance of 2,615

5,123

Number of items delivered in the ENLITE program to 142 people who were homebound or in long-term care facilities

51,020

Circulation of adult physical library materials, including books, games, DVDs, hotspots, and more, an increase of almost 4% since 2022.

4,672

Number of times patrons used the library's public computers, in addition to 3,018 log-ins to the library's wireless internet.



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT/ TECHNICAL SERVICES

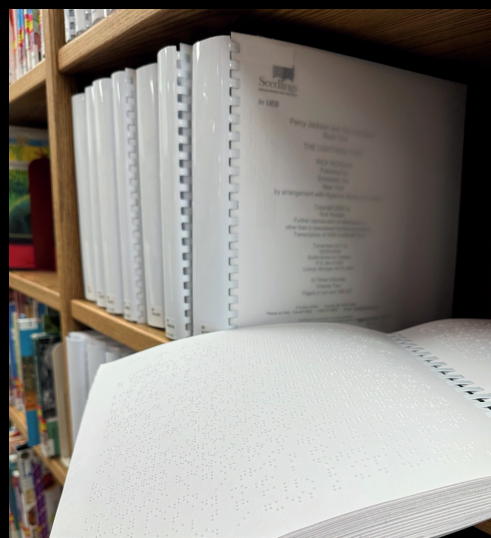
Technical Services was busy in 2023, adding new collections and reorganizing existing ones in preparation for the move to the new library. Among the most popular items NPL added to the collection this year were our Travel Kits for children. These kits include activities for car rides and games to play in a hotel. NPL added yard games to the collections. Some favorite yard games NPL added this year are Giant Tumbling Tower and Skittle Scatter.

NPL also added a small collection of Braille books to the children's department. Technical Services worked with Kansas Talking Books to print Braille spine labels and add them to the books, making them easy to find for all library users.

NPL added a 3D printer to our collection this year. The 3D printer is available for patrons to use upon request and after they take a one-on-one class with a staff member. Another new piece of equipment to Newton Public Library Collection Development & Technical Services was the addition of the Cover One book repair system. This system allows NPL to repair books with loose pages or light to moderate spine damage. With this system, NPL has been able to extend the shelf life of dozens of books in the collection.

The other big project Technical Services worked on was reorganizing and relabeling parts of the collections. We moved video games to a central location, made Graphic Novels and Manga their own collection, and relabeled large portions of the children's department. These changes have made it easier for patrons to find materials using the library's online catalog.

- Dan Eells, Collection Development Librarian





56,481

Total number of library visits in 2023, up significantly from 38,362 the previous year.



2,979

Number of Interlibrary Loan items borrowed for NPL patrons from other libraries in 2023



117,868

Total number of physical items circulated in 2023, an increase of almost 5% from 2022



34,287

Total number of digital circulations in 2023, up more than 20% from the previous year



INCOME

Tax Levy	\$831,923	80.0%
Interest	\$66,486	6.4%
System/State/County Aid	\$62,420	6.0%
Fees/Book Sales/Misc.	\$48,522	4.7%
Other Grants/Donations	\$30,960	3.0%

EXPENSE

Personnel	\$553,501	60.3%
Library Materials	\$103,480	11.3%
Administrative	\$66,868	7.3%
Building & Maintenance	\$63,819	6.9%
Technology	\$56,141	6.1%
Utilities	\$53,486	5.8%
Programming	\$21,177	\$2.3

FLORENCE BESSMER FOUNDATION

In addition to the income numbers on the previous page, the Florence Bessmer Foundation continues to provide ongoing support for our children's and young adult services, providing \$60,000 of support in 2023. That includes more than \$33,000 in library materials for children and youth, about \$12,000 to support youth programming, \$8,000 for new children's computers, and much more.

USAGE SUMMARY

	2023	2022	2021
Total Checkouts	152,155	145,845	120,932
New Patrons	1,155	1,106	968
Total Visitors	56,481	38,362	33,441
Wireless Use	3,018	2,892	1,894
Computer Use	4,672	4,231	3,533
Interlibrary Loan Borrowed	2,979	2,416	2,049
Interlibrary Loan Lent	1,398	1,208	1,698

STAFF & BOARD LISTING



Library Staff:

Christa Capps, Library Aide
Sharon Cepeda, Teen Librarian
Cari Cusick, Library Director
CJ Day, Technology Librarian
Rachel Esch, Library Aide
Dan Eells, Collection Development Librarian
Traci Henning, Library Aide
Sam Jack, Adult Services Librarian
Emma Kliewer, Library Aide
Kristin Kliewer, Adult Services Associate
Cathy Lehrman, Library Aide
Sarah Lewis, Library Aide
Sara Rickard, Children's Librarian
Pam Schmidt, Shelves
Tamara Shear, Technical Services Clerk
Andrea Unruh, Circulation Supervisor

Library Board of Trustees:

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