

OCPL Director's Report

November, 2022

1. Programs and Services: The Youth Services department has continued their momentum into the fall, especially with our making youth services assistant DJ Roach a full time employee. We have added a second Story Time slot for the Seneca Branch because the demand is high and our meeting space is small. Our Community Resource Associate, Kerry Leeper Brock, has some help with Spanish translation, as we have hired Amy Saylor to assist her. Amy works on Thursdays when Kerry is at the Walhalla Main Branch for walk-in hours.

2. Usage Statistics and Narratives: Usage statistics for September and October as well as individual branch/department narratives are attached.

3. Finance and Budget: OCPL budget figures for beginning of FY23 are attached.

4. Personnel and Training: Christie Johnson (Bookmobile manager) and Sue Andrus attended the Assoc. of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference in Arizona in October and got some really good information to bring back. Darcy Arnall presented a session at the South Carolina Library Association conference in Columbia in October about producing online video content. Kayla Rucker, new Salem manager, hired Abigail White (formerly part time at the Walhalla Main Branch) as her full time circulation assistant. Maddie Owens, formerly part time circulation staff member at Walhalla as well, was hired as the library courier replacing Joe Lenderman. Joe had to take unplanned retirement for health reasons. Our fall in-service was on Monday, October 10. Part of the day we were all together at the Walhalla Main Branch and trained on service animals in the library, and part of the day we met individually at each branch. Special thanks to Board chair Allison Addison for providing Chick-fil-A for breakfast!

5. Building and Grounds: The Director met with Kevin Shoemake, an engineer with Thomas and Hutton, the firm the county retains for engineering. He examined the areas for improvement at the Seneca Branch and will be issuing a report on that. Landscaping and tree trimming was also done at the Seneca location as well as new mulch installed. The handicapped parking signs have been replaced the Walhalla Main Branch.

6. Technology: Computer switches (that route all network traffic to individual work stations) have been replaced at all locations. This was paid for with an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the SC State Library. A problem with the new Wi-Fi hot spots at the Westminster Branch has also been resolved.

7. Friends of the Library: Used book sales have continued each Thursday from 11:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Friends had excellent sales figures in September and October. They have also been selling some online and have also begun accepting credit cards with a Square reader, so sales have been strong. They have a Saturday sale in December.

8. Oconee County: The county is discussing bonding funds for capital projects. We have asked the county administrator to help us fund a truly accessible entrance at the Seneca Branch, as well as possibly

enlarging the meeting room there at Seneca, the busiest branch. We are also partnering with the county to develop a database of social service agencies, as mentioned previously.

9. State Library: We invited State Agency Head Leesa Aiken to our meeting in September, but she was unable to attend. We will invite her for a future meeting. We have also again started participating in some of the training the State Library offers, though they have only recently opened for in-person training and have begun visiting libraries again after the COVID hiatus.

10. Community Involvement: The Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in September was a huge hit. Attendance was estimated at around 3,000. Kerry Leeper Brock participated in Law for Non-Lawyers training at Tri-County Tech. The Director was also recently named as the chair of the Healthy Oconee Coalition for the next year.

11. Other: We are working with the City of Seneca on a new park to be located behind the library at the corner of Third and Walnut Streets. The Director attended a Seneca City Council meeting where plans for the park were unveiled to Council. The Director is also part of the County Government and Intergovernmental Steering Committee of the SC Association of Counties, and recently attended a meeting of the committee to discuss supporting the request for a State Aid increase for FY24.

OCPL Bimonthly Report
Library Usage Statistics
Director: Blair Hinson

	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Change	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Change
Visits to Library	10,603	12,310	16.1%	10,705	12,307	15.0%
Material Circulation - Adult	12,297	13,251	7.8%	12,048	12,013	-0.3%
Material Circulation - Youth	916	1,130	23.4%	856	937	9.5%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	7,827	10,040	28.3%	7,461	9,237	23.8%
Total Material Circulation	21,040	24,421	16.1%	20,365	22,187	8.9%
Internet Users	740	837	13.1%	805	840	4.3%
Internet Hours of Use	344	406	18.0%	381	394	3.4%
New Cards Issued	158	211	33.5%	125	189	51.2%
Programs - Adult	5	13	160.0%	13	12	-7.7%
Programs Attendance - Adult	46	62	34.8%	114	56	-50.9%
Programs - Youth 12-18		0			1	
Programs Att - Youth 12-18		0			10	
Programs -Juvenile 6-11		1			9	
Programs Att -Juv 6-11		15			96	
Programs - Children 0-5		3			22	
Programs - Att - Children 0-5		20			561	
Outreach Activities		12			18	
Outreach Act. Attendance		217			1,310	
Public Training Sessions	0	3		0	2	
Public Training Participants	0	3		0	2	
Public Training Hours	0	2		0	1	
Staff Training Sessions	2	0	-100.0%	9	13	44.4%
Staff Training Participants		0		40	69	72.5%
Staff Training Hours		0		220	297	35.0%
Number of New Volunteers	2	0	-100.0%	0	0	
Number of Vol Hours	78	45	-42.8%	68	27	-60.9%
Meeting Room Use	24	59	145.8%	26	51	96.2%
Meeting Room Attendance	257	328	27.6%	207	409	97.6%
Number of Web Site Hits	10,286	11,344	10.3%	10,363	10,999	6.1%
Wi-Fi Users	338	335	-0.9%	349	327	-6.3%
Wi-Fi Sessions	2,742	2,485	-9.4%	2,760	2,358	-14.6%
E Book Downloads	1,982	2,634	32.9%	2,255	2,701	19.8%
Flipster Uses	118	133	12.7%	144	101	-29.9%
Kanopy Uses	1,190	1,565	31.5%	1,179	1,938	64.4%
Ancestry.com Hits	74	244	229.7%	75	129	72.0%
		0				
		0				
Interlibrary Loans	18	50	177.8%		53	
New Material Added	985	799	-18.9%	736	1,043	41.7%

OCPL Budget 2022-2023 11-9-22

Account Number	Description	Budgeted	Spent	Percent	Balance
Local Budget					
010-206-30024-00000	Equip. Maintenance	2,500	2,475	99%	25
010-206-30025-00000	Professional -Staffmark	154,965	43,849	28%	111,116
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	1,000	228	23%	772
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	28,817	27,412	95%	1,405
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	2,143	25%	6,357
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	203	27%	547
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	3,000	1,484	49%	1,516
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	5,500	3,466	63%	2,034
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,500	2,461	70%	1,039
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,500	2,437	97%	63
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,020	2,102	104%	-82
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	25,000	4,559	18%	20,441
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	16,000	4,133	26%	11,867
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	15,500	1,869	12%	13,631
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	419	25%	1,281
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	1,200	611	51%	589
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200	191	16%	1,009
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,200	931	42%	1,269
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	6,000	5,658	94%	342
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	824	41%	1,176
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	500	23	5%	477
010-206-40034-00000	Food	500	28	6%	472
010-206-40045-00000	IT Equipment			#DIV/0!	0
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	85,000	40,032	47%	44,968
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	22,200	18,520	83%	3,680
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,300	5,279	47%	6,021
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	603	40%	897
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	3,000	916	31%	2,084
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	2,000	819	41%	1,181
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		415,752	179,577	43%	236,175
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	52,410			52,410
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	98,940		0%	68,328
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					120,738
State Aid Budget					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$10,773.82	7,791.00	72%	2,982.82
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$500.00		0%	500.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$2,000.00		0%	2,000.00
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital (State)	10,542.21		0%	10,542.21
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	4,551.79	30%	10,448.21
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$8,500.00	3,112.08	37%	5,387.92
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$81,500.00	22,443.76	28%	59,056.24
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$31,664.00	11,414.91	36%	20,249.09
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	1,253.60	8%	15,346.40
Total State Aid Funds		\$177,080.03	50,567.14	29%	126,512.89

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, September/October 2022

Christie Johnson, Bookmobile Manager

ABOS Conference

In early October, I traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona, along with Sue Andrus, to the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services annual conference. This was a wonderful resource for me, as I get started in the specific field of library outreach. Author J. A. Jance spoke and signed autographs. There were many wonderful sessions that were relevant to my new position, and I got to as many as I could, along with reading over notes from other presentations. I hope to implement some of the creative ideas I was exposed to at this conference, and I look forward to attending it again as often as I am able. The sessions I attended were as follows:

- The TechKnow Mobile: Using Outreach to Connect the Disconnected
- Customizing Library Services: Barrier Free Community Connections
- Dam-It Jim! I'm a Librarian, Not a Mechanic! Fake it Til You Make It: Musings of a First Year Bookmobile Driver
- Reaching Unhoused Children: A Journey Through Brooklyn
- Tablets for Seniors
- Serving Up Literacy in Rural Community Book Deserts
- Starting and Sustaining a Library Service by Mail Program

Operations

In September, twenty-five regularly scheduled stops were completed, with one cancellation due to a scheduling conflict on their end. Six volunteers worked with me, along with one Walhalla staff member. We added a new stop at Keowee Place Assisted Living, which is being well attended so far. I made a couple of make-up visits in anticipation of traveling the first week in October, to Lakeview Assisted Living and to the two Fair Play stops.

In October, three stops were cancelled due to travel to the ABOS conference. Seventeen regular stops were completed. I had four volunteers and one Walhalla staff member to assist.

Outreach

OCPL was heavily involved in Walhalla's Hispanic Heritage Festival in September, and I was thrilled to take the Bookmobile to participate. We had 182 people visit the Bookmobile, signed up several people for library cards, checked out items, and gave away many free books to children.

The Bookmobile was asked to come to two school Literacy Nights in October. Blair and Darcy traveled to Keowee Elementary and saw 42 students and adults, and DJ and I went to Ravenel Elementary and saw 100 children and adults. I look forward to more of these upcoming in the next months.

I was able to join with the Oconee County Sheriff's Office at their Book with the Blue event on Halloween. This event is a drive through the parking lot of the Sheriff's Office, and they were kind enough to let me park the Bookmobile along with the various police and fire vehicles, and give out candy and bookmarks. They estimate we served nearly a thousand children.

Statistics

Category	September 2022	October 2022
Stops	26	20
Hours Open	33	23.25
Total Attendance	462	1320
Outreach Stops	13	12
Outreach Visitors	399	1139
New Cards	2	8
Volunteers/Hours	4/42	4/23

Branch Services Narrative
Sept - Oct 2022

Sue Andrus

Professional Development

Bookmobile Manager Christie Johnson and I attended the ABOS (Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Service) in Scottsdale, AZ, in October. I attended sessions on Memory Care outreach, Partnering with Local Organizations, and services available from the National Library of Medicine. While the workshop sessions were interesting, the best information came from informal chatting and sharing.

Adult Programming

The first "Saturday Crafterday" on September 29 hosted four attendees, who were all very happy with their new builds in Fiberboard Estates.



A repeat of the program is scheduled for November 19.

Staffing Information

I am delighted to say that Staffmark employees Abi White and Maddie Owens are now full time county employees! Abi is the new Circ Assistant II at Salem and Maddie has taken the Courier position opened by the retirement of Joe Lenderman in September.

The library system has completed the first full year of the EPMS evaluation system. All full time employees have gone through the goal setting and evaluation cycle, so now the process begins again. We feel that this method, using measurable, well-defined goals, yields a reliable description of an employee's strengths and weaknesses.

Publicity

Last month, Oconee County began publishing a newsletter for employees. I responded to the call for submissions by creating an infographic from data in our annual report to the South Carolina State Library. I plan on submitting similar information about library services, programs, collections, and achievements each month.



Programming, Operations, etc...

- ❖ The Salem Library hosted story time for 20 attendees in September and attendees in October.
- ❖ A Family Bingo Time was held on September 19th. The program was well attended (15 attendees), many of whom requested a quarterly Bingo program.
- ❖ Salem hosted a pop-up seed library day on September 12th. 5 patrons took 5 seed packets each, along with provided gardening info.
- ❖ The monthly book club met on September 30th and October 25th via Zoom. Two were in attendance in September and 3 for October.
- ❖ In October, the Salem Library began Tech Help Tuesdays. Each Tuesday, an allotted hour is provided for any patron tech help.
- ❖ The Salem Library hosted a DIY haunted house program in October. Each attendee built and painted their own mini house. Registration was required for this event. There were 13 attendees.
- ❖ 12 fall critter craft kits were distributed during September. 22 bottle cap bat kits were distributed in October.
- ❖ The library was given a fall décor makeover. The display in the town hall lobby also had a fall theme.
- ❖ In early September, Abi White was the selected candidate for the Circulation Assistant II position. Her first day was September 26th. She has adjusted well and is a great addition to the Salem branch.
- ❖ On October 20th, the Salem branch manager recognized the Keowee Falls CRO group at the Volunteer Banquet.

Building Management

- ❖ We recently had issues with our Salem Guest Wi-Fi network. Many patrons were unable to connect to it. IT has since remedied the issue.
- ❖ On October 11th, our internet was briefly down in the morning. IT was able to restore the connection around the time we opened.
- ❖ In mid-October, a maintenance work order was put in to replace blown bulbs above the stacks.

Resource Allocation

- ❖ Take and make kits continue to be a hit with the children in the community. In the near future, adult craft kits will also be available.
- ❖ The library's 2022-2023 FOTL Wish List was partially submitted at the end of October. This list included items such as new colorful bookends for the children's area and a Cricut for programs and displays.
- ❖ The Salem branch (in collaboration with the Westminster branch) began brainstorming our first "library of things" project: crafts and hobbies

Stats	Sep	Oct
Visits	1732	1689
New Cards	9	9
ILLs	0	1

Ann Rogers Memorial Room
September/October 2022
Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

Narrative

South Carolina State Library Presentation:

On September 15, 2022 I delivered a Zoom Presentation entitled "Follow the Trail" for the South Carolina State Library. This presentation was part of a series coordinated by Virginia Pearce that covered African-American Genealogy within South Carolina. There were 37 people in attendance. I started by stating that one should not discount family stories, for they can serve as a starting point for gathering information. In essence, genealogy provides the foundational material, such as life events, while family stories provide one with a picture of the ancestor. Also I covered South Carolina, Oconee County, and OCPL records. I especially highlighted the Ann Rogers' Newspaper and Cemetery Indexes. With the conclusion of the presentation there was a period of discussion and a request for more information on some of the topics covered. I did send the requested information to Ms. Pearce, and she distributed this to the attendees. Lastly, this presentation was recorded and is archived at the South Carolina State Library YouTube website. At this time, it has received 36 views.

OCPL Presentations:

Due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to deliver an In-Service presentation regarding progress in the Rogers Room. At Blair's request, I delivered this In-Service presentation to all of the Branches. This presentation provided a glimpse into my activities with the Rogers Room since taking this position in April. At this time, the most pressing project is to complete staff training, with an emphasis on how to assist patrons with basic information and how to use the microfilm machines.

Fee Schedule:

At this time, I am reviewing the current fee for processing genealogy/local history requests. I have started reviewing the following library systems:

Greenville County
Anderson County
Pickens County

My goal is to develop a comprehensive fee schedule that reflects the services that we now provide.

Rogers Room Statistics:

Statistic Recorded	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2022
Walk-In	6	5
Phone Call	4	3
Email/Online	5	2
Books	9	15
Microfilm	29	0
Map	2	2
ScanPro 3000 Scan Count	259	0
ScanPro 3000 Printer Count	74	0
ScanPro 3500 Scan Count	0	0
ScanPro 3500 Printer Count	0	0
Questions Completed	13	11
Outstanding Questions	5	5

Facilities:

The flagpole rope has finally been replaced as of the end of October, and the flags are flying again. I still plan to purchase a pressure washer and carpet cleaner with library funds in the coming months.

Our broken/fallen window shade has been fixed by the vendor.

Engineers are surveying the front entrance area to build a ramp up to the front door. Unfortunately, we may not be able to increase the size of the meeting room or make the bathrooms accessible due to lack of funds from the county.

From the last report:

Timing to be determined: We would like to invite Jason, the maintenance director, out to examine what they might be able to do to fix and improve certain aspects of the building, such as the weeds growing inside that we have to pull (they have tried to work on this before so there may not be a solution), redoing the caulking in the bathrooms, and the warped railing around the book return.

The Lakes and Hills Garden Club continues their generous upkeep of the outside beds they planted. Our next step is conferring with maintenance and Seneca Light and Water about the pipes in the bed closest to the loading dock to see how we can dig to plant something there.

Operations:

We hosted Jennifer Moss from the Oconee History Museum to do a program on legends and lore. There were six attendees. Two people came to our movie showing.

We continue to weed books systematically in line with industry best practices. The shelves are straight and the staff is working hard to keep them maintained.

Groups using the meeting room include two HOA boards, Oconee Writers Association, NAACP volunteers helping people with housing assistance, Mentor Oconee, America's Boating Club, Baby Read, and others. The study rooms remain popular.

Staffing: We have one Staffmark position open at this time. I'm proud of all the staff for stepping up as we have had at least one position open throughout the year as folks come and go. Our door count and circulation has increased significantly so it has been challenging, but we are proud of what we do.

Statistics	September 2022	October 2022
Visits to library	4642	4064
New Cards Issued	106	71
ILL	27	26

Walhalla Library

September - October 2022

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staff Development:

After multiple years of service as a part-time employee at the Walhalla Branch, Abigail White has taken a full-time position at the Salem Library. While we will dearly miss her experience and talents at Walhalla, we wish her the best and know that she will offer a multitude of talents to the residents of Salem. On the same note, another of our circulation assistants, Madalyn Owens, has accepted a job as the new full-time library courier after the retirement of Joe Lenderman. As the role is based out of the Walhalla Branch, she will still be offering her talents in working with the community at the circulation desk and creating interesting and eye-catching displays in her spare time. We are currently in the process of finding good candidates to step into the spaces these changes have created while ensuring our services to the patrons of Walhalla are not effected during this transition.

Meeting Room:

September – Walhalla Town Council, South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, Cultural Outreach Committee, New Horizon Family Health Services

October – Bright Sons Academy, Keowee Anglers, Cultural Outreach Committee, Oconee DSNB/Tribble Center

Study Room:

September –17 uses

October – 10 uses

Facilities:

At the end of September, Facilities was called to investigate a chemical odor that had been noticed during opening procedures in the South Carolina Room. The smell was originating from the former boiler room underneath the South Carolina Room and the director's office. Facilities filled the pipes that remained from the boiler after its removal with spray foam to stop the smell from rising into the library proper. In early October they were asked to respray the pipes as the odor had started to return. Currently the fix seems to be holding as the smell has yet to reappear since their second visit.

Statistics:

Category	September 2022	October 2022
Visitors	3562	3358
New Cards Issued	68	71
ILL	18	22

Westminster Report for July and August 2022

Community, Staff, and Programming

- The staff created an apple-themed display to correlate with the Apple Festival in September. Then they created spooky silhouette "Howling good reads!" display for October with spooky books.
- Based on the popularity of the book, we showed the movie adaptation of *Where the Crawdads Sing* and had 4 attendees.
- We had four attend the *Lightyear* movie showing in September.
- Our *Hocus Pocus* Craft-amokus program offered several crafts including hand-print witches, paper popcorn boxes and Sanderson sisters' bookmarks, beaded crafts, slime potions, and iron-on transfer tote bags. We had 15 attendees from ages 18 months to 65 years of age. A photography from the *Journal* was also there to take pictures (they were printed in the October 15-16 edition).
- We had several leftover tote bags from the *Hocus Pocus* craft so we decided to have a raffle to give them away. We had 35 entries and several happy winners.
- We had 11 register for the Fall Wreath craft program, but only 6 showed up.

Building Management

- In September the Westminster City utilities ran into an issue with the electrical lines when they tried to install new transformers. The solution to the issue was to install a new utility pole-along with the transformers- right beside the library. This caused us to close early on September 15 to accommodate the install. They also turned the power off the next morning to complete the transfer, but it did not cause any delays. The new setup is supposed to help limit the number of people who are without power when lines are broken in the future.
- On September 7, Drew from IT spent an hour and 30 minutes switching out network equipment and working on the Wi-Fi problems, but still could not get the Wi-Fi to work as it should. After more investigating, IT finally discovered a setting was wrong for the Westminster Guest profile and with one tiny change, the issues that the library had been having for months stopped and people are now able to access the Wi-Fi again. Unfortunately, we still have the same issues with school-issued Chromebooks not connecting, but that is a setting set with the school.
- A work order was placed to Facilities Maintenance to cut down the trees blocking the security light at the back entrance. They decided to cut down about 75% of the trees and brush that had grown up along the back. This makes the library more visible and looks a lot better. Along these same lines, Roads and Bridges is going to be asked if they can trim the two large oak trees that are at the library.
- The staff used the afternoon session of in-service to clean some areas of the library. We also replaced the hodgepodge of planters with two cedar and metal planters to give the library a little bit more curb appeal (and maybe they will block some of the leaves from blowing into the library).

Resource Allocation

- Large scale projects weeding projects have been put on hold while we have had substitute couriers, but we were able to weed out some of the audios giving us room to shelve incoming new audios.
- Salem held the last pop-up seed library for the year and gave out 26 packs of seeds on September 12.
- We are beginning to publicize that we want seed donations to help sustain the BBW Seed Library. We have had some donations from large seed companies in the past, but hope we can get the community involved in cultivating a community of seed sharing and growing locally.

Month	Packs
June-December 2021	755
February*	902
March	585
April	134
May	100
June**	209
July	50
August	481
September	101
October	66

Table 1: Packs of seeds taken from the BBW Seed Library at library locations

*Includes 300 packs for kits
 **Includes 150 packs for kits

Youth Services Department
September - October 2022
Darcy Arnall, Youth Services Librarian

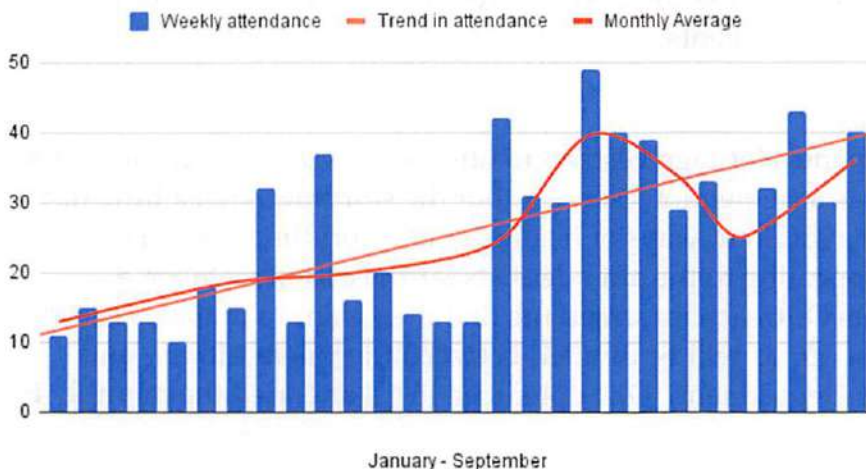
Collection Development & Maintenance

YS collection development is on budget thus far for the year. In September, Blair presented our idea for math kits to the Friends of the Library, and they agreed to donate \$3,000 to the project. Leah is still planning the contents of the kits, so we have not purchased any supplies for them yet. In September, I purchased eight passes from the Children’s Museum of the Upstate, and Bethany had them cataloged and circulating by the end of the month. Our patrons were very excited about the children’s museum passes, and we are researching other options for circulating passes that we can add to our collection. DJ has been working on updating some of the binders that we have at our branches. She has already completed the series binder, and she is planning to tackle the picture book subject binder next.

Programs

After our post-Summer-Reading break in August, we got back into the swing of regular programming in September and October, and participation has been excellent. We held 24 storytimes at the Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca branches in this period, and they were attended by 617 people. Last year’s storytimes in September and October were attended by 236 people so we are seeing an increase of 161% overall! At Seneca in particular, our attendance has been so high, that we decided to add another weekly storytime. The average attendance at Seneca storytimes in September and October was 36 people, and we were outgrowing Seneca’s relatively small meeting room with those totals. Therefore, starting in November, we will be offering two back-to-back storytimes on Thursday mornings at 9:30 and 11. County administration is looking at the possibility of adding a ramp to the Seneca branch, and we have requested that they consider expanding the meeting room at the same time. I put together a chart illustrating the Seneca storytime attendance in 2022, which Blair presented to county administration (see below).

Storytime Growth in 2022



Our current monthly slate of programs consists of LEGO Club, Midweek Makers, Teen Night, Sensory Playtime, and Explorers Club. In some capacity, we try to host at least one of each of these

programs every month. Sensory Playtime is quickly becoming one of our most popular offerings with an attendance of 66 people in this period. Explorers Club is also consistently well-attended. In September, we held Explorers Club outside and tried out some very messy process art ideas, which was lots of fun. And in October, we taught the kids how to make several different paper airplane designs and had a contest to determine the best planes.

In October, we added a new program called Shake, Rattle, & Roll that we plan to repeat at least monthly. Shake, Rattle, & Roll is a music and movement program for birth to age five and their caregivers. The program lasts for about 30 minutes and consists mostly of dancing and wiggling to recorded children's music. The primary difference between SR&R and our weekly storytimes is the amount of activity. DJ and I incorporate a lot of movement into our regular storytimes, but there are still going to be some periods of sitting and listening. SR&R involves almost no sitting down, so I hope that it will be an appealing option for parents who are concerned that their preschooler may be too lively for storytime. We had 29 people at the first SR&R session, and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

We had one special program for all ages in September that we called Pigeon Palooza. Mo Willems released a new book in September called *The Pigeon Rides a Roller Coaster*, and because Mo Willems is one of our favorite authors, we decided to dedicate a special evening storytime to the Pigeon. DJ and I dressed up as the Pigeon and the Duckling, read several Pigeon books, and did some music and movement activities. We gave away some copies of Mo Willems's books, and the kids enjoyed an obstacle course that DJ and I built in the back of the Walhalla Library. That program was attended by 25 people.

Between September and October, Youth Services planned and presented a total of 59 programs, which were attended by 1,324 people. Program-specific statistics and some of our favorite pictures from the month are attached at the end of this report.

Outreach

Starting in September, DJ and I started our preschool outreach for the new school year. In September and October, we did storytimes for 6 different preschools and saw 353 people. We also went to two literacy nights for SDOC schools in October. On October 4th, DJ and Blair went to Keowee Elementary, and on October 11th, DJ and Christie went to Ravenel. Currently, I have three more school visits scheduled before the end of the semester, and we are thrilled that the schools are reaching out to us to join in with their family events.

Collaboration

On September 24th, I attended the Hispanic Heritage Festival to offer some brief pop-up storytimes as part of the event. The overall event was a tremendous success, but the storytimes fell a little flat. Next year, we are going to look at some different ways of hosting small storytimes or storytelling sessions that will hopefully be more appealing to the attendees. Near the end of October, a representative from the Cliffs Residents Outreach informed me that they want to donate \$2,200 to our 2023 Summer Reading Program. Those funds will be divided between the Salem Library and activities hosted by the Youth Services Department. On September 15th, I attended the monthly First Steps meeting.

Marketing

In October, Bethany and I were given access to the new website to help Blair get it ready to launch hopefully sometime in the next few months. I have started moving all of my content from the Youth Services LibGuide to the new website, and I hope to work on that heavily in the coming months.

Continuing Education

On October 7th, I gave a presentation, entitled *How Do I Make Videos? Practical Tips from a Self-Taught Creator*, at the South Carolina Library Association Conference. That presentation was a basic run-down of what I learned from presenting virtual programs during and after the pandemic. This was my first time presenting at a professional conference, but I think that it went very well. The Youth Services Consultant of the State Library approached me about doing the presentation again virtually for youth services staff around the state, but I don't have a firm date on that yet.

DJ organized a couple of presentations for the staff in-service day on October 10th. She invited Melissa Stover, a local service dog trainer, to talk about the rules and best practices for accommodating service dogs in the library. DJ also did a brief storytime presentation for all of the library staff. We wanted all of our staff to have a better understanding of what our storytimes typically look like so that if patrons have questions, front-line staff are better equipped to answer them.

Program Attendance

	Sept.	Oct.
Storytimes	295	322
LEGO Club	59	47
Explorers Club	38	26
Midweek Makers	14	5
Shake, Rattle, & Roll	n/a	29
Sensory Playtime	38	28

Program Pictures



1: Pigeon Palooza Costumes



2: Sensory Playtime, water table



3: Shake, Rattle, & Roll; bubble machine fun!



5: Storytime, painting with dot markers



4: Explorers Club: Super Messy Funtime