

OCPL Director's Report

July 2023

1. Programs and Services: Programs were well attended in May and June. Children's programming continues to be our biggest draw. (Actual attendance numbers may be found in the Youth Services report, and they are impressive.) Summer Reading kicked off with a bash at High Falls County Park. Kerry Leeper Brock, the Community Resource Associate, has been coordinating a program or series of programs each month based on the theme for that month (e.g., women's health, heart health, etc.). In May and June, the library will hold blood drives at each of the branches in conjunction with the Blood Connection of Seneca. The library also assisted with the Mexican Consulate office out of Raleigh, NC, in getting people signed up for appointments to apply for vital documents at a weeklong event at Foothills Church.

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

3. Finance and Budget: OCPL budget figures for FY23 to date are attached.

4. Personnel and Training: All of our regular county positions are filled. We continue to experience some turnover with our Staffmark positions, in part because some staff members found full time employment, but also because of the low hourly wage. We will be working with County Administration to see whether there is an opportunity to raise the starting wage in this or the next fiscal year. We are also continuing to make sure that we can retain Kerry Leeper Brock once the CRPH grant has expired in May of 2024. We do anticipate some issues if we lose full time staff because of the current hiring freeze on the part of County Council.

5. Building and Grounds: With some drastic changes to the county budget situation, the ADA-compliant ramp at the Seneca Branch is probably no longer on track for completion. In early May the Facilities Maintenance staff completed a couple of additional cosmetic and space-related changes to the Walhalla Main Library; one in the children's area to accommodate our new AWE children's computers, and one to increase storage in the meeting room. They also created a "teen space" (or as much as space would allow).

6. Technology: The library began using Beanstack, a tracking program for Summer Reading provided by the SC State Library. This replaces the less popular ReadSquared program. It has been popular and has really enabled the YS staff to track much more in terms of demographics, completions, and more. The library launched a new phone/device app for patrons to look at the items they have checked out, place holds on items, directly access some of our technology, and more. A total of 321 users have signed up for the app so far since the launch in May.

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 May and June.

May

Basement Sales	\$1,173
Books on the Alley	1,138
Lobby	208
2nd Party	40
Online	0
Cafe Sales	8
Seneca	24

Total **\$2,591**

June

Basement Sales	\$2,488
Books on the Alley	1,270
Lobby	450
2nd Party	0
Online	0
Cafe Sales	96
Seneca	24

Total **\$4,328.88**

8. Oconee County: County Council has removed any increases we were to receive in the FY24 budget, instead reverting to our FY23 budget numbers. They have instituted a hiring freeze until such time as they complete a compensation and classification study. There is currently no timeline on that that (least not one that has been communicated to department heads).

9. State Library: The State Library's budget request was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. The library will again receive \$2.25 per capita in State Aid.

10. Community Involvement: Director and Comm. Resource Associate continue to be involved with the Healthy Oconee Coalition. The Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) workgroup received approval on grant to help educate county residents on how to prevent and manage diabetes, so the library will have

an ongoing role with that. Quientell Walker, Local History Associate, is also working with the Oconee History Museum on a project to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the OCPL with an electronic exhibit, a bookmark contest, and more. The library also donated 25 bags of books to the Blue Ridge Community Center in Seneca for their Summer Camp. The library also gave a free book to attendees at the YMCA summer camps at South Cove County Park and Oconee Academy.

11. Other: The survey results from the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan Public Survey are attached for your review. The Strategic Plan update is also attached.

OCPL Bimonthly Report
Library Usage Statistics
Director: Blair Hinson

	May 2022	May 2023	Change	Jun 2022	Jun 2023	Change
Visits to Library	10,405	11,788	13.3%	15,541	15,715	1.1%
Material Circulation - Adult	12,649	13,241	4.7%	14,118	13,658	-3.3%
Material Circulation - Youth	959	1,022	6.6%	1,398	1,176	-15.9%
Material Circulation - Juvenile	8,287	8,635	4.2%	12,902	10,380	-19.5%
Total Material Circulation	21,895	22,898	4.6%	28,418	25,214	-11.3%
Internet Users	788	816	3.6%	873	930	6.5%
Internet Hours of Use	393	373	-5.1%	402	419	4.2%
New Cards Issued	197	194	-1.5%	404	327	-19.1%
Programs - Adult	4	7	75.0%	6	12	100.0%
Programs Attendance - Adult	28	65	132.1%	77	121	57.1%
Programs - Youth 12-18	0	0		2	7	250.0%
Programs Att - Youth 12-18	0	0		24	123	412.5%
Programs - Juvenile 6-11	8	7	-12.5%	12	15	25.0%
Programs Att - Juv 6-11	2,395	2,513	4.9%	968	734	-24.2%
Programs - Children 0-5	2	2	0.0%	11	23	109.1%
Programs - Att - Children 0-5	61	7	-88.5%	484	532	9.9%
Outreach Activities	16	18	12.5%	12	18	50.0%
Outreach Act. Attendance	2,640	2,620	-0.8%	942	722	-23.4%
Public Training Sessions	0	4		0	4	
Public Training Participants	0	4		0	4	
Public Training Hours	0	1		0	1	
Staff Training Sessions	0	6		0	3	
Staff Training Participants	0	18		0	2	
Staff Training Hours	0	6		0	3	
Number of New Volunteers	1	1		11	15	36.4%
Number of Vol Hours	46	18	-60.9%	62	75	22.0%
Meeting Room Use	12	42	250.0%	13	104	700.0%
Meeting Room Attendance	107	228	113.1%	77	1,585	1958.4%
Number of Web Site Hits	12,586	14,505	15.2%	14,617	16,627	13.8%
Wi-Fi Users	289	245	-15.2%	345	301	-12.8%
Wi-Fi Sessions	2,456	2,213	-9.9%	2,652	2,331	-12.1%
E Book Downloads	3,107	3,814	22.8%	2,968	3,598	21.2%
Flipster	171	174	1.8%	148	143	-3.4%
Kanopy	1,951	1,738	-10.9%	1,245	1,563	25.5%
Ancestry.com Hits	188	305	62.2%	363	224	-38.3%
Interlibrary Loans	33	44	33.3%	51	65	27.5%
New Material Added	972	1,016	4.5%	0	882	

OCPL Budget 2022-2023 6-30-23

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	133,645	86%	21,320
010-206-30041-00000	Telecommunications	1,000	836	84%	164
010-206-30056-00000	Data Processing	28,300	28,300	100%	0
010-206-30059-00000	Copier Click Charges - Xerox	8,500	8,978	106%	-478
010-206-30080-00000	Dues	750	750	100%	0
010-206-30084-00000	School, Training, Sem.	3,000	2,959	99%	41
010-206-30090-00000	Honorarium	900	900	100%	0
010-206-33022-00207	Bldg Maint - Walhalla	7,500	7,324	98%	176
010-206-33022-00208	Bldg Maint - Seneca	3,500	2,981	85%	519
010-206-33022-00209	Bldg Maint - Westminster	2,800	2,797	100%	3
010-206-33022-00210	Bldg. Maint - Salem	2,105	2,102	100%	3
010-206-34043-00207	Electricity - Walhalla	22,615	14,231	63%	8,384
010-206-34043-00208	Electricity - Seneca	16,000	10,681	67%	5,319
010-206-34043-00209	Electricity - Westminster	15,500	7,996	52%	7,504
010-206-34043-00210	Electricity - Salem	5,000	5,000	100%	0
010-206-34044-00207	Water - Walhalla	1,700	1,402	82%	298
010-206-34044-00208	Water - Seneca	1,200	1,727	144%	-527
010-206-34044-00209	Water - Westminster	1,200	916	76%	284
010-206-40031-00000	Sm Capital Equip (Loc)	2,200	2,200	100%	0
010-206-40032-00000	Operational	7,303	6,925	95%	378
010-206-40032-00000-A	Youth Services	2,000	1,993	100%	7
010-206-40033-00000	Postage	49	48	99%	1
010-206-40034-00000	Food	165	165	100%	0
010-206-40045-00000	IT Equipment				0
010-206-40101-00000	Books (Local)	85,000	84,733	100%	267
010-206-40102-00000	Periodicals (Local)	22,200	22,200	100%	0
010-206-40103-00000	AV (Local)	11,300	11,300	100%	0
010-206-80206-00000	Automobile Maint - Library	1,500	1,596	106%	-96
010-206-81206-00000	Gasoline - Library	3,000	2,227	74%	773
010-206-82206-00000	Diesel - Library	2,000	2,459	123%	-459
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS		415,751	371,845	89%	43,907
013-206-60010-00000	Gift's	53,037			53,037
013-080-00805-11001	Nettles Trust	67,760		0%	67,760
TOTAL MISC. FUNDS					120,796
State Aid Budget					
240-206-30056-00255	Data Processing (State)	\$15,773.82	15,773.82	100%	0.00
240-206-30080-00255	Dues (State)	\$791.00	791.00	100%	0.00
240-206-30084-00255	Schools, Training (State)	\$1,027.00	1,027.50	100%	-0.50
240-206-40031-00255	Sm Capital (State)	4,500.21	4,560.55	101%	-60.34
240-206-40032-00255	Operational (State)	\$15,000.00	14,858.05	99%	141.95
240-206-40045-00255	IT Equipment	\$9,150.00	9,145.92	100%	4.08
240-206-40111-00255	Books (State)	\$82,574.00	82,574.00	100%	0.00
240-206-40112-00255	Periodicals (State)	\$31,664.00	31,663.04	100%	0.96
240-206-40113-00255	AV (State)	\$16,600.00	16,600.00	100%	0.00
Total State Aid Funds		\$177,080.03	176,993.88	100%	86.15

Bookmobile and Outreach Narrative, May/June 2023

Christie Johnson, Bookmobile Manager

Operations

In May, twenty-two regularly scheduled stops were completed. One stop was cancelled due to the state holiday on May 10. Five volunteers worked with me, along with one Walhalla staff member. I completed my 4th quarter inventory in May, which completes the yearly cycle.

In June, 22 regular stops were completed. I had 5 volunteers and 1 Walhalla staff member to assist. Two outreach stops were cancelled at the request of the coordinators at the sites, one due to an overscheduling error on their part, and one due to the facility being short staffed and unable to bring children out.

Outreach

May 9 was my last visit to the preschool at Open Door Baptist Church for the school year. We always miss this visit over the summer. We are looking forward to seeing them again in August, as well as picking up a new preschool then as well. May 10 was a state holiday and the library was closed, so I was unable to make a visit to Homestead Academy day care on that date. All other outreach stops went well in May.

The Bookmobile participated in the Summer Reading Kickoff at High Falls County Park on June 2. We had approximately 98 people come on board, which is an estimate since it was so crowded at times, it was impossible to count accurately. Some other special events this summer were the Read to Succeed camp, which I attended alongside Darcy, and two YMCA camps, which Darcy and Blair participated in. We continued our regular outreach to assisted living homes and the OCDC.

Maintenance

The Bookmobile went to Vehicle Maintenance on May 11 for regularly scheduled service. We had a minor oil leak, which was repaired on June 22. I appreciate the people there taking such good care of our bookmobile.

Training

On May 12, I traveled to Orangeburg County Library for the SC State Library's Bookmobile Exchange. This day of sessions included talks on outreach to patron with dementia and Alzheimer's, early literacy and outreach to children, reaching multilingual

patrons through outreach, and small group discussions on a variety of topics. I was also able to tour several bookmobiles from other counties. It is always a pleasure to meet with other people who focus on reaching out to others.

In June, I listened in on two webinars. One was “Create inclusive workplaces and opportunities for your LGBTQ+ members.” The second was “Low Morale in Libraries: Impacts and Countermeasures.”

Statistics

Category	May 2023	June 2023
Stops	22	22
Hours Open	22	26.25
Total Attendance	155	397
Outreach Stops	12	12
Outreach Visitors	100	180
New Cards	6	5
Volunteers/Hours	5/37.5	5/37.5

Branch Services Narrative

May-June 2023

Sue Andrus

Adult Programming

Adult Summer Reading program is underway. This year the theme for Summer Reading is "Friends & Kindness", which our Youth Services Department interpreted with a "Summer Camp" emphasis.

Prizes are:

- Kavu toiletries/cosmetic bag
- JBL Flip 5 bluetooth speaker
- Yeti soft sided lunch bag cooler
- Uncle Hu 20x50 binoculars
- Byer of Maine canvas camp chair
- Dalix canvas tote bag

Thanks to the excellent work by Bethany Culp, our graphics program (Canva) now has many templates we can use to create social media content and publicity materials.

Learn to Crochet Drop-in on May 23 = 9 attendees

The first drop-in craft program was successful! I hosted a "Learn to Crochet" session in the Walhalla meeting room on May 23. Nine people attended and eight of them left having mastered two basic stitches (single and double crochet) and one basic technique (working in the round). The one attendee who did NOT learn this was already an accomplished knitter and she could not wrap her mind around crocheting but she did enjoy herself. One attendee came back a week later and asked for more easy projects as she and her daughter had finished the take home craft of making a dishcloth.

Using the "drop-in" format was integral to the popularity of this program, as attendees didn't have to structure their day around a set time. I'll use this format for future programs when possible.

Staff

All annual evaluations are complete. I'm very proud of the managers who report to me! They are all responsible, responsive, and dedicated. The EPMS process we instituted has provided a quantitative process for measuring performance.

Facilities

The landscaping at the entrance of the Walhalla Library is doing well. Thanks to the thick layer of mulch provided by the county Facilities Maintenance, it is practically weed-free! These plants were chosen for their low maintenance and sun/drought tolerance, and so far all have survived!

- 5 Carolina jessamine vines
- 6 dwarf butterfly bushes
- 24 salvia
- 12 phlox
- 1 speedwell

Still to come are some bee and bird houses and a sign identifying the Joe Lenderman Memorial Garden. We'll wait till cooler weather in the fall to install these things.

Progress:

Before (October 2022 Google map image):



After (April 23):



July 12:



Butterfly bushes and phlox

Programming, Operations, Staff Development, etc...

- ❖ To dedicate more time planning summer reading events, there were less programs available to the public during the month of May.
- ❖ For the month of May, there were nine attendees for story time.
- ❖ For June, there were sixteen attendees for story time.
- ❖ May's LEGO Club (elementary ages) brought in three attendees.
- ❖ June's LEGO club (tween/teen ages) brought in five attendees.
- ❖ In celebration of Star War's Day (May the 4th Be With You), we held a Grogu-themed craft. There were ten in attendance.
- ❖ Page Turners, Salem's monthly book club, had two attendees for May's discussion.
- ❖ For June's discussion, Page Turners had three attendees.
- ❖ The Salem staff decorated the library and part of the Town Hall lobby for summer reading.
- ❖ Salem had ten summer reading events planned for the month of June.
- ❖ For the month of June, the CRO (Cliffs Residents Outreach) sponsored two events for the Salem Library.
- ❖ Salem's first Summer Reading event on June 5th (Kindness Rocks!) had nineteen attendees. Each registered attendee received a free book that coincided with the theme of this year's program.
- ❖ Coffee and Crafts, our bimonthly event, brought in eight attendees in June. Abigail provided supplies for each participant to create piece of summer-themed décor while enjoying iced coffee.
- ❖ Our Stuffed Animal Sleepaway Camp brought in two attendees.
- ❖ Our BYOS Tie-Dye Time program had 25 attendees. Each child received a free summer-reading themed book (provided by CRO) and Kerry, our Community Resource Associate, brought Frostys from Wendy's for each child to enjoy after the event.
- ❖ Although well-advertised, the summer meals program were not well attended here. It was decided to discontinue the program in Salem at the end of June. Those still interested are encouraged to visit the Walhalla branch during their time slot.
- ❖ Our sneeze guards were finally taken down at the beginning of June. It received a favorable response from our patrons.
- ❖ In May, the Youth Services department provided further training regarding Summer Reading policies and the Beanstack app.
- ❖ Kayla completed the Putting the FREE in FREEdom to Read webinar on June 21st. The South Carolina State Library provided this diversity-themed webinar series.

- ❖ Interlibrary loans were in demand for the month of June. We received twelve requests and were able to locate and fulfill nine of them.

Resource Allocation

- ❖ Part of the programming budget allowed for 12 kid craft kits in May and 24 in July to be purchased. All 36 kits were distributed during their respective months.
- ❖ All supplies/incentives for select June/July Summer Reading events were provided through a grant from the Cliffs Residents Outreach (CRO).

Stats	May	June
Visits	1712	1816
New Cards	9	6
ILLs	2	9

Ann Rogers Memorial Room

May/June 2023

Quientell Walker, Local History Associate

Narrative

Ancestry Library Edition Class:

I taught a class on Ancestry Library Edition on May 17th at the Walhalla Library. Three patrons attended, and they were engaged throughout the class. With this success, I intend to teach this class after Summer Reading as well as expand class offerings. From experience, having a Genealogy Basics Class would be beneficial. This class would cover how to start, where to go, and how find credible resources. Lastly, I do plan to develop an African-American Genealogy Class. At this time, I have drafted an outline with an initial focus on explaining the difficulties of African-American Genealogy by focusing on specific historical events.

Social Media:

I produced my first Social Media Post stating: "Have genealogy or local history questions? Contact Quientell Walker to schedule an appointment!" I am most appreciative to Bethany for providing guidance and much needed assistance with creating this post. Starting in August I will produce more posts pertaining to the material in the Rogers Room as well as interesting newspaper clippings that tie in to a monthly theme.

Digitization Project:

I have resumed scanning the OCPL Archive Collection and with much appreciated assistance from the Oconee History Museum, we have digitized over 1,500 documents and photos. I have resumed reaching out to our representative with the South Carolina Digital Library. They provided me with information on how to produce metadata, and I have worked with this outline to create it for each completed scan. At this time, I have created 420 metadata entries and still have quite a bit more to go.

OCPL 75th Anniversary Digital Exhibit:

In June, I had a meeting with the Oconee History Museum to discuss progress with the digital exhibit. The museum have started acquiring iPad kiosks as well as working on the best way to restrict access on the iPads. In addition, they have a created a detailed exhibit outline that covers the earliest libraries in Oconee to the present day. Lastly, with my resumed scanning I have been able to produce more content for the exhibit.

Lake Hartwell Country's Pendleton District Archive:

I visited Lake Hartwell Country's Pendleton District Archive and Josh Johnson the Museum Site Coordinator for the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum provided an informative tour. In short, this open archive is a rich resource of material pertaining to the Pendleton District as well as Pickens and Oconee Counties. I look forward toward developing a secure partnership so that I am able to inform researchers of this amazing resource.

Outside the Library:

The SC 250 Committee Meeting held a drop-in and meeting at Clemson University on May 18-19th. The drop-in included a guided tour of historical sites at Clemson University, and I was able to tour Hopewell as well as view the location of Fort Rutledge. The meeting on the next day was a standard Executive Committee Meeting.

The Pickens County Museum and the Pickens County Library System contacted me for assistance with two items, and I was able to provide assistance.

Rogers Room Statistics:

I am unable to provide pertinent statistics for the ScanPro machines. This due to the switching the machines, thus producing irrelevant data.

Statistics Recorded	May 2023	Jun. 2023
Walk-In	3	15
Phone Call	5	4
Mail	0	1
Email/Online	6	5
Books	2	38
Microfilm	13	13
Map	0	0
SC Room Classes	3	0
ScanPro 3000 Scan Count	x	x
ScanPro 3000 Printer Count	x	x
ScanPro 3500 Scan Count	x	x
ScanPro 3500 Printer Count	x	x
Questions Completed	17	28
Outstanding Questions	2	2
Volunteer Hours	7.5	9.5

Facilities:

We have decided to take charge of a small landscaping matter. We will be tilling up the area next to the loading dock so that the weeds will subside. The root balls of old holly bushes are there, but hopefully we will not need them to be removed for this part.

To mitigate our dandelion issue, I thought it might be a good idea to spread weed and feed all over the yard so that it lasts a few years. I have asked about this and am waiting to hear back (July). The dandelions grow faster than Maintenance can come cut the grass. Should this not be feasible for them, we will appeal to have them cut the grass more often. This is all to reduce the number of complaints received.

Occasionally we have non-library items left in the book return. After a string of days with cigarettes and other items, I have started a list where I will keep track of the days and items. I have asked the Seneca Police to increase their nighttime patrols which they will do through most of June and July. I will report back to them if anything changes.

Someone has been leaving the bathroom in a bad state and we think we have narrowed down who it is (June). When we see this person again we will contact the police and have them trespassed per the library's procedures (July).

Same as previous report: The front of the building has been surveyed for a new ramp (at the end of 2022), and paid for, but no other work has been done yet. We do not have an update on this.

Operations:

The May painting class was full and everyone enjoyed it. We will try to do this quarterly.

Summer reading has gone well. We had great turnout for June Bingo and most of the youth programs have been well attended.

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 multiple HOA boards, Oconee Writers Association, America's Boating Club, Baby Read, and others. The study rooms remain popular.

Staffing: One of our part time hires had to leave soon after starting due to health concerns, and we have hired one person to replace a different position. We now have one Staffmark position to fill which we hope to do by the end of July. We have one volunteer a few hours a week to help shelve.

Statistics	May 2023	June 2023
Visits to library	4270	5935
New Cards Issued	92	142
ILL	18	25

Walhalla Library

May - June 2023

Tucker Brown, Circulation Manager

Staff Development/New Hires:

In May, Walhalla hired two new part-time circulation assistants to fill the open positions that we had through most of April. This brought us to full staffing for a short period of time before another one of our circulation assistants found a fulltime job elsewhere. We wish her well in her new job. We do end up short one person for the beginning Summer Reading.

In the lead up to Summer Reading, Youth Services took the time to sit down and go over the ins-and-outs of the new Beanstack app that the OCPL is using this year to track minutes read. As the last time we had gone over the functionality was during our April In-service, the opportunity to have hands-on time with the app and ask any questions was a welcome refresher. This has helped to smooth over any issues the front staff may have had with the influx of sign-ups and completed logs that started flooding in at the beginning of June.

Despite the reduced amount of personnel working in circulation due to one of our staff leaving, the remaining team have been doing a wonderful job so far with the heavy increase in patrons and material circulating during the summer months and have stayed on top of the workload. We have already been receiving some resumes and hope to find a good candidate soon so we can return to being fully staffed.

Meeting Room:

May – Tri-County Home Educators, BabyRead, Friends of the Library

June – DAODAS, Immigrant Connection, BabyRead, Tamassee DAR Starlight, DHEC Community Health, Tri-County Home Educators

Study Room:

May – 38 uses

June – 70 uses

Facilities:

At the beginning of May, Walhalla's meeting room underwent renovations to update the décor and functionality of the space. Working in concert with facilities, Blair and Youth Services discussed options to create an additional closet for storing the chairs and tables when not in use before landing on the new configuration with a wall added on the south side of the room. With this construction came the ability to paint the walls and trim to update the look. The end result is a more modern looking room with less clutter along the walls and the ability to store everything away, including the smartboard, when not needed. Facilities also has completed the work on the wall insets on the north wall at the front of the building, allowing the installation of two AWE learning computers in the children's area. These have so far been popular this summer and their position allows for fairly easy monitoring from the circulation desk.

Statistics:

Category	May 2022	June 2022
Visitors	3837	5001
New Cards Issued	54	126
ILL	22	29
Hours Open	201	214

Westminster Report for May and June 2023

Community, Staff, and Programming

- Darcy and DJ visited the library to train the staff on the upcoming summer reading program, including the new Beanstack app and website.
- In honor of Star Wars May the 4th be with you!, the library held a prize drawing for Star Wars themed prizes. We had over 30 entries from both adults and kids and gave out 7 prizes (coloring books, kitchen tools).
- May's craft consisted of a Take & Make Color Your Bookmark Craft with over 36 given out.
- There were 2 attendees for the May movie showing of *Ant-man & the Wasp: Quantumania*.
- Staff did a great job of decorating the library in a camp theme for summer reading.
- On May 16, Leah spoke to the Westminster Rotary about the library's services and programs.
- There were 30 people of all ages attended Bingo on June 9 and had a great time winning books and DVDs.
- There were 14 (out of 20 registrants) teens and adults who attended our sand art terrariums program.
- Our Community Resource Associate, Kerry, did an excellent job of coordinating another blood drive with the Blood Connection. We had 10 donate, including 2 staff members. While this was not the high results of our first blood drive in January, it is still 10 more units of blood that will be available to those in the community who may need it.
- Summer reading crafts continued when we had 24 kids come to create camp-themed sand art pictures.
- On June 16, we hosted our second after hours Nerf Night (the first happened right before we shut down for COVID). We had over 600 Nerf darts and 22 tweens and teens battle it out for about an hour. We had a lot of positive feedback. We will have do this again for younger kids in July. We hope we can make this program occur more often.
- The free summer meals have been going well. Like usual, there are high attendance days and low attendance days, but there are several who are taking advantage of it.
- We have had an increase in tutors this summer so you will often find all the study tables full at the same time. We typically offer up the meeting room to help with distractions, but the meeting room as been extremely busy (which is great!), so it does not leave much wiggle room for using it for tutoring.

Building Management

- We have had an increase in palmetto bugs in the library. This could be due to the hotter weather or the rain. We let the exterminator know and most are dead when we find them.
- Seeds from the BBW Seed Library were used to plant sulfur cosmos and sunflowers in the entry planters. We also have two stalks of corn growing there because a patron donated them to us. She had saved seeds from corn plants she grew last summer using seeds she had gotten a BBW pop-up at Walhalla.

Resource Allocation

- The Betty B. Watkins Seed Library continues to be a success. We have been blessed with lots of donations that have allowed us to have over 2,400 packs of seeds available just from that. So far 1,376 seed packs have been taken from the library and over 1,800 packs have been sent to the Oconee History Museum for distribution.

Use Statistics

BBW Seed Library	Packs Given out Library Locations Only	All Locations Library +OHM +Outreach
Inaugural Year 2021	755	2,000
Second Year 2022	2,644	4,212
January 2023	18	NA
February 2023	NA	NA
March 2023	762	
April 2023	465	
May 2023	169	
June 2023	173	

Branch Statistics	May	June
Door Count	1814	2566
Meeting Room Use	14/47	38/419
New Users	33	48
Program Attendance	2	165

Pictures from June Events



Top: Kids make sand art pictures



Bottom Left: Sand art terrariums made by adults and teens

Bottom Right: Tweens and teens takeover the library for Nerf night



Youth Services Department
May — June 2023
Darcy Arnall, Youth Services Librarian

Outreach

In May, Youth Services paused programming at all of our branches so that we could focus on Summer Reading preparations. One of our biggest priorities in May is school visits. We did our first outreach visit in April, but the other five schools were scheduled in May. Within about two weeks, we visited Walhalla Elementary, Orchard Park Elementary, Keowee Elementary, Northside Elementary, and Westminster Elementary, and promoted Summer Reading to all of their students. At some of those schools, we did large assemblies, and at others, we used their related arts time to visit with each grade level. Just like last year, these visits were extremely popular with the students and teachers, and DJ and I have both been recognized repeatedly by kids visiting the library this summer. Last year, we went to five schools, and this year we visited those locations again and added one new site. In total, we estimate that we saw over 3,000 people at those visits.

Staff Development

In May, DJ and I visited all of the library branches to do five additional sessions of Beanstack training for our staff. Because we were introducing a lot of new information with this platform, I did not think it was practical to only offer training at our Spring In-Service in April. With the long gap between In-Service and the beginning of Summer Reading, the training would have been mostly forgotten. So in April, we chose to focus on the patron experience in Beanstack, and in May, we spent all of our time on front-line staff's responsibilities for this summer. I appreciate how enthusiastic our staff have been about this new platform. We all had to learn a lot of new information in a short period of time, but there have been very few hiccups in the implementation of this year's Summer Reading Program, and I think that we are seeing the dividends of our hard work in this year's participation numbers (see below).

Spaces

With our programming break in May, we had time to complete some building improvement projects at Walhalla. Facilities Maintenance started working on the meeting room at the beginning of May, and they finished building the new wall, installing doors, and painting by the middle of the month. The meeting room looks incredible, and we have gotten a lot of positive comments from patrons about how bright and clean it looks in there now. At the same time, maintenance finished installing the trim in the painted alcoves in the children's area. Once they were done with that, we bought the new shelves for the Literacy and Storytime Kits and installed the AWE computers at the desk space. The only thing left to finish with that project is the teen counter behind the study rooms, which mostly involves buying furniture and putting up a few decorative pieces. In the first week of May, we also received a new printer for the Youth Services office! We printed hundreds of calendars, flyers, registration forms, etc. for Summer Reading, and the new printer saved us so many trips going up and down the stairs to the printers in the back office.

Summer Reading 2023

Summer Reading sign-ups opened on May 22nd, and the program officially kicked off on June 1st. We spent hours in May preparing marketing information for our summer events and promoting those activities through as many outlets as possible. Across the board, participation in Summer Reading

2023 has been excellent. The launch of Beanstack has gone very smoothly, and it seems to be gaining popularity with our patrons. Our registration number is slightly down this year, but based on where we are now, I think that the percentage of registrants who complete the challenge is going to increase. These are the overall statistics as of June 30th:



To put these numbers in perspective, last year at the end of June, we had only 190 completions and 195,500 minutes of reading. At the beginning of the summer, we set a community goal of 800,000 minutes of reading this summer, and I'm hopeful that we will achieve that goal or at least come very close. I'm disappointed that our registration total has dropped slightly (we were at 1,214 registrations this time last year), but I think that a slight drop is not surprising since we introduced a new platform this year.

In May, we added one additional completion reward to our Summer Reading Program. Nicholas Harper from Peace of Pie on Hartwell contacted me to discuss partnering with us on Summer Reading. He wanted to help us incentivize our program with some free pizza from his restaurant. DJ and I met with Nick to kick around ideas for the summer and future projects, and we settled on giving a coupon for a free small pizza to every child (under 18) who completes the Summer Reading Program. Nick is very enthusiastic about continuing to work with us long-term so we are going to explore options for reading challenges in the school year as well.

Programs

We are officially through with half of our Summer Reading calendar, and everything has gone very well so far. For the first time, we kicked off Summer Reading at High Falls County Park, and it was such a fun morning! We estimate that about 250 people attended our outdoor storytime and then stayed to check out the Bookmobile, eat a free snow cone, play, and swim. We even had a special appearance from Reedy Rip'It to promote our new partnership with the Greenville Drive! On June 6th, we had our first program at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. Porkchop Productions presented their production *Imperfect Strangers: The Ant and the Grasshopper*. We had a crowd of about 80 people. I was hoping for a larger turnout, but it has been about six years since Porkchop visited us, and I think that many of our patrons are not familiar with them anymore. The show was extremely cute, and everyone who attended seemed to enjoy it. I think that if we continue to host Porkchop more regularly, they will gain a following among our patrons again.

One of my goals for programming this summer was to add more activities specifically for teens. Teen programs usually require more intense preparation than most of our preschool and elementary offerings, so I have to spread them out on the schedule. Last year, we did one teen program in June that we hosted at both Walhalla and Seneca. This year, we did an after-hours Harry Potter Escape Room at Walhalla, and we did a friendship bracelet program at Walhalla and Seneca. It wasn't a huge jump in the number of programs, but our teen attendance for June more than doubled last year's number.

Another new program that we tried this year was Stuffed Animal Sleep Away Camp. I have seen pictures of Stuffed Animal Sleepovers circulating in children's librarian groups for years, and I really wanted to try it here. We hosted our program on June 15th, and it was attended by 23 people. The premise of the program is the children come to an evening storytime with a stuffed animal, and after some bedtime stories, they leave their toy at the library for an overnight stay. Then they come to pick up their toys in the morning and receive some pictures of the "shenanigans" that their stuffed animals enjoyed at the library. DJ, Alexis, and I stayed for a couple of hours after the storytime staging photos around the library, and I compiled the pictures into short booklets that the children took home with them. The program was labor-intensive but also really fun, and the children loved it! I've included a few of the pictures that we gave to the children at the end of this report.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, we offered some of our other popular recurring programs like Explorers Club, Sensory Bins, I Read to Animals, LEGO Club, and Shake, Rattle, & Roll. Summer storytimes have had excellent attendance at 406 people between Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca. Between May and June, Youth Services planned and presented a total of 41 programs, which were attended by 3,703 people. Program-specific statistics and some of our favorite pictures from these months are attached at the end of this report.

Collaboration

In the midst of our packed programming schedule, we have made time for a few collaborative projects this summer. For the fifth year in a row, we prepared bags of books for the students enrolled in SDOC's Read to Succeed Camp. This camp is intended for rising fourth graders who tested below grade level in reading. The goal of the camp is to give students individualized instruction to improve their reading skills so that they can promote to 4th grade. We packed 50 bags with ten books each and delivered them to the students on June 19th. Every year, this is one of my favorite collaborative projects because the students are so excited about the books! We also gave 27 book bags to students at the Blue Ridge Community Center's Summer Camp. On June 14th, Bethany and I visited Seneca Middle School to promote the library and facilitate an activity for their summer camp. On June 30th, Darcy and Blair visited the South Cove and Walhalla YMCA camps. Darcy did a storytime for the students, and every child got a free book from the library. We gave away over 100 books between the two camps. In total, we have given away approximately 700 free books so far this summer.

On June 22nd, I attended the last First Steps meeting of the 22/23 Fiscal Year. After the meeting, Daby Snipes and I discussed a StoryWalk that she wants to install somewhere around the county. I gave a few recommendations for books she should feature, and we discussed some potential locations for the project. After summer is over, we will try to help them prepare the books and promotional materials for the StoryWalk

Strategic Plan

As part of our ongoing strategic plan project, Blair decided to distribute a survey to gather some community feedback on our library system. In May, Bethany and I researched surveys from other library systems, and we met with Blair to hammer out the details of our survey. Bethany wrote and designed the final document in Google Forms, and we released it to the public on June 1st. We received a good number of responses on the survey, and after it closed, Bethany and I met to make a plan for summarizing the feedback into a report.

Personnel

I saved this section for last because it is the hardest for me to write. This will be my last bimonthly report for OCPL. I have accepted a position at the Shorter University Livingston Library in Rome, GA, and my last day at OCPL will be July 28th. I have loved serving the children and families of Oconee County, and I will miss them so much. I wish OCPL and the next Youth Services Librarian all the best moving forward.

Program Attendance

	May	June
Storytimes	-	406
LEGO Club	-	58
Explorers Club	-	38
Shake, Rattle, & Roll	-	55
I Read to Animals	-	45

Program Pictures



1: Harry Potter Escape Room



3: Explorers Club: DIY Music Makers, making musical instruments



2: Harry Potter Escape Room



4: Explorers Club: DIY Music Makers, trying out three instruments at the same time!



5: Stuffed Animal Sleep Away Camp, enjoying a quick snack



8: Read to Succeed Camp, posing with the Bookmobile



6: Stuffed Animal Sleep Away Camp, "driving" the Bookmobile



9: Sensory Bins, water beads



7: Read to Succeed Camp, enjoying their new books



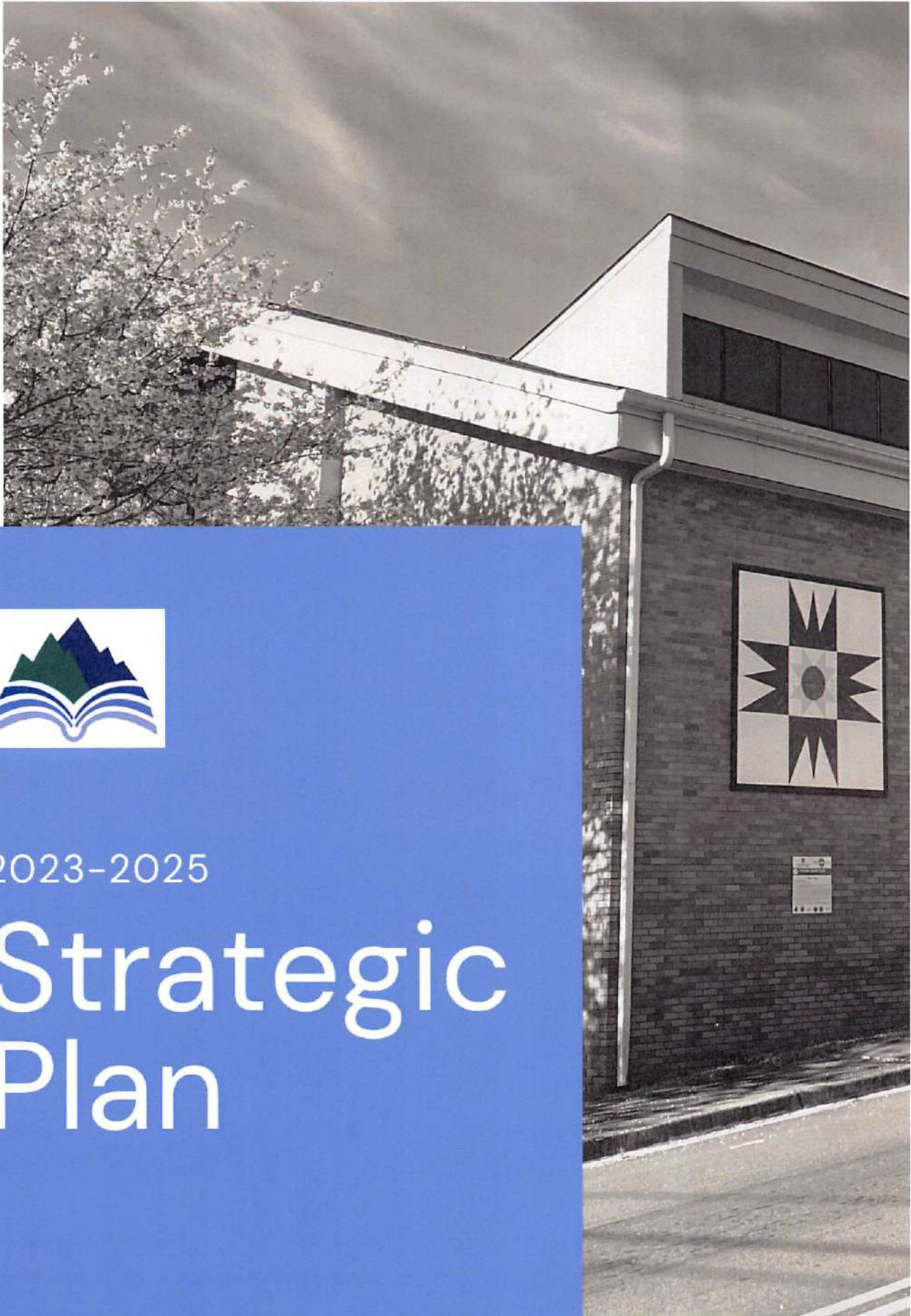
10: Sensory Bins, water table



11: LEGO Club



12: I Read to Animals, Salem Community Room



2023-2025

Strategic Plan

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Libraries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The library last completed a Strategic Plan in 2018, which was scheduled to last until the end of 2020. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic (which started in March 2020 in the library service area) interrupted any progress in the last year of the two-year plan. The Board of Trustees extended the existing plan until early 2022 to allow library staff time to review the old plan and ascertain what had already been accomplished and still needed to be done. Was there any carry-over? Would there be new things to add as the system and the county emerged from the worst of the pandemic?

The new plan should revisit and seek to accomplish anything that was not done, or was only partially done, at the end of 2021. It should also look forward to a period where the system can move past the pandemic period and branch out to try some new services and offer users new things.

The political and financial realities of 2022-23 and the near future indicate that attempting to build new buildings is not feasible. As such, the core of the new Strategic Plan will still focus outwardly on library outreach, especially to underserved communities, maintaining community partnerships as well as looking for new partners, and offering users new experiences. At the same time, the library will still seek opportunities to improve existing facilities as well as improve staff processes, staff training, and communication.



VISION

The library is a hub for the community, with resources people need and want, programs and services that help people satisfy curiosity or try something new, and staff that is trained and prepared to help people reach their goals.

MISSION

The Oconee County Public Library provides resources and experiences to satisfy curiosity, connect people with their community, and encourage lifelong discovery.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Board of Trustees, the staff, and our many volunteers and community partners for their input into this plan. We appreciate all of you, including the many community members who responded to our online survey. We couldn't have done it without you!

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Allison Addison, Monica Alles White, Shelby Henderson, Paul Holcombe, Liz Kuemmerer, Nick McKinney, Nivia Miranda, Clifton Powell, Tara Weekes



**"Bad libraries build collections,
good libraries build services,
great libraries build
communities."**

R. David Lankes

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES



O

OUTREACH

Build on and expand library outreach, especially to underserved communities, maintaining community partnerships as well as looking for new partners.

C

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Deliver timely, relevant communication both internally and externally.

P

PEOPLE

- Recruit qualified and diverse library staff empowered to use their creativity and talents, and work to retain staff through increased job satisfaction.
- Provide library visitors with a friendly, informed, and user-focused experience.

L

LIBRARIES

Create welcoming and accessible library spaces.



OUTREACH

Strategic Focus

Build on and expand library outreach, especially to underserved communities, maintaining community partnerships as well as looking for new partners.

Strategic Outcome

Increase contacts with users, stakeholders, and partners throughout the community.

Strategic Direction

- Strategy 1: Participate in more community and school events as staffing and resources allow.
- Strategy 2: Look for new opportunities to expand Bookmobile usage.
- Strategy 3: Explore new service options like Homebound, community pantries, more programming for homeschooling families, and even pickup lockers in remote locations.
- Strategy 4: Expand hours for social work and Spanish language translator.



COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Strategic Focus

Deliver timely, relevant communication both internally and externally.

Strategic Outcome

Increase staff cooperation across the system and increase awareness in the larger community.

Strategic Direction

- Strategy 1: Inform and educate cardholders through print and digital media/communications.
- Strategy 2: Enhance and foster employee information sharing.
- Strategy 3: Increase engagement with the library's website and develop new applications and methods to better connect with the public.
- Strategy 4: Reinvigorate library events to reflect community interest.



PEOPLE

INTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Focus

Recruit qualified and diverse library staff empowered to use their creativity and talents, and work to retain staff through increased job satisfaction.

Strategic Outcome

Develop a baseline-training plan for all library employees.

Strategic Direction

- Strategy 1: Expand and enhance EPMS and goal-setting for each employee.
- Strategy 2: Look for opportunities to expand roles for part time staff, possibly using cross training to improve system cohesiveness.
- Strategy 3: Look for opportunities to adjust staffing, particularly at the main location in Walhalla, to better serve customers and streamline staff roles.
- Strategy 4: Incorporate regular training for soft skills like approachability and cultural sensitivity.



PEOPLE

EXTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Focus

Provide library visitors with a friendly, informed, and user-focused experience.

Strategic Outcome

Develop a more robust volunteer recruitment and retention program.

Strategic Direction

- Strategy 1: Revamp and refresh the volunteer recruitment and training program.
- Strategy 2: Create opportunities to use volunteers to host book clubs and other adult programming.
- Strategy 3: Find and develop solutions to mitigate access barriers.
- Strategy 4: Recruit a diverse group of volunteers who can bring their unique knowledge and talents.



LIBRARIES

Strategic Focus

Create welcoming and accessible library spaces.

Strategic Outcome

Conduct quarterly evaluations of both indoor and outdoor library spaces.

Strategic Direction

- Strategy 1: Create new, more versatile spaces in existing buildings.
- Strategy 2: Optimize use, visibility, and aesthetics of outdoor spaces.
- Strategy 3: Consider functionality, capacity, and accessibility of library furnishings.
- Strategy 4: Expand or enhance services, with air printing, USB access, and other technologies.

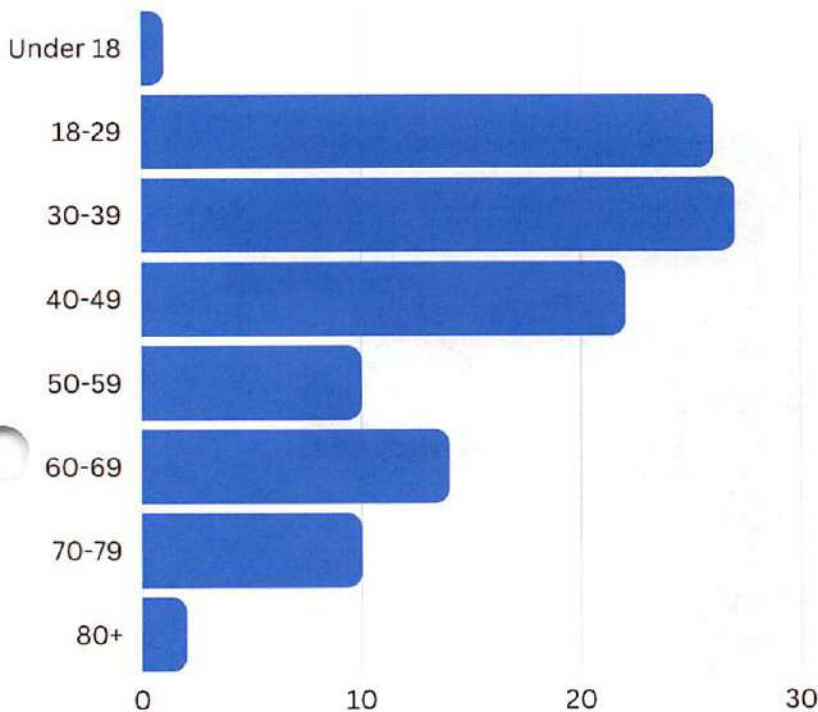
2023

Strategic Plan Survey Report



Survey Response Demographics

How old are you?



When was the last time you visited an OCPL location?

54%

Survey responders who visited the library in the last week

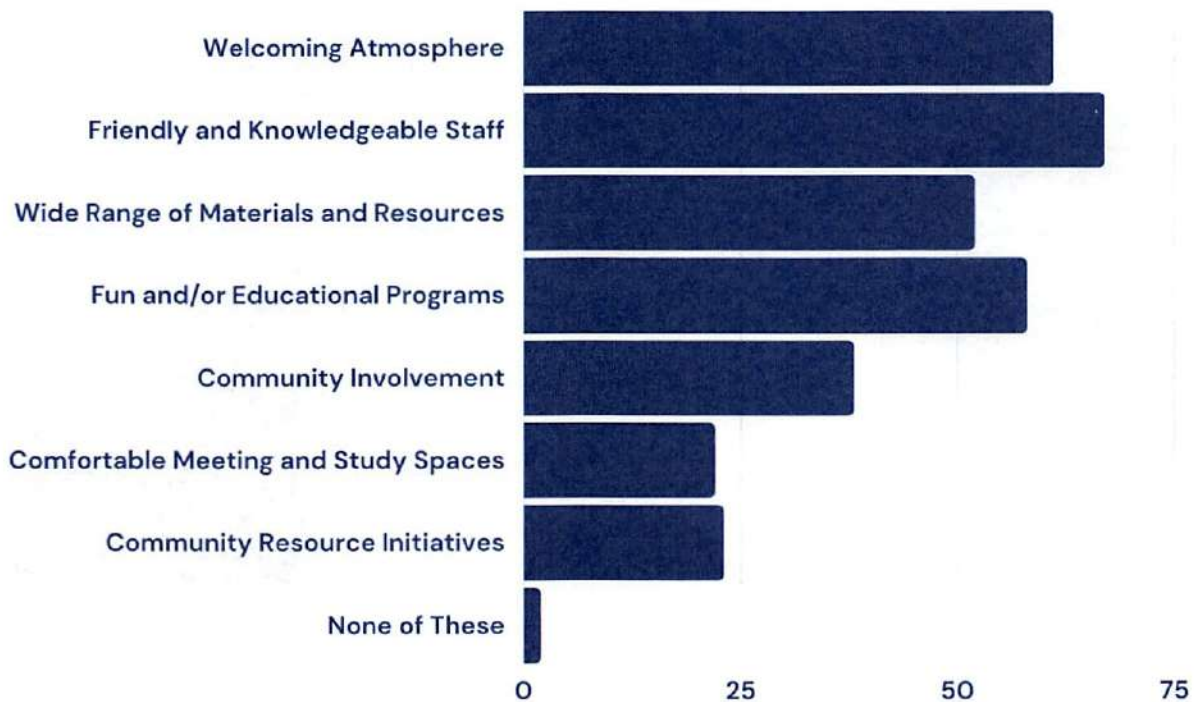
Which OCPL branch do you use most often?



Multiple Choice Question Responses

1

What, if anything, sets OCPL apart from other libraries?

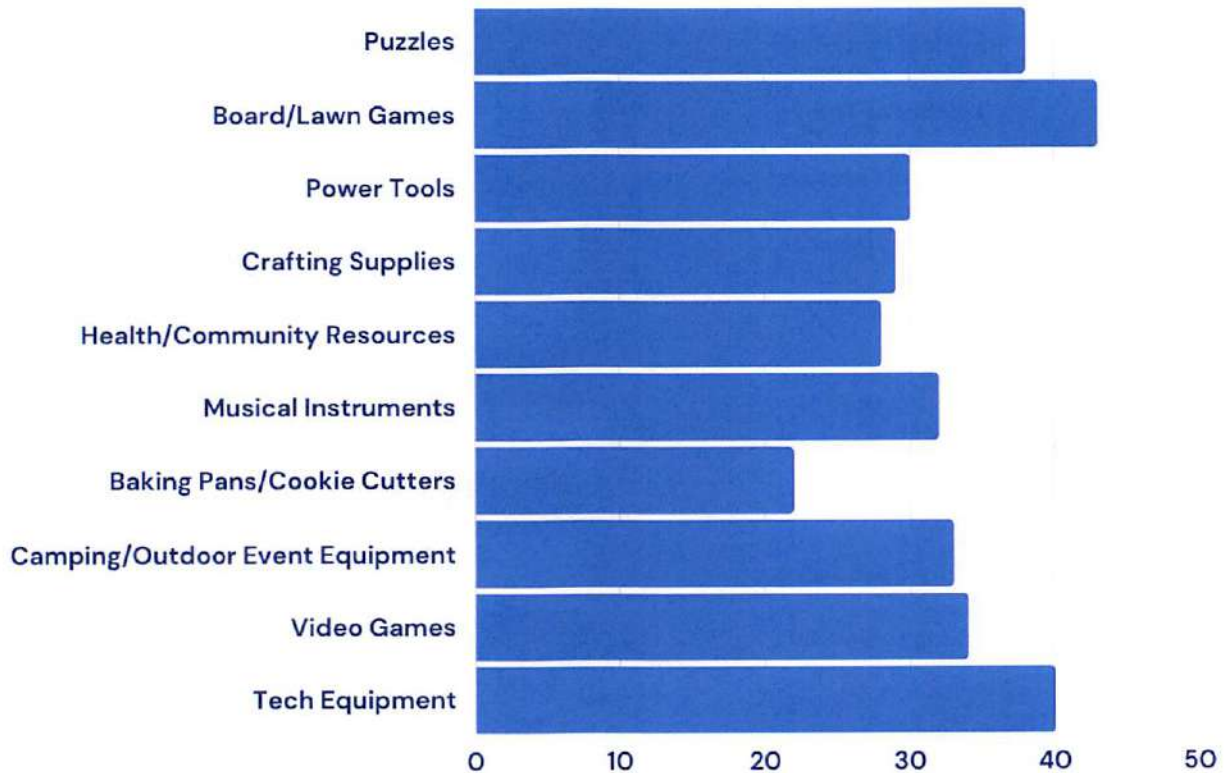


Write-In Responses:

1. Book sales and ancestry data
2. Lack of connectivity with other systems. Please join SCLends & Libby.
3. Friends of the Library book sales
4. Bookmobile
5. Family/children's programs

2

If the library were to add more non-book items to check out to the public, which would you use personally?

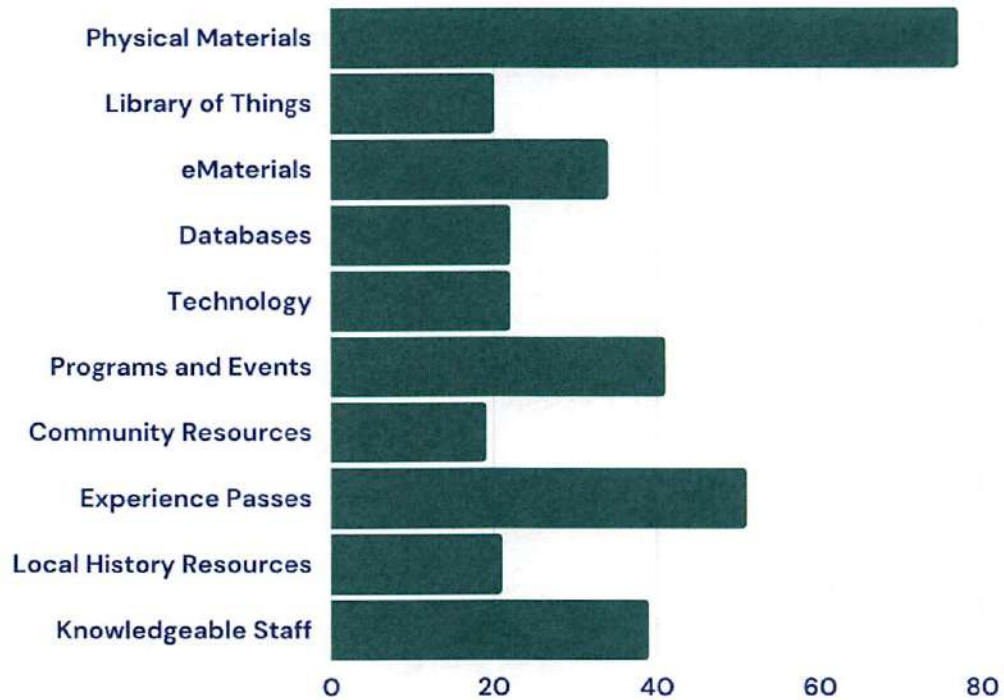


Write-In Responses:

1. Microscopes
2. Book Club Kits
3. Sewing Machine
4. Metal Detector, 3D Printer, Radon Detector
5. Larger eBook Collection
6. Lockers
7. Laptops

3

What are your favorite OCPL resources?

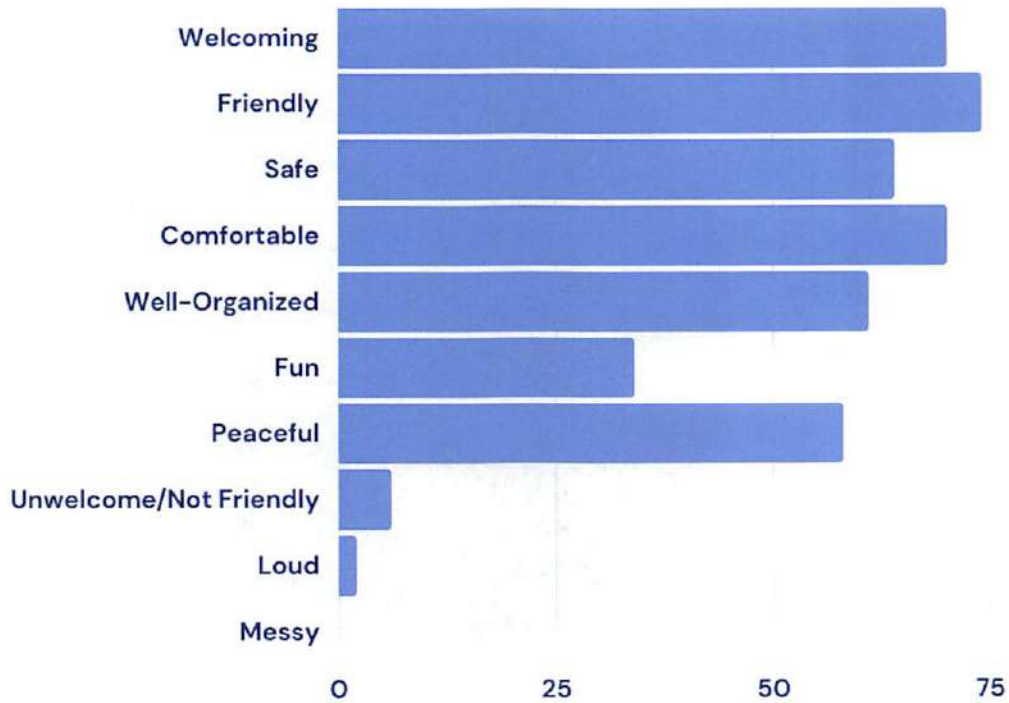


Write-In Responses:

1. Online Book Ordering
2. Tutoring for Children

4

When you visit the library, how would you describe the experience?

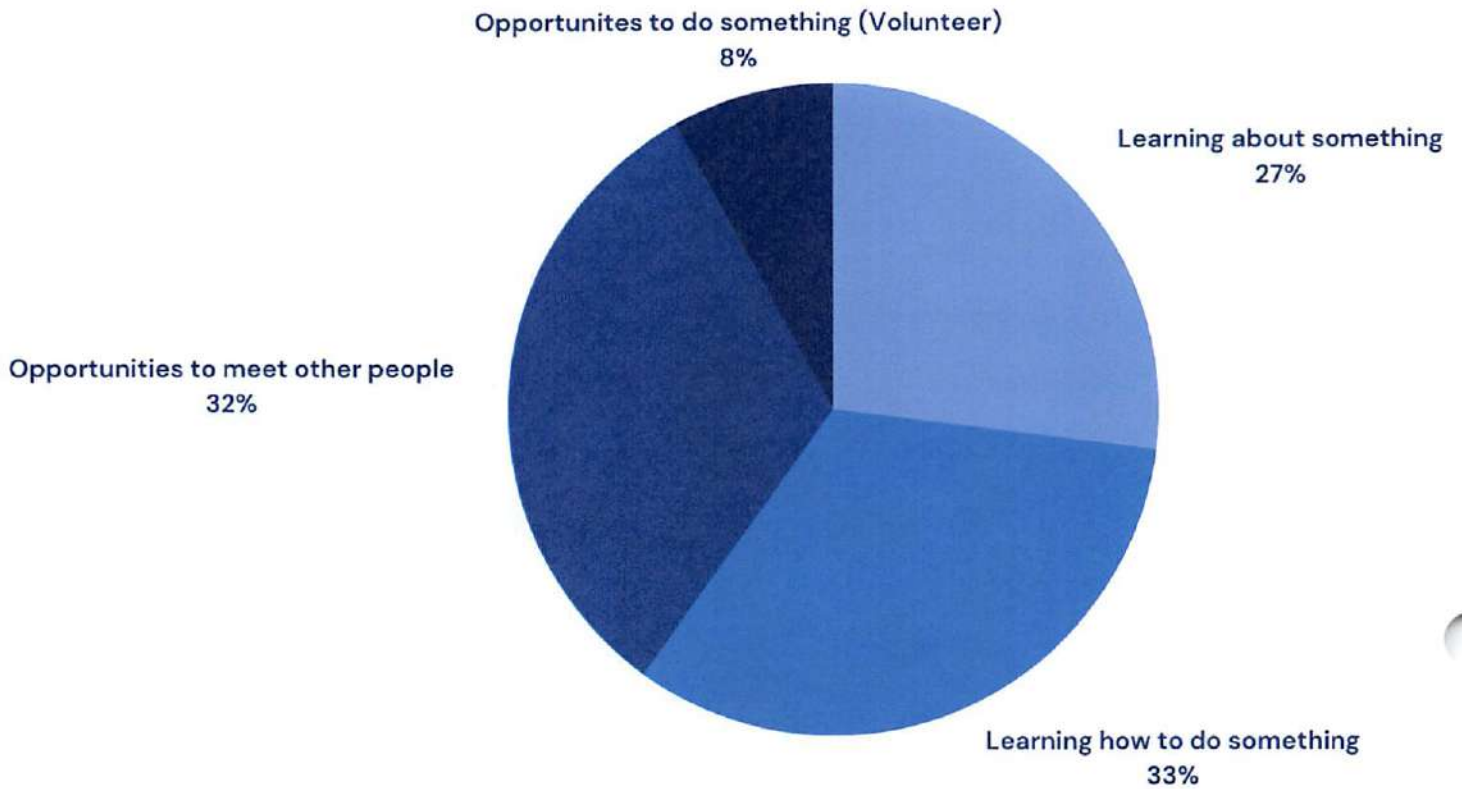


Write-In Responses:

1. Old, outdated and sterile
2. Seneca Branch seems dated and underfunded.
3. Sometimes friendly and welcoming, sometimes not.

5

What types of programs interest you the most?



Write-In Responses:

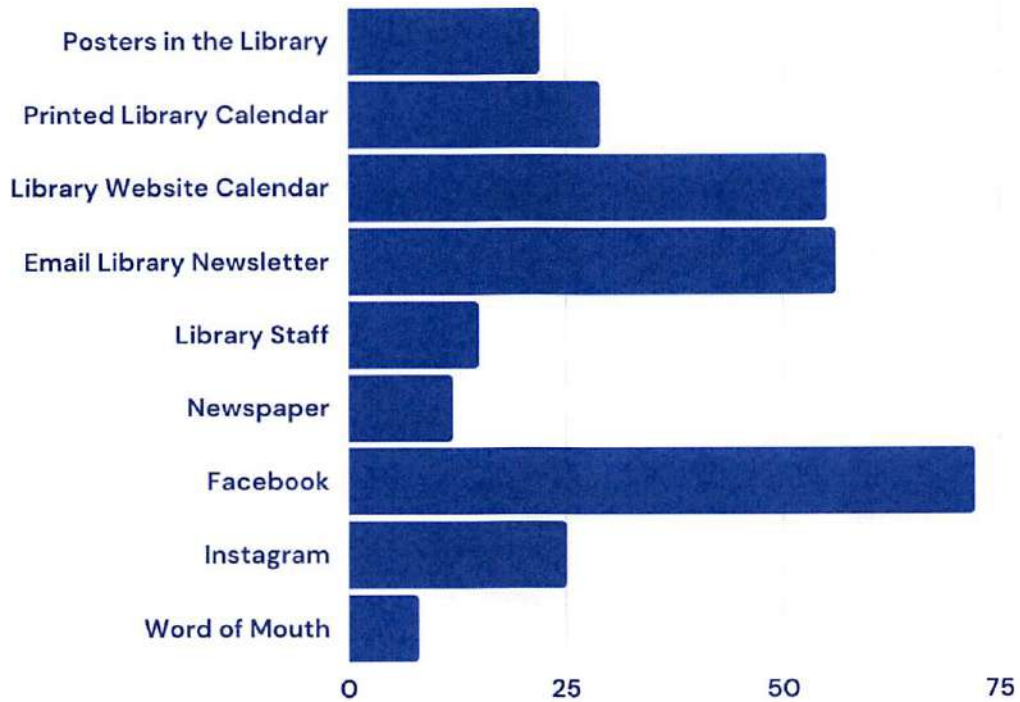
1. Having the Library open to use as a meeting space and staying open later for teen programs.
2. Really I'd just like a larger catalog of eBooks.

Director's Comment:

The library already hosts teen programming later than normal hours depending on availability of staff hours.

6

What is the best way to reach you about events or services at the library?



Write-In Responses:

1. Local Radio
2. Eventbrite
3. Instagram, being at public events

Open-Ended Question Responses

Summary

We included two open-ended questions in our survey to gather information. These two questions are:

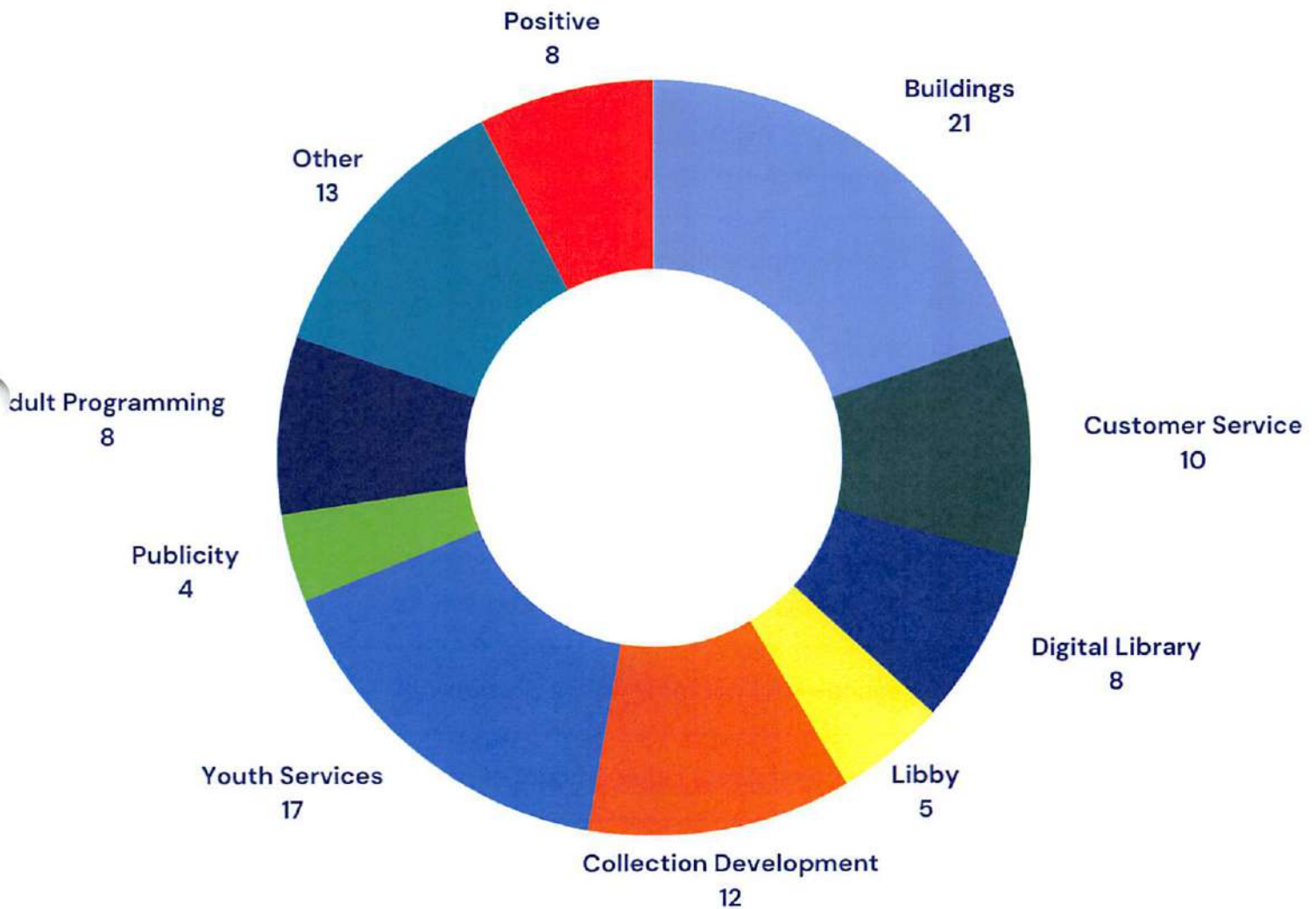
- **Thinking about the next 3 years, are there any goals that OCPL should prioritize?**
- **How could we improve our library (customer service, accessibility, programs or services, etc.)**

In total, we received 53 responses for the first question and 50 responses for the second question, for a total of 103 responses.

To compile data, we combined the responses from the two questions and separated each response into recurring themes.

Open-Ended Question Responses

Summary



Buildings

Better facility	All
Comfy reading spaces.	All
Buildings need to be updated.	All
The buildings are all outdated (Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster). The Bookmobile is perfect! I would be heartbroken if something happened to it.	Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster
Install more outlets especially in the floor so we can have spots to charge phones and computers in more than a couple places.	Seneca
Facility improvements	All
Enhancing the Seneca branch	Seneca
Updating/improving buildings	All
Updating the Seneca library building.	Seneca
Outdoor space for picnics/ yard play at Seneca library	Seneca
better facility for seneca--why not move to the downtown	Seneca
Physical renovations to accommodate larger amount of patrons	All
Improving/updating the buildings them selves.	All
More toys or outdoor resources for kids, like a children's garden	All

Buildings

Better spaces for people to read and relax at the library, such as armchairs. Not just hard back chairs and tables.	All
I wish the building would get updated and have the kids play area further away from the front door at the Seneca location.	Seneca
Expanding services and updating the library buildings. We desperately need new, modern facilities that keep up with other libraries in neighboring counties.	All
Expanding and modernizing the Seneca Branch to include meeting and study rooms and a more welcoming, joyful ambiance.	Seneca
Physically improve building space. We moved here almost 3 years ago. When I walked into the Seneca library I found it very uninviting - drab & depressing, not a colorful warm feeling. We moved during the pandemic-maybe that was a factor. It just didn't look or feel welcoming, especially for children. The library should be the center of the community- resources, activities, etc.	Seneca
Advocating for new additions and renovations to buildings, but it is not realistic. Someone told me they visit some other library and it is "delightful" (meaning modern and inviting) which was very difficult to hear. Our building looks bland and old, because it is, and there's not much we can do about it.	Seneca
Kids area away from the doors. Greenville has a kids area that does not allow adults in it if they do not have a kid in there.	Seneca, Walhalla

Director's Comment:

Many comments were made about dated and inefficient library spaces. While space reallocation, modernization, and cosmetic updates are possible, updates to the "footprints" of various locations are unlikely.

Customer Service

Greeting everyone even children when they come in.	Walhalla
Staff need to be focused on helping people, not on the deficits people have.	Seneca
A warm smile and welcome upon entering, asking if any assistance can be given to the patron.	Walhalla
Acknowledge when someone walks in. Sometimes they don't make eye contact or say hello/ goodbye.	Westminster
Seneca library needs to be more easily accessible. Staff shouldn't act threatened when people ask questions. Treat all people, including children and teenagers, with respect. I heard one staff member repeatedly scold a child for "running" (child was barely jogging). That's not necessary.	Seneca
Continue to maintain and improve customer service is good enough	Westminster
The Seneca branch employees don't always feel the most welcoming. I have much better luck at Walhalla when it comes to friendly employees. Sometimes the Seneca branch people seem annoyed when asked questions or like they are too busy to help.	Seneca
Helping all people feel welcome	Seneca
Prioritize Customer service- kindness. Many of the librarians have an unwelcoming vibe, like you are bothering them asking a question. Librarians in Oconee in the past saw their role as a reading and information facilitator, encouraging all and helping find info readily, especially for children. As those librarians have retired, the new ones coming in have been very unfriendly and act like it's a bother to get out from behind the desk and help. It's very discouraging. Our family has spent less time in the library as a result.	All
Professional development in cultural sensitivity for staff especially for the staff that works directly with the public in customer service.	Walhalla

Customer Service

Director's Comment:

In response to concerns expressed about being more welcoming, the library is planning on revamping staff training with an emphasis on approachability and being customer-focused.

Staff in-services and webinar / online training as well as specialty training from the State Library will be provided on an on-going basis.

Digital Library

I would like to see greater access to an online library

More options for ebooks.

Community outreach, community involvement, e-resources

Audiobooks, tool library, more how-to classes (sewing, crafting, baking, etc)

Increased digital content, aka eBooks and audiobooks.

I would love to have access to more eBooks in the cloudLibrary app

eBooks for Kindle

Larger eBook catalog.

Libby

Libby (Overdrive)-related responses

Switch back to Libby as an e-reader program. CloudLibrary is ok but Libby was so easy to use and had more options.

Libby! I don't like Cloud Library.

I really wish you guys would consider getting Libby instead of CloudLibrary. I love reading on my kindle and I have to pay for a greenville county library card because they use libby and its compatible with kindles.

I really wish you guys would consider getting Libby instead of CloudLibrary. I love reading on my kindle and I have to pay for a greenville county library card because they use libby and its compatible with kindles.

Libby for eBooks. CloudLibrary has yet to have any book I look for.

Digital Library

Director's Comment:

Questions from a small but vocal minority continue to arise about Libby vs. CloudLibrary.

CloudLibrary allows us to offer more in cooperation with six other libraries in the state.

There is currently no consortium which OCPL could join that would give us access to other libraries' Libby items.

Collection Development

Perhaps I'm just not aware of existing programs/services, but it would be great for the library to provide access to academic journals or collections whether physical or online copies.	Academic Journals
Keep providing access to physical books. Online resources have their purpose, but books you can hold are still very important.	Physical Books
Continue having/growing a wide variety of books	Physical Books
Recommended readings, both for enjoyment & learning, such as by grade/skill/education level, fiction and nonfiction. Such as more/similar to literacy kits or young adults, adding for teens & adults.	Literacy Kits for Adults
I would like to see more things you could check out like disc golf, yard games, and tools, etc.	Library of Things
Family board games.	Library of Things
Tool library	Library of Things
Actualize children and teen books	Physical Books
Adding more novels in Spanish	Physical Books
More non-fiction books.	Physical Books
Guest passes to places/experiences like children's museum.	Library of Things
Offer more passes to State Parks and museums.	Library of Things

Youth Services

Making children's activities available outside of regular work hours. Would love to attend story time regularly, but would need it to be later in the day.	Programs (evening)
I'd love to see more programs to do as a family.	Programs (family)
I would love to see some afternoon programs for smaller kids, as a full time working mom it's a bummer to miss out on all the fun opportunities!	Programs (evening)
Providing an outlet for child care support and or increase spaces for children and parents in work-study.	Parent-child spaces
Funding programs for collaborating with supportive organizations for children who need support in reading, writing, and spelling. ex. Tutors directory for oconee county residents to reach out for support. Family engagement in bilingual reading time programs.	Bilingual Stortimes
With homeschooling on the rise, any extra help or resources would be good.	Homeschool
More children activities, story time, etc for the working parents, after 5 pm please.	Programs (evening)
Tween and teen evens start when the kids are still in school or on the bus. We would be there more if the times were set around the people not the staff. Having a meeting space for not for profits to meet. When you close at 6 or 7, those that get off at 530 don't have time to go and participate. When my child is still on the bus at 430 how are we supposed to go to a tween or teen event that starts at 4? Do you guys even realize the audience you want to see at the library are the ones you leave out?	Programs (evening)
Variety of children's programs. Book clubs.	Programs, Book Clubs

Youth Services

<p>Look at your times. As I mentioned above, your times are set for people who don't work, who don't have tween or teens or stay at home parents. Those that want to use it and pay for it are the ones you are not targeting. All the evens are at times that people are working or just getting off work. Offer some evening events. Especially during the summer. Tweens and teens that don't drive need something to do that parents can take them or as a family do but when you close at 6 or 7 or have events that start at 4, please tell me how that helps?</p>	<p>Programs (evening)</p>
<p>As an elementary school teacher, I would like to see more about the programs, as well as visits from staff to talk about all the new exciting things happening at the library in our local elementary schools.</p>	<p>Outreach (school visits)</p>
<p>Youth services</p>	<p>General</p>
<p>Reading for children</p>	<p>Literacy</p>
<p>Youth outreach through the schools/summer programs</p>	<p>Outreach (school visits)</p>
<p>Keeping young people involved in the library and in educational activities.</p>	<p>General</p>
<p>I think having materials and programs for young parents, not just for their children, and also for those who are working would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Programs (young parents, evening)</p>
<p>Promote in the schools</p>	<p>Outreach (school visits)</p>

Director's Comment:

The library already hosts teen programming later than normal hours depending on availability of staff hours.

Adult Programming

More events that are fun and not just educational for adults.	Adult programs
Ongoing development of programs such as digital literacy, resume building, and development. Multicultural outreach workforce development.	Adult programs (work readiness, job assistance)
I think that maybe OCPL should have some sort of book club. So, that other readers can make more friends via the book club.	Book clubs (all ages)
Maybe having and hosting a book club for each age group would be a good way to improve the library's community influence.	Book clubs (all ages)
Programs, lectures, more hands on programs for seniors.	Adult programs (seniors)
Having more programs toward gardening, landscaping, programs for retired residents.	Adult programs (seniors)
Community outreach, community involvement	Outreach
More how-to classes (sewing, crafting, baking, etc.)	Adult programs

Publicity

Spreading word about events	General
Promote the OCPL resources more effectively. Some items that were listed in this section of the survey, I had no idea they were available. Telescopes? Fishing Poles?	Library of Things
Write articles of events in a regular column for the Newspaper.	Newspaper
More promotion via social media & library website.	Social media and Website

Other

Connectivity with other library systems. Checkout Georgia Pines, a collective of all rural systems in Georgia. Can search the entire system and have a book delivered to your branch.	SCLends
Stand strong against book bans!	Book bans
Never censor a book.	Book bans
Local history and ancestry resources / assistance	Local history
Fighting book bans, being inclusive of all people.	Book bans
Drive up drop off would be great! Many times after hours I need to return something, but don't feel safe leaving my car to go up to the building (Seneca, Westminster)	Drive-up book returns (safety)
Evaluate budget and work to increase staff salaries. (I am not a staff member)!	Staff salaries
Educate the public and politicians about why book bans are harmful.	Book bans
I wonder why there are separate reading initiatives in the county - like Baby Read - seems like all the reading programs should fall under the umbrella of the library. Is there opportunity for the library to partner with Blue Ridge Community Center?	Partnerships (Baby Read, Blue Ridge Community Center)
The other goal should be to raise salaries especially for part time employees. The sheriff's department got so much support when they said their salaries are not at market value, and everyone else is left in the dust. Surrounding libraries pay much higher salaries for all of their positions, and we frequently have people leave to go work there, even when they live in Oconee.	Staff salaries

Other

Re-adding MS Office and USB access to the computers. People can't even upload documents to job applications or applications for government assistance. Convincing the county to allow people to print from their phones because people ask for that literally every day.	MS Office, USB, Wireless printing
By continuing to uphold the Freedom to Read for ALL.	Book bans
Adding additional study/meeting rooms and allowing groups to reserve them like Central library does. It's disconcerting to arrange a tutoring/study session at the library, only to get there and the rooms be full. Wasted time.	Study/Meeting rooms

Positive Comments

Continue to be an open community resource center for all.	Social work
I love the library and I thing the current programs and services are great! (I'm mostly interested in books and I appreciate the interlibrary loan options).	General, ILL
Continue to provide materials and information to all communities in Oconee County.	General
everything/everyone has been great, none to note!	General
I have only good things to say! Thank you for all you do!	General
The library is amazing!	General
I think you guys are doing a great job already!	General
I have no complaints. Just keep doing what you've been doing.	General

Oconee County Public Library

Home Delivery Services Policy

Overview:

Oconee County Public Library offers Home Delivery Service to provide library materials to residents of Oconee County who are unable to come to a library branch. There is no charge for this service. Patrons are responsible for lost or damaged items.

Goals:

Oconee County Public Library's Home Delivery Services provide library materials to county residents who are unable to travel to a library branch. This supports OCPL's mission and strategic plan.

Mission: The Oconee County Public Library provides resources and welcoming places where people of all ages can understand how to find, use, and evaluate information, make informed decisions, know their community, and satisfy curiosity.

Strategic Plan: OUTREACH

Strategic Focus: Build on and expand library outreach, especially to underserved communities, maintaining community partnerships as well as looking for new partners.

Strategy 3: Explore new service options like Homebound, community pantries, more programming for homeschooling families, and even pickup lockers in remote locations.

Date:

As soon as all necessary approvals have been granted, I would like to purchase the following items for Home Delivery Services:

- Cloth bags for deliveries (Diamond T)
- Luggage tags (Amazon)
- Personal Safety device https://www.amazon.com/Shes-Birdie-Original-Personal-Women-130dB/dp/B08TT47Y99/ref=sr_1_9?crd=2V7B8073A6885&keywords=personal+safety+device&qid=1687897905&srefix=personal+safety+device%2Caps%2C101&sr=8-9

I would like to begin this pilot program with a small number of patrons, to enable us to craft best practices before a larger roll out. I plan to begin by asking Friends of the Library, staff members, and friends if they know of anyone who would benefit from and be interested in this program.

Evaluation:

Outreach staff and Branch Services Manager will evaluate the program after 6 months. Outreach staff may make changes along the way as needed. In addition to numbers (patrons, circulation counts, etc.) anecdotal records will also be used to determine the success of the pilot program. The program will be deemed a success if we are able to extend library services to people who otherwise would be unable or highly unlikely to use the

OCPL. At the beginning, Outreach Staff (Christie) will be engaging in all aspects of the program. If numbers increase, we will recruit volunteers to deliver as well.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this service, a patron must have or be able to obtain an OCPL library card, and must be permanently or temporarily unable to travel to the library due to age, illness, disability, or other mobility issues. Library staff will determine eligibility based on the factors listed above.

Application:

Patrons may apply for Home Delivery Services by filling out an application, which is available at the library and on the library website. Patrons can return the application by hand delivery, mail, or email. If needed, patrons can complete the application over the phone with Outreach staff, and sign it on the first Home Delivery visit.

How it works:

There may be a waiting list to receive Home Delivery Services. Once a patron is added to Home Delivery Services, a staff member will contact the patron to explain how to request materials. A delivery schedule will be set up with the patron, depending on staff/volunteer availability. Staff members can assist in selecting materials for patrons, and patrons can request specific items as well. OCPL staff or volunteers will deliver library materials to the patron's home once a month. The items from the previous month will be returned at that time, and a new bag of materials left with the patron. There is a limit of 25 items at one time.

Library staff will contact the patron within a few days of the scheduled visit as a reminder. Patrons should have all materials gathered and ready to be picked up at the scheduled time.

Library representatives are only permitted to remain at the residence for as long as it takes to deliver and collect library materials. Staff may not provide assistance with activities of daily living, or advice on financial or personal matters.

Fines and Fees:

- There is no charge for Home Delivery Services.
- Items check out for one month.
- Books can be renewed an additional month if not on hold, up to three renewals.
- DVDs cannot be renewed.
- Maximum of 25 items at one time. Maximum of 10 DVDs.
- Home Delivery patrons are exempt from overdue fines. However, no new materials will be provided until all overdue items are returned, except with approval of staff.
- Home Delivery patrons are responsible for any materials that are lost or damaged in their possession.

Delivery and Pickup:

Delivery schedule is arranged with Outreach staff. Changes should be requested at least 24 hours in advance. Deliveries will be made monthly by library staff or volunteers. Pickup of previously checked out items will be expected at time of delivery.

Patrons requesting Home Delivery Services must provide a safe and appropriate environment for staff or volunteers who make deliveries to their residence. Patrons must protect library materials while in their

custody. Volunteers and staff cannot provide assistance with activities of daily living, or give advice on financial or personal matters.

Staff or volunteers may choose to leave a home immediately and/or recommend suspension of Home Delivery Services if any of the following conditions exist:

- Any person in the residence is dressed in inappropriate attire.
- Any person in the residence presents threatening behavior.
- Any person in the residence uses abusive or obscene language, makes obscene gestures, or displays obscene images.
- Any person in the residence harasses the library representative.
- Any person in the residence is smoking or under the influence of alcohol at the time of the library delivery.
- Any person in the residence is engaging in any illegal activity at the time of library delivery.
- Any library material currently in the possession of the Home Delivery patron appears to have been willfully defaced, mutilated, or damaged.
- Conditions in the residence are unsafe or unsanitary.
- Pets or service animals create an unsafe environment, actual or perceived, for the library representative.
- Patrons request that library representatives assist them with anything outside of the delivery and pick-up of library materials.

OCPL reserves the right to terminate or suspend Home Delivery Services to any individual who does not meet the terms and requirements as defined above.



Oconee County Public Library
Home Delivery Services Application

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

SECONDARY CONTACT: Please give us the name, address, and telephone number of a relative or friend who does not live with you for us to use in case we cannot reach you directly.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

Do you authorize this person to get information about your account?

(Initial) ___ YES ___ NO

Will you allow OCPL to keep a record of your checkouts to avoid duplication? (This information will only be used by the library and will be kept confidential.) (Initial) ___ YES ___ NO

Conditions for use:

1. I agree to provide adequate care and housing of library materials.
2. I accept financial responsibility for all materials loaned by the library.
3. No late fees will be charged, but I will pay the replacement cost for items that are lost or damaged.

I understand and agree to these conditions for use of library materials.

X _____

Signature

Date

Please contact Christie Johnson at 864-364-5708 if you have any questions. Please fill out the back of this form to choose materials.

Material Selection

Deliveries are made once a month. You may check out a maximum of 25 items per month.

Service Plan: Check one (1)

- Request Only:** Send only library materials that I request by title.
- Readers' Advisory:** Send your selections for me AND my title requests.

Approximate number of items desired each month: (maximum of 25, maximum 10 DVDS) _____

I do not wish to receive materials that contain

- Violence
- Strong Language
- Sexual Content

Types of material:

- Regular print hardcover
- Regular print paperback
- Large print
- DVDs
- Books on CD
- Magazines

Non-Fiction:

- Art/Antiques
- Biographies
- Cooking
- Crafts
- Gardening
- Health/Nutrition
- History
- Humor
- Inspirational/Religion
- Politics
- Science
- Sports
- Travel
- True Crime
- Other: _____

Fiction:

- New
- Best Sellers
- Classics
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Inspirational
- Mysteries
- Romance
- Science Fiction
- Westerns
- Women's Fiction

Movies:

- Action
- Classics
- Comedy
- Drama
- Foreign
- Horror
- Inspirational
- Non-Fiction/Documentaries
- Romance
- Science Fiction
- Suspense
- Western
- TV Shows