

Columbia County
Rural Library District

111 S. 3rd St, PO Box 74
Dayton, WA 99328

Report to the Library Board of Trustees, January 23, 2023

Director's Report by Todd Vandenbark, MLS

Quote of the Month

A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants. —Doris May Lessing (1919-2013), winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Overview

In our first full year of programs and services since the beginning of the pandemic, the library has experienced substantial and encouraging growth in all areas, especially the Summer Reading Program and Discovery Kids. In December, we resumed regular visits to the Senior Center. We were awarded over \$35,000 in grants to support our programs and services, such as Family Story Time, hotspots and laptops, library materials and equipment, staff wages, and a wellness program. Funding for giveaway items remained strong thanks to the fundraising support of the Friends of the Library. The library experienced increased patron and community interest in library collections and operations, including its first requests for reconsideration. We also formed two new partnerships: working with GEAR-UP and the public schools to offer assistance in completing FAFSA applications, and with the Depot to create a virtual reality tour of the Depot with equipment and training provided by the Washington State Library. All current, full-time staff took advantage of professional development opportunities. All staff received CPR and First Aid training through our local Fire Department. When the Columbia Pulp plant closed, we succeeded in keeping expenditures within our decreased revenue levels while maintaining nearly the same program levels. We offered 111 programs in 2022, up from 71 in 2021. And we revived popular programs including our seed library and gardening program, guest speakers from Humanities Washington, and regular visits to the Senior Center.

I want to express my thanks to the Library Board, the Friends, and patrons for their support since my arrival in February 2021. And I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my staff, who help make the Columbia County Library a welcoming and exciting place to be.

Todd Vandenbark

Library Director

Below you will find a summary of the numbers and types of services and resources that our district patrons availed themselves of. If you have questions about specific areas, please contact Todd Vandembark, Library Director.

By the Numbers

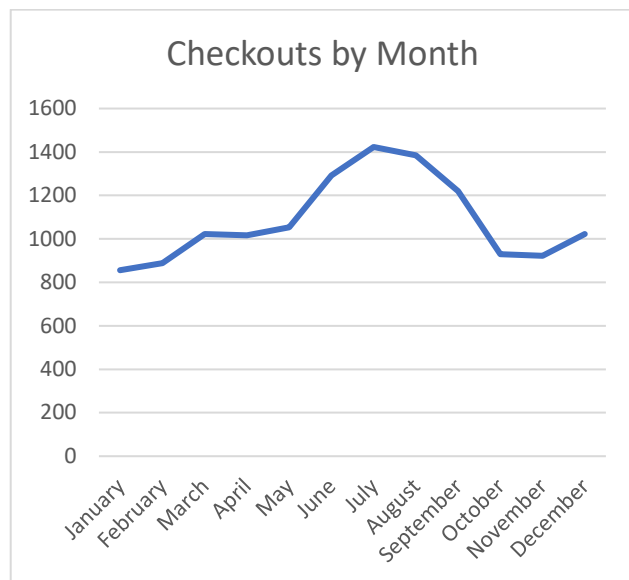
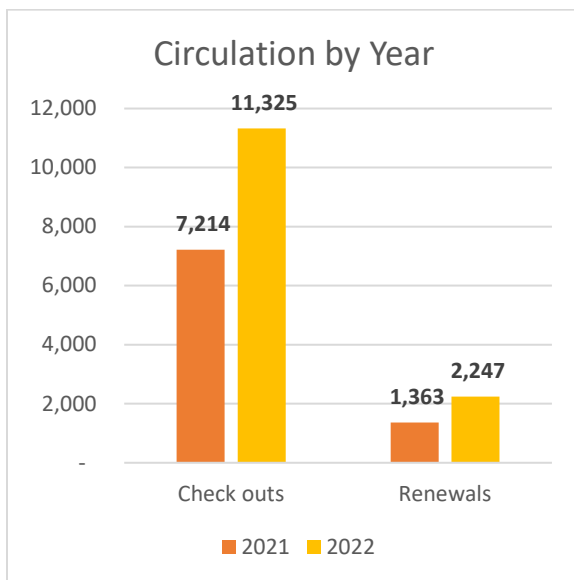
Patrons

- In person patrons: 14,345 (up from 8,191 the previous year)
- New patrons total: 195
 - Adult: 120
 - Juvenile: 35
 - 3 for Me*: 20
 - Nonresident: 7
 - Online: 12
 - Staff: 1

*"3 for Me" are individuals who would like to receive a card and have everything but guarantorship (minors) or proof of address. Until they meet these requirements they are allowed to check out three books.

Circulation and Materials

Circulation



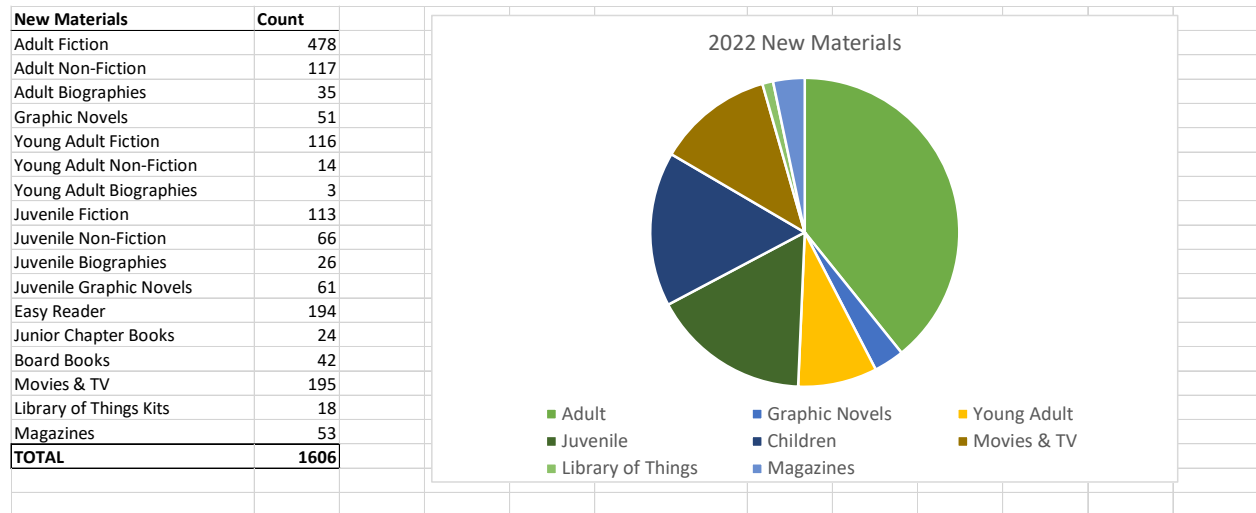
Top 5 Circulated Books (Excluding Picture Books and Graphic Novels)

1. *The Dragonet Prophecy* by Tui Sutherland
2. *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover
3. *All That's Left in the World* by Erik Brown
4. *Diablo Mesa* by Douglas Preston
5. *When They Call You A Terrorist* by Patrisse Cullors

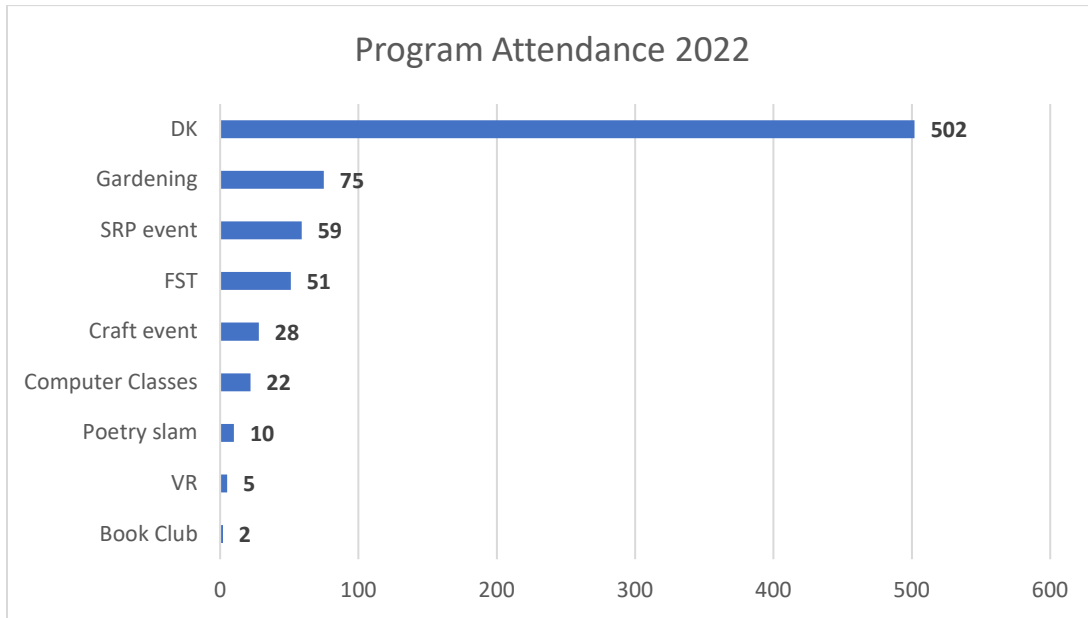
Top 5 Circulated Books (all categories):

1. *Bakuman* by Tsugumi Oba (graphic novel)
2. *Pete the Cat: Meet Pete* by James Dean (children's picture book)
3. *Video Games* by Sean Tulien
4. *The Dragonet Prophecy* by Tui Sutherland
5. *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover

New Items Purchased



Programs



TOTAL: 754 attendees

Summer Reading Program Participant Count

