

# Director's Monthly Report

November 2024



November seemed like a short month, with the several holidays. Those holidays, and the lack of a children's librarian, meant that we had fewer programs this month, and fewer people in the library, than in earlier months or recent years. On the other hand, November was a month of reading and watching videos for many. The month started with a community program by the Hillsdale Housing Community on Accessory Dwelling Units and ended with a family film screening over the Thanksgiving weekend of *Paddington*. In between, patrons enjoyed a concert by John and Ann Farrell, "A Season of Hope and Light," learned about how to take care of their indoor plants, enjoyed a communal meal with the Cook Book Club, and stimulated their minds with book discussions. Kids enjoyed a trip to the Overmountain Conservation Area with the CLC and got to make some turkey slime.

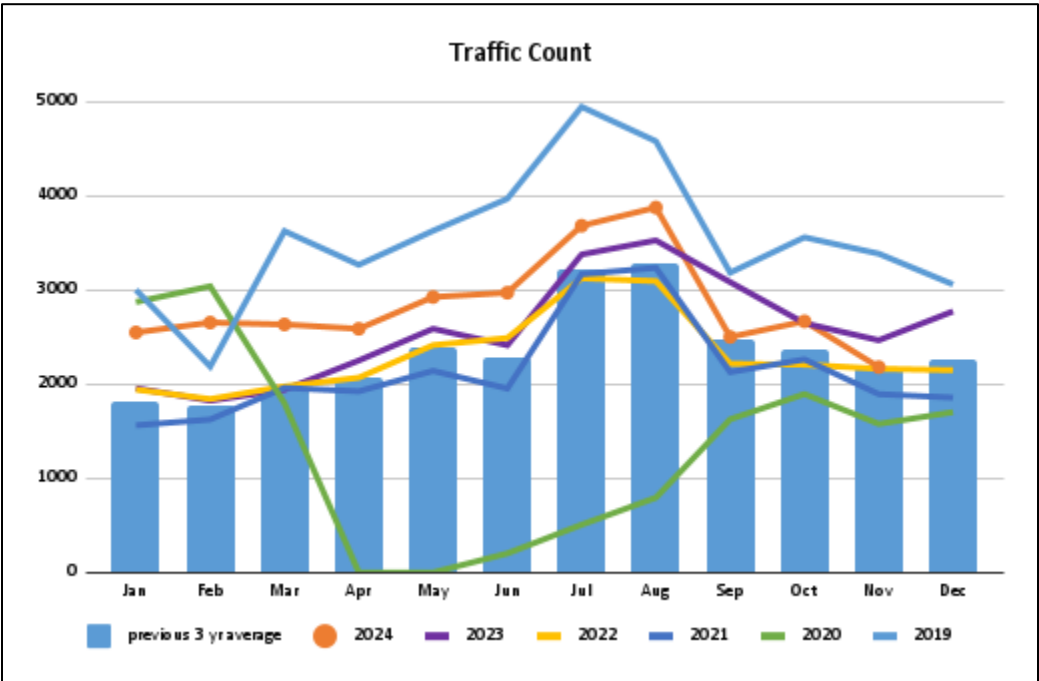
## Programs:

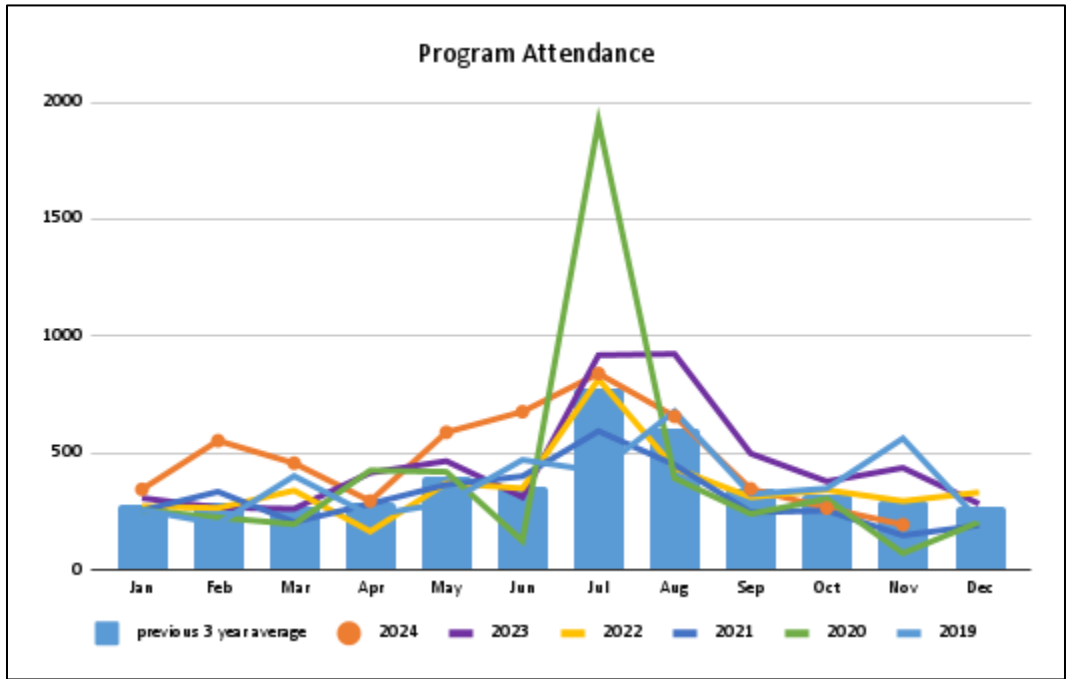
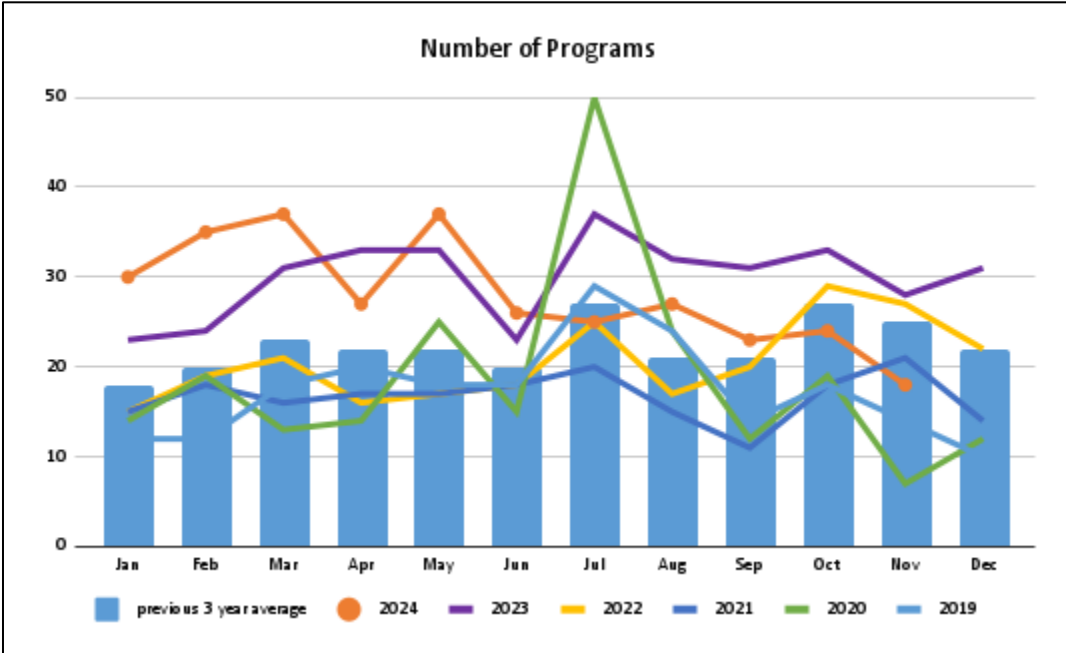
- Tai Chi—average 13 per class
- English Language Learning—average 6 per class
- November 21: STEM Turkey Slime!—7 kids, 7 adults
- November 21: Book Marks! Book Club—10 attended
- November 21: Tea Time at the Library—9 attended
- November 23: Concert: Seasons of Light and Hope (the Farrell)—11 adults, 12 kids
- November 25: Zoom Around the World Book Club (with CCLA)—4 attended
- November 30: Film screening, Family matinee: *Paddington*—6 kids and 9 adults
- December 4: STEM Snow!—10 kids, 3 adults

- December 7: Puppet People Marionette Performance: The Last Dragon—25 kids and 31 adults
- December 11: Adventure Wednesday at Camphill Village—16 kids, 5 adults
- December 13 and 14: Friends Baked Goods and Soup Sale
- December 14: Make Your Own Holiday Arrangement—15 registered (full)

**Upcoming Events:**

- December 21: Cook Book Club
- December 23: Film Screening: Frozen
- December 26: Tea Time at the Library
- December 26: Film Screening: Little Women
- January 6: Webinar: Keeping Columbia County History Alive (with CCLA)
- January 15: Fiction Book Club debut
- January 16: Book Marks! Book Club
- January 18: Cook Book Club
- January 22: Adventure Wednesday: Citizen Science, Birds—with Taconic State Park

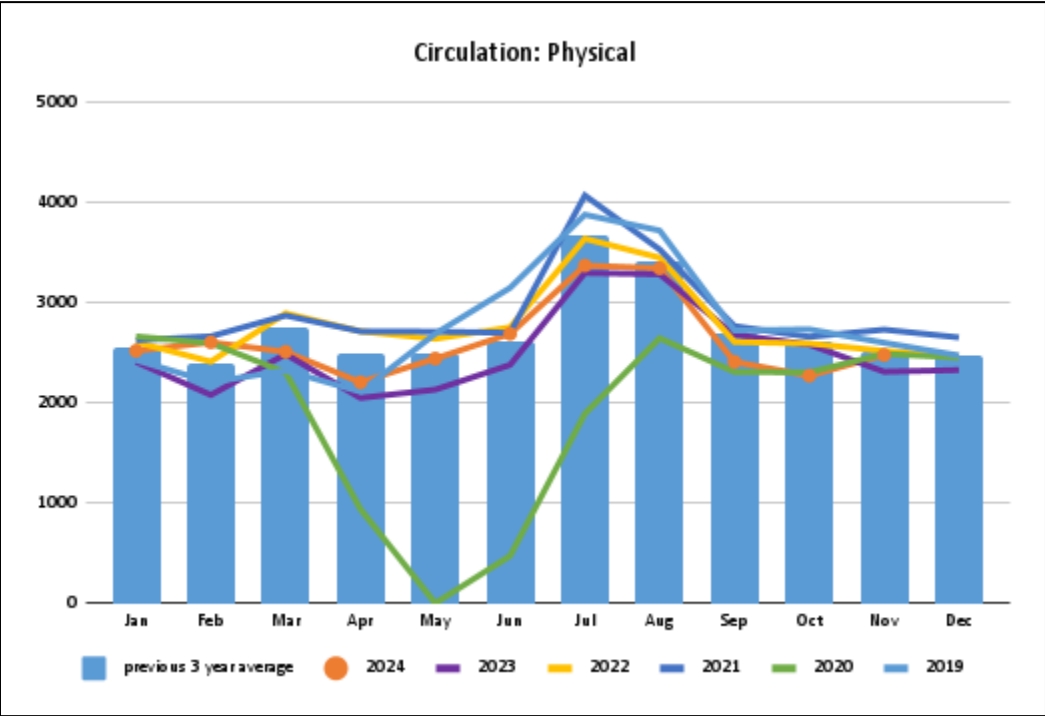
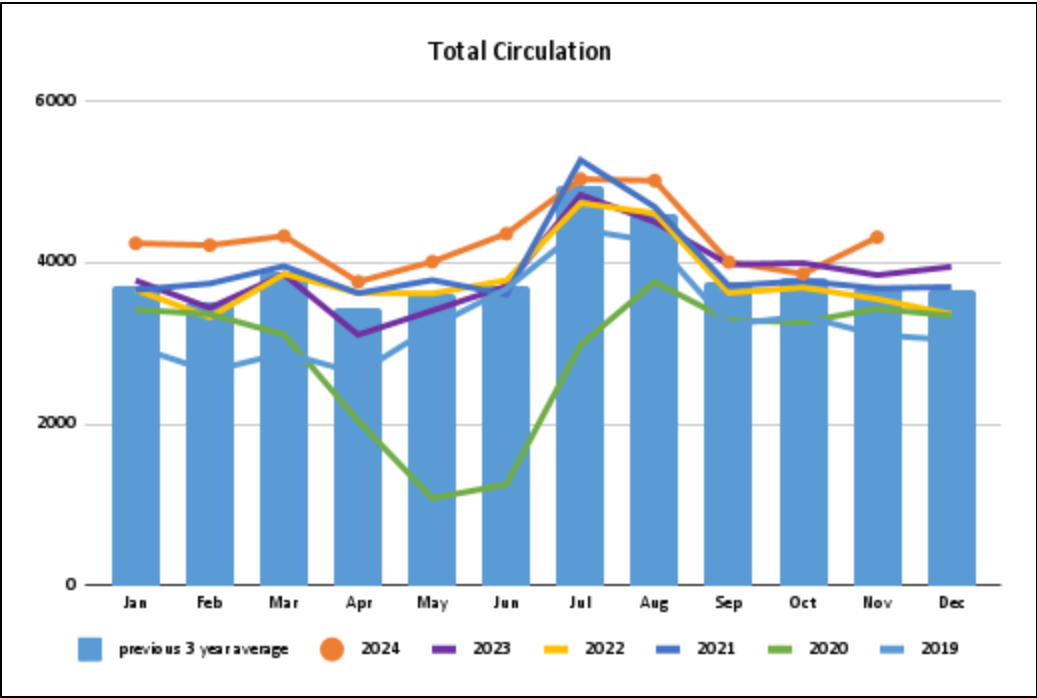


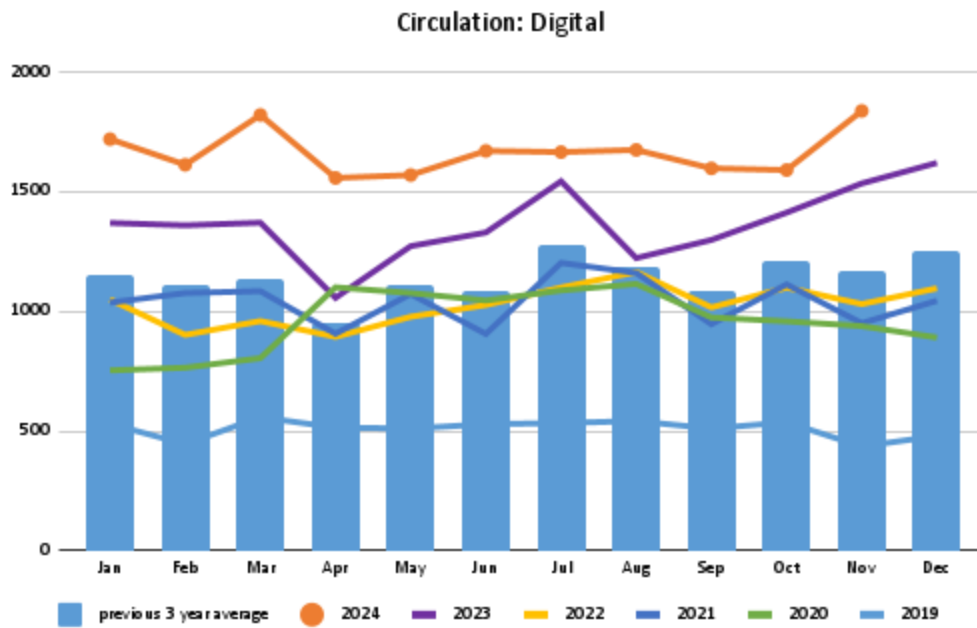


**Library Usage:**

After a dip in the circulation of library materials in October, slightly below 2023 numbers, circulation rebounded in November and was higher than in any previous November. Both physical and digital circulation rose, with the circulation of digital material reaching an all-time high. The reason for this is unclear, but we also saw a sharp, sudden increase in active patrons—the number of patrons who have used their account in the past 12 months. It will be interesting to see if this continues through the winter. Use of ebooks and audiobooks saw the largest increases compared to November 2023.

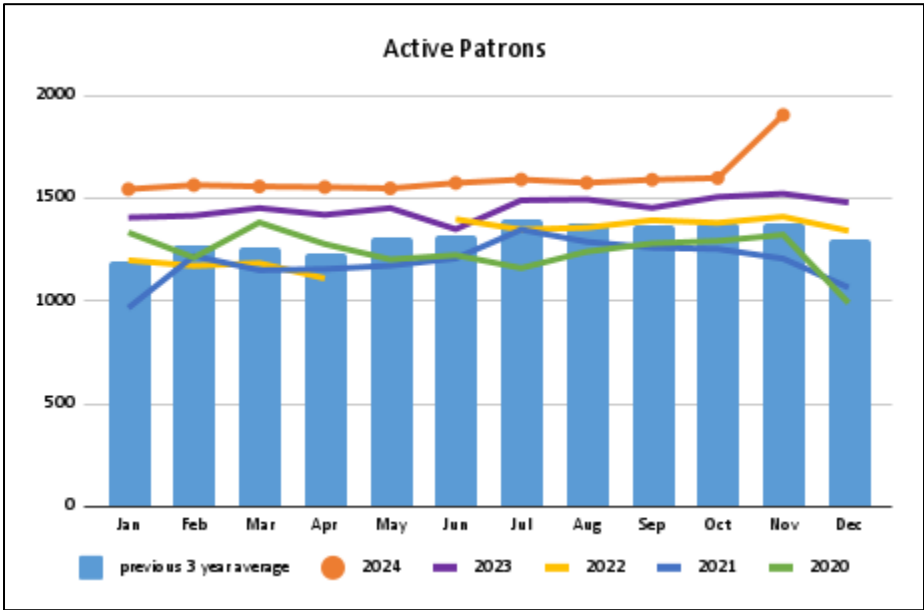
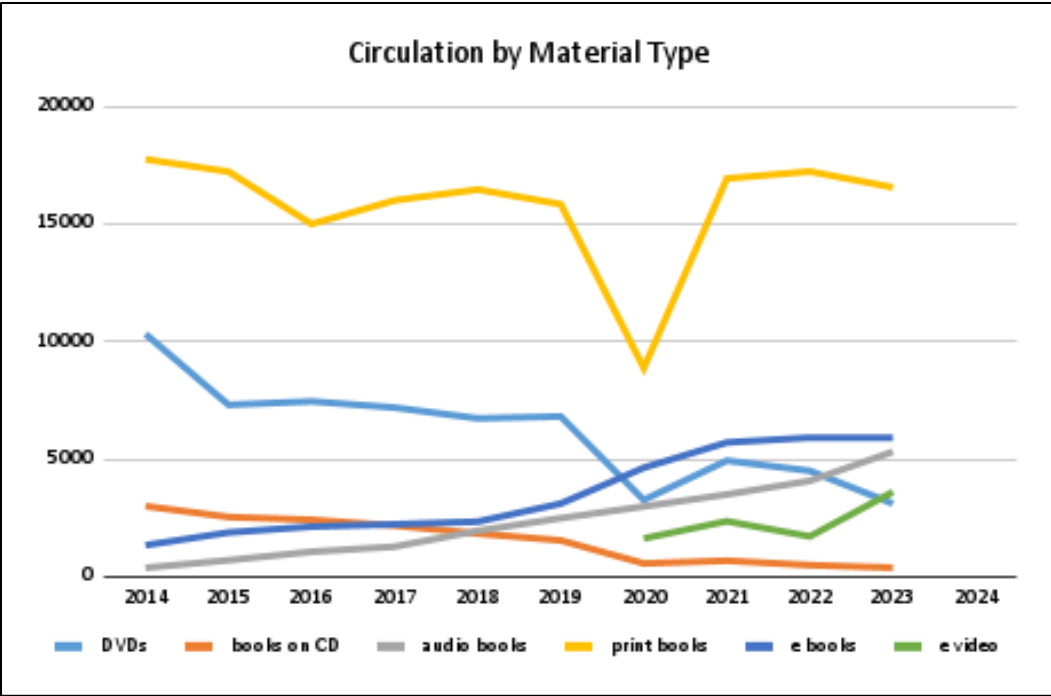
	Nov-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1,521	1544	1564	1557	1554	1548	1574	1591	1575	1596	1598	1905	ave. 1601	1316	122%
Patrons (unexpired)	1,887	1906	1929	1934	1941	1952	1953	1912	1936	1930	1955	1972	ave. 1938	1788	108%
New Patrons	29	24	31	10	21	21	23	32	33	16	16	22	249	274	91%
Traffic Count	2,465	2548	2653	2633	2587	2924	2970	3681	3874	2500	2666	2180	31,216	25,814	121%
Computer Use	70	72	66	94	83	70	61	72	83	50	65	49	765	993	77%
Circulation (physical)	2,313	2522	2606	2512	2208	2444	2691	3373	3345	2412	2273	2480	28,866	30,209	96%
Circulation (digital)	1,535	1720	1613	1821	1558	1570	1671	1666	1675	1598	1591	1838	18,321	12486	147%
Museum Passes	13	22	11	9	17	23	33	122	120	46	57	23	483	389	124%
Database usage	115	334	67	416	327	214	668	303	233	278	160	20	3,020	3907	77%
Wireless access	535	480	492	453	509	448	528	673	566	421	437	286	5,293	6167	86%
Website sessions	1,933	2028	1880	2094	2224	2221	2397	2485	2367	1953	1804	1785	23,238	25746	90%
Number of programs	28	30	35	37	27	37	26	25	27	23	24	18	309	246	127%
Program attendance	436	344	552	456	294	588	676	839	656	346	264	193	5,208	4218	124%
YouTube views	245	131	251	165	85	78	516	208	128	98	96	77	1,833	1052	174%
Notary	8	22	13	28	10	14	17	31	17	13	13	21	199	N/A	
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	1	1	11	N/A	



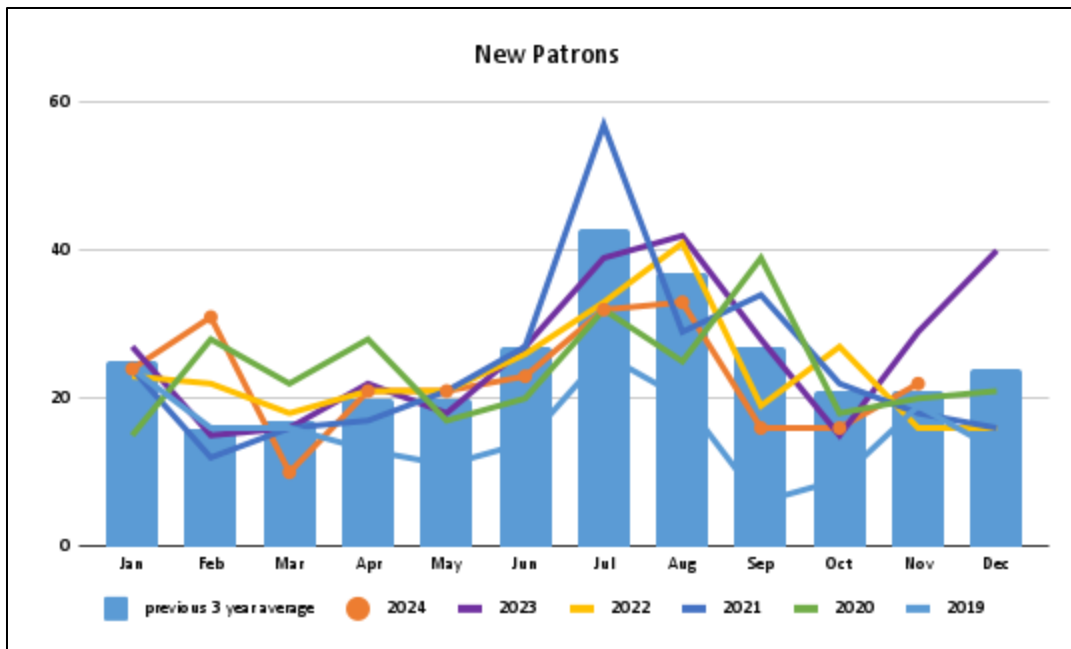


### Circulation by Material Type

	Nov-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	273	295	232	268	215	277	196	267	297	189	163	226	2625	-205	-7%
videos	285	194	296	298	222	273	359	323	304	235	231	439	3174	-164	-5%
books on CD	23	13	50	22	27	23	29	21	36	32	31	22	306	-39	-11%
audiobooks	467	594	543	566	539	547	520	548	591	544	571	541	6104	1297	27%
print books	1277	1364	1476	1306	1144	1313	1591	2032	1909	1356	1185	1415	16091	845	6%
e books	503	570	449	575	566	562	545	539	529	523	503	536	5897	517	10%
museum passes	13	22	11	9	17	23	33	122	120	46	57	23	483	11	2%
hotspots	8	12	11	7	10	11	10	14	11	11	12	5	114	-18	-14%
camping equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	13	0	1	1	25	18	257%







### Staffing and Professional Development:

- Staff interviewed 4 candidates for children's/youth services and programming associate position. Made offer to Alexandra O'Connell, who accepted and will begin January 2.

### Building and Grounds

- Still waiting on new event sign from Larkin
- Roof repairs begun but not completed. Major leak occurred in network room during rainstorm, December 11, which set off fire alarms and dispatched of fire department. Temporary repairs made and electrical systems checked out. Smoke detector in network room will need to be replaced since it was damaged by the water.
- Had one upper blind in Community Room repaired. Most cannot be raised currently. Interested in purchasing new upper blinds that are room darkening to make movie screenings and PowerPoint presentations during the day a better experience (no more sun beams making it impossible to see the screen). Need funding.

### Grants/Fundraising:

- Received initial payment of state construction grant to pay for folding partition—10% still to come.
- Submitted grant requests to Goldman and Bordewick foundations for general operating funds, and the Humanities NY for a spring/summer reading and discussion program.
- Attended CREATE grant workshop. Intending to apply for funding for art workshops and music programs.
- Submitted final grant report to Hudson River Bank and Trust Co.



### **Staff Also**

- Worked out schedule for new 2025 hours
- Received and began cataloging new microfilm of Columbia Papers (Hover grant)

### **Columbia County Libraries Association**

- New director at Valatie Library
- Base grants to individual libraries cut in 2025 budget due to flat funding from the county (expected), rising costs for MHLS and other fees, and purchase of a new audiobook database subscription
- CCLA voted to subscribe to Blackstone Unlimited—a database of about 7000 audiobooks. The hope is that with this, which is MUCH cheaper as a county than as 11 individual libraries, we may be able to lower our individual audiobook costs through hoopla.
- Our museum pass reservation system software is being discontinued effective January 1. We have agreed to purchase a new system and hope to have it up and running by January 1—though it will be difficult.
- Countywide community read of *Braiding Sweetgrass* is scheduled for March-May