

2023



ANNUAL REPORT

BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Tasha Murtha
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Margaret Norris
Library Assistant I

Joyce Peterson
Library Assistant II

Manny Rodrigues
Custodian

Janette Smith
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LIBRARY BOARD

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 2022-2023 year will be remembered as the “Year of Construction.” Construction for the Library Renovation & Improvement Project began in July 2022, and wrapped up with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 8, 2023. Throughout the renovation, library employees and library services adapted to the disruptions and restrictions of construction. For over a year, the children’s room and community room were closed, along with a portion of the upstairs library. A temporary children’s area opened upstairs, and programs were offered in the historic parlors, outdoors, and through Take & Make bags.

As construction became more involved, it was apparent that the library could no longer remain occupied. In March 2023, the library closed for a week. Staff packed up thousand of books into cardboard boxes, stored all of the library’s furniture and supplies, and packed up materials to bring to the temporary library location at Mill Brook Place. What was planned as a one month stay at Mill Brook Place turned into a two month stay. During March and April, the Library offered a small circulating collection, a public access computer and printing, references services, inter-library loan services, and programs for children and adults.



Temporary children’s area in the former reference/reading area upstairs.

In the beginning of May, library services were halted for two weeks while staff



Some of the hundreds of boxes of books waiting to be unpacked and re-shelved.

unpacked and re-shelved over 20,000 materials! The Library would like to thank the Millennium Builders Inc. employees who helped to move the boxes of books and set up the shelving. The upstairs of the library was back open while construction continued downstairs. Finally, after another two week closure in July and August 2023, and another re-shelving of 25,000 more items, the renovation was complete and the library fully opened!

While construction was certainly the highlight of the last year, the library remained busy with many other services and initiatives. On July 1, 2022, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library became the 101st fine free library in Connecticut! On November 15th, the library hosted a staff recognition reception for five staff members with long tenures: Janette Smith with 46 years of service, Margaret Norris with 40 years of service, Joyce Peterson with 35 years of service, Donna Murphy with 18 years of service, and Manny Rodrigues with 10 years of service. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our library!

The library focused on outreach and partnerships to supplement services during disruptions and closures due to the renovation. Children’s room staff visited Coventry Public Schools for open houses, preschool storytimes, and the Coding Club at GHR. Library staff tabled multiple times at the Coventry Farmers’ Market, made visits to the Senior Center, and participated in numerous town-wide events in order to offer library services “outside the library.”

Finally, I would like to thank the library staff for their outstanding efforts, cooperation, and dedication over the last year. Each staff member was integral to the success of the renovation. I look forward to another great year in our new building!



Top photo: Families gather on the library’s lawn for a sing-along program presented by Song-A-Day Music.

Bottom Photo: Top row left to right - Peggy Norris, Donna Murphy, Janette Smith. Bottom row left to right - Joyce Peterson, Manny Rodrigues.

Margaret Khan
Library Director

ABOUT

OUR MISSION

The Booth & Dimock Memorial Library provides materials and services to help all residents of the community meet their informational, educational, cultural and creative needs.

OUR HOURS

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday 10-8

Thursday 10-8

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-3

Sunday Closed

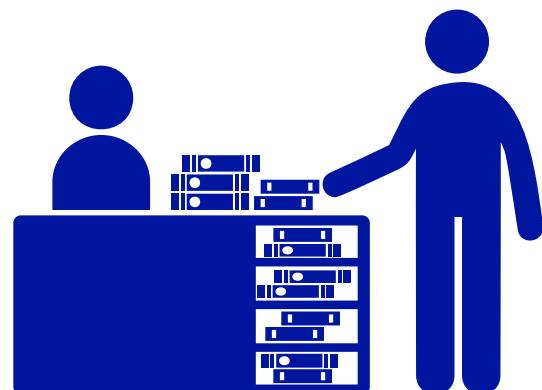
Monday Closed

OUR SERVICES

The Library offers books, wi-fi, internet accessible computers, programs for all ages, parent and teacher resources, one-on-one technology assistance, reference assistance, inter-library loan services, home-bound delivery, curbside pick-up, museum discount passes, local history collections, and more. All free!



1134 Main Street
Coventry, CT
860-742-7606
www.coventrypl.org



PATRONS

VISITS

16,405

Tallied by an automatic counter, this is the total number of people who walked through the library doors. It does not necessarily take into account people who participated in off-site programs, take & make programs, or curbside service.

NEW LIBRARY CARDS

303

Individuals who registered for a Coventry library card for the first time. Booth & Dimock Library does not have an age limit for cards, so even babies can have their own library card!

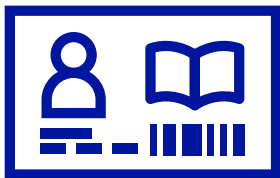
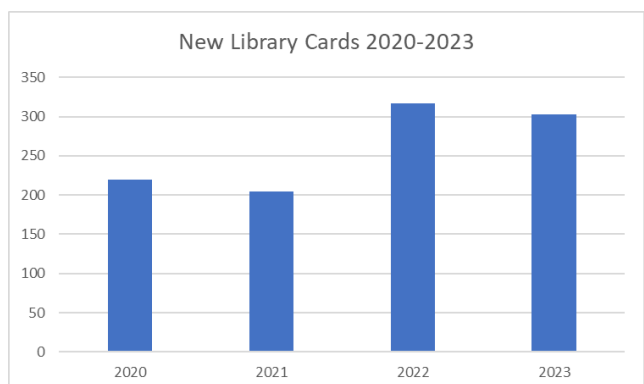


Photo: Some of the library's littlest patrons enjoy an outdoor program.
Chart: The number of new library cards issued each year has increased over the last two years.

REFERENCE

6,258

Questions staff answered regarding library services, library catalog, local area, research, genealogy, homework help, and more. Library staff are trained in helping with complex reference or research questions, as well as helping you find a good book to read!



CIRCULATION

59,661

Despite most of the children's collection being closed for the entire year, and full closure of the library for three weeks, circulation was nearly level to last year's total of 61,083. The library offers books, magazines, audio books, DVDs, video games, board games, electronic materials, and more for circulation!

BY TYPE

- Books - 43,232
- Serials - 1,092
- Audio Books - 1,095
- DVDs - 4,148
- Digital - 8,977
- Other - 1,117

BY AGE

- Adult - 25,183
- Teen - 4,183
- Children - 21,126
- No Age - 9,169

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS (ILL)

- Borrowed - 7,706
- Loaned - 3,134

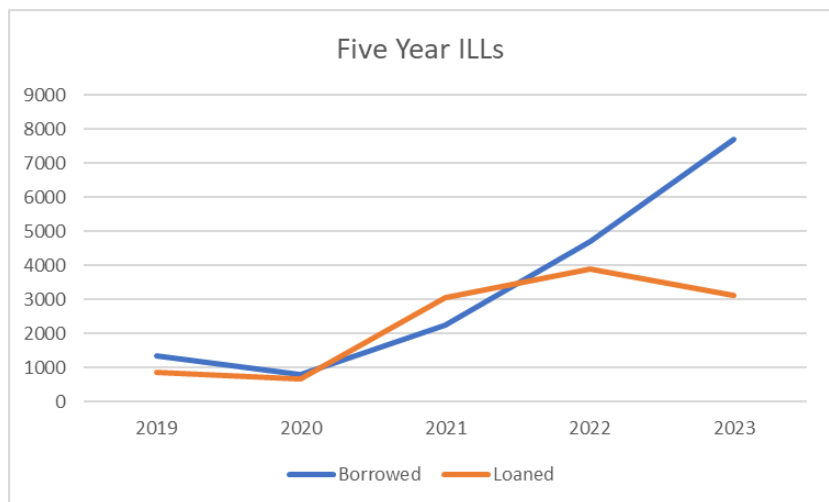


Photo: A display of books for Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Chart: ILL use has spiked over the last five years. Increase in ILL use began when the library joined Bibliomation in August 2020. ILLs were heavily utilized last year while the library was closed for renovations.

COLLECTION

TOTAL COLLECTION

The library holds 46,278 physical items to circulate. The collection contains books, serials, newspapers, audio books, DVDs for all ages, as well as unique items such as therapy lights, puzzles, board games, and theme bags.

HOW IT'S DONE

Library staff review various publications to help decide on what books to purchase. Considerations, including patron requests and popularity, are made when buying new materials. The library's membership to the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), allows us to purchase books at a great discount.

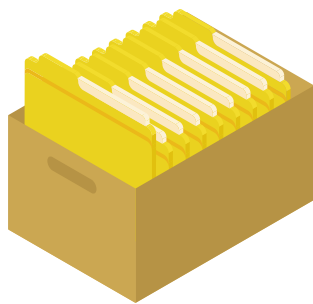
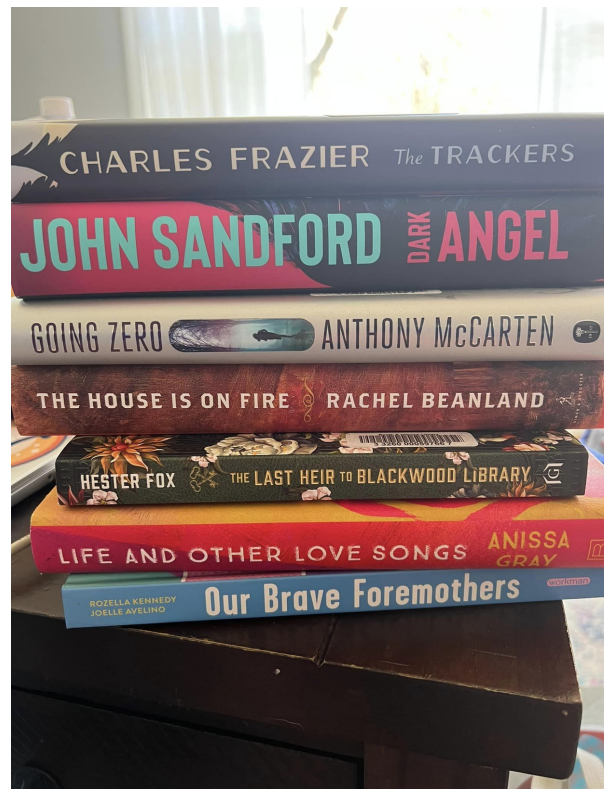


Photo: New arrivals preparing to be cataloged and shelved.

NEW ITEMS

Library staff prepare each new book for circulation by covering it in protective film, adding barcode, new, and genre stickers, and then cataloging it. The library purchased 2,397 new items this year, including 1,931 new books. The library spends an average of \$11.26 on each new book - a huge savings compared to the average cost of \$23.14 per hardcover. That's a savings of \$23,000!



PROGRAMS

110 PROGRAMS
2,722 PARTICIPANTS

Closure of both the community room and children's room presented a challenge for library programming. Through use of Take & Make program bags, outside programs, off-site programs at Creasser Park and Mill Brook Place, and outreach at Coventry Public Schools and the Coventry Farmers' Market, the library was able to offer many fun programs for all ages!

PROGRAMS

In-Person - 58
Pre-Recorded - 8
Take & Make - 44

PARTICIPANTS

In-Person - 904
Pre-Recorded - 192
Take & Make - 1,626

Photos from top to bottom: Children practice reading out loud at a monthly Read to Dogs program, presented by Cold Noses, Warm Hearts; Children sign up for Summer Reading and make a sundae at the library's Annual Ice Cream Social; Stuffed Animals hang out with Otto - the library's pleco - at a Stuffed Animal Sleepover program.



TECHNOLOGY

LIBRARY COMPUTERS

The total number of public computers available was reduced from 16 to 4 due to the renovation. Public computers with internet access are available to patrons to research, write papers, print, and browse the internet. Library computers were used 993 times last year.

WEBSITE

The Library's website - www.coventrypl.org - displays up to date information about library hours, services, and special events, as well as general information about the library. The library's website had 10,627 visits to the homepage, and a further 18,550 visits to other webpages.

WI-FI

The Library offers high-speed Wi-Fi that is available in and outside the building. Library Wi-Fi had 20,119 sessions last year, with an average of 137 unique clients each month.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Library staff maintain Facebook and Instagram pages as a way of promoting and advertising services and events. Last year, library staff created 139 original posts which had a total reach of 51,070 and 3,069 engagements.

