



ANNUAL OUTCOMES REPORT 2021

Downtown
Southwest
Library2Go
Online

ROCK ISLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Begin Here.

RIPL 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

1: PCs for People helped 101 people safely dispose of eWaste. 15 people obtained low-cost refurbished computers. 2: Bookmobile driver Rich reads at a Spring Forward Summer Learning stop.

DIRECTOR NOTES:

2021 wasn't exactly like Groundhog Day for 2020, but at points, it may have felt like it! Despite new variants and resumed mask restrictions, vaccine and booster availability helped some patrons feel more comfortable about attending events and checking out items in person. We continued Curbside service for those with concerns.

In other great news, the Library Foundation and YMCA collaboratively raised \$7.5 million for the new facility, nearly hitting our \$7.8 million goal in just one year. A huge "thank you" to the fundraising tri-chairs and committees that are helping make this project a reality! The construction schedule is not yet finalized, so watch for more news.

Energy-performance work with JCI continued, resulting in more efficient lighting at both our locations, and much needed heating and air-conditioning updates at the Downtown Library. We also partnered with Public Works to replace and beautify the 4th Avenue sidewalk, drainage, and curbs. We're also looking forward to making interior and exterior improvements to all buildings in 2022, thanks to a successful 2021 grant application. The *On the Road to Recovery: Transforming Library Spaces* grant is from the Illinois State Library.

Another big project for 2021 was creating new strategic and literacy action plans, which will guide our work from 2022-2025!

Angela Campbell, Rock Island Public Library Director

MISSION

The Rock Island Public Library makes our community stronger by connecting people to resources, services, events, and each other.

VISION

Enhancing the livability of our service areas by offering in-person and online resources that cultivate literacy, belonging, and personal growth.

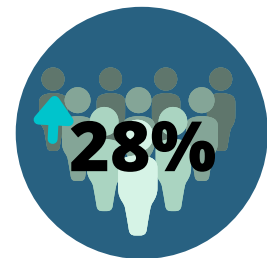
GOALS - WE SEEK:

- Transformative renewal and achievement for our community
- Relevant responses to patron wants & needs
- Equitable access at RIPL facilities & events
- Engaged, intentional connections with our library & community

See our 2022-25 Strategic Plan for more details.



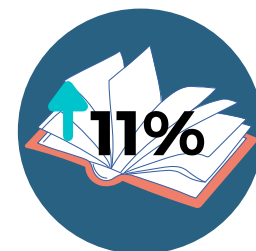
Ups and downs as COVID restrictions lifted, then resumed. Regardless, library use continued steady gains,



Increase in-person visits over 2020



Reference Requests - in house & phone help = 28,542



Total Circulation, in-person & digital = 211,283

STAFF CONTINUING EDUCATION = 1,139.6 HOURS (68,376 minutes)



Librarians helped more patrons navigate the digital world. Public computers switched from appointment to walk-in use, resulting in a 32% increase in sign-ins.



The RIPL Seed Library brought home-grown food to 250 households, distributing 1,001 vegetable, fruit, herb & flower seed packets.



The New York Times
Cooking

The Library added a new database, New York Times Cooking, and online tutorials through Niche Academy to help patrons use our digital services.



Two drives collected 2,815 personal-care items for Heart of Hope Ministries and the Rocky Resource Room at Rock Island High School.

**AMONG OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS, RIPL
ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIANS:**

- Digitized 2,600 Local History Room files to preserve them and enhance access
- Helped 181 people securely dispose of more than 8,000 pounds of documents in a Secure Shred Day with GECU
- Assisted 700 readers find their next great book through Weekly Reads Newsletters & the RIPL Adult Reading Blog
- Enabled 101 patrons to check out rare or hard-to-find books through WorldShare Interlibrary Loan service.
- Offered 81 in-house adult programs

ADAPT & PIVOT!

HYBRID, TAKE-HOME & OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING FILLS A NEED

With parents and schools taking precautions, the Youth Services Department reached out with literacy opportunities, kits and videos for learning and doing at home, and partnership programs. By Summer 2021, we offered some programming outside, and partnered with Library2Go on "Summer2Go" outdoor reading and activities at parks, day camps, and Skip-a-long Center in Rock Island. Events included:

- Girl Scout Day at Hauberg Center
- Summer Reading at Spring Forward sites
- Rock Island Academy and Thomas Jefferson Elementary events

Fall brought us back into the classroom for reading and activity programs at:

- HeadStart/Preschool Classes
- RIFAC Preschool Classes
- KinderCare



Playing oversized Library Jenga at a Parks Dept summer movie night. Library staff brought pre-show fun to all three movies.



Sue and Rich read to Skip-a-Long kids inside the bookmobile. Library staff had a colorful time with the Summer "Reading Colors Your World" theme, including offering sidewalk chalk art & books in stops at Longview Park.



After months of all-virtual and at-home programs, outdoor Tie-Dye was our first in-person family event. It was clear how thrilled these girls were to see each other after a long COVID absence.



The Hug-a-Book early-literacy series continued its 25th year with take-home kits supported by online content. Children's Staff continued as video stars, recording weekly storytimes, book talks, unboxing new books, and hosting a Hug-A-Book dance party via Facebook Live and the RIPL YouTube Channel. In late 2021, we cautiously resumed limited in-person storytimes,

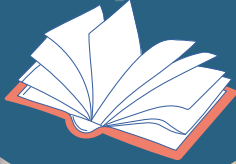
7,203 books logged in Beanstack year-round reading challenges





In house materials

176,731



1,906
new cardholders



4,130
Curbside items

"Angel Tree"
donations cleared
43 accounts for
children with
fines/lost items.



78 OUTREACH VISITS, REACHING 26,565 PEOPLE!

Print
circulation

↑14%

Non-print
circulation

SAME
AS
2020

Electronic
circulation

↑4%

TOTAL CIRCULATION 2021

Print circulation = 104,186

Non-print circulation = 106,878 (online, audiobooks, CDs, video, multimedia, cultural passes, video, ILL, Realia)

Electronic materials = 77,262 (Libby, Axis 360, Freegal, Hoopla, New York Times, Kanopy)

TOTAL SERVICES USED
418,703

↑4%

TOTAL PATRON
CONTACTS

↑22%
196,619

Includes miscellaneous uses, such as Dial-A-Story, YouTube views, ILL borrow/loans, PC/Self-check use, copies, history room, website, social media, wireless, PrairieCat app



Carlos, with the Martin Luther King Center, accepts a special kit delivery from Emily, RIPL Young Adult Librarian.

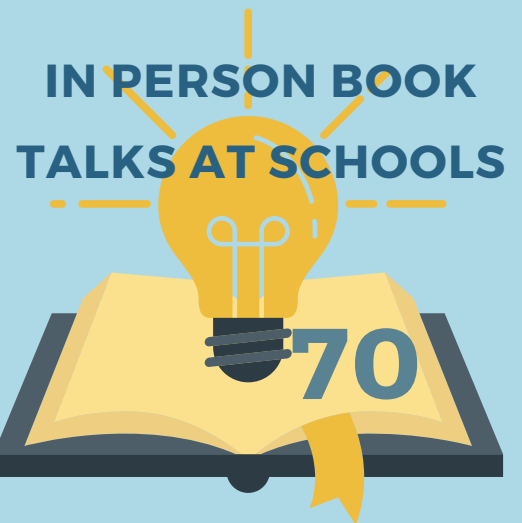
"My students ask for the book talk books during each trip to the library, and it's wonderful to see them engaged in a book of choice! My students maintain a log of book talk book titles . . . and they often ask how soon we can return to the library to look for them!" Emily Peterson, Edison Jr. High teacher

"Book talks provide a bridge between schools and an important community resource - the library! . . . She even brings in books that relate to our curriculum as an added support!" Lindsay Anderson, Edison Jr. High teacher

**417
KITS**

TEEN PARTNERSHIPS

Emily created activity kits for teens at the Boys & Girls Club, MLK Center, and YMCA youth camps. The 24 kits covered topics from winter reading to STEM learning, zine making, teen wellness, and crafts.



IN PERSON BOOK TALKS AT SCHOOLS

Our Teen Librarian returned to Rock Island school classrooms in Fall 2021, offering book talks and attending monthly RIHS Reading Rocks book clubs. Emily also recommends books in weekly videos and in her Teen Reading Blog.

This teen craft video resulted in 1,924 views (and counting) on our YouTube channel!



Beanstack

99,700 MINUTES READ

in year-round reading challenges!

"I very much enjoy the adult craft make-n-take events!" Anonymous



"The Library is coming up with a lot of great ideas to help us through this difficult winter." Sheila

359
PROGRAMS
live & online
all age groups

20,990
IN HOUSE PROGRAM
ATTENDEES (IN PERSON
& ONLINE)

43 School Outreach visits



Top down: Frieze Lectures returned in-person this fall; Summer art for adults, sponsored by RI Art Guild. Left: Reading Colors Your World summer kickoff.



Symphony music at Black Hawk Park, sponsored by the Horstmans; Carol Anne brings style to Halloween Trunk or Treat outreach events.

"These Zoom meetings about spices have been informative, enjoyable and interesting, not to mention the good food that's been on our tables." Diana



**"Thanks so much for providing outreach and bringing the Mobile Library to each of the summer sites. The students all had a fantastic time!"
Spring Forward Learning**



Patron shares of take-home projects, from left: Summer art club; Pet Painting craft kit for adults; Read Across America Day kit; two brothers learn about gardening with a Southwest Craft Kit.



"Thank you so much for sponsoring these crafts! My grandchildren love these. Very much appreciated!" Pam

**"We SO appreciate all of your efforts to supply us with books! We enjoy them, and are thankful to you for going above and beyond! You're creating joy!"
Friendship Manor**



**"I read so much, and even more with the two shutdowns, that the library has kept me sane. Thank you!"
Kimberly**

More tie-dye fun; summer silliness from staff

**THANKS FOR ALL
THE LOVE!**