



Director's Report to the Library Board of Trustees

March 27th, 2025

Operations

By now, I'm sure you've heard about the Executive Order to eliminate the Institute of Museum & Library Services. I have put two documents into the Dropbox for your information. One is a letter from the Board of IMLS to the new acting director of IMLS, and the other is from our Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Library Association explaining where our funding comes from and how it is used and distributed. Both documents should be very helpful in explaining this situation that has becoming very confusing with mis- and disinformation. These are reputable sources.

Our beloved reference/tech services employee, Gretchen Chamberlin, retired towards the end of February. She had worked here for many years, including spending time as the assistant director. We will miss her dearly.

Rachel Kramer, our Fundraising Associate, is now our Fundraising and Communications Coordinator. She has taken on a lot of our PR/marketing duties leftover from when the marketing associate position was eliminated so we felt the need for a title change.

I am starting a book club! I'm very excited to be hosting a new book club for our library, beginning Thursday, May 1st at 5:30pm, you can join me for our very first rom-com book club otherwise known as the "Meet Cute Book Club." The first title we'll be reading is Abby Jimenez's "The Friend Zone." At this time, we'll meet every other month on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm in person (except for July when I will be away on July 3rd so we'll likely meet on July 10th). I'm super excited about this opportunity to get back into a book club.

Since Gretchen's retirement, I am now ordering fiction. I have many years' experience in collection development and enjoy it immensely.

A cleaning company called CleanNet of Philadelphia was chosen from the bids put in to the township on PennBid. It's under budget and was approved by the BoS at their March 17th meeting. Their company is out of King of Prussia and they plan on sending a four-person crew. Abby and I both met with a representative from the company on Wednesday, March 26th to walk them through each building.

Our state report has been submitted to the state. It is usually awhile before we hear if any corrections need to be made.

Our new book drop is open and working well. There have been some complaints, but not a ton.

I'm looking into purchasing period products for our women's and gender-neutral bathrooms from a company called Aunt Flow. We provided these products at my last library, and they were well-received. Exton Library (CCL) also provides these. We are currently provided free period products, just not from the same company, they seem to be leftovers or from wherever they could be purchased bulk. What we have is almost gone. The prices for the products from Aunt Flow are good, and their products are



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hypoallergenic, made with organically grown cotton and plastic-free packaging, as well as gynecologist-tested.

The CCLS's Legislative Breakfast is Friday, April 4th beginning at 7:30am. I will be there and hope some of you have RSVP'd to go, as well.

Our vending machine giveback check for February was \$37.73.

I will not be at our May 22nd board meeting – we'll be heading to Florida with friends for Memorial Day.

Building Access

For the month of February 2025, 11,174 library visits were recorded. Compared to February 2024, the visitor count decreased by 789. I believe this is due to the bad winter weather and closures we had.

Libraries Combined							
Month to date							
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
January	17,125	18,169	2,308	7,148	10,713	10,755	11,479
February	16,619	17,560	2,095	7,303	11,281	11,963	11,174
March	19,471	7,721	4,054	8,817	13,573	14,095	
April	18,458	47	4,764	9,386	11,666	12,691	
May	16,740	154	5,611	8,767	12,940	12,045	
June	20,593	1,451	7,184	11,108	13,418	14,412	
July	21,000	3,542	8,345	12,621	11,962	15,851	
August	22,354	4,899	8,447	12,609	12,889	14,229	
September	19,778	5,167	5,959	10,576	9,937	11,816	
October	19,870	5,007	7,380	10,575	11,117	12,192	
November	18,930	4,719	8,230	11,661	11,051	13,165	
December	14,732	2,262	7,286	9,722	10,093	10,010	

Monthly 2025 to 2024						
	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2024	Difference	% increase or decrease		
Paoli	2,660	2,905	-245	-8%		
Tredyffrin	8,514	9,058	-544	-6%		
Libraries Combined	11,174	11,963	-789	-7%		



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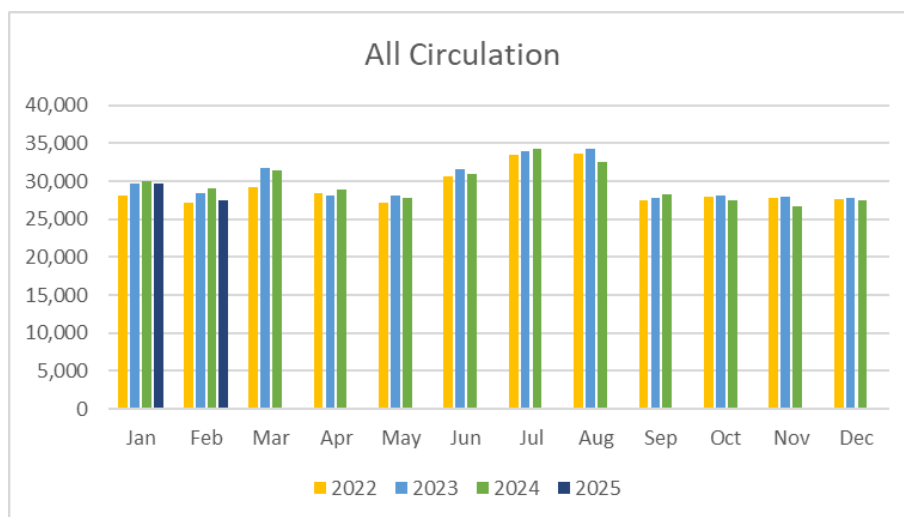
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Yearly 2025 to 2019			
	Tredyffrin	Paoli	Libraries Combined
2025 (YTD)	17,298	5,355	22,653
2024	118,419	34,805	153,224
2023	110,408	30,232	140,640
2022	92,061	28,232	120,293
2021	52,365	19,298	71,663
2020	52,166	18,532	70,698
2019	170,248	55,422	225,670

Circulation

February 2025 circulation totaled 27,420. E-materials circulation remains high and still accounts for approximately 30% of total circulation for 2025, so far. I also attribute this dip in circulation in February to the bad weather. I anticipate seeing an increase in March and/or April numbers.

All Circulation													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2019	32,444	30,670	33,220	31,318	29,629	32,899	36,563	35,057	31,093	31,583	29,979	29,330	383,785
2020	32,884	33,602	20,374	8,202	8,923	13,557	22,464	25,791	25,925	25,290	22,762	19,922	259,696
2021	20,659	18,421	24,680	24,230	24,718	29,178	32,707	31,704	24,807	26,929	26,285	26,682	311,000
2022	28,040	27,215	29,181	28,411	27,226	30,653	33,428	33,568	27,421	27,976	27,783	27,674	348,576
2023	29,657	28,481	31,813	28,150	28,181	31,593	33,983	34,308	27,822	28,048	27,995	27,771	357,802
2024	29,948	29,070	31,479	28,936	27,825	30,893	34,294	32,566	28,332	27,431	26,658	27,432	354,864
2025	29,757	27,420											57,177



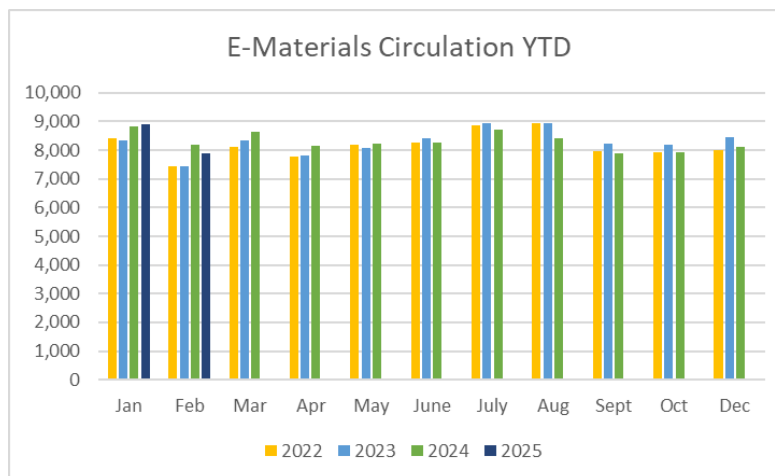
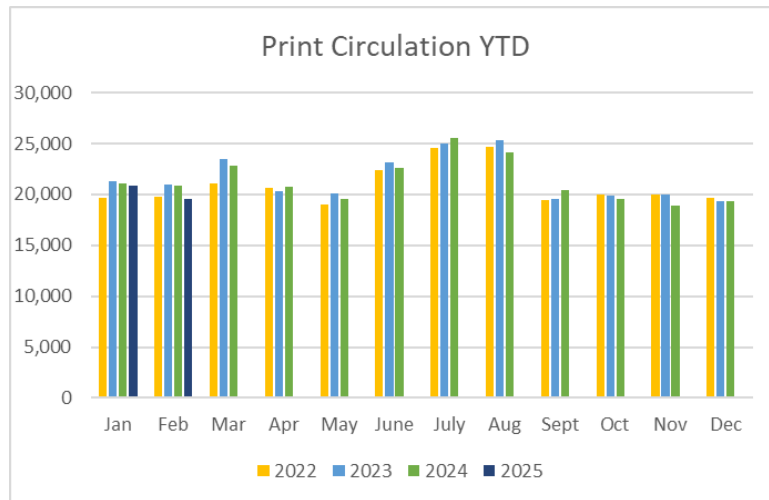


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Print Circulation													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2019	27,621	26,233	28,369	26,674	24,765	27,772	31,099	29,708	26,151	26,602	25,246	24,304	324,544
2020	26,609	27,657	13,783	87	52	4,946	13,865	17,494	18,665	18,077	15,774	12,413	169,422
2021	12,104	10,567	16,157	16,448	16,723	21,244	24,308	23,325	17,254	18,744	18,744	18,829	214,447
2022	19,633	19,789	21,069	20,636	19,036	22,377	24,545	24,638	19,450	20,033	19,957	19,679	250,842
2023	21,318	21,028	23,467	20,317	20,090	23,191	25,042	25,355	19,583	19,848	19,951	19,304	258,494
2024	21,109	20,887	22,833	20,771	19,579	22,637	25,575	24,137	20,428	19,514	18,881	19,306	255,657
2025	20,848	19,542											40,390

E-Materials Circulation													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2019	4,823	4,437	4,851	4,644	4,864	5,127	5,464	5,349	4,942	4,981	4,741	5,026	59,249
2020	6,275	5,945	6,591	8,115	8,871	8,611	8,599	8,297	7,260	7,213	6,988	7,509	90,274
2021	8,555	7,854	8,523	7,782	7,995	7,934	8,399	8,379	7,553	7,657	7,541	7,853	96,025
2022	8,407	7,426	8,112	7,775	8,190	8,276	8,883	8,930	7,971	7,943	7,826	7,995	97,734
2023	8,339	7,453	8,346	7,833	8,091	8,402	8,941	8,953	8,239	8,200	8,044	8,467	99,308
2024	8,839	8,183	8,646	8,165	8,246	8,256	8,719	8,429	7,904	7,917	7,777	8,126	99,207
2025	8,909	7,878											16,787





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Programming Notes

February 2025 programming numbers are listed here. The charts show updated totals for numbers of programs offered and program attendance. Get a load of these numbers!

	Current month numbers are preliminary.						
Programs Offered	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	126	178	221	84	98	115	154
February	136	183	212	90	93	130	168
March	131	86	153	93	120	136	35
April	169	64	101	82	108	138	
May	157	99	140	69	121	140	
June	153	135	165	76	119	137	
July	137	162	241	80	124	166	
August	165	130	122	74	122	132	
September	154	99	57	132	127	137	
October	171	107	126	81	116	166	
November	122	88	94	62	123	148	
December	142	76	70	52	78	134	
TOTAL	1,763	1,407	1,702	975	1,349	1,679	357

Programs Attendance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	2,084	3,474	2,997	756	1,641	2,613	2,303
February	1,973	3,822	2,966	867	1,545	2,217	2,841
March	2,020	1,156	2,107	1,005	2,220	2,594	650
April	2,197	1,418	1,915	841	2,082	2,424	
May	2,420	2,282	2,363	943	1,886	2,471	
June	5,786	1,928	2,254	1,086	2,335	3,214	
July	2,518	2,144	2,966	941	2,502	3,290	
August	3,230	1,925	2,324	1,192	2,162	2,940	
September	2,334	2,897	816	2,095	2,218	2,252	
October	3,335	1,491	1,445	1,218	2,104	2,694	
November	2,005	1,494	1,635	806	1,964	2,584	
December	1,930	1,278	852	890	1,230	2,003	
TOTAL	31,832	25,309	24,640	12,640	23,889	31,296	5,794



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Adult Services (submitted by Jonathan Trice):

Aislinn Amadeus Wallin started as a Reference Assistant who will be focusing on supporting adult and Makerspace programming. They have been working with Sam to learn about the logistics of program planning and working on a graphic novel book club. They have been working with Amy to learn about the Makerspace machines, send 3D prints, and put programs on LibCal. They have been working with me to learn the Reference Desk. They're doing great!

I also started the research process for acquiring three new smartboards for the library: One for children's programming in the Tyler Hedges room, one for the Makerspace, and one mounted on a rolling stand for use in programs throughout the building, such as ELL classes.

Finally, I rebuilt the museum pass webpage to make it easier to find and use, fixed several accessibility issues noted by the developer's report, and cleaned up its appearance. Sam and I also identified pages to build out and others that we no longer needed.

Adult Programming (submitted by Sam Sorensen):

In February, we held 83 in person, virtual, and self-directed/passive programs with over 1,000 in attendance again. It's lovely to see so much engagement since the start of 2025! Our recurring programs, like yoga (90 attendees) and ukulele (85 attendees), maintained strong attendance this month. We also hosted a local author, offered a James Baldwin series for Black History Month, and provided an aging in place program. Most notably, we hosted Representative Melissa Shusterman for a coffee and chat event designed for her to meet with constituents one-on-one. We had 86 people turn out. The yearlong book challenge is also gaining momentum beginning with 45 entries in January and now 77 entries in February. Patrons have shared with me multiple times that this challenge offered low-stakes opportunities to read works they never would have encountered otherwise.

Stephanie Bragg, Rachel Kramer, Sarah Roeske, and I also put together plans for National Library Week occurring the first full week of April. We are planning a full week, including our first Indie Lens Pop-Up screening of a documentary, *Free for All: The Public Library*. Our screening will kick off National Library Week and give the audience a taste of the full film, which premieres on April 29.

Makerspace (submitted by Amy Moscia):

This month, we held 33 programs for all ages along with individual appointments for projects. 3D printing is still our most requested service, and the turnaround for prints is about one week. We have also opened up a wider selection of colors instead of just black and white.

We added a new storage cabinet for storing materials and a cart for the laser engraver for better access.



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We hosted a girl scout troop to learn about 3D printing and design, and I work with the troop leader directly. A local high school student, Mary, has started teaching a youth class under my supervision as part of her girl scout gold star award. Classes ranged from python coding to digital art.

Finally, we started a new monthly, passive, virtual program on our Instagram page called “Timelapse Tuesday.” At 5PM on the third Tuesday of each month, we pick an item to 3D print, record the printing process, and post it to our Instagram page. Patrons then comment to guess what the print is, and whoever guesses first wins the print. February’s print was Swoop, the mascot for the Philadelphia Eagles, in celebration of the Superbowl!

Children’s Programming (Submitted by Stephanie Bragg):

The children’s department upped our game a little in February. New staff member Jenne began preschool programming each Friday of the month. Budding Bookworms is for ages 3 to 6 years old and covered a different winter animal each week with stories, songs, and a craft. With the new programs we had a total of 30 programs (excluding the makerspace) and saw 803 patrons. Musician Christine Kinslow, Ballet 180, and SoccerStars MainLine all provided a program for us. Some other highlights were Preschool STEM: Ice Works, Young Illustrators: Ezra Jack Keats, and the creation of stained glass hearts that adorned our walls.

Moving into March, we’ve already started thinking about summer. We are having a tshirt design contest. Every year the staff gets a tshirt to advertise summer reading, but this year we wanted to see what our kids and teens could create based on the theme “Color Our World.” The contest ends on March 31st.

Teen Programming (Submitted by Laurie Doan):

Teens in February held our weekly meetings of crochet club, several game nights, book club, chess, and roundtable dinner & discussion.

Special events included a culinary class, “Icing on the Cake,” an art workshop with art teacher Helena Quigley, and the release event, “Inkwell,” for the Conestoga High School literary magazine.

Teen Advisory Board members and parents attended the musical “Chicago” together in support of one of our members and to enjoy high-quality musical theatre right here in our own hometown.

Teens Anwen Deng, Miro Raj, and Theo Silio, made a generous gift of \$250 raised through a music fundraiser to benefit Tredyffrin Public Library. The program of Salut d'amour, Op.12 by Edward Elgar, Rhapsodie espagnole, S.254 by Franz Liszt, and the Horn Trio in Eb Major by Johannes Brahms, was extraordinary!



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With support from the trio, we were able to partially close the gap in funding for “Stay Gold” our arts-focused, chaperoned day trip to New York City. Students will have read one or both books, “The Outsiders,” and “Punching the Air,” before the trip.

The trip includes: a guided visit to Central Park’s “The Gate of the Exonerated,” which commemorates the struggle of individuals wrongly convicted, a teen-led walk through Central Park to consider the park through the lens of history, design and landmarks and evaluate the park’s success in achieving its mission to bring peace, health and nature to all New Yorkers, regardless of race or class, and a viewing of “The Outsiders” on Broadway.

The trios’ gift, as a result of their musical creativity, is giving other students agency to be transformed through an artistic exploration of what it means to “stay gold” when faced with intolerance. Those same students will share their insights and creativity and further transform members of our community.

The Remixed Classics program, student internship, and “Stay Gold” projects are ongoing. I’ve met with other PA Humanities grantees online which has been great for staying up to date and learning about what’s happening at different organizations in Pennsylvania. An attendee recommended courses at the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality; I completed the course, “Youth Voice,” which emphasized, “the importance of offering real choices and meaningful participation to youth, and nurturing youth leadership.”

Respectfully submitted by Mallory Hoffman (with statistics and pivot table help from Valerie Green) ☺