

LIBRARY SERVICES

AUGUST 2025

Ruth Suckow Exhibit

In partnership with the Ruth Suckow Memorial Association as well as Humanities Iowa, the Burlington Public Library was proud to host the Ruth Suckow Traveling Exhibit which was installed on August 11th. Ruth was an Iowa author with 9 novels and 43 short stories to her name. To enhance this exhibit, we partnered with Player's Workshop to host a reader's theater presentation of 'A Great Mollie' based on the short story by Ruth.

The Power of Stories

Stories have the power to shape culture and bring people together and professional storyteller, August Green, knows just how to harness that power. Back by popular demand, August presented stories of laughter and joy at this month's First Friday. Described as a "modern day Andy Griffith blended with Garrison Keillor," August is always a hit with the Burlington crowd.



Democracy in Dialogue Update

The teen area has been given a fresh coat of paint with black walls now designating the teen space. Work on the mural continues, bringing us closer to finalizing the installation.



New Meeting Room Software

As part of our ongoing efforts to remain fiscally sound and responsible with the tax allocation given to us, we have moved our meeting room booking software to WhoFi, a service that is currently provided by the State Library and funded with federal dollars through the Library Services Technology Act. Previously we have been using WhoFi for our statistics as it feeds directly into the State Library's annual survey software. With their addition of room booking software, it made sense for us to switch over as it saves us from using local dollars and consolidates some of our digital contracts. The public-facing end of WhoFi is very user friendly, and while we are saving money we are also providing a better and more intuitive experience for our patrons who book meeting rooms. Simultaneous login helps the BPL staff, as that was one of our bigger sticking points with the previous software provider.

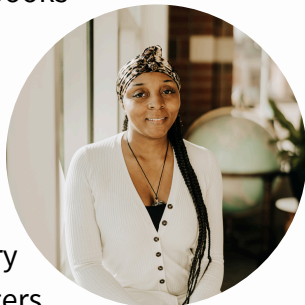
City Council 101

This November 3 of our 5 city council seats are up for election, and with several people reaching out to ask questions about what is involved in being on council we hosted a 5-week series to answer their questions. From the budget to the council manual and everything in between we cast a wide net for those interested in running as well as those interested in following along or becoming a more involved citizen. The series ended with a Q&A session including past council, current council, and the Mayor of West Burlington. This has kicked-off a new Civic Literacy initiative, which will also include a class on the county and state government.



Staff Recognition

On August 25th Tiara Carter celebrated her 15-year anniversary with the Burlington Public Library. Tiara is the lead for our Inter Library Loan program, facilitating our books going out into the world and requesting titles for patrons looking to read outside of our collection. Tiara also helps lead our senior outreach bringing joy and library services to our area senior centers. Thanks for all you do & congratulations, Tiara!



New State Librarian

On August 19th Brenda Hall was named the new State Librarian. The State Library of Iowa provides resources, support, funding, and accreditation to Iowa's public libraries. Brenda has been serving as the interim State Librarian and we are thrilled for her permanent promotion to the position.

August by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **24,666** (28,459)

Number of Programs: **13** (56)

Program Participants: **596** (1,901)

New Borrower Accounts: **109** (128)

Use of online databases: **34,873** (15,161)

WiFi & Computer Use: **4,499** (5,149)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **161** (164)

Meeting Room Reservations: **297** (399)

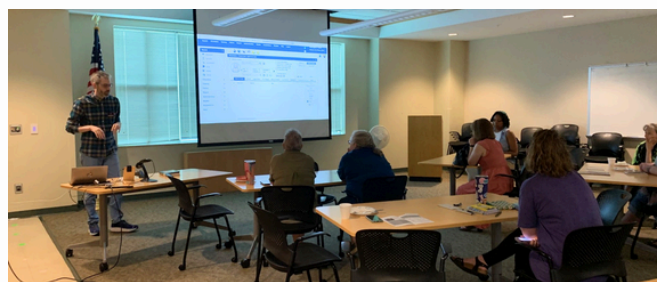
Door Count: **10,083** (12,477)

August '25 / July '25

Staff Development

As part of our current Strategic Plan we have implemented three staff development days each year, one of which took place on Friday, August 22nd. With 26 staff covering 3 rotating shifts of 60 hours of public access to our building every week of the year, we rarely get the chance to come together as a single group. These staff days are an opportunity for us to gather and spend quality team-building time together. At our August training we covered the Annual Report looking at the FY25 statistics, the Strategic Plan goals accomplished, and looked ahead to what FY26 had in store.

The Fire Department stopped by and gave us an overview of the building's extinguishers as well as the opportunity for all staff to have a hands-on experience putting out a (controlled) fire.



Murray Foundation Donation

The Murray Foundation has granted a very generous donation of **\$24,000** to the Burlington Public Library to support our programming and outreach. Zero tax dollars are allocated towards programs and outreach, so grants and regular funding from the Friends of the Library help to ensure that all programs and events offered by BPL are free for all to attend. Many thanks to the Board of the Murray Foundation for this gift. It will help us to have an incredible impact in the community.

August by the Numbers: E-Lending



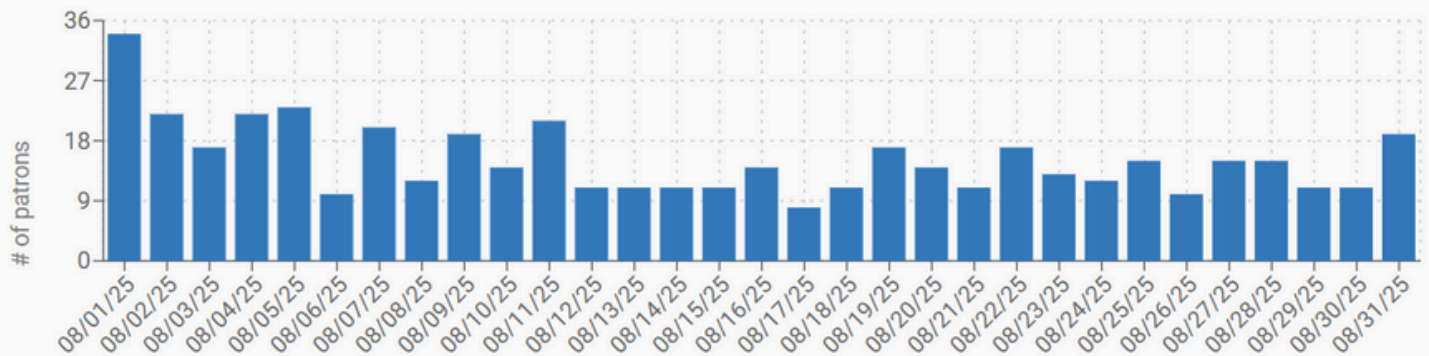
OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	550	\$1,305.92	313	23	1.8
<small>BURLINGTON</small> Libby	3,085	\$504.64	654	26	4.72
State Libby	294,739	\$41,666	59,388	2,486	4.96

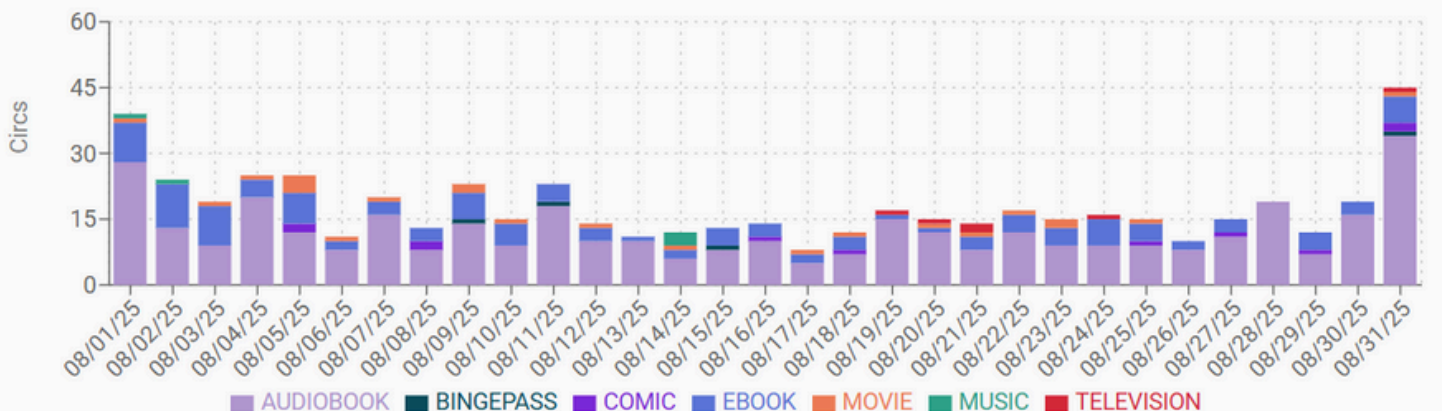
Hoopla Detailed Report

Patron Borrowing Report

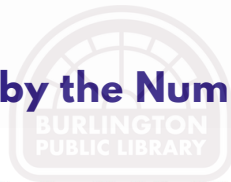
There were **313** unique patrons borrowing Instant licenses from August 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025 with an average of **10** people borrowing at least one Instant item per day.



Circulations by Format



August by the Numbers: WiFi



Burlington Public Library August-2025

In August, 753 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 3 individual days.

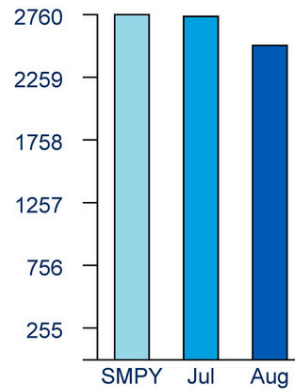
Change from prior month



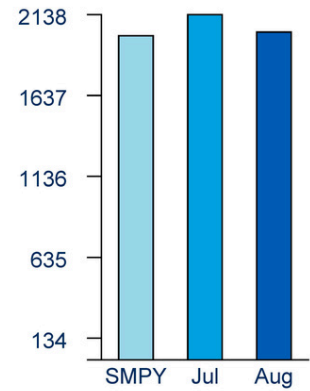
2514 ↓ -8.45%

Monthly Sessions

Total Monthly Session Count

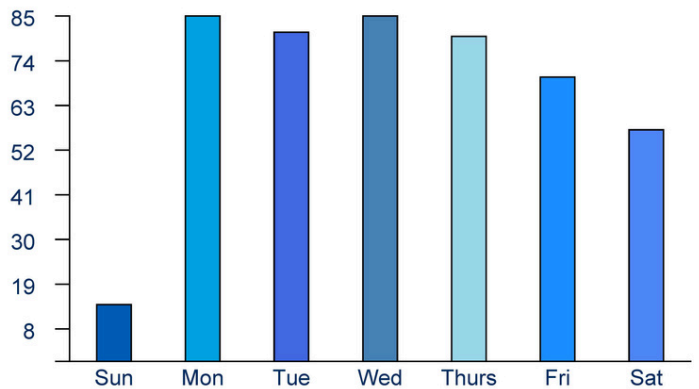


Total Monthly Visits

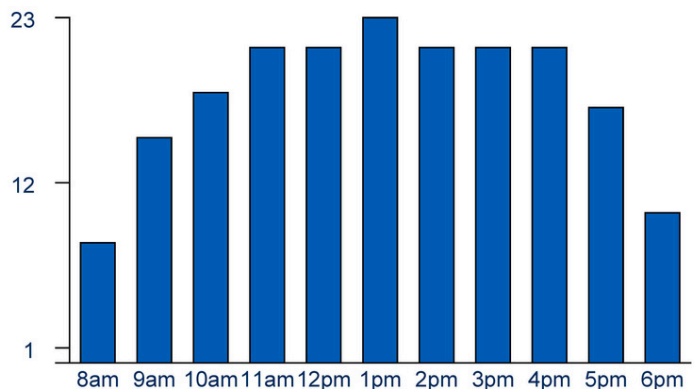


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



2030 ↓ -5.05%

Total Visits



753 ↓ 0%

Unique Visitors



2.7 ↓ -4.93%

Average Return Rate