

LIBRARY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2025

A long time coming...



It has long been the dream of Burlington Public Library staff to have our very own bookmobile to bring library services to rural Des Moines County, and to generally meet people where they're at. First dreamed up by Burlington's trail-blazing librarian Elizabeth Lily who spoke of her frustration on not having acquired the vehicle during her tenure that ended in 1951, our 2025 team of employees is rolling this dream into a reality. Thanks to the wildly creative talents of Joseph Burgus (as seen in the photo above) we have a stunning vehicle that will no doubt bring immense joy and connection to the Greater Burlington area. Routes and services are still to be determined, with an official launch date of regular services in spring of 2026.

Digitization Efforts

In partnership with Iowa Works, we are thrilled to have Ethan Sferra join the BPL team as an intern this year. Ethan has a passion for archival work, and was a perfect match for our digitization effort of the library's archive. Beginning in May with library board records from 1890 Ethan began the slow and detail-oriented process of scanning 135 year-old documents. By digitizing these records were helping to retain the library's story for posterity.

As the first free public library west of the Mississippi we have a rich history to lean on, and don't want to risk losing it to a flood, fire, or general wear and tear. Digitizing our records will also make them more searchable and available to the public. Digital access to our records retains the integrity of the document while allowing for public access and use.

With tens of thousands of records stored in the library's archive, we have a mammoth task ahead of us in digitizing all of it. As of May 2025, Ethan has scanned in a whopping 5,752 files! Scanning is a task that takes great patience and attention to detail, particularly when you're working with a collection as large as ours. Many thanks to Ethan for his hard work and passion for preserving Burlington Public Library's history.



Outreach

Though regular bookmobile routes and services won't begin until next spring, you will see it out and about for community outreach events until then. We joined the South Hill Neighborhood Association for their annual block party, and were able to showcase our beautiful new vehicle at this fabulous community event.



Book Talks

With the start of a new school year our Teen Specialist, Becky Ruberg is back at it with monthly book talks. This partnership allows classrooms to get expert reader's reference through Becky's deep well of youth literature.

September by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **23,295** (24,666)

Number of Programs: **44** (13)

Program Participants: **985** (596)

New Borrower Accounts: **121** (109)

Use of online databases: **22,645** (38,873)

WiFi & Computer Use: **4,721** (4,499)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **175** (161)

Meeting Room Reservations: **370** (297)

Door Count: **9,890** (10,083)

September '25 / August '25

Paint-A-Thon

Three BPL staff joined the city's team to help paint a house in this year's Paint-A-Thon. By joining forces with city employees across all of the departments we were able to give a fresh coat of paint to a house in need.



Senior Outreach

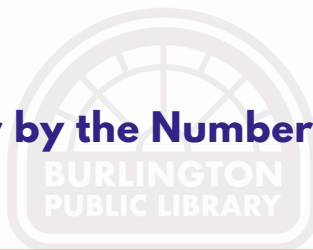
This month our senior outreach team took a fun and creative scarecrow craft to our area senior living centers. By offering these kinds of hands-on activities we are fostering community, small motor skills, and storytelling amongst participants.



Patron Feedback

"Hi, I'm new to this community and recently visited with my children. We absolutely loved the Turing tumble. My kids 4 and 9 absolutely loved it as well. It was fun and super interesting, not to mention mesmerizing. We're so happy to be patrons and we love our library's so very much!"

September by the Numbers: E-Lending



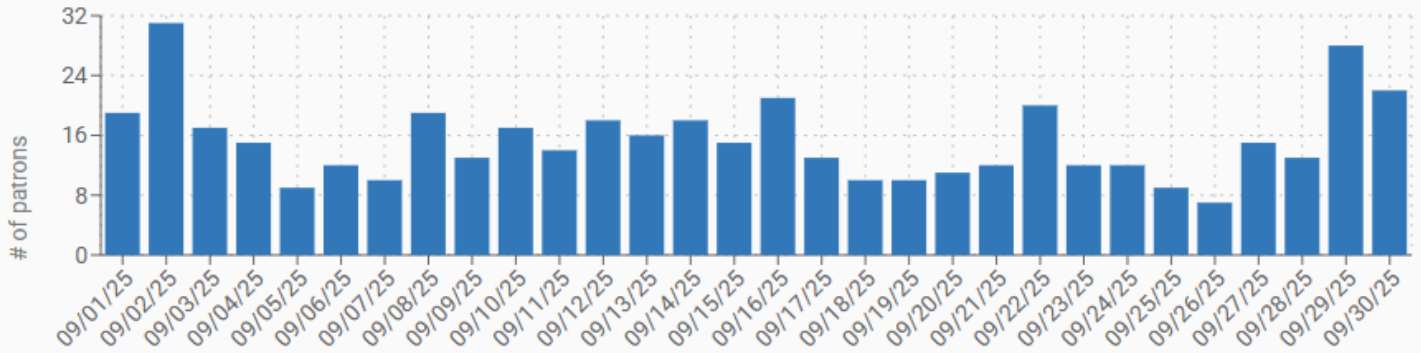
OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	518	\$1,229.75	298	22	1.7
BURLINGTON Libby	2,807	\$504.64	651	30	4.31
State Libby	286,424	\$52,450	58,839	2,530	4.87

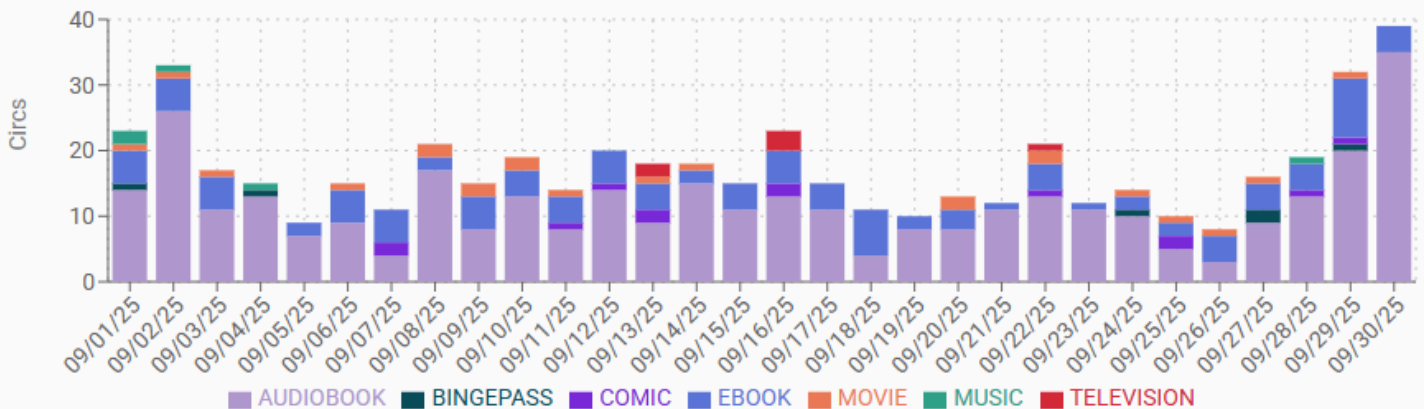
Hoopla Detailed Report

Patron Borrowing Report

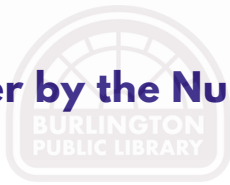
There were **298** unique patrons borrowing Instant licenses from September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 with an average of **9** people borrowing at least one Instant item per day.



Circulations by Format



September by the Numbers: WiFi



Burlington Public Library September-2025

In September, 722 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



2717 ↑ 8.07%

Monthly Sessions



2162 ↑ 6.5%

Total Visits



722 ↓ -4.12%

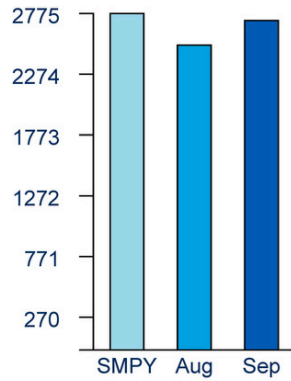
Unique Visitors



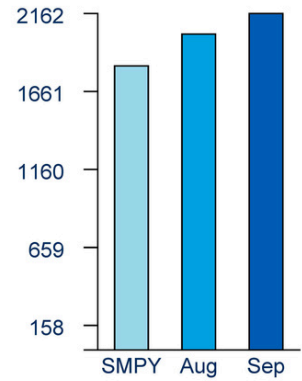
2.99 ↑ 10.74%

Average Return Rate

Total Monthly Session Count

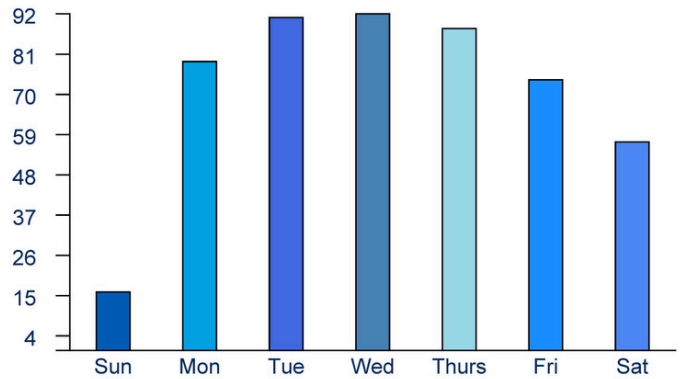


Total Monthly Visits



*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly

