

LIBRARY SERVICES

AUGUST 2026

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Americans and the Holocaust

The Burlington Public Library is incredibly honored to have been one of 50 libraries chosen across the nation to host the traveling exhibit, *Americans and the Holocaust*. In partnership with the American Library Association and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, this traveling exhibit went out on a two-year run with us being the second to last stop. The exhibit poses the question, “what did Americans know?” and encourages participants to think critically about how we interact with information and ask ourselves, “what do we know now?”



After two years of planning and preparing for this exhibit the East wing of the library has been transformed into a stunning exhibit space, harkening to Philip Crapo’s initial plans for the library to double as an exhibit space in 1885.

Child Survivor: Yvonne Aronson

We were deeply honored to host Yvonne Aronson on Saturday, August 29th to share her story of survival as a Jewish child who went into hiding to survive the war and escape the death camps. Yvonne traveled from the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Chicago to share her personal account of how she survived the Holocaust and how close her father was to surviving as he passed away in Auschwitz just 5 days before it was liberated. Yvonne spoke to a standing room only crowd, and brought an incredible story and lesson to all who were in attendance.



While in hiding Yvonne was kept entertained and quiet by reading a book that was gifted to her by the non-Jewish mother whose home she was safeguarded in; a book that she still carries around today and is well-worn and tattered from the countless turning of pages. Yvonne’s parting comments were to stand up to bullies and enjoy the small things in life.

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Auschwitz Liberation

Chris Green, Chair of the Holocaust Committee of the Quad Cities, joined us on Saturday, August 29th to give a riveting presentation on the 80th commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz. As the Chair of the Quad Cities' committee, Chris was able to travel to Poland and attend the commemoration in person.



Her first hand account of visiting the death camp at Auschwitz, and the moving tributes made at the commemoration ceremony were eye-opening and deeply moving.

Hypatia



Philip Crapo commissioned the stained glass window featured to the left, for the library's North window at the 4th & Columbia St. location. A victim of book banning and burning herself, Hypatia lived through the destruction and burning of the Library of Alexandria, only to be later beaten publicly to death by Christian zealots, and then burned atop a pile of her own books/scrolls as a show of religious extremism shutting down literacy and educated people, women in particular, who would question or confront their doctrine. A precursor to the Nazi-era book burnings, Hypatia's story serves as an even older warning against extremist attacks on learning, literacy, and libraries.

Library Bill of Rights

Iowa has a rich library history, and one that ties directly into the Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit with the creation of the Library Bill of Rights.

Published in 1909 and written by the Italian poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, the Manifesto of Futurism declared, "we will destroy museums, libraries [...]" and would go on to inspire leaders like Joseph Goebbels and Adolf Hitler. Three months after Hitler came into power, Nazi student associations began hosting organized book burnings, and on May 10, 1933 nearly 20,000 volumes were burned at one of these rituals in Berlin.



A few years later in 1938, the Des Moines Public Library director, Forrest Spaulding, wrote a document to ensure no such book banning or burning could take place in his community, submitting 'The Library Bill of Rights' to the DMPL library board in November of that year. With unanimous approval, the document was approved, and the very next year would be accepted (with minor edits) as a core document for the American Library Association. Today, the Library Bill of Rights serves as the global core document for resisting censorship and upholding libraries as free places to exchange ideas.

"We have laid a cornerstone, whose dates shall mark the time when our city entered upon a more liberal and expansive career of materials and intellectual improvement and development." - Philip Crapo, Dedication of the Burlington Public Library, 1899



Forrest Spaulding

The Library's BILL OF RIGHTS

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.
- II. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- III. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- IV. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- V. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
- VI. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VII. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of groups requesting their use.

Leadership Institute

Sam Watson, Manager of Public Services, was selected to participate in the Iowa Library Association's Leadership Institute. This event takes place every two years and we are so proud of Sam for having been selected for this competitive and valuable institute. Heather Woody led the three-day institute in Ankeny, and brought her motivational speaking and leadership insight to this year's cohort. Library leaders from across the state discussed challenges with multiple generations working together and reflected on mindsets and how we show up to work among other topics. Congrats, Sam!



August by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **22,177** (24,378)

Number of Programs: **35** (66)

Program Participants: **1,699** (1,537)

New Borrower Accounts: **121** (119)

Use of online databases: **3,892** (3,949)

WiFi & Computer Use: **3,112** (3,462)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **142** (151)

Home Library: **287** (179)

Meeting Room Reservations: **449** (515)

Door Count: **12,372** (11,927)

August '26 / July '26

Staff Recognition

This month Becky Nelson celebrated her 5-year milestone with BPL! Becky serves as our Manager of Outreach & Program Services and has been the driving force behind the current exhibit on display. Congrats, Becky!



Becky Nelson, center, cutting the ribbon at the AATH exhibit reception

Retirement

After nearly 12 years as an outstanding shelver, Jim Ford began a new chapter of life with his retirement from the library. Jim has an incredible eye for design and was behind many of our excellent seasonal displays throughout the building. We were able to celebrate Jim at our August staff day, and we wish him well in this new era of life!



Retirement

With large shoes to fill after Jim's retirement, we opened applications and were able to hire a shelver to keep our team fully-staffed. Join me in welcoming Lynette Heckenberg to the BPL team as our newest shelver!



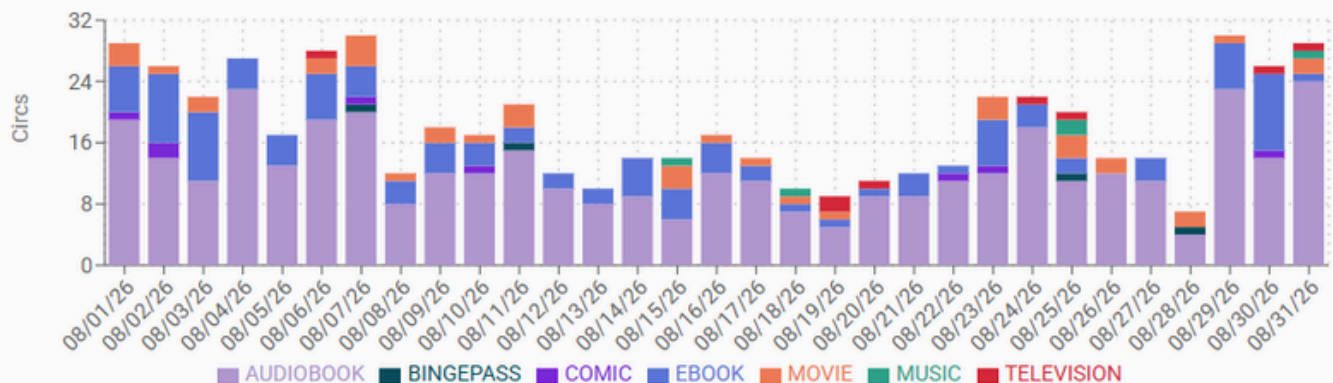
Lynette joins us with a rich experience in the school and education system, and will be part of the team to help us maintain our incredible physical collection. Welcome, Lynette!

August by the Numbers: E-Lending

OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	567	\$1,363.71	333	27	1.7
BURLINGTON Libby	3,585	\$604.50	703	41	5.10
State Libby	316,941	\$123,279.91	63,978	2,895	4.95

Hoopla Detailed Report:



Libby State Snapshot:

1	Ames Public Library	22,196
2	Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library	17,068
3	West Des Moines Public Library	13,257
4	Urbandale Public Library	10,808
5	Council Bluffs Public Library	9,081
6	Sioux City Public Library	8,732
7	Waukee Public Library	7,117
8	Johnston Public Library	6,952
9	Indianola Public Library	4,946
10	Decorah Public Library	4,564
11	Dubuque County Library District	4,476
12	Norwalk Easter Public Library	3,957
13	Marshalltown Public Library	3,635
14	Burlington Public Library	3,585
15	Altoona Public Library	3,549
16	Pella Public Library	3,333
17	Newton Public Library	3,227
18	Clive Public Library	3,221
19	Grimes Public Library	3,093
20	Sioux Center Public Library	3,087

Burlington Public Library

August-2026

In August, 688 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 3 individual days.

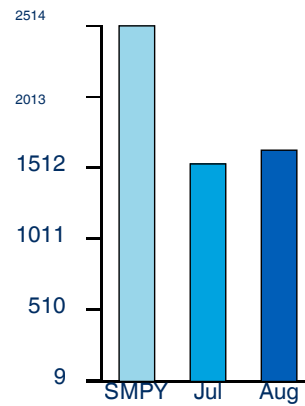
Change from prior month



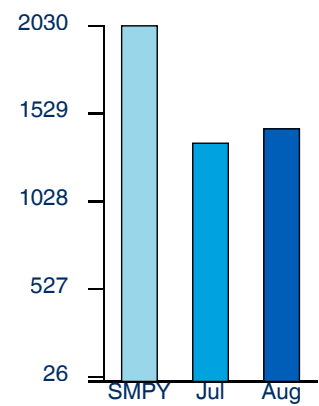
1635 ↑ 6.31%

Monthly Sessions

Total Monthly Session Count

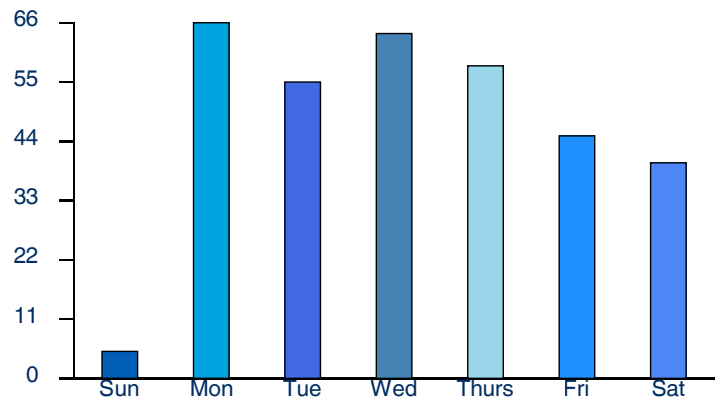


Total Monthly Visits

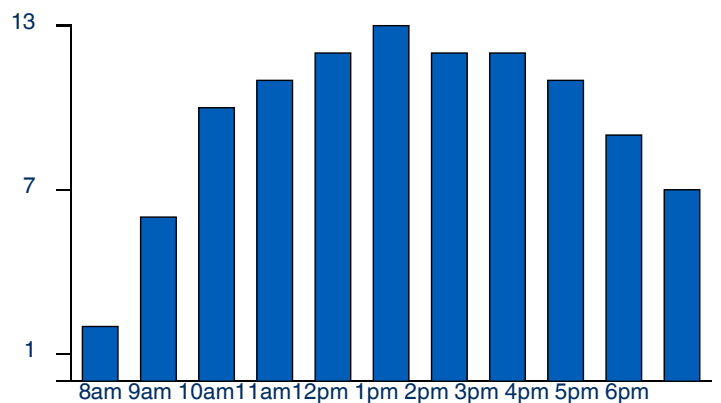


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



1442 ↑ 6.03%

Total Visits



688 ↑ 2.53%

Unique Visitors



2.1 ↑ 3.45%

Average Return Rate

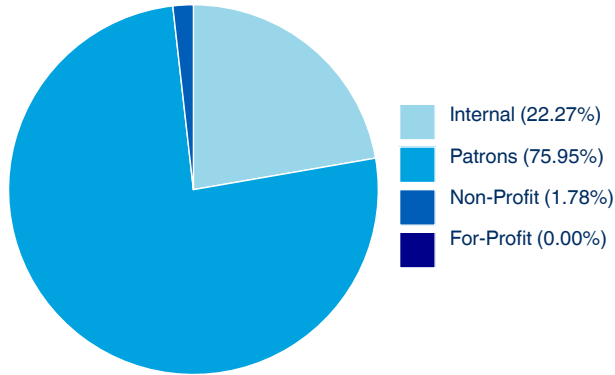
Meeting Rooms

Burlington Public Library

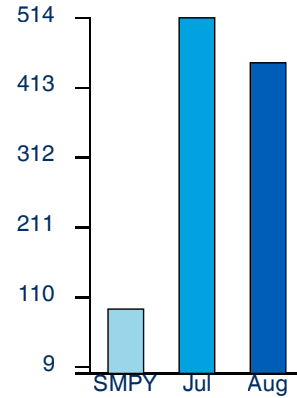
Aug-26

In August, you had 449 bookings overall with a cumulative attendance of 1475 patrons.

Booking Breakdowns By Percentage



Total Monthly Bookings



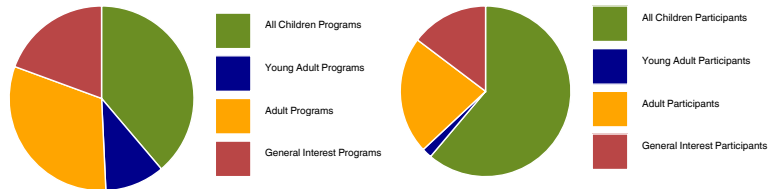
*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Programs

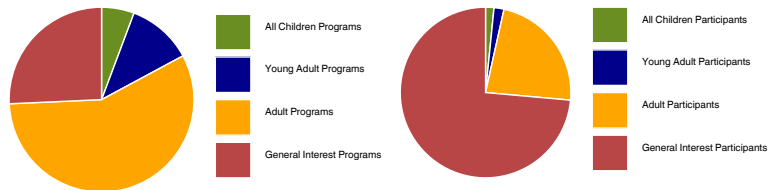
Burlington Public Library

July, 2026 - August, 2026

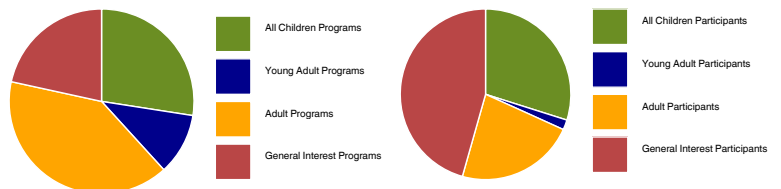
July Overview					
All Children Programs	26	38.81%	All Children Participants	940	61.16%
Young Adult Programs	7	10.45%	Young Adult Participants	29	1.89%
Adult Programs	21	31.34%	Adult Participants	342	22.25%
General Interest Programs	13	19.4%	General Interest Participants	226	14.7%
Total Programs	67		Total Participants	1537	



August Overview					
All Children Programs	2	5.71%	All Children Participants	27	1.59%
Young Adult Programs	4	11.43%	Young Adult Participants	32	1.88%
Adult Programs	20	57.14%	Adult Participants	390	22.95%
General Interest Programs	9	25.71%	General Interest Participants	1250	73.57%
Total Programs	35		Total Participants	1699	



Year in Review Overview					
All Children Programs	28	27.45%	All Children Participants	967	29.88%
Young Adult Programs	11	10.78%	Young Adult Participants	61	1.89%
Adult Programs	41	40.2%	Adult Participants	732	22.62%
General Interest Programs	22	21.57%	General Interest Participants	1476	45.61%
Total Programs	102		Total Participants	3236	



August Snapshots



Exhibit Opening Reception



National Night Out



Spicy Book Club



August All Staff Day



Exhibit Arrives!



Exhibit Set-Up



Exhibit Opening Reception

 The Views of Burlington
7h · 🌐

Thank you to the [Burlington Public Library](#) for coming to help our residents at Oakview make cute bracelets!!



 BurlingtonBytheBook
Aug 6 · 🌐

Amazing! Burlington, you are amazing!
We have been collecting donations for the [Burlington Public Library](#), and [BurlingtonBytheBook](#) promises to match up to \$100 each month for a year.
In July, our customers donated \$205 in spare change and extra pocket money.

Five other local businesses have joined in to promote our local library, helping our community during budget cuts and economic support.

The following businesses have also agreed to match all donations up to \$100. Together this means for July, the library gets \$805 in New books. Each title was specifically requested by the library.

The Busted Cup on Jefferson
Big River Popcorn and Treats on Jefferson
The Broom Closet on Osborn Street
The Beancounter Coffeehouse on Jefferson
River Ridge Dental in Burlington

Thank you Burlington -for building a stronger community. 😊