

LIBRARY SERVICES

APRIL 2026

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring Genealogy & Local History Workshop

Local historians and genealogy enthusiasts gathered at the Burlington Public Library on April 24th and 25th for the annual Spring Genealogy and Local History Workshop. The keynote speaker this year was Susan Kaufman, the local history and genealogy librarian at the Peoria Public Library.



Nancy Halls did an incredible job organizing and hosting this two-day event for our community. “When people learn this event is FREE and open to all,” said Halls, “they are consistently amazed and grateful that our library offers such a valuable program for free. I always tell them to thank a Friend.”

The Friends of the Burlington Public Library not only provide funds to ensure that this program is free for all to attend, but they hosted a special local history and genealogy book sale during both days as well.

In thanking staff who chipped in to help ensure the success of this event, Nancy said, “the Friends of the Library, members of the Des Moines County Genealogical Society, folks from the Nauvoo FamilySearch Center and volunteer presenters from our community & beyond. Staff - Joe worked to get our old VHS films onto an external storage device so it could be played on a loop during the workshop; Jim made sure our coffee was plentiful & hot; Melissa & Kamryn stepped up to handle a messy situation; Becky N stuffed bags with popcorn; and our amazing, indefatigable director was the backbone of the event, helping recruit speakers, smoothing out rough spots, pitching in to deliver doughnuts on her day off and patiently putting out all the small fires that arise in an event of this size and scope. 100% a team effort!”

Vacation Thru Time: Sherwood Forest

Community members were taken back in time to Medieval Europe with a Vacation Thru Time to the Sherwood Forest. Bethany Luttenegger, Melissa Nystrom, and Monika Ryan transformed the library’s meeting rooms into an incredible interactive exhibit showcasing the legendary hero, Robin Hood, and his band of merry men. This unique program offers our community the opportunity to learn in a fun and creative way, while enriching the suite of free programs available to folks of all ages.



Making our Programs Accessible

Sheleigh Hull has taken our programs to a new level of accessibility by offering a monthly accessible craft hour for adults. With several area development centers utilizing the library for a community connection, Sheleigh recognized an opportunity to align our program offerings with this population.

Each month focuses on a different craft, and in April they painted flower planters while also learning how to help flowers thrive and why water is so important for healthy plants.

Community Partnership: Entartete Nacht

On April 24th the Art Center of Burlington hosted a Degenerate Art Exhibition along with an Entartete Nacht Django Reinhardt concert, both of which spoke to the Burlington Public Library's upcoming Americans and the Holocaust exhibit.

The art exhibit explored historical government censorship of art, books, music, libraries and museums while the concert took listeners on a journey of Django's tumultuous life from 1910 - 1953.

Participants were encouraged to attend the library's upcoming exhibit and to continue learning about censorship and the importance of music, art, and storytelling and to attend the upcoming Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit at the Burlington Public Library.

April by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **20,990** (21,482)

Number of Programs: **73** (53)

Program Participants: **2,010** (1,456)

New Borrower Accounts: **86** (103)

Use of online databases: **3,792** (2,848)

WiFi & Computer Use: **3,316** (3,636)

Items borrowed & loaned
through Inter Library Loan: **178** (139)

Home Library: **186** (253)

Meeting Room Reservations: **465** (456)

Door Count: **10,224** (10,354)

April '26 / March '26

Staff Recognition

Laura Davis hit her 20-year milestone with the BPL on April 15th! Laura keeps our collection fresh by overseeing all purchasing for the library's physical collection. Congratulations on 20 years, Laura!

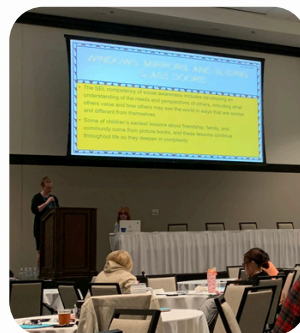


Spring Staff Training

The Burlington Public Library was closed for the day on April 6th to allow the staff to host a regional spring training for SE Iowa library staff and trustees to learn about intellectual freedom. Amanda Sand was the keynote speaker and brought a wealth of knowledge as having served as an Iowa library director as well as holding several leadership positions with the Iowa Library Association and the American Library Association. Joining the staff for the day was Becky Heil from the State Library of Iowa as well as a local panel of professionals who have dealt with challenges to intellectual freedom in the form of censorship pressure.

BPL in the Community

The Burlington Public Library was invited to present to Community Action's all staff day for their Head Start teachers. Allison Richert and Stephanie Jones took to the stage to present on early literacy and how the Burlington Public Library supports our school efforts to engage and educate young people.



Friends' Annual Meeting

The annual Friends of the Burlington Public Library meeting was held on Thursday, April 30th and included nearly 80 Friends' members in attendance.

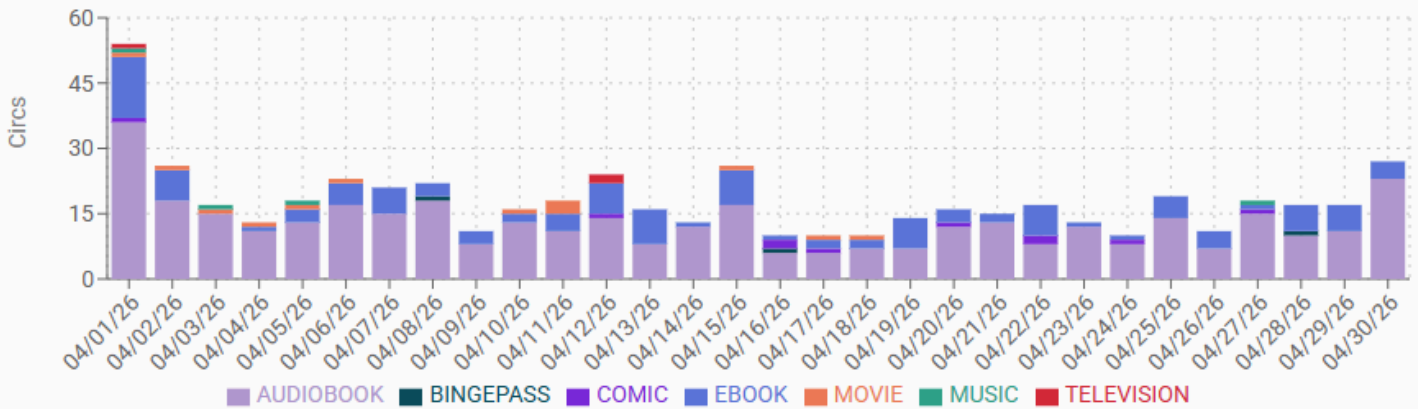
April by the Numbers: E-Lending

OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	542	\$1,310.14	311	17	1.7
BURLINGTON Libby	3,502	\$504.64	687	32	5.1
State Libby	299,041	\$104,747.30	60,877	2,316	4.91

Hoopla Detailed Report

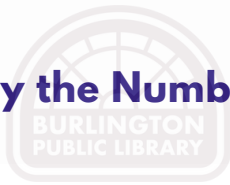
Circulations by Format



Libby State Snapshot

Branch (501)	Checkouts (299,041)	Checkouts (chart) ▾
1 Ames Public Library	20,288	
2 Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library	16,175	
3 West Des Moines Public Library	12,549	
4 Urbandale Public Library	10,236	
5 Council Bluffs Public Library	8,198	
6 Sioux City Public Library	8,150	
7 Waukee Public Library	7,020	
8 Johnston Public Library	6,369	
9 Indianola Public Library	4,808	
10 Decorah Public Library	4,108	
11 Dubuque County Library District	4,064	
12 Burlington Public Library	3,502	
13 Marshalltown Public Library	3,421	
14 Norwalk Easter Public Library	3,391	
15 Altoona Public Library	3,247	
16 Clive Public Library	3,165	
17 Grimes Public Library	3,056	
18 Newton Public Library	3,050	
19 Pella Public Library	2,914	
20 Bettendorf Public Library	2,635	

April by the Numbers: WiFi



Burlington Public Library April-2026

In April, 684 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 2 individual days.

Change from prior month



1579 ↓ -1.19%

Monthly Sessions



1338 ↓ -3.67%

Total Visits



684 ↑ 6.54%

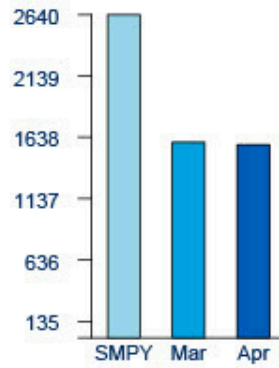
Unique Visitors



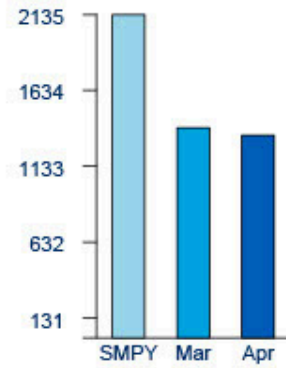
1.96 ↓ -9.26%

Average Return Rate

Total Monthly Session Count

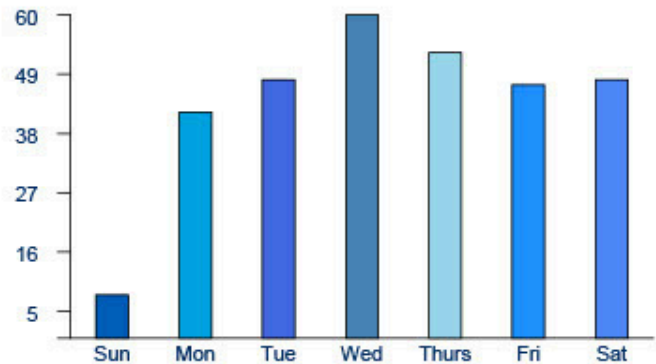


Total Monthly Visits

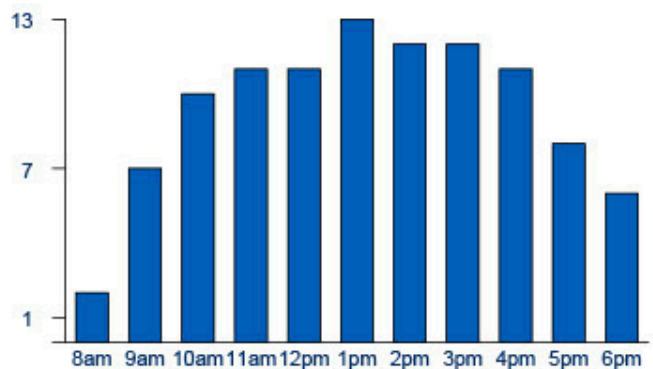


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



April by the Numbers: Spaces



Burlington Public Library
Apr-26

In April, you had 465 bookings overall with a cumulative attendance of 1870 patrons.

Change from prior month



465 ↑ 1.75%

Total Bookings



1870 ↓ -16.59%

Total Attendance



4 ↓ -18.37%

Average Attendance

115 ↑ 53.33%
Internal Bookings

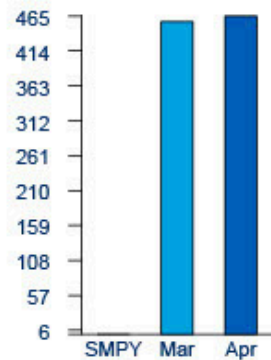
340 ↓ -8.6%
Patron Bookings

9 ↑ 0%
Non-Profit Bookings

1 ↑ 0%
For-Profit Bookings

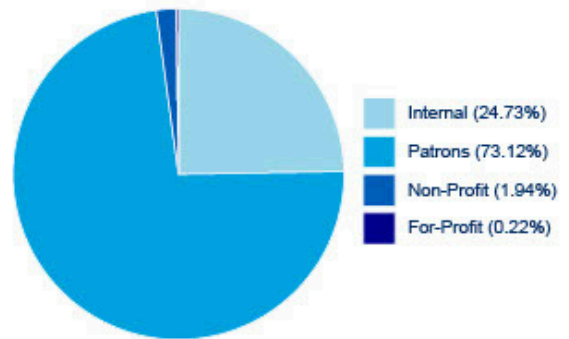
Booking Breakdown

Total Monthly Bookings



*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Booking Breakdowns By Percentage



Meeting Room A, B & Story Time Room,
Vacation Thru Time

April by the Numbers: YTD Programs



Burlington Public Library July, 2025 - April, 2026

July					
Overview					
All Children Programs	25	44.84%	All Children Participants	954	50.18%
Young Adult Programs	10	17.86%	Young Adult Participants	84	4.42%
Adult Programs	9	16.07%	Adult Participants	123	6.47%
General Interest Programs	12	21.45%	General Interest Participants	740	38.93%
Total Programs	56		Total Participants	1901	



August					
Overview					
All Children Programs	1	7.69%	All Children Participants	28	4.7%
Young Adult Programs	2	15.38%	Young Adult Participants	15	2.52%
Adult Programs	6	46.15%	Adult Participants	126	21.14%
General Interest Programs	4	30.77%	General Interest Participants	427	71.64%
Total Programs	13		Total Participants	596	



September					
Overview					
All Children Programs	22	50%	All Children Participants	495	50.25%
Young Adult Programs	5	11.36%	Young Adult Participants	226	22.94%
Adult Programs	6	18.18%	Adult Participants	133	13.5%
General Interest Programs	9	20.45%	General Interest Participants	151	13.3%
Total Programs	44		Total Participants	985	



October					
Overview					
All Children Programs	27	47.37%	All Children Participants	1322	59.12%
Young Adult Programs	6	10.53%	Young Adult Participants	303	13.55%
Adult Programs	13	22.81%	Adult Participants	205	9.17%
General Interest Programs	11	19.3%	General Interest Participants	406	18.16%
Total Programs	57		Total Participants	2236	



November					
Overview					
All Children Programs	25	53.19%	All Children Participants	629	50.28%
Young Adult Programs	3	6.38%	Young Adult Participants	211	16.87%
Adult Programs	9	19.15%	Adult Participants	162	12.95%
General Interest Programs	10	21.26%	General Interest Participants	249	19.9%
Total Programs	47		Total Participants	1251	



April by the Numbers: Programs



Burlington Public Library July, 2025 - April, 2026

December					
Overview					
All Children Programs	21	53.85%	All Children Participants	477	65.34%
Young Adult Programs	3	7.69%	Young Adult Participants	17	2.33%
Adult Programs	5	12.82%	Adult Participants	95	12.74%
General Interest Programs	10	25.64%	General Interest Participants	143	19.59%
Total Programs	39		Total Participants	730	



January					
Overview					
All Children Programs	11	26.19%	All Children Participants	329	25.44%
Young Adult Programs	2	4.76%	Young Adult Participants	198	15.16%
Adult Programs	7	16.67%	Adult Participants	157	12.14%
General Interest Programs	22	52.38%	General Interest Participants	611	47.25%
Total Programs	42		Total Participants	1293	



February					
Overview					
All Children Programs	28	54.9%	All Children Participants	674	45.65%
Young Adult Programs	6	11.76%	Young Adult Participants	514	34.97%
Adult Programs	8	15.69%	Adult Participants	173	11.77%
General Interest Programs	9	17.65%	General Interest Participants	109	7.41%
Total Programs	51		Total Participants	1470	



March					
Overview					
All Children Programs	23	43.4%	All Children Participants	680	46.7%
Young Adult Programs	8	15.00%	Young Adult Participants	411	28.23%
Adult Programs	11	20.75%	Adult Participants	204	14.01%
General Interest Programs	11	20.75%	General Interest Participants	161	11.06%
Total Programs	53		Total Participants	1456	



April					
Overview					
All Children Programs	36	49.32%	All Children Participants	1058	52.64%
Young Adult Programs	7	9.59%	Young Adult Participants	242	12.04%
Adult Programs	17	23.20%	Adult Participants	282	14.03%
General Interest Programs	13	17.81%	General Interest Participants	428	21.29%
Total Programs	73		Total Participants	2010	

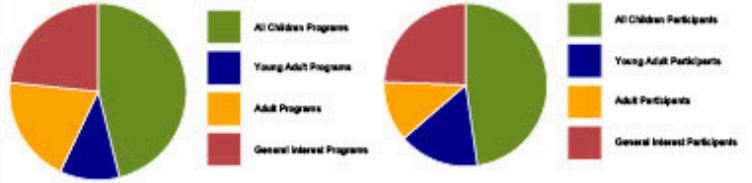


April by the Numbers: Programs



Burlington Public Library
July, 2025 - April, 2026

Year in Review					
Overview					
All Children Programs	219	46.11%	All Children Participants	6648	47.72%
Young Adult Programs	52	10.96%	Young Adult Participants	2219	15.93%
Adult Programs	93	19.58%	Adult Participants	1658	11.9%
General Interest Programs	111	23.37%	General Interest Participants	3405	24.45%
Total Programs	475		Total Participants	13928	



Intellectual Freedom Panel @ Staff Training



System Navigator,
Shelly Strawhacker



Peggy Ell
Pollinator Garden



Vacation Thru Time: Guess that Castle



Vacation Thru Time: Who's Who



Genealogy Workshop



Girls Who Code

2026 Legislative Update

2026 Iowa Library Legislation

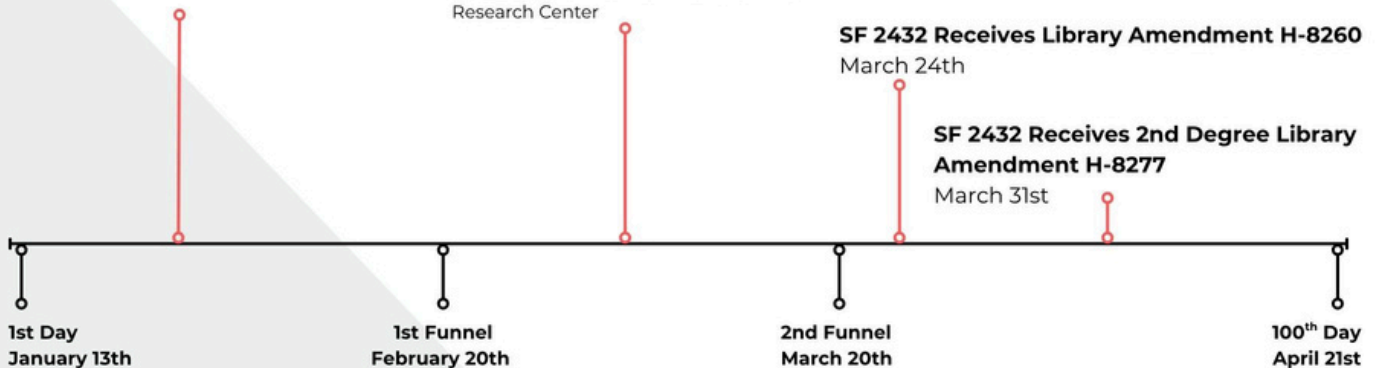
HF 2025 - Historical Resource Research Center
HF 2136 - Confidentiality of Library Records for Minors
HSB 636 - Public School / Library / Bookmobile Partnerships
HF 2270 - State Library Standards
HF 2309 - Harmful to Minors
HSB 720 - Omnibus: Public Library Regulations

SF 2293 - Removes Historical Resource Research Center
SF 2177 - Library & Vendor Filtering
SF 2119 - Obscenity Exemption

HF 2324 (HSB 636) - Public School / Library / Bookmobile Partnerships
HB 2622 (HSB 720) - Omnibus: Public Library Regulations
SF 2293 - Removes Historical Resource Research Center

SF 2432 Receives Library Amendment H-8260
March 24th

SF 2432 Receives 2nd Degree Library Amendment H-8277
March 31st



91st General Assembly Recap

After a 34-hour marathon session, the 91st General Assembly officially closed on Sunday, May 3rd. None of the library-specific legislation passed despite two amendments being added to a non-library bill in the final stretch of the session.

While Iowa led the nation in ant-library bills this year, the flip side of that scenario is that we also led the nation in library advocacy. Over 15,000 emails were sent to state legislators in favor of libraries between January 13, 2026 and the closing session on May 3rd.

The Burlington Public Library Board of Trustee's Advocacy Committee held two public meetings during the legislative session, and sent out 8 advocacy updates via email. Advocacy Committee members, Mary Weinand and Brandon Orth, along with Board Chair, Jennifer McMillan, joined library director, Brittany Jacobs, in Des Moines in February to advocate on behalf of the Burlington Public Library. Weinand, Orth, and Jacobs attended the subcommittee hearing on HSB 636 where Jacobs spoke on behalf of the Iowa Library Association and the Burlington Public Library's school partnerships and new bookmobile.

McMillan, Orth, and Jacobs attended the ILA Capitol Day in the Law Library and connected with trustees and library staff from across the state. Weinand and Jacobs also met with the State Librarian, Brenda Hall, to further advocate for libraries across Iowa.