

LIBRARY SERVICES

MAY 2025

Democracy in Dialogue

The Burlington Public Library's teen advisory group, TICOS (Teens Inspiring Changes, Optimism, and Service) has been selected to participate in the Democracy in Dialogue project sponsored by the Smithsonian. As the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, the Smithsonian Institute is helping to engage young people by asking, 'how has your community played a role in 250 years of the American experiment?' through the Democracy in Dialogue virtual exchange project. In 2026 the United States will celebrate its 250th birthday, and this project encourages students from all walks of life to engage in discovery, dialogue, and reflection by exploring the complexities in our nation's history. From the significant role that Burlington played with the Sauk and Meskwaki people to being the territorial capital and hosting the first Free Public Library West of the Mississippi, we have a rich history to lean on for our teens to explore. The unique cultural storytelling component of this project will be carried out with our teen mural installation in the teen area of the library. This will be the library's first permanent mural and will feature greater Burlington's story along with notable people from the area.

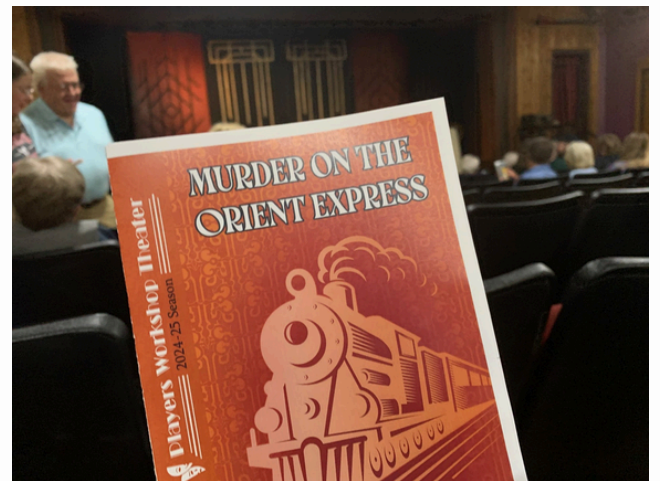
Pop-Up Concert

In partnership with The Capitol Theater and the University of Iowa Arts Share Program, we were able to host a free concert with the wildly talented Dunn Graduate String Quartet on May 20th.



The Mystery is Afoot!

The Burlington Public Library hosts 3 continuous book clubs, featuring titles from across genres and publication dates: Beyond the Book Club, Mystery Book Club, and Spicy Book Club. This month the Mystery Book Club aligned their title with the Player's Workshop spring production, Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. What made this title stand out was that the library's own Kaitlynn Broeg starred in Player's Workshop production of the play! Kaitlynn did a fabulous job, and readers were encouraged to both see the play and read the book for the May book club meeting.



Astronomy Club hosts Dr. Green

Several area clubs and service groups use the Burlington Public Library as their host location, including the Southeastern Iowa Astronomy Club. The John H. Witte Jr. Observatory housed at Big Hollow is a top-notch complex operated by the Astronomy Club, in addition to public lectures with space-minded folks. This month the club hosted a virtual lecture with famed physicist Dr. James L Green. A Burlington native who went on to make history with NASA and the National Space Science Data Center. Set up with our new Genealogy Room tech equipment, this program is an excellent example of our space reorganization paying off.

Over the Stacks

On May 30th the Burlington Public Library was highlighted in the unveiling of the newest exhibit at the Des Moines County Heritage Center Museum - Over the Stacks. For several months the library has worked with the museum to piece together the history of the Burlington Public Library while the museum staff refurbished the stacks that stand at the library's original stand-alone building at 501 N Court St. Library Director, Brittany Jacobs, gave a speech on the impact of the city passing Ordinance 21 in May of 1885, and how that set the tone for the library to go on to be the important historical icon that it is today.



Retirement

After 35 years of dedicated service to the Burlington Public Library, Ann Groene officially retired after her shift on Saturday, May 10th.

During her tenure with the Burlington Public Library Ann worked in both of our locations, helped with the automation of our collection, and served hundreds of thousands of patrons that visited the library. We are so thankful for her many years of library service and wish her well on this next chapter of life.



Percussion Play

Thanks to the Friends of the Burlington Public Library Foundation, the library now has a whimsical new feature out front! Five new musical sculptures welcome people to interact with their musical petals as they enter or leave the library's front doors.

These new features make our outdoor area interactive, while adding vibrant splashes of color to our front-facing facade. Each sculpture comes from Percussion Play's nature themed line, and feature five different flowers each with their own unique note. Many thanks to our Foundation, and those who donate, for the generous funding to make this project possible.



May by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **23,756** (23,252)

Number of Programs: **29** (53)

Program Participants: **785** (1,492)

New Borrower Accounts: **93** (91)

Use of online databases: **6,476** (7,853)

WiFi & Computer Use: **4,497** (4,539)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **108** (192)

Meeting Room Reservations: **317** (367)

Door Count: **11,191** (8,548)

May '25 / April '25



May by the Numbers: E-Lending

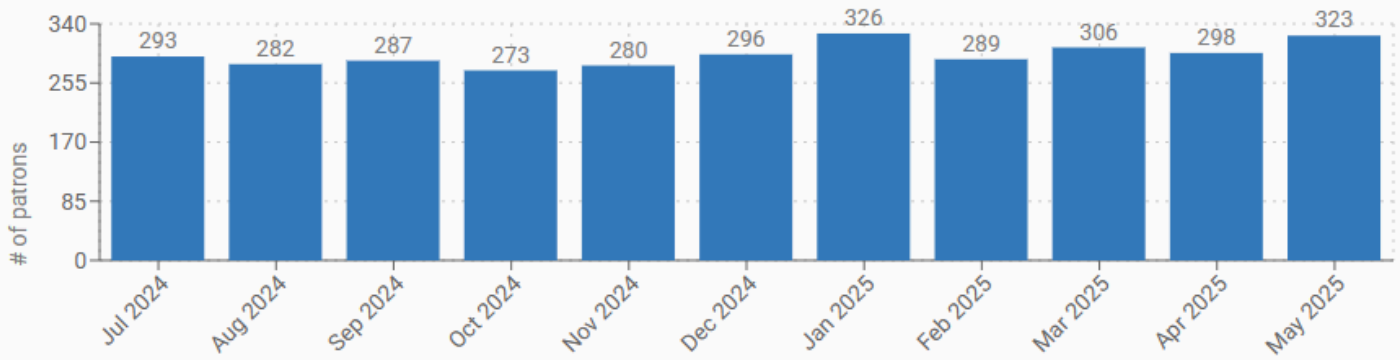
OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	586	\$1,393.55	330	32	1.8
Libby	3,061	\$519.78	643	37	4.76

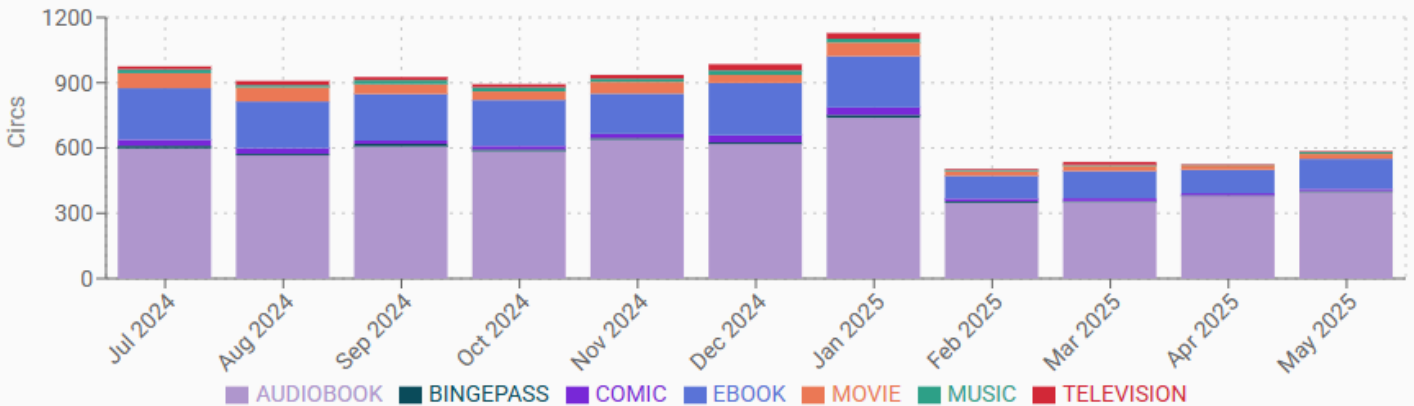
Hoopla Detailed Report

Patron Borrowing Report

There were **727** unique patrons borrowing Instant licenses from July 2024 through May 2025 with an average of **66** people borrowing at least one Instant item per month.



Circulations by Format



May by the Numbers: WiFi

Burlington Public Library May-2025

In May, 755 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



2640 ↓ 0%

Monthly Sessions



2168 ↑ 1.55%

Total Visits



755 ↓ -4.07%

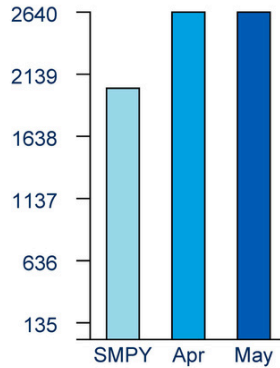
Unique Visitors



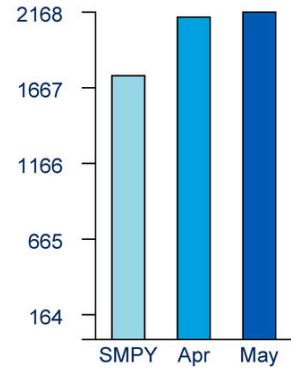
2.87 ↑ 5.9%

Average Return Rate

Total Monthly Session Count

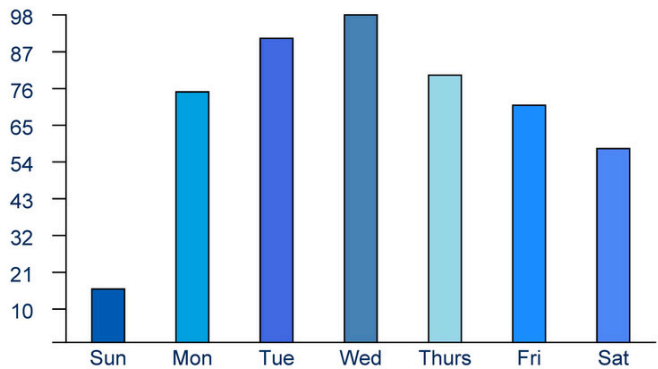


Total Monthly Visits

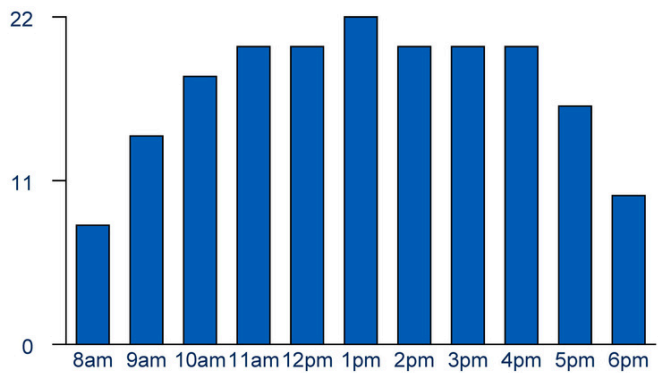


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



FY25 by the Numbers

Q1 by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 134,505

Number of Programs: 139

Program Participants: 3,906

New Borrower Accounts: 380

Use of online databases: 26,434

WiFi & Computer Use: 14,347

Items borrowed & loaned
through Inter Library Loan: 448

Meeting Room Reservations: 1,247

Door Count: 33,452

July, August, September 2024

Q2 by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 64,984

Number of Programs: 180

Program Participants: 5,634

New Borrower Accounts: 252

Use of online databases: 19,584

WiFi & Computer Use: 14,208

Items borrowed & loaned
through Inter Library Loan: 436

Meeting Room Reservations: 1,147

Door Count: 26,907

Q2 - Oct. Nov. Dec. 2024

Q3 by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 68,297

Number of Programs: 112

Program Participants: 2,496

New Borrower Accounts: 312

Use of online databases: 22,524

WiFi & Computer Use: 14,304

Items borrowed & loaned
through Inter Library Loan: 457

Meeting Room Reservations: 1,105

Door Count: 27,936

Q3 - Jan. Feb. March 2025

