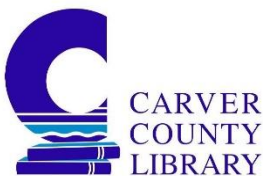




Our Library Community



2023 Annual Report



Director's Memo

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the vibrant and resilient community that makes our library thrive and continue to be a place that embraces the freedom to read, learn, and discover.



Our library staff is dedicated to offering a welcoming place where everyone has opportunities to learn and grow.

Throughout 2023, we adapted, innovated, and created meaningful impact:

- **Community Learning:** We expanded our programs, from bilingual storytimes to health literacy workshops, ensuring that everyone has access to lifelong learning. Dahlke Grants funded much of this.
- **Community Gathering:** Our events brought neighbors together, fostering connections and sparking conversations.
- **Community Partnership:** Collaborations with local schools, community organizations, and county departments strengthened our ties and impact.
- **Community Grants:** We secured grants to enhance our services and collections, to be sure all feel welcome and represented in our library community.

As you may know, the Library Board was met with a request to reconsider an item in 2023. We are grateful for the process and policies set in place, as well as the efforts of the Library Board.

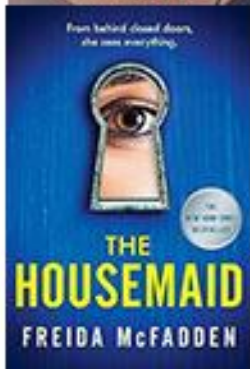
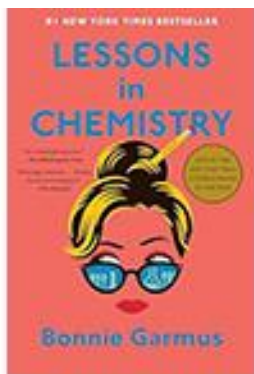
Thank you patrons, volunteers, and supporters for your unwavering commitment. Visit us often, explore, and remember that you are an integral part of our library community and are always welcome.

We look forward to continuing to welcome all into our spaces and experiences. We invite each of you to be part of our library community.

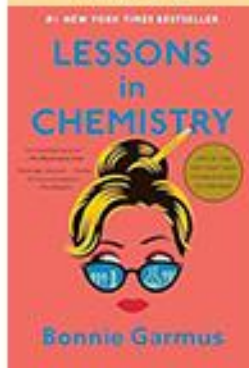
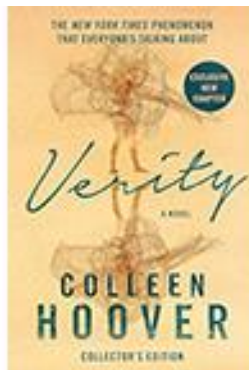
Jodi Edstrom

Carver County Library Director

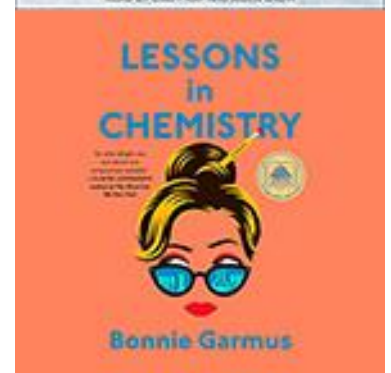
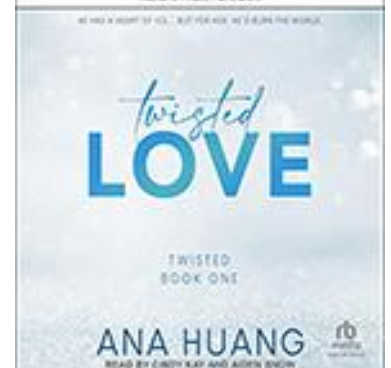
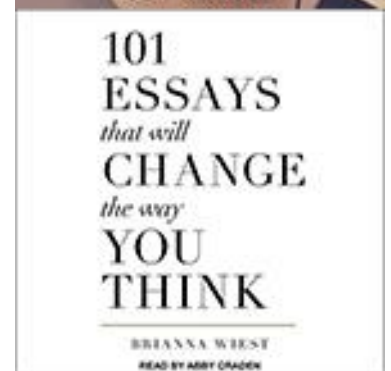
Top Adult Print



Top Adult eBook



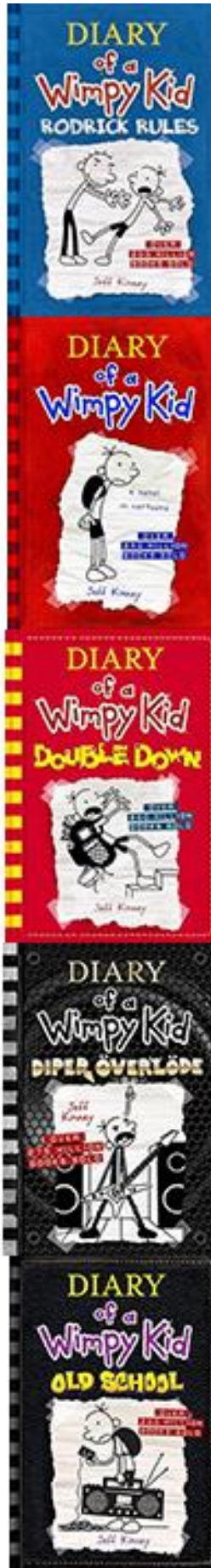
Top Adult eAudio



Top Teen Print



Top Kids Print



Top eMagazines



Adult Services Team Highlights

We presented a well-rounded balance of in-person, online, hybrid (in-person and online), and self-directed programs based on the Library Strategic Plan, patron feedback, and community interests which totaled over 400 programs with over 13,500 participants.

We fostered new and renewed partnerships with local non-profit onelove.yoga, Waconia Senior Center, NYA Senior Advisory Committee, Nagel Assisted Living, and New Perspectives Senior Living.

We hosted notable authors including, Mindy Mejia, Lorna Landvik, Herbivorous Butchers, Josh Moehling, Raghavan Iyer, Gretchen Anthony, Susan Rogers, Stan Tekiela, J. Ryan Stradal, and Nicole Chung.

We partnered with CareerForce Chaska, Carver-Scott Master Gardeners, Carver County Historical Society, and other community organizations to provide programs throughout the county.

Collections Team Highlights

All librarians and associate librarians were trained to improve our skills in recommending diverse books to youth in one session. Staff were also trained on trends in diverse books for adults.

Based on the results of our diversity audits of the youth collection the past two years, more intentional purchasing led to an increase in the percent of diverse youth books in the collection.

Using a Charles Dahlke grant, we added diverse books to a majority of baby lapsit storytime kits as well as increased the diversity of our collection of books used by staff in story time.

In addition to programs for adults and kids, Dahlke grant dollars were used to purchase large number of up-to-date titles in kids STEM (Science Technology Engineers Math) books, adult language learning, adult health literacy, including self-help and medical books, as well as healthy eating cookbooks.

Communications Highlights

Our communications channels continue to be a driver for community connections online and in person by connecting people to not only library programs and services, but those of our county, city, nonprofit, and other partners as well.

Using online channels for programs makes us able to include more of our community even if they're not able to make it into a building our programs happen.

As we do present a lot of our content online, we now have the second most popular YouTube channel among Twin Cities metro area libraries.

We continue to outperform larger metro area library systems on all of our active social media platforms. Besides YouTube, that includes Facebook and Instagram.

Generations Team Highlights

Thanks to a generous private donation from a Charles J. Dahlke Grant, Carver County Library introduced a new category of library service with Games & Gatherings programs.

Puzzle swaps, where patrons can exchange gently used jigsaw puzzles with other puzzle people, became a natural and popular spinoff of the game programs, often offered simultaneously and drawing multiple generations of puzzlers.

In the spring, the Intergenerational Services Team put together Art/Poetry Mash-Up Kits for the library's annual theme of Arts in April. Younger and older patrons could register and pick up art supplies and a canvas board to create one-of-a-kind works of art combined with their own or from poetry collections. Their creations were then displayed in the libraries throughout the month.

Technology Team Highlights

We implemented automatic renewals so all eligible items are now automatically renewed three days before they are due and notices are sent to patrons.

Text messaging was added to notifications regarding holds and renewals. This benefited many patrons that prefer that method of communication.

Computers for the public were updated with new monitors, MS Office, and more including antivirus software and the latest version of our software that wipes the desktop clean of all information once someone signs out.

Upgraded computers included our in-library catalog stations, which are now easier to use.

Many internal processes were automated, saving staff time which meant better customer service to patrons.

Youth Services Team Highlights

We offered inclusive and diverse programs including summer performers, Dahlke STEM grant activities, 1000 Books before Kindergarten, teen programs, virtual programming and library cards. We reached new audiences with outreach and hardworking staff.

We partnered with local city parks, police and fire departments, Carver County Humane Society, Carver County parks and local schools.

Our outreach efforts included being food distribution sites at all libraries, the Chaska Pride Picnic, Riverview Terrace, Job Fairs and more.

Also: hosted special education students from Chanhassen to create make and take craft kits to gain workforce experience, donated the results from Blankets that Benefit programs to the Human Society and local care homes, held bilingual storytimes at all branches and offered ASL storytime content.



Chanhasen



Chaska



Norwood Young America





Victoria



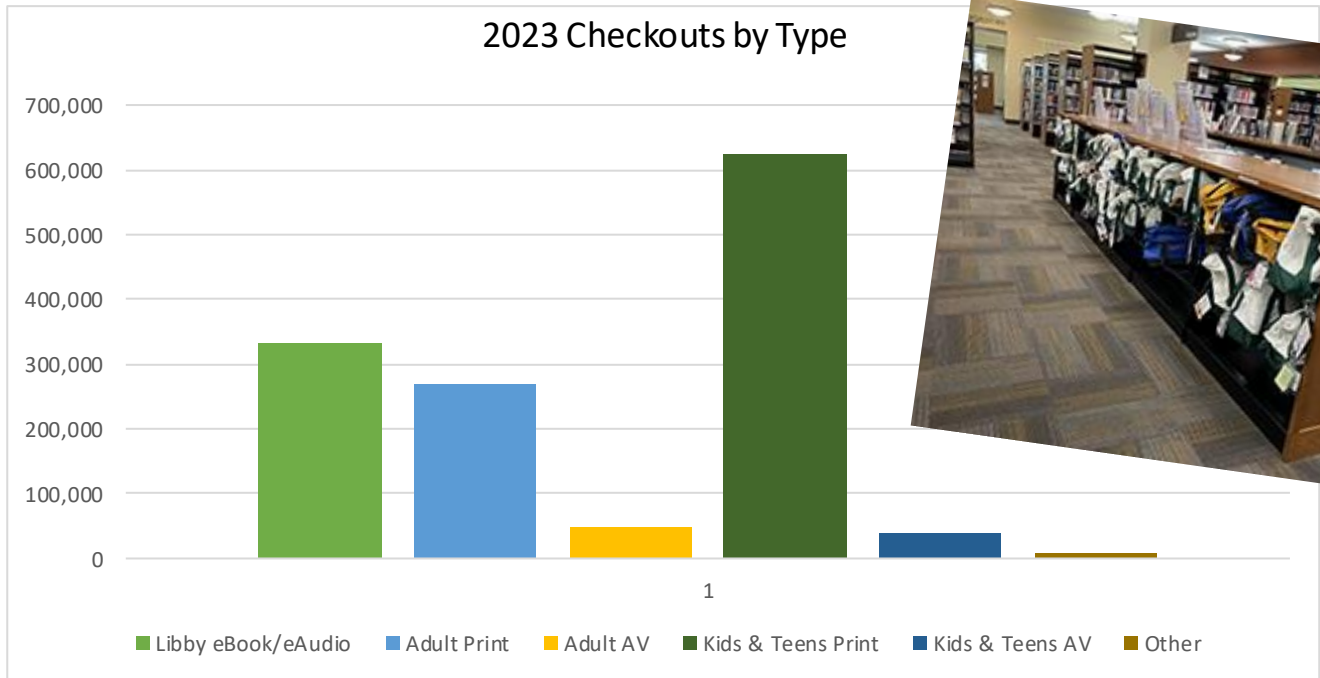
Waconia



Watertown



Numerically Speaking



We had more checkouts this year than last year! The total was 1,321,961. See above for a breakdown. FYI- the other category includes items like our hotspots, Brain/Memory Kits, our local author collection in Chanhassen, and more. We added 23,857 items to the collection over 2023, which helped.

We're still #1! We were once again the number one consortium in the world for our Libby/Overdrive eBooks, eMagazines and more. This includes the whole of the Twin Cities metro area Libraries. Collectively, we only edged out one other library in the world (and tied with one) for over 11 million checkouts.

Read on! We issued 5505 library cards in 2023.

On average, over 225 holds were pulled per calendar day of the year.

Storytime attendance topped 10,000 kids. Online we had one youth services program reach over 22,000 views. This was from our program partner, MacPhail Center for Music, on our YouTube channel.

Library meeting rooms were booked over 875 times.

