

Reference Services

- Reference answered 370 reference questions in February and booked 200 rooms. Staff assisted 108 patrons with technology, provided 14 patrons with reader's advisory, and 1 patron used the Library's notary service.
- The Department hosted several exciting programs in February, some in honor of Black History Month. Programs included a presentation about Ellen Garrison by The Robbins House and a screening of *The Dhamma Brothers*, followed by a guided meditation. The Tuesday book group discussed *Black Walden* by Elise Lemire. In late February, the Library partnered with the Friends of Minuteman Park for a discussion of drinking culture in Colonial America with author Brooke Barbier. The event attracted over 100 people!



- Reference hosted a special Cookbook Club, with local cookbook authors Carolyn Shohet and Nancy Shohet West discussing their cookbook *Family Recipes from Mill Iron Farm*. Thanks to the Friends for sponsoring this program.

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 7 programs in February with a total attendance of 35, though casual use of the Teen Lounge spiked and is holding. Average daily use went from the single digits into the 20's.
- Weekly Dungeons and Dragons remains the most well attended series program. Patron attendance may soon require a third session, which the teens have been asking for.
- The Teen Librarian visited the high school twice in February. The first visit was to meet the Spectrum club to ask for their input on how best to provide them with programming support. The other visit was to confer with the high school librarians to organize an opportunity to demonstrate the new Brainfuse online tutoring service to teachers and eventually students.
- The Teen Librarian joined the Town's Public Health Collaborative meeting to request materials, connections, and literature to help support the wellness of teen patrons. He also attended a virtual meeting on social work services in public libraries in the same vein.
- During Staff Development day, the Teen Librarian shared some long range planning ideas, and gave a demonstration of our in-house Switch gaming system.

Children's Library

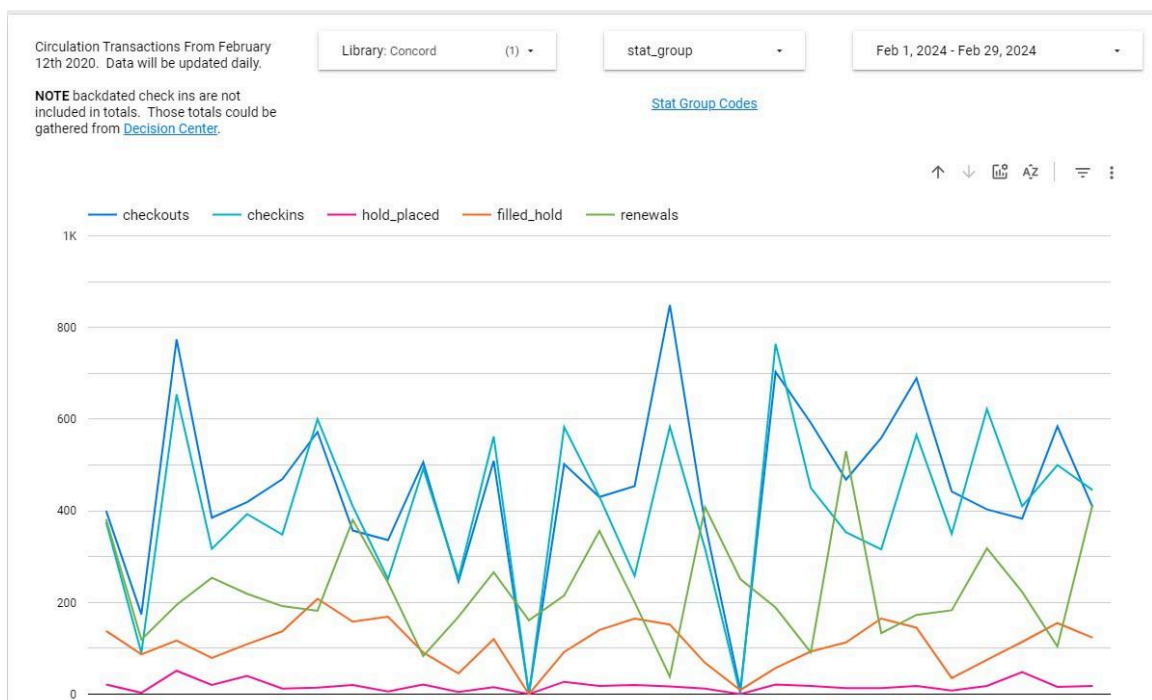
- Musical Mondays featured three of the Library's favorite returning performers. Each concert was thoroughly enjoyed by patrons and maxed out the capacity of the Goodwin Forum at around 120 attendees each!

- In conjunction with Fowler, the Children’s Library hosted Communities Organizing Against Racism for a presentation and discussion on talking to kids about racism.
- To kick off February vacation week the Children’s Library debuted the brand new sock skating rink! During sessions for toddlers, kids, and teens, visitors enjoyed a sock skating party while playing with balloons and inflatable hockey sticks. While kids were waiting for their turn on the “rink,” they visited the Activity Room for special cozy crafts. Of course, there were also snacks and hot cocoa!
- Children’s Library staff also welcomed teachers from West Concord Dance Academy to host two hip-hop dance classes, one for toddlers, and one for older children.
- In partnership with the Workshop team, Children’s Staff offered four fabulous sessions of the Make-it! Club for kids! In February, children had the opportunity to...
 - learn about circuits while making their own light-up LED valentines,
 - create a yarn heart friend that can “hang out” with magnetic hands and feet,
 - paint a mini-masterpiece on a tiny canvas,
 - and discover engineering concepts through building with gumdrops.



Circulation

- Circulation had 17,374 transactions and welcomed 76 new patrons to the CFPL family. Circulation staff created book displays with the topics “Fall in Love with a Great Book” and “Short Stories for the Shortest Month.”
- Patrons reserved 166 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science.
- Circulation staff continues their involvement with professional development and the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives.



Fowler Branch Library



- Fowler held 65 programs in February with 1116 participants. Staff worked with volunteers to give out four different Take and Make projects with 321 kits.
- Fowler continued to explore sustainability resources and initiatives. On Valentine's Day, Mothers Out Front members demonstrated how induction cooking works, leading a heart magnet craft and giving out chocolate dipped strawberries prepared on an induction stove. At the end of February, MOF led their second monthly sustainability studio centered around transportation and celebrating public transit.
- Art for All has joined the native plant and pollinator community with their new project, Signs of Life, and they led the first in a series of workshops at Fowler to repurpose yard signs into a nature-focused campaign. Some of the creations will be used for the scavenger hunt for Spring into West Concord and then affixed to the fence above the pollinator garden in Fowler's backyard.
- Alongside the Main Library, Fowler hosted a discussion with COAR (Communities Organizing Against Racism) about talking to your children about Race and Racism.
- Fowler also screened the documentary *Dhamma Brothers* as an entry into a conversation at the Main Library about how mindful practices can inspire a more just and connected community.
- Community members led wonderful programming in February, showcasing and sharing a range of skills. Faxon Green led a popular Flower Arranging class with funding provided by the Friends of CFPL. Middle school students Krishna and Anish led two chess workshops for elementary students during vacation week.
- Staff began monthly storytimes at the MOC preschool in the Concord shelter, which is being offered through the Concord Public Schools.

Innovation & Communications



- Innovation & Communications relaunched our Library of Things collection this month, now with longer 2-week checkout periods and no late fees! You can browse the collection in person at either Library location or online at cfl.info/things. To make way for all the new Things still on their way, the Library's board game collection will soon be moving upstairs to the A/V room.
- Thanks to generous funding from the Friends of the Library and the Library Corporation, the Workshop was able to host a slew of new programs in February, including "Pal"entine's Paint Night with Pop-Up Art School and Teen Robot Fight Club! The Friends also sponsored the Library's Girls Who Code's field trip to the Garment District in Cambridge to pick out materials to upcycle into their final animatronic stuffed animal projects!

Special Collections

- Special Collections served 49 on-site visitors/researchers and answered 40 reference requests received on-site, via phone, and email.
- Special Collections Assistant Matthew Radulski accepted a full-time archivist position with the Archdiocese of Boston Archive Department. Matthew joined us in the fall of 2021 as a Simmons University intern and was recently promoted to Project Archivist. Matthew made significant contributions to Special Collections in processing collections and assisting in researching and curating exhibitions, and he will be missed! Special Collections expects to post the position very soon.
- The Children's Art Quilt was uninstalled on February 12 and delivered to Museum Textile Services for evaluation.
- The Munroe Gallery February exhibition by guest artist Steve Edson in the Munroe Gallery was well received. It included a Meet The Artist reception, which was also well attended!
- Assistant Curator Jessie Hopper presented to the Concord Rotary Club on CFPL history on February 15.
- Looking Ahead: We are researching Special Collections' fall exhibit on Alicia Keyes and an August exhibition featuring children's book art illustrators at CFPL.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library would like to thank the Guiod family for loaning the Wayside Doll House for the past two years. The Doll House will be leaving the Library soon to go to a new facility (likely a hospital) where it can continue to delight families for many years to come.
- A dozen library staff members received their Red Cross First Aid Certification this month. Staff were trained on CPR, First Aid, stop-the-bleed, choking, and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) use. The Library thanks our talented trainer, Mardi Hutchinson from Concord Recreation, for her collaboration with the Library and sharing her expertise with us.
- The Town of Concord is participating in the Community Naloxone Program, making Narcan available to the community free of charge as part of the National Opioid Settlement. Community members can get Narcan at the Main Library (129 Main St), Fowler Branch Library (1322 Main St) and also at the Public Health offices (141 Keyes Rd, Second Floor). Two Naloxone (NARCAN) cabinets will be located near the main floor restrooms at both library locations.
 - The Concord Health Division invites and encourages but does not require those seeking Narcan to meet with the town's public health nurse for support with how to use Narcan, to review what resources are available to you or your loved ones, or to discuss related questions or concerns. Moira Carter, Public Health Nurse, can be reached at 978-318-3289 and mcarter@concordma.gov.
 - The Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is open 365 days a year, including all holidays. Call 800-327-5050, text at 800327, chat online or explore options online at helplinema.org.

