

Reference Services

- Reference answered 243 reference questions in April, booked 213 meeting rooms, assisted 114 patrons with technology, and advised 5 patrons on reading choices. Four patrons used the Library's notary service.
- The Reference Department held several programs in April, including the popular weekly Thursday Morning Meditation, which averaged 30 participants per session. The Cookbook Club made delicious recipes from the Caribbean. Tuesday Book Discussion participants enjoyed a lively discussion of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. In late April, living history performer Eddie Murphy brought Harriet Tubman radiantly back to life.



- Staffers Michelle and Rachel put together a wonderful display for National Poetry Month, and staffer Artie created his popular annual baseball display "Baseball Springs Eternal".
- Department Head Barbara attended the Public Librarian Association (PLA) conference from April 2-5 in Columbus, Ohio. Many thanks to the Corporation and the Friends for their generosity!
- Reference welcomed Kate Keith-Fitzgerald as the new full-time Reference Librarian. Kate will be assisting with programs for adults, as well as collection development and working the Reference Desk. Kate has worked at the Concord Free Public Library for three years, and has 14 years of experience working in archives, school, and academic libraries. We are excited to welcome Kate into this new role!

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 6 programs in April with a total attendance of 46 teen attendees.
- Robot Fight Club outpaced Dungeons and Dragons for most popular program this month, and included several visits from teens during open makerspace hours to come back and work on their robots.
- We dramatically overhauled the Dungeons and Dragons scheduling, allowing multiple groups to disperse into their own separate weekly campaigns. The older teen game adopted some new rules of conduct to help games run more smoothly when personalities clash. It has improved play quality and communication among the group!
- The Teen Librarian visited the Tremont school, a K - college alternative school here in Concord on April 12. He met many students and staff, and dropped in on their student run Dungeons and Dragons game to extend an invitation to the players to come check out our games at the library. The Teen Librarian is also assisting with redesigning their school's suggested reading lists.
- The Teen Librarian visited Concord-Carlisle High School for the volunteer fair on April 29, and connected with 20 potential new teen volunteers. He transitioned from that meeting to another with the high school librarian and discussed academic year 2024/2025 projects.
- The Teen Lounge video game controllers are now permanently housed at the Circulation Desk. Each item is barcoded, and can be checked out by teen patrons and returned to the desk upon completion.

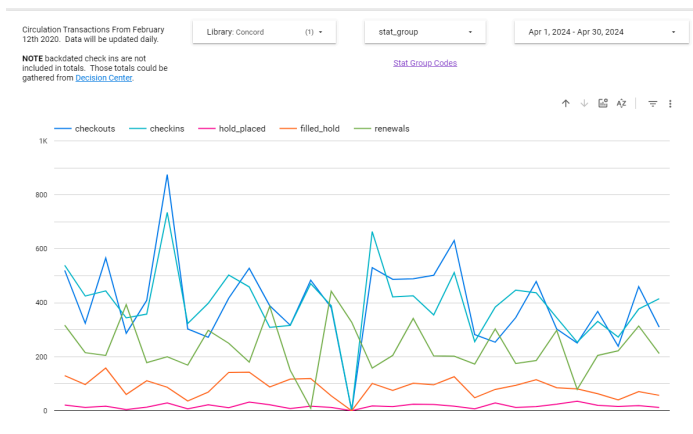
Children's Library

- Children's staff were thrilled to host a special storytime in honor of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Week with visitors from the local Decibels Foundation. They also worked with the Head of Youth Services to develop a list and donated several books featuring characters who are Deaf and hard of hearing.
- Children's partnered with Mothers Out Front to host "Reduce, Reuse, Repair," a program where kids created their own paper doll with recycled fabrics to learn about repairing and recycling textiles.
- During April vacation, Children's provided several opportunities for kids to exercise their bodies and minds. We offered a Peeps diorama making contest, celebrated with a Peeps Party that included making Peeps stuffed animals, enjoyed a Peep tasting with eight different varieties of Peeps, and we announced the winning diorama: Pirate Peeps! Children's capped off the week with a production of *Senior Cat Tales*, a play with actors and puppets, and though it rained and the location was moved to Fowler, there was a stellar turnout.
- Children's staff are also excited to present the 2024 Summer Reading Program, Reading Dragons! Inspired by a program from the Dover Library in Ohio, Children's staff have created dragon trading cards that kids will "evolve" through four stages from a dragon egg to an adult dragon by reading. Children's will also continue to offer the popular Rubber Ducky Club for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.



Circulation

- Circulation had 17,649 transactions and welcomed 55 new patrons to the CFPL family. It looks like Saturdays followed closely by Wednesdays continue to be the busiest circulation days!
- The Circulation staff created book displays with the topics "Earth Month" and "Sun, Moon, Eclipse".
- The staff gave away 200 eclipse glasses, answered countless phone inquiries about eclipse glasses, and collected used eclipse glasses for recycling!
- Patrons reserved 205 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place, followed by the Museum of Fine Arts.
- Circulation staff continued their involvement with the CFPL's Sustainability initiatives and professional development, like the series on *Creating Dementia Friendly Services for the Public Library*.
- The staff helped prepare and give away native tree seedlings at the Cooler Concord Climate Festival and the Library.

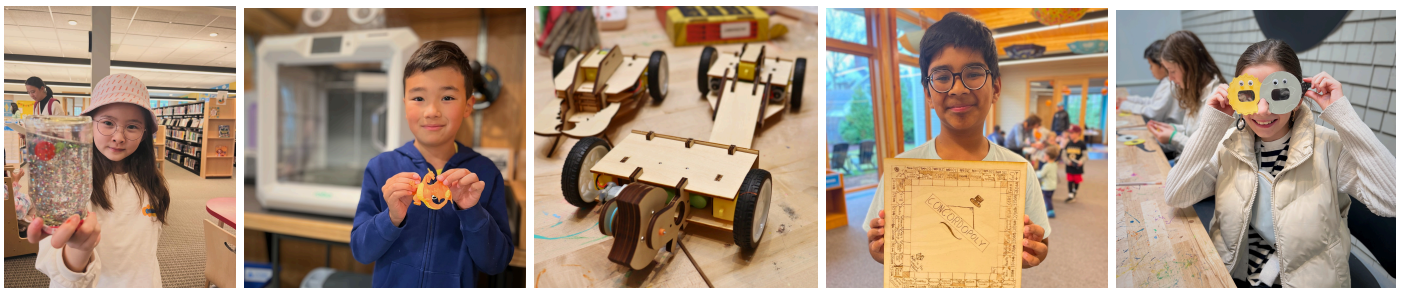


Fowler Library



- Despite April's snowy start, much of Fowler programming moved outside this month. Staff led storytimes in the Labyrinth Garden at West Concord Union Church and free play and craft programs in the backyard. Crafts included creating commemorative eclipse t-shirts!
- Fowler's book clubs now include the Next Chapter Book Club, the Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Club, Book-a-Mystery, Building Communities Book Club, Afternoon Tea Book Club, and Fowler Afoot. April was a stellar month for all, with good showings and great discussions.
- Local author Dora Farkas offered a writing workshop focusing on "Writing a Book When You Don't Know Where to Start", attracting a large, enthusiastic crowd of aspiring authors.
- Jess Myles led a Seed Starting Workshop to support the Seed Lending Library. This annual event attracts gardeners with a range of experience and brings attention to our non-traditional resources and initiatives.
- During the Cooler Concord Climate Fest, Fowler joined the Main Library to demonstrate the department's sustainability efforts. Having been awarded a co-sponsored Concord Garden Club grant, staff also collaborated with the Division of Natural Resources to create 50 pollinator kits that were distributed during Cooler Concord.
- State Representative Cataldo joined Fowler staff and Mothers Out Front for an Earth Month Sustainability Studio, encouraging children to take action personally and to ask elected officials to support environmental policies.

Innovation & Communications



- Workshop staff were thrilled to launch weekend Open Maker Hours from 12-4 PM every Saturday afternoon!
- To celebrate Earth Month, the Workshop invited special guest Rumi of Unicorn Sparkle Association to Make-It! Club to lead a craft and talk about her experience starting her own biodegradable glitter company at the age of 9.
- Other Workshop programs this month included linocut printmaking, upcycled stuffed animals, and book-binding for beginners. Our summer calendar is now live - check it out at cfpl.info/workshopevents
- The Library of Things saw some exciting new additions this month, including a smart bird feeder, a hybrid instant-digital camera, and a Nintendo Switch.

Technical Services

- A total of 810 books, DVDs, Spoken CDs and non-traditional library materials were ordered, cataloged, entered, processed and added to the Library collection.
- A new Online Public Access Catalog PC station was installed in the Fowler Branch basement stacks to allow patrons to search library materials in that location.

- Staff continued with participation in Library initiatives and staff training, and offered service desk coverage, tech support for programs, staff, and patrons.

Special Collections

- Doris Kearns Goodwin took center stage with “[A Personal History of the 1960s](#)”, presented alongside the launch of her new book, *An Unfinished Love Story*. The event was very successful thanks to many helping hands.
- 50 Enchanted Book Club members from Florida and elsewhere in the United States visited Special Collections in April!
- Events presented in collaboration with Special Collections were well-attended, with an overall attendance of nearly 500. Events included “[From Pasadena to Concord](#)” and “[Concord, There Is More To Our Story](#)”.
- Special Collections displayed 29 of F. T. Merrill’s original drawings from the collection alongside the 1880 version of *Little Women* in exhibition cases located throughout the Connector leading to the expansion wing.
- Special Collections served 103 visitors and researchers (77 on-site) and answered 67 reference requests received on-site, via phone, and email. There has been a sizable increase in research appointments and casual visitors as we move into the warmer months.

Administration and Staffing

- The Concord Free Public Library announced on May 6 that [the Library is officially the first “Certified Sustainable Library” in Massachusetts](#). After joining the Sustainable Library Certification Program in 2022 as a component of our 5-year sustainability plan, the Concord Free Public Library has successfully achieved certification. The work with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative officially began in February 2023, and has demonstrated tremendous growth that transcends the walls of their library: bringing awareness and motivation for sustainable practices to their entire community. The Library’s Sustainability Plan was possible due to the generous support of the Library Corporation, as well as the Town, Library Committee, and Friends of the Library.
- The Writer-In-Residence application process will open on June 15 and the organizing group met to finalize the criteria and process. The Residency itself will take place from January through June of 2025. Members from the Corporation, Friends, and staff are joining together for this process and we are excited to see the makeup of this year’s applicant pool. The Library anticipates announcing the next Writer-In-Residence in October.