

Reference Services

- The Reference Department answered 352 general reference questions in January, reserved 305 rooms, assisted with 109 technology questions, and provided reading advisory to 10 patrons.
- Thursday Meditation resumed after a lengthy break and is more popular than ever, with an average attendance of 26 participants a week. 11 members of Tuesday Book Discussion met in January to discuss *Orlando*, by Virginia Woolf. 14 cooks made healthy recipes for Cookbook Club. The Library partnered with the Council on Aging to offer a 3-part genealogy course beginning in January. 20 genealogists attended the course via Zoom.
- Bethany created 2 eye-catching displays in January: "Cozy Crafts" and "Only Murders in the Book."

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 10 programs in January with a total attendance of 42 teens. Up about 30% from January last year.
- The video game tournament on 1/30 was the most well attended program during the very quiet month of January, with 9 participants. It featured a surprise upset in the final one-on-one between a 6th-grade wildcard finalist and the previous tournament champion, a high school upperclassman. The young challenger won 3-0.
- Dungeons and Dragons remains the most well attended series program. Both groups added new players this month for a total combined player base of 17 teens. Group A defeated a forty foot Canada goose (with heavy losses), and group B navigated their way out of a boobytrapped temple with the power of politeness.
- Teen Librarian Erick continues working with the Concord Pride '24 committee alongside Bethany in Adult Programming and Sara in Youth Services to coordinate programming at the Library and town-wide resources.

Children's Library

- Kids joined Children's Library staff for several fun Make-it! Club projects in January that each "upcycled" items for crafts and experiments. January projects included making penny spinners from recycled cardboard boxes, conducting a science experiment on buoyancy that used recycled plastic bottles, and creating hedgehogs from books weeded from the Children's Library collection.
- Youth Services staff Sara and Erick partnered with volunteers from METCO to host the first METCO Buddies Playdate for 4th and 5th graders at the Library. During the playdate, students were introduced to the button maker, and they quickly became experts creating buttons independently! They also had the opportunity to explore the Teen Lounge to play board games, face off at the ping-pong table, and use the Nintendo Switch.
- Dr. Karin Hodges, psychologist, MIT lecturer, and founder of local education center Raising Moxie, visited the library to educate library staff, caregivers, and educators on youth mental health. During her presentation, Dr. Hodges shared her insights on fostering environments that support children's emotional growth and wellbeing by providing opportunities for children to be challenged and given the privilege to develop resilience.



Circulation

- Circulation had 18,216 transactions and welcomed 74 new patrons to the CFPL family. Circulation staff created the following book displays: “New Year, New Hobby,” “Short Stories, Small Books,” and “Retellings.”
- Patrons reserved 126 museum passes, with the Museum of Fine Arts in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Science and the New England Aquarium.
- The Library launched the new Aspen online catalog on its website, and staff have shared Aspen’s exciting new features with patrons!
- Several people in the Circulation Department received training in CPR and AED, and continued their involvement with the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives.

Fowler Library

- Fowler kicked off 2024 with 64 programs (1,203 participants) and 4 Take-and-Make crafts (333 kits). Regular programming, including storytimes, book clubs, free play, crafts, and more, continue to attract a mix of new and returning patrons.
- Staff worked with the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, the CCHS Green Team, and the West Concord Green Thumbs to run the second annual, Friends of CFPL-sponsored Winter Seed Sow, hosted by Verrill Farm. Despite being snowed out on the original date, 160 people participated over 3 hours. Thanks to the Friends, Lady Fern Farm led a second Winter Seed Sow at Fowler, which provided a useful model for a staff-run, all ages Winter Seed Sow during a weekly Craft Lab. Fowler also partnered with Mothers Out Front and artist Cathy Karp for sustainability crafting. These programs support the Library’s sustainability efforts and help connect the community with resources related to native plants and the preservation of biodiversity.
- Fowler held a winter watercolor class led by Laurie Engdahl and a meditative watercolor class led by Cathy Karp.
- Laila Pavlov, a CCHS high school student, led an introduction to Bharatanatyam. Preschoolers had another opportunity to move their bodies and develop their language skills during Talk Yoga.



Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop released its Spring 2024 program calendar, with fun new maker activities for all ages February through April!
- The Cricut Venture - a large-format, computerized paper and vinyl cutter - has been added to the Workshop's tool collection. Borrow it any time during Open Maker Hours.

Technical Services

- A new ceiling mounted web camera in the Goodwin Forum was used for the first time for a major hybrid event. The web camera allowed the event organizer to broadcast the event and provided quality video and audio to the remote attendees. It was a successful "maiden voyage"!
- Tech Services staff ordered, cataloged, entered, and processed 789 new items in January.

Special Collections

- Special Collections served 63 visitors and researchers and answered 50 reference requests on site.
- Special Collections Assistant Matthew Radulski was promoted to Project Archivist. His processing project will include the processing of the Munroe Family Collection and the Concord Celebrations Collections.
- Circulation Assistant Eve Bourbeau-Allard is processing the Damon Family Collection as her off-desk project.
- Special Collections transitioned to coordinating the installation and promotion of monthly community art exhibitions in the recently dedicated Munroe Gallery.
- The loan agreement for the loan of the [Concord River Survey](#) to The Huntington for [their fall 2024 exhibit](#) has been signed by both institutions.
- We are conducting preliminary research on Special Collections' fall exhibit on [Alicia Keyes](#) and an exhibition featuring children's book art illustrators at the Library.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library prepared to welcome the new Facilities Manager, Bruce LaPlante, as part of the Library Corporation's staff team. Bruce will be responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds, and will be an essential partner for the Library's custodians and Administration.
- The Administration and Department Heads submitted the annual report to the Town. Administration is now working on the Budget Book.
- The Library is partnering with Public Health, Police, Fire and the Council on Aging to plan a program about Emergency Preparedness for Seniors. This program will also be held for Library Staff as part of the requirements for the library's Sustainability Certification process.
- The Admin Team attended the most recent meeting of the Behavioral Health Collaborative and have offered to host upcoming sessions on a permanent basis as the schedule is set. Additional members of the library staff have expressed interest in assisting with the group's efforts as well.
- On Friday, February 2, we had a half day staff training session. Various departments shared updates on new services, refreshers on electronic resources, tours, and Q&A. The day was very successful in providing staff the opportunity to learn from and associate with each other. Special thanks to the Friends and Corporation for supporting this day by providing a delicious lunch!