

Reference Services

- Reference staff answered 318 general reference questions in December, booked 182 meeting rooms, assisted 91 patrons with technology questions, and helped 5 patrons with reader's advisory.
- The department welcomed new Programming Librarian Bethany Doane-Sharma in December. Bethany comes to CFPL with extensive programming experience.
- The Library partnered with the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle for 2 programs: "The Climate Impact of Private Jet Expansion: A Concord Community Forum" (125 attendees) and a Warner's Pond update (50 attendees). The department also hosted two author talks by local authors. CCHS teacher Stephen Lane discussed his new book *Long Run to Glory* on December 14 (23 attendees) and Kate Stout discussed her new novel *Ambient Light* on December 16 (11 attendees). The Tuesday book discussion group discussed *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville, and the monthly Cookbook Club created holiday side dishes and holiday cookies.

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 10 programs in December with a total attendance of 61.
- Yule Be Sorry on 12/22, which was originally intended to be a quiet passive day of movies, ended up becoming an impromptu winter break party and the most attended single program.
- Gingerbread Wars was a tasty introduction to miniature scale strategy gaming for our teen patrons. We had a highly competitive game run for an hour and forty five minutes before one teen won ultimate victory. All attendees went home with the edible game pieces they captured.
- Weekly Dungeons and Dragons remains the most well attended series program. This month one player facing imminent hostilities made a panicked genie lamp wish "to be immune to everything!" and ended up turning himself into an immobile, sentient, 3 ton lonsdaleite diamond statue. The rest of the players did discuss selling him, but eventually helped him return to normal.
- Teen Librarian Erick visited Town Hall to discuss Library involvement in the upcoming Concord Town Pride initiative with the DEI board and attendees.

Children's Library

- The Children's Library team welcomed 1,677 children and their families to a total of 43 programs this December, nearly doubling both offerings and attendance as compared to 2022. In addition to offering regular storytimes for young children, school-aged kids also joined staff at Make-it! Club, a collaboration between Youth Services and the Workshop. In the December Make-It! Club sessions, kids were able to...
 - Join the CCHS Sunrise Club to create shrinky-dink jewelry and decorations from recycled materials,
 - Make DIY snowman snow globes,
 - And customize mugs and laser cut doodle-magnets with Workshop staff Christiana and Andi.
- Youth Services staff also hosted several special events celebrating Winter Vacation Week, including a library-wide scavenger hunt, a "drive-in" movie where kids customized their own cardboard box cars, and STEM challenges where kids built with marshmallows and won 3D-printed polar bears from the Workshop for creating the tallest towers!



Circulation

- Circulation had 16,674 transactions and welcomed 79 new patrons to the CFPL family.
- Circulation staff created book displays with the topics “Hungry for a Good Book?” and “Patron Pics” with selections provided by participants in our Adult Summer Reading program!
- Patrons reserved 196 museum passes, with the Museum of Fine Arts in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, and the Concord Museum.
- The board games flew off the shelves, clearly a winter break favorite with families!
- Circulation continued their involvement with professional development, the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives, staff picks, fiction selection, and final preparations for the upcoming launch of the new catalog.
- Circulation greeted many visitors over the winter holidays, with family and friends coming to see the Library and the gingerbread house like popular tourist attractions!



Fowler Library

- Fowler celebrated the holidays with a number of seasonal programs...
 - The West Concord Village Community organized a Holiday Stroll, offering events, discounts, and holiday cheer. At Fowler, Mothers Out Front promoted sustainable celebrations, demonstrating an induction stove to make mulled cider. Staff led patrons in making buttons and citrus garlands.
 - The Concord Visitor Center, Concord Recreation, and Kerem Shalom organized this year’s Annual Menorah Lighting, and Fowler staff created book lists and used the Cricut to make bookmark crafts - a fun take home activity and a promotion of the Workshop’s tools!
 - 225 people celebrated Noon Year’s Eve, transforming the whole library into a party, with a variety of programs from Fowler staff and community partners!
- Mothers Out Front created a display to raise awareness about composting and the town’s pilot food drop-off program, now in its second year. They invited patrons to pledge to compost and to encourage others to compost.
- Fowler debuted Talk Yoga, a program developed by speech-language pathologists to combine speech with movement. Thanks to the Friends of the CFPL, instructor Jen Movitz will offer it on a monthly basis through May.
- Fowler closed for several days for carpet replacement provided by the Library Corporation. The Children’s Room and Meeting Room both look amazing and are well worth a visit. During the closure, Fowler staff worked at the Main Library, leading two of their monthly book clubs and a children’s craft while there.



Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop had its busiest month yet, providing more than 150 tools to the Concord community in December!
- The Innovation and Communication team is also preparing for a relaunch of the Library of Things Collection with new tools coming to both Main and Fowler locations.
- The Innovation and Communication team is excited to announce an upcoming partnership with Minuteman Media Network to make public access media services even more accessible to residents. MMN staff will offer a trial series of Open Studio hours in the Workshop in March 2024 - more details coming soon!

Technical Services

- A second new public PC is being added to the Teen Lounge, running Windows 11 - the first one in the Library!
- A new ScanEZ Touchscreen was installed recently, replacing the broken one in the Main Library Computer Alcove.
- A new public photocopier was added to the Main Library Circulation Desk. Many thanks to the Library Corporation for donating the much needed photocopier.
- Tech Services staff cataloged, entered, and processed 2,036 new items in the months of October, November, and December.
- 22,053 people visited the Main Library and 5,009 Fowler Branch in December 2023!

Special Collections

- During the 150th anniversary celebration, the Trustees realized no space had ever been named in honor of William Munroe. He was responsible for art being a part of the Library, and because the art gallery was being renovated, it seemed like the perfect space. The Munroe Gallery was dedicated on December 13. This beautiful and much-needed renovation would not have been possible without the support of generous donors.
- "Connecting the Community: An Exhibition to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Concord Free Public Library," closed on December 22. Special Collections plans to make an online version of the exhibit available on the Library website soon.
- Interns from Simmons University and the University of Rhode Island prepared collection guides and assisted with managing new accessions.
- The Concord Free Public Library was built thanks to the generous contribution of William Munroe. He oversaw the construction of the Library and left funds for its upkeep. Upon his death in 1877, the town issued a formal tribute to his character to be sent to his family and the Town Clerk's records. Thanks to a recent donation, we now have the family's copy of this tribute.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library is compiling the 2023 Annual Report and collaborating with the Library Committee, Library Corporation, and Friends of the Library on their annual reports as well.