

### Reference Services

- Reference Staff answered 269 reference questions and reserved 188 rooms in July. Staff assisted 118 patrons with technology and 4 patrons with reader's advisory.
- The adult summer reading program was successful. There were several entries in the raffle, and the winners loved the 150th anniversary tote bags!
- Reference hosted a number of exciting programs in July. The Tuesday Book Group discussed *Good in Bed*, by Jennifer Weiner. The Cookbook Club made French recipes from Jacques Pepin's cookbooks. Reference and Circulation partnered to offer a papercutting workshop led by multimedia artist Zhonghe (Elena) Li. Li also exhibited her work in the Library Art Gallery during July. Additionally, Reference hosted an author talk with debut authors Jean Duffy and Bev Boisseau Stohl. Duffy spoke about her book *Soccer Grannies: The South African Women Who Inspire the World*, an inspirational story of a group of soccer-playing South African grandmothers. Boisseau Stohl's book, *Chomsky and Me*, is the story of her 24 years as Noam Chomsky's assistant at MIT.



### Youth Services

#### Teen Lounge

- Every Monday and Friday in June and July, staff welcomed 7th and 8th grade campers to the Teen Lounge! The group particularly enjoyed using the button maker, playing board games from the collection, and blasting Taylor Swift on the sound system.



- Artist and photographer Becky Behar returned to the Main Library for her Sunlight Photography (Cyanotype) Workshop for Teens. Behar started with the history and science of cyanotype art, and then teens created journal covers using the technique. Finally, they hand-bound the pages and put the pieces together to create journals!

## Children's Library



- Youth Services kicked off June with the Summer Reading Program! This year, school-aged kids had the opportunity to participate in the Read to Bead program, and young children joined the Rubber Ducky Club. They each earned either beads to decorate a necklace or rubber duckies by reading and completing fun summer challenges. The program has been a huge hit this year. So far, 554 children have participated in the program.
- Youth Services also hosted several exciting programs in June and July. Highlights included “Science Heroes: Saving the Earth Together,” where kids enjoyed an exciting story punctuated with science experiments; “Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions,” where teacher Jay Mankita taught kids how to make gravity-defying Rube Goldberg Machines, and “Not Really So Scary Animals,” where kids learned how animals that may seem scary benefit the earth, as well as meet a boa constrictor, tarantula, and more “scary” animals.
- Youth Services and the Workshop partnered to launch the Make-It Club, a weekly STEAM program where kids created play-dough from scratch, built parachutes to launch laser-cut dino-nauts in a wind tunnel, and more!

## Circulation

- Circulation Staff welcomed 81 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- In July, patrons used 150 museum pass reservations, with the Museum of Fine Arts first followed closely by the Discovery Museum, plus 39 virtual passes for the New England Aquarium.
- Circulation’s book displays included “Beach Reads,” “Sci-fi Summer Graphic Novels,” and “Think Pink.” “Staff Picks” remain a favorite with patrons, and games fly off the new board games collection display.
- Circulation Staff continued involvement with initiatives related to DEI, the CFPL’s 150th Anniversary, and Sustainability, with the recent no-receipts-unless-requested action going well.
- Circulation kicked off August’s Wacky Wednesdays with music-themed decorations and gifts for patrons on the same day as the Library Crawl, whose visitors received 150<sup>th</sup> stickers and keychains.



## Fowler Library



- Hundreds of patrons of all ages visited to watch chicks hatch at Fowler and hold the hatchlings over their first week of life. Zinnia, a one-year-old chicken hatched at Fowler last year, also visited and patrons asked her owners all chicken-raising questions. Fowler became even *fowl-er* with a special visit from Nuala the Great-Horned owl.
- Of the 286 people who have checked in for the Bike for Books program, 168 started at Fowler.
- Pollinator Week provided an opportunity to offer more programs around the pollinator garden and to strengthen partnerships with community organizations. Programs included a self-guided pollinator garden tour, a native plant transplant, crafts, and storytimes.
- The West Concord Green Thumbs adapted their winter Family Tree display based on the book *Rooftop Garden*, by Danna Smith and published by Barefoot Books, to create a display educating and delighting patrons. The Thumbs worked with Fowler Staff to offer two successful programs, a storytime and a craft.
- Ongoing programs had robust attendance over June and July. In addition, Concord Conservatory of Music did two “storytime takeovers” as part of their early childhood music program. Fowler After Hours in July allowed patrons to test their powers of acting and detection for live murder mystery game. Fowler Staff reintroduced weekly Take-and-Makes with the help of additional volunteers. Afternoon Tea Book Club read *Shad Hadid and the Alchemists of Alexandria* in preparation for a special visit from Writer-in-Residence George Jreije.
- Due to construction in West Concord, the Visitor Center has worked with the Chamber of Commerce to offer a “Local Love” campaign. Fowler has embraced the opportunity to support the local business community by being the drop-off site for completed passports and helping facilitate the weekly drawings for “The Gift of Concord.”

## Innovation & Communications

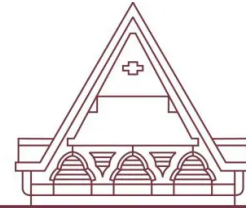
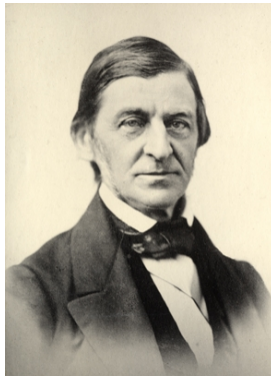
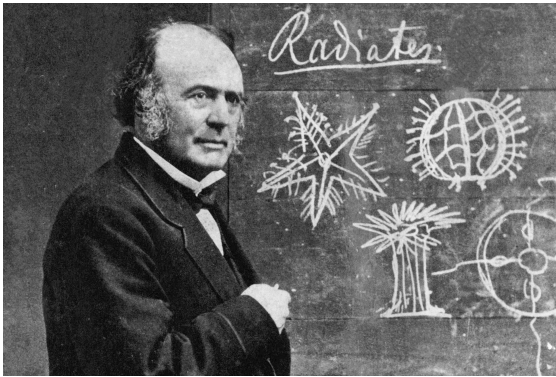


- The Workshop has had a very successful first few months in operation with more than 650 patrons attending hands-on programs in the Workshop, including classes on laser cutting, embroidery, glass-etching, soap-making, and more!
- Patrons completed more than 150 tool sessions during the Workshop’s Open Maker Hours.
- The Workshop Team collaborated with Reference and Technical Services to launch Creativebug - a new eLibrary resource for Concord makers that provides on-demand, full-length video courses taught by nationally recognized professional artists and makers.

## Technical Services

- In FY2023, a total of 10,734 new items were ordered, cataloged, entered, processed, and added to the Main and Fowler Library collections - including all print and non-print items for all departments.
- Tech Services Staff resumed book ordering after a brief pause on July 1, and new items are being delivered to the Library every week. New fiction, non-fiction, DVDs, teen and children's books, and more are filling up the new arrivals shelves.

## Special Collections



A PERPETUAL INVITATION  
150 YEARS OF ART *at the*  
Concord Free Public Library

- Special Collections served 210 patrons onsite, answered over 300 reference questions, and made significant progress completing an extensive survey of archival and manuscript holdings in the collection.
- Over the summer months, Special Collections staff gave monthly Gallery Talks at the Concord Museum, which is hosting *A Perpetual Invitation*, an exhibition in honor of the Concord Free Public Library's 150th Anniversary, featuring the Library's art collection.
- Special Collections Staff conducted extensive research in preparation for their special exhibition on the Library's 150th Anniversary that will open to the public on October 1 in the second-floor gallery at the Main Library.
- Special Collections sponsored two well-attended programs in June; "Mr. Agassiz's Puzzle-Box: What To Do With 19th-Century Science Today" presented by Professor Irmischer and "Celebrating Ralph Waldo Emerson: Filmmaker Michael Maglaras and Writer James Marcus in Conversation."
- The Concord Oral History Preservation & Access Project nearly completed the digitization and transcription of over 300 oral histories thanks to CPA funding.

## Administration and Staffing

- Staff wished Teen Librarian Cary Stough well as he left to pursue a PhD in Poetry. Staff also wished Circulation Supervisor Daniel Barbour well as he pursued a new opportunity to work on library outreach and programming. Long term contract staffer, Judy Campbell, retired from filling the duties of Office Assistant, and will be missed.
- The Library welcomed Reni Cunningham as the new Circulation Supervisor. Reni began working for the CFPL as a Library Page before working as a Specialist and helping write the Library's Sustainability Plan. She was then promoted to Reference Librarian after completing her Master's Degree, before her current promotion to Department Head for Circulation.
- The Library looks forward to welcoming two new staff: Teen Librarian Erick Gordy at the end of August and Office Assistant Mark Gerstel in September.
- The Administration and Department Heads completed and successfully submitted the required annual ARIS form to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This detailed report is required to certify that Concord and the Library as meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements to receive State Aid to Public Libraries funding.