

Reference Services

- Reference answered 219 reference questions, booked 151 meeting rooms, assisted 114 patrons with technology, and advised 3 patrons on reading choices. Three patrons used the Library's notary service.
- The department hosted a number of exciting programs in June including a one man show on the life and poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay with local actor Stephen Collins (30 attendees), and a talk on Twenty Featured Animation Films with Randall Warniers (35 attendees). The Tuesday book discussion group partnered with the Military Family Support Group of Concord for an excellent discussion of "The Things They Carried", by Tim O'Brien, with an enthusiastic crowd of 18 participants. Meanwhile, 18 Cookbook Club members made recipes by Jessica Merchant, author of "Everyday Dinners". On June 18, Wilson Kerr gave a presentation entitled, "Silent Spring II: The Dangers of Yard Pesticides" (26 participants). Other notable programs included "Biotuning" with Julie Ramsdell (23 attendees), and the weekly Thursday Morning Meditation (26 attendees), led by Lara Wilson of Mondiwell. Words Move Theater Company will perform "Mixed Messages" on June 26, while the monthly board game group will meet on June 28.
- Kate created a display for Pride Month entitled "Love in all shapes", while Gay created a display of books related to Octopuses, Seahorses, and Jellyfish.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 7 programs in June with a total attendance of 112 teens.
- Concord Pride '25 festivities on Saturday, June 7th topped the month's attendance list. 40 teens came in for tabletop games, treats, and especially Karaoke.
- The Teen librarian was also able to coordinate musical performances at the Concord Pride '25 celebration flag raising from CCHS student Meilynn Teng. Meilynn was an amazing ambassador for her peers, and made sure our young people were representing front and center at this important event.
- The Teen Summer Reading: Library Level-up program went live on Monday, June 16th. The daily engagement with our "Wheel of Random Encounters" is well supported by many teen patrons who come in after the Concord Rec summer camp lets out every day.
- Gearing up for our second annual Young Adult Author Symposium (YAAS!), the teen librarian met this month with CCHS librarians to cement the author list for YAAS! 2 before school let out for the year. We have an official list of 20 visiting authors this year, and an emphasis on graphic novel authors. More to come on this!



Children's Library

- Beginning on June 9, the Children's Library and the Fowler Branch presented two challenges that encourage children and caregivers to foster a daily habit of reading:
 - ◆ The Rubber Ducky Club for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers invites caregivers to read with their children every day. For every seven days they read and record, their child can earn a rubber ducky as a keepsake.
 - ◆ Reading Dragons for kids and teens encourages participants to read and collect dragon trading cards. Kids can evolve their dragon (or pick a new egg) for every two days they read this summer.
- In Summer 2024, there were 1054 participants signed up for the kids' Summer Reading Challenges. During the first two weeks of Summer 2025, over 900 children signed up to participate!
- In partnership with the Workshop, Children's and Workshop staff celebrated Pride Month with special "Rainbow Editions" of Make-it! Club. Kids made woven rainbow decorations, friendship bracelets, rainbow suncatchers, and more. There was also a special Shining Dragon Egg that could only be earned by participating in Pride programs, which skyrocketed attendance at June's Make-it! Club programs (with over 70 participants at each program as compared to the usual average of 35).
- Children's staff also celebrated our beloved sculpture Millie the Duck's third birthday with stories, crafts, favors, and treats for all. Kids also had the opportunity to make rubber ducky themed soap with artists from Kulina Folk Art at an additional event held after the party.
- Children's staff were also thrilled to bring One-Up Games to the library for several rounds of LED Mini-Golf in the Goodwin Forum. Over 200 patrons of all ages visited to brighten their day.

Circulation

- Corridor displays this month were "Going on a Picnic", a selection of cookbooks with picnic friendly foods, curated by Stacey. The other corridor display was "In Celebration of Audio Book Month", a collection of books on CD curated by Danielle. The non-fiction display at the Sudbury St. corridor was "The Road Less Traveled", books about traveling adventures, curated by Karin.
- Stacey attended a workshop about AI presented by MLS. Bart and Karin also attended a workshop on creating self-care practices for library workers, also offered by MLS.
- Novels The Wedding People by Alison Espach and My Friends: a novel by Fredrick Backman were the most requested books by Concord patrons.
- The non-fiction title The Let Them Theory by Mel Robbins was the most requested non-fiction title by Concord patrons.
- 20,769 items circulated at the library this month. This number includes, check-outs, holds and returns.



Fowler Library

- Summer Reading for all ages, and particularly dragon training, had Fowler Library hopping in June. Alongside Reading Dragons and Rubber Duckies, the incubated chicks also hatched, joining the party and meeting hundreds of patrons during their week at Fowler.

- For the second year, Fowler served as a venue for the West Concord Porchfest, welcoming the bands Marked in Chalk and Julian Spector on June 14.
- During National Pollinator Week (June 16-22), staff led and facilitated a series of events at both Libraries and on Town conservation land, including garden talks, a native plant transplant, and a self-guided garden tour. It culminated in the planting of a new pollinator garden in the front yard, made possible through a grant from the Garden Club of Concord and supported by the Friends of CFPL and the Library Corporation. Nikki Howell of Lady Fern Farm designed the garden, provided the plants, and gave a talk about how to design a native plant garden.
- Craft Labs had a series of special guests over the month. Karen Pettyjohn led a “Spark Peace” program for the Students Rebuild Challenge, Marilyn Lowitt of the West Concord Green Thumbs led a collage workshop related to the book “The Night Garden” by Carin Berger celebrating Pride and pollinators (participants also collaged rainbows!), and author/illustrator Steve Bermundo shared his picture book Crushed and participants made their own zines.
- Writer in Residence Steve Edwards led a second Nature Writing Workshop in June, and he also joined Fowler Afoot to discuss his memoir Breaking into the “Back Country”.

Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop celebrated Concord Pride, along with several partners in the town. Starting with the kickoff party on June 7, the Workshop hosted 10+ events including, decorating pride themed sunglasses, fused glass pride flags, and pride themed fanny packs.
- We loaned 183 tools to patrons this month.
- Added new tools including 3D pens and a 3D scanner.

Technical Services

- In April and May, Tech Services ordered, received, cataloged, entered and processed 1,048 and 969 new items respectively.

Special Collections

- Special Collections welcomed over 80 patrons in June, including visitors from Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Utah, California, Colorado, and Maryland.
- A remarkable new archival collection is currently being processed, offering an expansive and intimate look at multiple generations of the Emerson family of Concord, Massachusetts.
 - ◆ Key highlights of the collection include Amelia Forbes Emerson’s correspondence, including personal letters exchanged with members of the Emerson and Forbes families, friends, and cultural figures of the early 20th century.
- The travel journals of Ellen Tucker Emerson, daughter of Edward and Annie Emerson, offer vivid accounts of international travel and personal growth—rare first-person narratives from a well-educated, independent woman in the late 19th century.
- Sketchbooks by Edward Waldo Emerson, the only surviving son of Ralph Waldo Emerson. A trained physician and prolific writer, Edward was an accomplished artist. His sketchbooks feature landscapes, portraits, and anatomical drawings, providing visual insight into his surroundings and interests.
- Photographs spanning four generations of the Emerson family—ranging from 19th-century formal portraits to casual snapshots of domestic life, travel, and intergenerational gatherings.
- Together, these materials paint a more complete picture of the Emerson family as artists, travelers, observers, and correspondents, extending the Emerson legacy well beyond that of Ralph Waldo Emerson himself.