

Chariton Public Library Summer Program

Find Your Voice
2023 summer reading for ALL AGES at your library



STORYTIME @ THE FARMERS MARKET



ADULTS & TEENS @ THE ALCOHOL INK CLASS



ADULTS & TEENS @ THE MANDALA CLASS

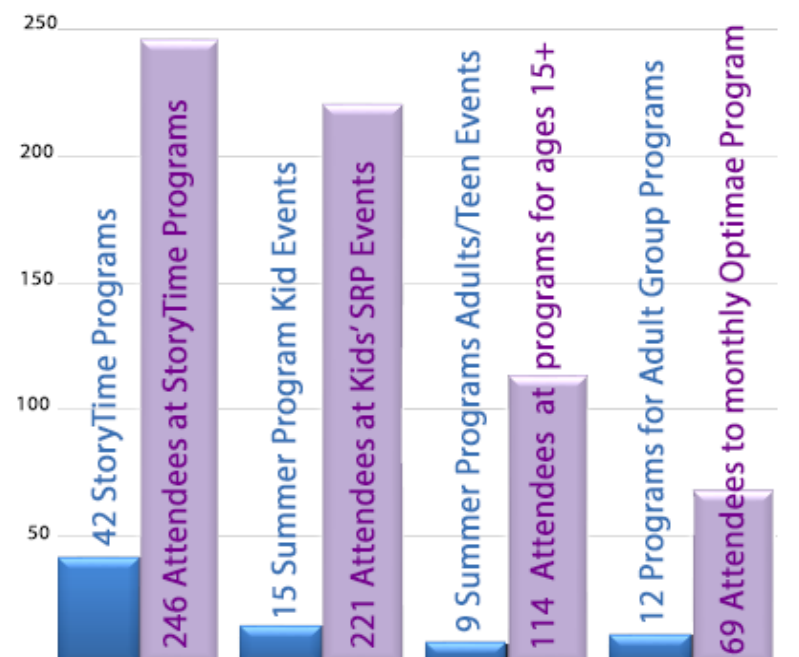
We're always eager to hear what kind of programming you'd like most. It will help guide us to the best use of Library time and money. Don't be shy. This is your Library! We're also eager to offer you space and supplies and support for your own group efforts. Our meeting room is free to use. We stock a lot of craft supplies. Ask us about it!



Not for the first time, the Library lacks a Program Coordinator – the person who organizes and offers all Library programs, including weekly and monthly programs for specific age and ability groups, Summer Program events and Special Program events. What are we doing in the meantime?

We are struggling. Last summer each staff person created and presented at least one program that fit the summer theme. We hired in outside presenters to provide programs for children, teens and adults. And it looks like we'll do the same this year to offer a spectacular Summer Program.

But weekly programming has been dropped. We just don't have the staff to do it, and it doesn't look like we'll be able to bring these programs back until we can hire a Program Coordinator. It will require funding and a qualified candidate.



FY23 Annual Report

Chariton Public Library

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Mission Statement:

The Chariton Public Library offers information and entertainment to educate, inspire and enrich our community. At the Library, people of all ages and backgrounds gather together to share experiences, celebrate ideas, and create. Children develop a love of reading, families find a place to play, and lifelong learners never run out of new things to discover.

Another year gone & what have we done? A whole lot!!

We started FY23 off with a big, big project. Years of leaks had rendered the basement rooms of the original Library building uninhabitable. So we dug out the dirt, sealed and insulated the walls, installed drainage and restructured the landscape to eliminate this old issue. We'll refurbish the interior after the limestone walls have dried out completely. Hey, what should we do with those rooms?

Landscaping: Ok, the real landscaping is yet to come, but we did reseed the front & side lawns.

HVAC Replacement: All of our HVAC system was installed eons ago. So we installed three new HVAC units, two upstairs and one downstairs, and we installed a "whole house" dehumidifier too.

Lighting Replacement: Upstairs we installed new LED lighting in the suspended light fixtures and in the recessed lighting on the stage in the children's area. Maybe our cardboard tree will start growing.

Front Entrance: We replaced the damaged wooden door with a metal one. It looks the same, but it's stronger and lighter and will last a lot longer. It's safer too. It has a crashbar for easy exit.

Window Replacement Project: We replaced all of the tall windows in the building to get back to the original 1904 style of windows. The difference is these are high efficiency, metal-framed ones. They have the historical look with all the modern energy savings.

Stained Glass: Our stained glass was removed, releaded & repaired, and then set back in place with protective coverings that will prevent any future warping or damage, and they look fabulous!

What's next? Repairs to the building are still necessary. Upcoming projects might include repair of gutters, soffits, fascia and trim, painting of same, and possibly some tuckpointing for the exterior, and maybe some carpet and blinds inside. We're going to do a Space Needs Assessment on the basement rooms to determine their best use. And we'll begin planning The Young Reading Garden in the greenspace on the west side of the building. The plans for the future are big. We welcome your input!

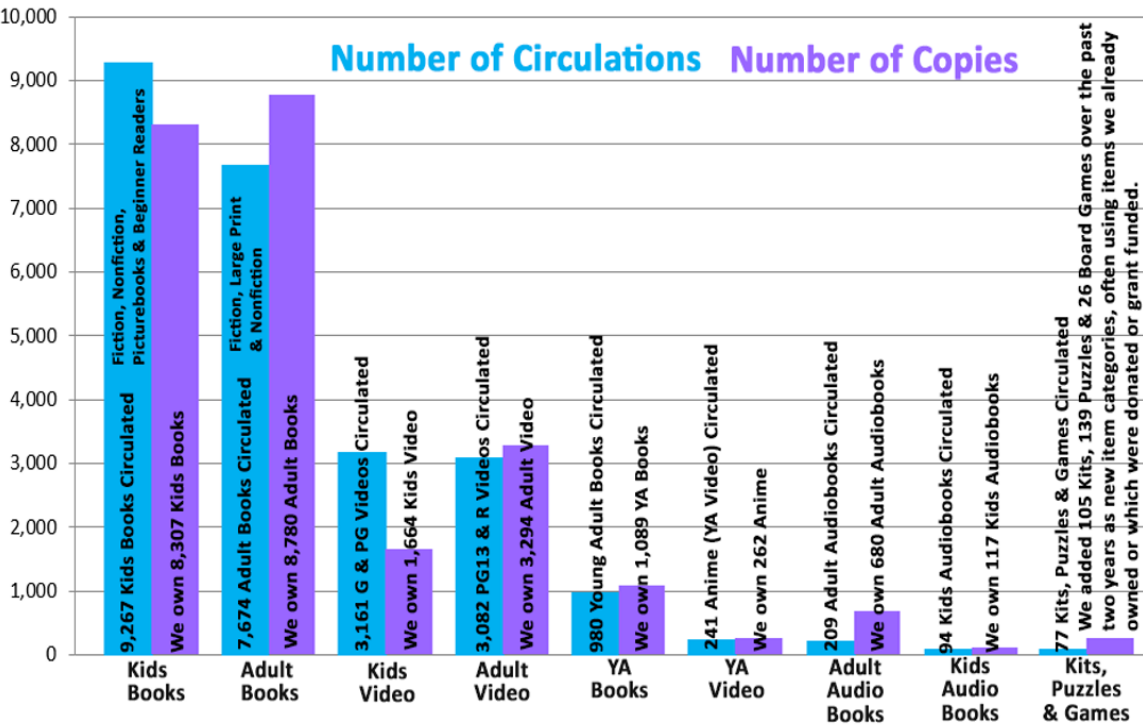
STORYTIME @ THE FARMERS MARKET



Love
this
Library!
This year will
mark 120 years
since our
Library was
formally
dedicated on
October 28,
1904.

Friends
of the
Chariton Public
LIBRARY

Have you noticed that The Friends of the Library group has been a little elusive over the past few years? Well, they're back! Members of the group have formed a new board and are eager for your input and assistance. The purpose of the group is to establish a closer relationship between the Library and the people it serves and to promote informed interest in the Library's functions, resources, services, and needs. To find out more email friendsofthelibrarychariton@gmail.com or stop in the Library to pick up a membership form. Donate, volunteer and make an impact in our community!



Books are back on top! Sadly, not due to an increase in checkouts. One of the big drops in our circulation, however, has been the video collection. Looks like Covid convinced most of our patrons that they could afford streaming services.

Pre-Covid Videos	Current Circs Videos
Adult 6,659	Adult 3,082
Kids' 3,945	Kids' 3,161

Our video collection has **not** shrunk significantly.

But we have cut back on purchasing by almost \$1,000 per year as demand waned. We have also tried to find a balance with audiobook expenditures and circulations. Over the past four years audiobook expenditures have varied, but we’ve watched the circulations of audiobooks drop consistently regardless of how many new items we purchased. Assessment of these collections and expenses continues.

That other aspect of circulation which we look at – the correlation between the number of items in each category and their circulation numbers, which demonstrates the popularity of the items actually on the shelf - shows which sections of the collection are working the hardest to meet patron demand. Anywhere on the graph above, if the blue bar is higher than the purple bar, that section’s contents are best matched to patron needs.

These are also the sections we get the most requests for. In order to get the most out of our purchasing power, we encourage patrons to request authors, titles & genres they want to read and view and then we get everything they request if possible.

There are items no longer in print or which, if purchased, would require additional extensive purchases - as in the case of a long-running book series, multiple volumes of which may be out of print - which we get for the patron via interlibrary loan instead of purchasing.

We’re making a big push to make sure the public knows that if they want something they should ask for it, and we will do all that we can to get it for them, whether that means adding to the collection or borrowing from another library.

Overall, our circulation numbers are falling year by year, while statistics for our online access and content are steadily growing, sometimes in leaps & bounds. We’re assessing this situation to determine if a shift in priorities is in order and how best to accomplish changes in services without denying patrons access to what they want. It’s a matter of balancing resources with the variety of patron needs.



Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Statistics

Days Open: 289
Annual Visitor Count: 25,993
Registered Cardholders: 4,163
Total Collection Holdings: 27,838
Total Circulation of Materials We Own: 24,783

Chariton Public LIBRARY

Monday-Thursday	10-7
Friday-Saturday	10-5
Sunday	Closed



Interlibrary Loans sent out to other Iowa Libraries: 127
Interlibrary Loans borrowed for our own patrons: 346

Our patrons love the state-sponsored van route! Most ILLs are POSTAGE FREE so no charge to our patrons for this service!!

BRIDGES (Iowa’s Downloadable Content Collection to which we subscribe.)



Local Patrons who accessed materials via BRIDGES: 1,319
digital audiobooks accessed: 3,783
e-books accessed: 3,189
e-magazines accessed: 531

BRIDGES Membership Annual Fees \$1,181



Library Website Visits: 4,718
Library WI-Fi: 8,267 Sessions (almost 3 times as many uses as in FY22!!)
Library PC & Chromebox Uses (14 Machines) 3,972 (1,380 more than in FY22!)



What are they using our PCs and Chromeboxes for?

Adult patrons specifically are coming in to print labels or forms, which is why 58% of our desk income comes from printing fees.

Adults are also just stopping in to spend minutes or hours accessing the Internet.

The kids are still mostly gaming, although on a few occasions, we have witnessed the desperate-project-research mission.

Device users, whether it’s a phone, laptop or other device, come in for the Wi-Fi, or they don’t come in, but sit in their vehicles along the curb and in the back lot to get their 24/7 free access to the Internet. It’s all good.

All the work we're doing on the Library facility involves various sources of funding.

CHARITON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDRAISING

803 Braden Avenue – Chariton, IA 50049
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We apply for grants and we're using previously donated bequest funds to make our capital projects possible.

We also have a fundraising campaign ongoing. Would you partner with us as we move forward to complete our building projects?

Donations to the Chariton Free Public Library are tax deductible as charitable contributions.