



Winchester PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



*Two young patrons in a cozy
corner of the Children's Room.*

Winchester Public Library
80 Washington Street
Winchester MA, 01890
www.winpublib.org

CONTENTS

2 LIBRARY STAFF

3 SHELVERS & SUBSTITUTES

3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

4 LIBRARY DIRECTOR

5 ADULT PROGRAMMING

7 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

8 BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES

13 TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION SERVICES

18 CIRCULATION SERVICES

20 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

24 GRANTS & FUNDS IN TRUST

25 BUDGETS

LIBRARY STAFF

Circulation Services

Rosanne Barrow
Jeanne Buckley (*sub. to perm. Sept. 2025*)

Daphne Costa
Dana Elder
Crystal French (*until July 2025*)

Charles Gillis
Leslie Kennedy
Kristin MacLeod*

Kerry O'Brien
Paulina Picerno
Kathleen Sheehan (*hired July 2025*)

Mary Sherburne
Maria Skiffington
Wanda Vitti

Technology & Information Services

Paula Cerrato
Sarah Feldman (*sub. to perm. Oct. 2025*)

Amanda Gogel
Ammie Long
Emelyn MacIntosh
Katherine May (*retired Sept. 2025*)

Kathleen Reidy
Craig Smith*

Children's Services

Brittany DeLorme*
Karen Chmielewski
Kelly McMaster
Victoria Whipple

Bibliographic Services

Meghan Cericola
Anthony Corsentino*
Judith Holland
Barbara Jean Mirabile

Administration

Christine Amatrudo
Michelle Carta
Nicole Langley*

Maintenance Department

Chris Boucher (*hired March 2025*)

Craig Boucher
Stephen DeMaio
Joe Donahoe*

*Department Head



Top to bottom: Young readers in a makeshift reading nook; WPL at the Farmer's Market; Scott Magoon's Authorfest session at WPL; A young reader enjoying a book in the "tree trunk."

SHELVERS

- Doug Cromwell
- Shirley Gillming
- Theresa Lamb
- Stephen Lenhardt
- Jason O'Hagan
- Myroslava Shryprykevych

SUBSTITUTES

- Veronica Amorim
- Karina Barrozo
- Jenna Barry (until Apr. 2025)
- Anita Colasante (perm. to sub. Feb. 2025)
- Erin Dagenais (until Oct. 2025)
- Rudy DiTonno
- Erin Fagan (perm. to sub. May 2025)
- Robert Fucarile
- Eliot Fumante (until Oct. 2025)

(Substitutes continued)

- Hilary Grant
- Michelle Houslanger
- Elaine Karp
- Ashley Kempkes
- Julie Kinchla
- Aileen Kounaves
- Elaine LeGendre
- Joshua Leung (hired Sept. 2025)
- Katherine May (perm. to sub Oct. 2025)
- Mary Beth McAteer
- Sarah McCracken (hired Sept. 2025)
- Estefany Ramos Parada (hired Oct. 2025)
- Gerry Pothier
- Robin Rapoport
- Denise Robinson
- LeeAnne Toner
- Charlotte Wood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Winchester Public Library as established under Massachusetts General Laws Ch.78, Sec. 10-13, and 21. The Board exercises powers and authority and assumes the responsibility delegated to it under this statute and the Winchester Home Rule Charter Section 3-6. The Board consists of five members elected for three-year terms.

Victoria Garcia-Albea, Chair
Elected 2023. Term to expire in 2026

James J. Remmes, Jr., Vice-Chair
Elected 2024. Term to expire in 2027

Cathy Alexander
Elected 2025. Term to expire 2028

David H. Coughlan
Appointed 2021. Term to expire 2028

Wendy Karle
Elected 2019. Resigned 2025

Angela Murdough
Elected 2017. Term to expire 2026

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

NICOLE LANGLEY, DIRECTOR



The Library continued to blossom in 2025! Program attendance has increased almost 33% over 2024, and door counts increased 4% over 2024. New and different programs have contributed to increases, but infrastructure improvements have as well. Those improvements include the Wifi upgrade from 2023, new security cameras system in 2024, and a new phone system in 2024-2025. All of these improvements allowed the Library staff to focus on services and maintain a safe space. A variety of funding was used for these projects, including ARPA funds and a Reserve Fund Transfer.

The Library started and continued popular initiatives, including the addition of a second 3D printer use, addition of a large format printer, and growth of the foreign language collection (Chinese). Additionally, a new projector was installed in the Large Meeting Room, with support of the Friends of the Library.

In summer 2025, the Library began the strategic planning process. With the support of Barbara Alevras from Sage Consulting, the Library Administration decided to use a variety of planning tools. A Strategic Planning Advisory Committee was formed and will meet three times before the end of the process. This group is made up of representatives of partner organizations and residents. Three SOAR sessions were conducted, and in early 2026, surveys, focus groups, and interviews are being held, to gather info from the community. The bulk of the work for the current plan was done prior to the pandemic, so current efforts are important.

And strategic planning goals are already being met! The survey has surpassed the previous plan's survey in terms of number of respondents and completion rates in at least one category. The final plan will be written and approved by the Library Trustees in late spring 2026.

While 2025 is off to an exciting start, there is uncertainty ahead. With an operating override vote looming for fiscal year 2027, reliable sources of funding even to maintain current services and hours is vital. The Library has already been creative with funding for new projects and services, and even small cutbacks will have noticeable ramifications.

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ADULT PROGRAMMING

CHRISTINE AMATRUDO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Craft workshops, whether led by librarians or hired instructors, continued to be the most popular programs. In summer and fall 2025, we offered a special series of monthly workshops with Pop Up Art School. These workshops were made possible by support from the Winchester Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library.



Reference Librarian Kathleen Reidy established a new monthly library program to encourage another creative pursuit: writing. Write On Winchester welcomes new and experienced writers to share and receive feedback on their work and engage with a local writing community.



We also hosted author talks with Jeffrey Boutwell, Jane Parks Gardner, Caleb Gayle (in collaboration with Winchester ABC and the Network for Social Justice), and Ted Reinstein. When possible, we partnered with Book Ends for the book-signing portion of these events. We offered virtual author talks with Alexis Prescott, E.C. Hanson, Dr. Kathryn Harkup, Lynne Raebtsamen, Joanne Paul, Samuel Marquis, Rob Schwartz, Jane Healey, Mansi Shah, and Weina Dai Rendel.

Above: Pop Up Art School Projects supported by the Winchester Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library: Clay turtle dish in progress; Bookpage teacup.

The Library, with support from the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, hosted in-person and virtual lectures on wide-ranging topics including New England Lighthouses, gardening, managing late-diagnosed ADHD, and eco-friendly burial practices. One of these was an extremely popular presentation from architectural historian (and Winchester resident) John McConnell about the restoration of Notre-Dame Cathedral after the 2019 fire. The presentation was co-sponsored by Winchester Jumelage Inc.

	# of Adult Programs	# of Attendees
2025	162	1,669
2024	207	1,363
2023	194	1,263

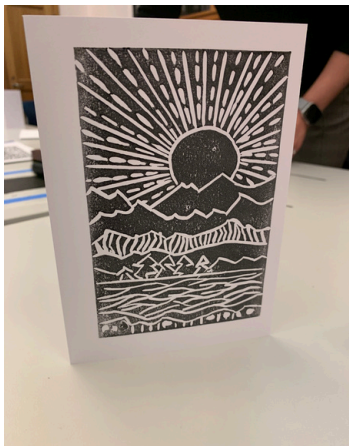
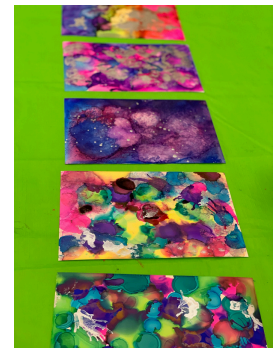
Librarian-led book clubs, like the Monday Night Mystery Book Club and the long-running Hot Reads, continued in 2025, as did the Sociological Book Group, run by librarian Tony Corsentino in partnership with the Jenks Center. The Library has also continued hosting the Yarnies program in collaboration with the Greater Boston Knitting Guild (once a month at the Library and twice a month at the Jenks).

In Fall 2025 we started Monthly Mahjong Meetups, spearheaded by Friend of the Library Margery Chase. Due to the ongoing popularity of these friendly, informal sessions, the monthly meetups became weekly in early 2026.

The Winchester Co-operative Bank generously funded our Adult Summer Reading program once again. We used the funds to purchase weekly prizes (gift cards to local businesses) and the grand prize (a one-year membership to a museum). The funds also covered several special programs, including a linocut printmaking workshop and a series of Zumba classes.

The Adult Summer Reading program rewards library patrons for writing book reviews and attending programs. Participation increased significantly in all areas compared to 2024. 153 participants (+61%) submitted 139 book reviews (+23%) and 140 program attendance raffle tickets (+55%). There were 52 repeat participants, a 53% increase from 2024.

Clockwise from top left: Zumba with Coach Stephanie; Author Talk with Caleb Gayle; Plant Swap; Alcohol Ink Workshop; Needle Felting Workshop; Author Talk with Chronicle's Ted Reinstein; Linocut Printmaking.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

CHRISTINE AMATRUDO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2024-2025 Board

President: Meg Mehm

Vice President: Susan Schwartz

Treasurer: Mary Aldrich

Assistant Treasurer: John Aldrich

Recording Secretary: Robbie Brown

2025-2026 Board

President: Meg Mehm

Vice President: Susan Schwartz

Treasurer: Mary Aldrich

Assistant Treasurer: John Aldrich

Recording Secretary: Lily Wound

Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library is to enhance and support our community's Library by raising funds and advocating for programs and services not funded by the Town.

The Friends, a nonprofit that raises funds and advocates for the Library, is run by a board of volunteers. Donations to the Friends directly fund WPL's public printing service, 3D printing service, and a portion of our museum passes (others are sponsored by Rotary and EnKa). The Friends also provide the Library's entire programming budget for adults, teens, and children.

In addition to their annual support for these essential initiatives, the Friends can vote to use reserve funds for special projects. In August 2025, a powerful, wall-mounted projector was installed in the Large Meeting Room courtesy of the Friends. The previous setup was both untidy and unsafe, with a bulky AV cart in the aisle and extension cords underfoot. This upgrade provided a clearer, brighter picture, better sound, and a much smoother experience for staff, presenters, and audience members.



In January 2025, the Friends started a Book Sale as a way to generate more funds for the Library and make good use of discarded library books. The sale has been consistently successful in its first year.



Left: New projector in action at Silent Movie Night with live accompaniment by Richard Hughes. Right: Friends of the Library "Second Chapter Books" book sale cart.

The Friends produce a twice-annual newsletter and, for the past few years, have held a special Open House in the spring. The “March Into Spring” Open House in March 2025 featured a bake sale, scavenger hunt, crafts, a silent auction and more!



Young library patrons enjoying goody bags, a 3D printing demo, crafts, and a bake sale at the 2025 Open House.



BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES

TONY CORSENTINO, DEPARTMENT HEAD

ITEMS ADDED

Bibliographic Services added 10,690 new items to the collection during the year 2025. This is a small 1% increase over the size of additions (9,521) in 2024. The relative stasis in the size of the Library’s overall collection reflects a combination of unevenly distributed forces. One is that we have increased our holdings in all of our Adult Print Books categories, most notably Fiction, to which we added over 2,400 items. (It should be noted, however, that a massive weeding of that collection is now underway, which commenced in December 2025.) But we have also reduced our holdings in most Adult AV categories, save Console Games. (More on the reasons for this below in “Projects and Process Changes.”)

Children’s Playaways and Wonderbooks remain popular parts of the Children’s AV collection. Whereas 28 of each type were added in 2024, double those amounts were added in 2025. The Children’s Library of Things Collection continued to grow in 2025, with 26 new items. Among those items are the following:

- Headphones
- Nintendo Switch Lite console
- Early-learning puzzles (block puzzles, floor puzzles, counting puzzles)
- Playsets and activity boards
- Children’s Kindle
- Active toys (e.g., teeter popper, activity dice)
- Tonies (story players activated by figurines)
- Musical toys (e.g. singalong microphone)

ITEMS WITHDRAWN

Some of the most notable withdrawal projects in 2025 involved Adult AV materials. We reduced this collection by close to 1,500 items: a 14% reduction in size. (See “Projects and Process Changes” below.) Also, the Children’s department conducted a thorough weeding of the print nonfiction collection, which was the subject of a radical reclassification in 2024 (from Dewey to a natural-language based classification we call WILLOS). We reduced this collection by over 1,600 items: a 14% reduction. And we continued the project begun in 2024 of reducing the Children’s video collection. This year we withdrew nearly 40 items: a 34% reduction.

PROJECTS AND PROCESS CHANGES

Among the projects completed or commenced in Bibliographic Services in 2025 are the following:

- Weeding in many areas, as described above and below.
- Nonfiction AV reclassification. Until 2025, it had been a longstanding practice to shelve “nonfiction” AV materials—DVDs, Blu-rays, books on CD, and Playaways—in the Adult Print Nonfiction stacks, intermingled with the books. This arrangement does not serve the materials or the patrons who might find them useful. An analysis of circulation statistics revealed that these intershelved materials have barely circulated at all within the past decade. Research on patron behavior strongly suggests that patrons do not browse by content first, but by format first. Therefore, it serves patrons better to shelve materials by format. To that end, we pulled all the AV materials from the Nonfiction stacks and weeded them by at least 50%. They remain in Mending status in the Bibliographic Services area until we can reshelve them together, and separately from the print books. After extensive discussion with the Head of Circulation, we have decided to free enough shelf bays in the Print Nonfiction area to accommodate this collection. (Ideally, we would shelve them contiguously with the feature-film DVDs and Blu-rays on the main floor. But space constraints foreclosed that option.) We have therefore begun a project to weed the print books in the Dewey 100s, 200s, 300s, and 610s. Once this is complete—projected to be by middle to late spring—we can restore the nonfiction AV collection to circulation and assess patron interest in it.

- Chinese Language Collection. We added a substantial set of nonfiction titles to this collection in 2025. The original seed of the collection was almost exclusively fiction. I want to commend the productive partnership between the Information Services department (particularly librarian Ammie Long) and Bibliographic Services (particularly cataloger Meghan Cericola) in managing the complicated and challenging task of selecting these materials and preparing them for circulation.
- Book mending. With the departure in late 2024 of Gaby Fryklund, our volunteer who mended damaged books, we considered options for continuing to fulfill the Department's mandated responsibility for mending damaged items. We purchased a book-mending machine that allows us to unglue and reglue a book's damaged spine (which accounts for most of the damage we see). But because not all spine damage can be machine-mended, we are also gaining experience in employing traditional hand-mending methods.
- Console game storage. In 2025 the Circulation and Bibliographic Services departments completed the repackaging of the Library's console game collection, originally prompted by the discovery of rampant thefts, mainly of Nintendo Switch cartridges. All cartridges and game discs are now stored in sleeve binders held at the Circulation Desk, to prevent patrons from removing these materials from the library without first having them checked out to their accounts.

OBSERVATIONS

Digital and Streaming Services. Costs for streaming services continue to rise, owing to a combination of pricing increases and greater patron usage—a mixed blessing.

Hoopla. The trend is stark. In July 2024, the Library's patrons accrued \$2,743 in Hoopla expenses. In July 2025, that had risen to \$3,635. In January 2025, the total was \$3,226. In January 2026, it came to \$3,976. Hoopla is a deservedly popular service. Patrons may borrow materials immediately; there are no hold queues, unlike with Overdrive (accessed through the Libby app).

Kanopy. This service gives patrons access to a wide and thoughtfully curated range of films and television shows. Its pricing model is like Hoopla's: the Library is charged a fee per use (with monthly caps on how many movies or shows a patron may borrow). Here too, costs are rising. In past years we have been able to budget around \$2,000 annually to cover patron usage. No more. Recently, library users have been accruing on average \$300 in charges per month.

Shelf space. This is a perennial problem. The Library's total budget for print and other physical media—primarily 52106 and Trust Funds—substantially outstrips our physical storage capacity, unless we impose severe weeding policies.

Trust Fund expenditures. In 2025, Library administration, in collaboration with Bibliographic Services, proposed a plan to make more effective use of Trust Funds, with the aim of solving two problems: first, the historic underuse of Trust Fund monies for collection development; and second, the problem of ordering books and materials near the close of the fiscal year. The latter problem arises because of inconsistencies in processing times from Ingram, our primary vendor (for which see below). If selectors place book orders within a few weeks of fiscal close, we cannot guarantee that we will be invoiced in time to make intended use of 52106 funds for the relevant fiscal year. This uncertainty plagues the operations of Bibliographic Services during the months of May, June, and July. The proposed plan is to direct selectors to deplete their allotted 52106 funds with orders placed by early May at the latest, and then to draw on associated Trust Fund monies for additional purchases until the start of the next fiscal year. We look forward to seeing the results of enacting this plan later in the Spring of 2026.

Vendor changes. 2025 saw the demise of one of the Library’s two principal vendors: Baker & Taylor, a library materials distributor originally founded in 1828 and sold to a private investment group in 2021. We have been able to weather this misfortune largely because of our predominant reliance on Ingram. However, Amazon began in 2025 to make a bid as a supplier to libraries by introducing a new library purchasing hub, promising discounts that are competitive with those standardly offered by Ingram and Baker & Taylor. Currently, the Library prioritizes its relationship with Ingram and has no immediate plans to divert a substantial portion of that business to Amazon.

SUMMARY

Here is a detailed summary of collection activity and holdings.

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
ADULT						
ADULT CIRCULATING PRINT						
Fiction	14,942	16,525	+10.6%	2,293	2,434	14.7%
Large Type	736	909	+23.5%	137	194	21.3%
Young Adult	2,265	2,746	+21.2%	442	681	24.8%
Non-fiction	23,121	24,399	+5.5%	1,895	2,062	8.5%
Total	41,064	44,579	+8.6%	4,767	5,371	12.0%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
ADULT CIRCULATING AUDIOVISUAL						
Video	5,474	4,461	-18.5%	167	185	4.1%
Music	2,360	2,046	-13.3%	54	62	3.0%
Books on CD	1,424	1,221	-14.3%	36	28	2.3%
Spoken Playaway	183	192	+4.9%	5	16	8.3%
MP3	9	0	0.0%	--	--	0.0%
Console Game	596	678	+13.8%	95	128	18.9%
YA Books on CD	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%
YA Playaway	3	3	0.0%	0	0	0.00%
Total	10,049	8,601	-14.4%	357	419	4.9%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
ADULT NON-CIRCULATING						
Reference	442	450	+1.8%	58	24	5.3%
Local History	666	670	0.6%	0	4	0.6%
Total	1,108	1,120	+1.1%	58	28	2.5%
EQUIPMENT						
	154	159	+3.2%	11	14	8.8%
ADULT TOTAL						
	52,375	54,459	+4.0%	5,193	5,832	10.7%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
JUVENILE						
JUVENILE CIRCULATING PRINT						
Fiction	16,866	17,164	+1.8%	2,730	3,325	19.4%
Non-fiction	11,559	9,925	-14.1%	1,469	1,392	14.0%
Total	28,425	27,089	-4.7%	4,199	4,717	17.4%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
JUVENILE CIRCULATING AUDIOVISUAL						
Video	115	76	-33.9%	6	0	0.0%
Music	5	5	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Books on CD	281	279	-0.7%	0	0	0.0%
Spoken Playaway	311	355	+14.1%	28	52	14.6%
Launchpad	5	5	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Wonderbooks	261	314	+20.3%	28	57	18.2%
Total	978	1034	+5.7%	63	109	10.5%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
JUVENILE EQUIPMENT						
	118	133	+12.7%	64	26	19.5%
JUVENILE NON-CIRCULATING						
Reference	80	86	+7.5%	2	6	7.0%
Professional	86	86	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Ebook	83	83	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Total	249	255	+2.4%	2	6	2.4%
JUVENILE TOTAL						
	29,770	28,511	-4.2%	4,328	4,858	17.0%

	2024 HOLDINGS	2025 HOLDINGS	% CHANGE 2024-2025	ITEMS ADDED 2024	ITEMS ADDED 2025	% COLLECTION ADDED IN 2025
GRAND TOTAL						
	82,145	82,969	+1.0%	9,521	10,690	12.9%

TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION SERVICES

CRAIG SMITH, DEPARTMENT HEAD

2025 was a strong and steady year for Information Services. The Reading and Reference rooms are frequently full, especially in the 3:00 - 6:00 hours. We have more patrons than ever who choose to spend their days working here and we have a new set of regulars to wave hello to each morning. We are, by far, the best third space in Winchester and we frequently hear from residents of the surrounding towns about how we're the best library in the area.

STAFFING

Staffing changes slowed down this year compared to last. Kate May departed in September and her position remains open as of this writing. Our newest staff members, Sarah Feldman and Ammie Long, have settled in and are already providing Winchester with great things. Sarah will be running an extended program called Between Two Worlds in association with the Yiddish Book Center. Ammie has doubled the size of our Chinese collection and provides frequent translation services for our staff.

TECHNOLOGY

From scanning/faxing/printing using our print management system to help with their phones and laptops, we are a go-to resource for technology help for the residents of Winchester. In addition to assisting patrons, I have been providing technical assistance to the rest of the library as well. In 2025 we completed the last of the major technology infrastructure projects on our list: a new phone system, moving our public networks to a dedicated 1 gigabyte fiber optic internet, and cleaning up the switch closet.

- Technological Infrastructure - 2025 saw the completion of two large technology infrastructure projects, the replacement of our failing centrex phone system with a VOIP system and the cleanup of the switch closet.
 - Phones: Our prior phone system used a failing set of copper phone lines that were susceptible to rain and ran on a single, ailing Windows XP computer. The new system is significantly less fragile and gives us greater control while providing caller ID and crystal clear audio.
 - Switch Closet: The switch closet for the library was a disaster. Layers of wifi routers, lines that didn't connect to anything, and a general jumble of cabling made solving network issues exceptionally difficult. As part of the cabling process for the VOIP phone system, we had LCN (our vendor) clean up and rationalize the cabling, install a DHCP server & firewall, and switch our internet service over to a 1gb fiber optic line.



- 3D Printing - The popularity of our 3D printing service necessitated the purchase of a second printer in 2025. To manage and mitigate noise, we purchased a steel cabinet to house them both and they now live toward the back of the reference room. Over the course of the year, we have printed nearly 20kg of items for the citizens of Winchester. Everything from toys to sculptures to home goods have been produced and we always have a queue of patrons waiting for their prints.

WIFI NETWORK USAGE

Wireless network usage dipped a small amount over 2025, with an estimated 68,436 unique users. Our patrons continue to love our high speed internet and we receive compliments about it from visitors frequently.

2025	2024	2023
68,436	72,136	53,066

PATRON INTERACTIONS

Working with patrons is the core mission of Information Services - from helping to print a document to finding the perfect summer read. In the past year, our interaction rate with patrons has remained essentially steady. Extended interactions and appointments have increased as we have provided more tech help appointments and longer blocks of assistance for patrons needing technical support or more intensive research.

	Total Patron Interactions	Virtual (Phone and Email)	In Person	Extended Interactions & Appointments
2025	17,612	2,928	14,684	327
2024	18,238	3,081	15,157	275

STUDY ROOMS

Study rooms remain one of our most popular offerings – 2025 saw a 5% increase in usage over 2024. They are heavily used throughout the day, especially in the after school time block (3:00p - 6:00p) on weekdays. We offer four group study rooms, available to Minuteman Library Network cardholders, and patrons may book two hours in a room twice a week.

Study Room Bookings 2025	Study Room Bookings 2024
4,704	4,504

MUSEUM PASSES

Museum pass use fell in 2025. However, passes remain a very popular offering, especially over school vacations and all summer. The New England Aquarium, the Museum of Science, and the Museum of Fine Arts remain our most popular museum pass offerings. Museum passes are funded by the Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club of Winchester, and the EnKa Society.

Museum Pass Bookings 2025	Museum Pass Bookings 2024
1,498	1,659

INTERLIBRARY LOAN & COMMONWEALTH CATALOG

Despite the size of our library network, there are materials that aren't in our collective holdings. When needed, we have two channels for obtaining said materials for patrons – the Commonwealth Catalog (ComCat) for access to all libraries in Massachusetts, and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) for all of the libraries in the rest of the United States.

We continue to be a net lender to the Commonwealth Catalog system and our borrowing has declined over the past year. We are clearly collecting more of what our patrons want if they don't need to go outside the Minuteman Library Network.

	ComCat - Borrowed	ComCat - Lent	ILL
2025	177	229	74
2024	192	222	85

NOTARY SERVICES

At the end of 2025, we added notary services to our offerings. Patrons can now stop in and have documents notarized by one of the two Information Services staff that are licensed notaries. This small service expansion has proven quite popular and we expect many more requests in the coming year. This service, along with our computers and printing / scanning / faxing infrastructure, helps provide our patrons with the resources they need to navigate the complex paperwork aspects of modern life.



SEED LIBRARY

In the spring of 2025, librarian Amanda Gogel created a seed library for our patrons and it proved to be very popular in its first year. Throughout the spring we distributed tens of thousands of seeds to community members in an effort to boost interest in sustainability and ecology, as well as share the love of gardening.



CONCLUSION

2025 was a successful year for the Winchester Public Library and Information Services. We concluded the major technological infrastructure updates needed to bring the library up to modern standards, became significantly more popular with both teen and adult patrons, and continued to increase the services we offer our community.

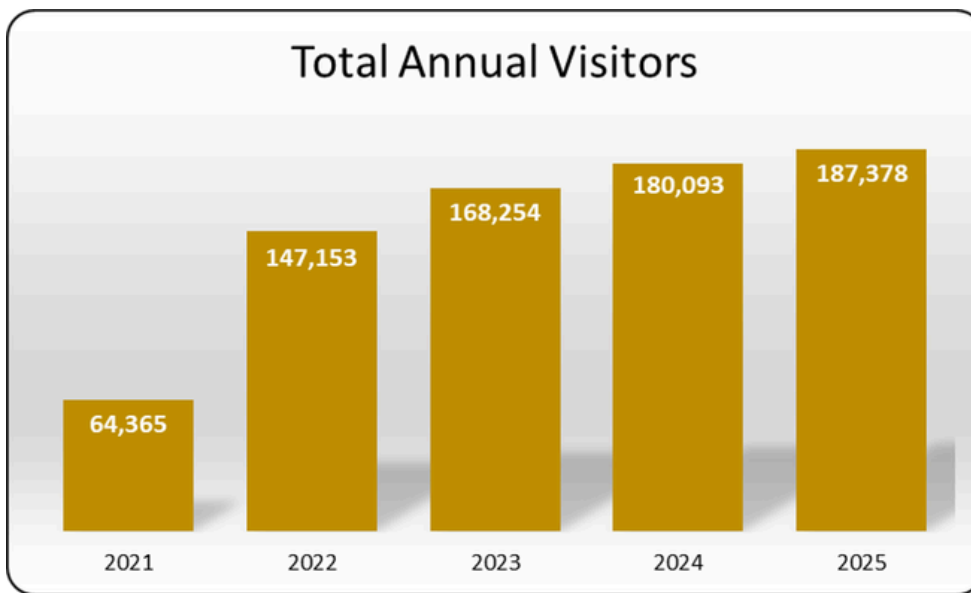
CIRCULATION SERVICES

KRISTIN MACLEOD, DEPARTMENT HEAD

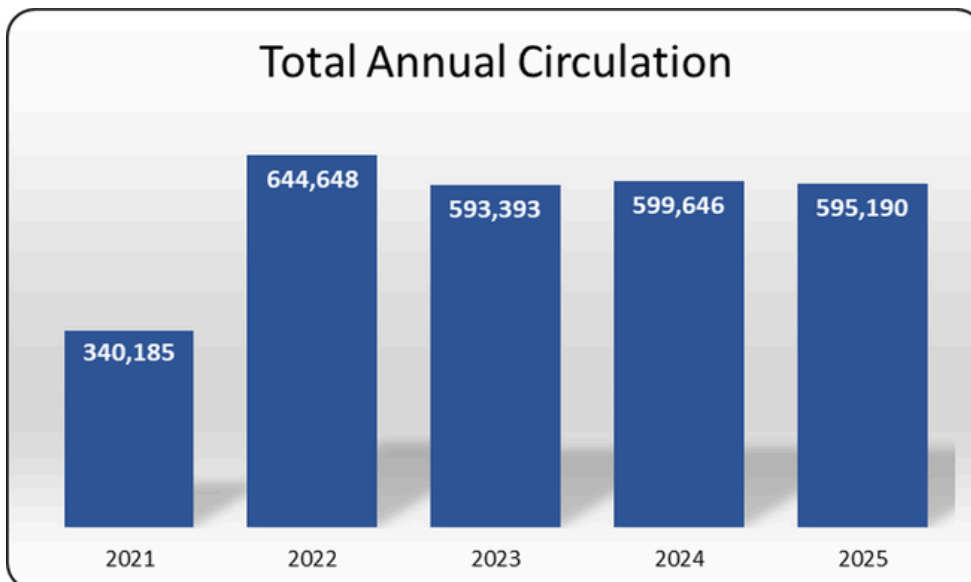
Circulation Services specializes in assisting patrons with accessing library materials, and manages the flow of materials in and out of the library. We pride ourselves on offering a high level of customer service while processing half a million items annually.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

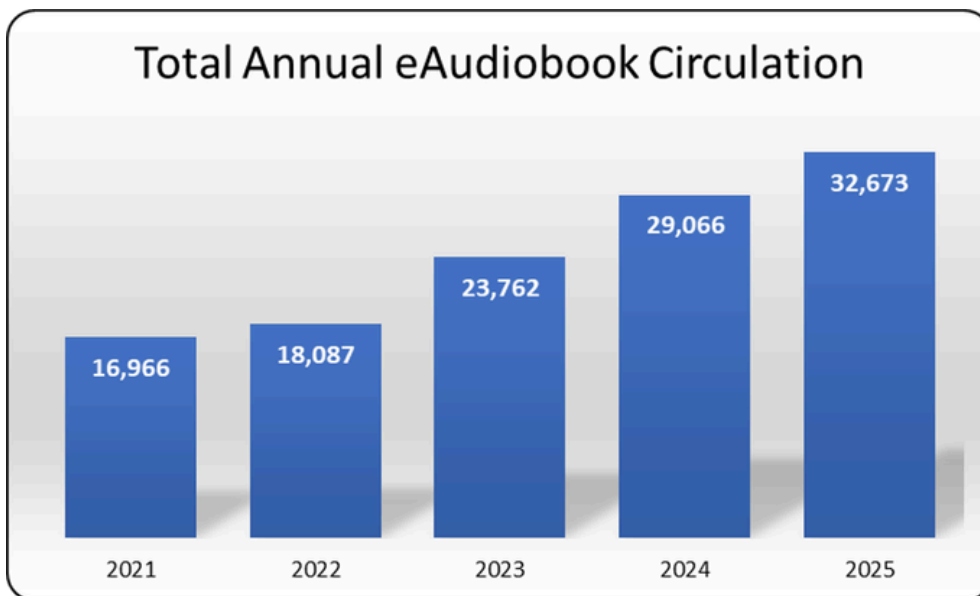
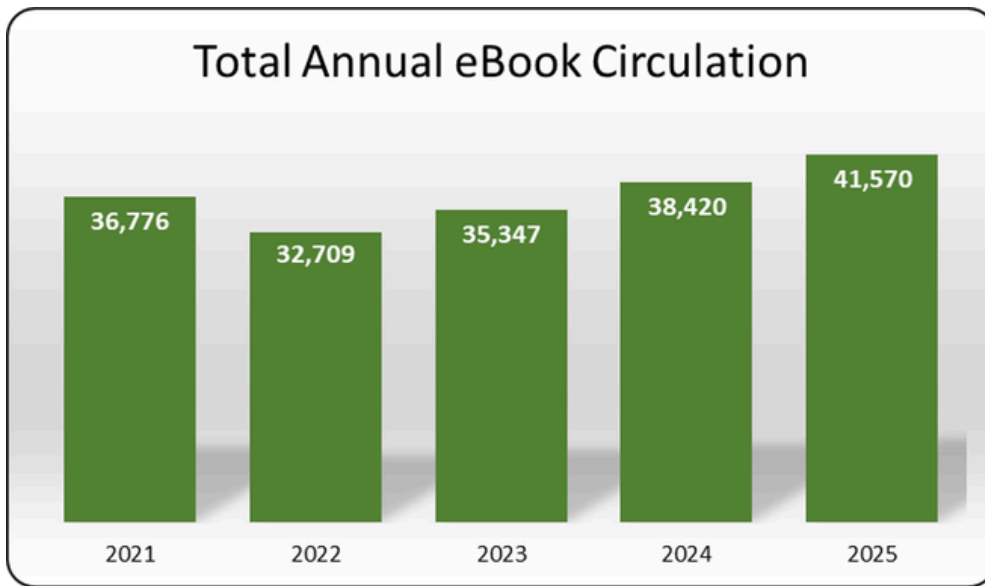
In 2025, we continued to welcome an increasing number of patrons, with 187,378 people visiting the library.



Total circulation for 2025 was 595,190.



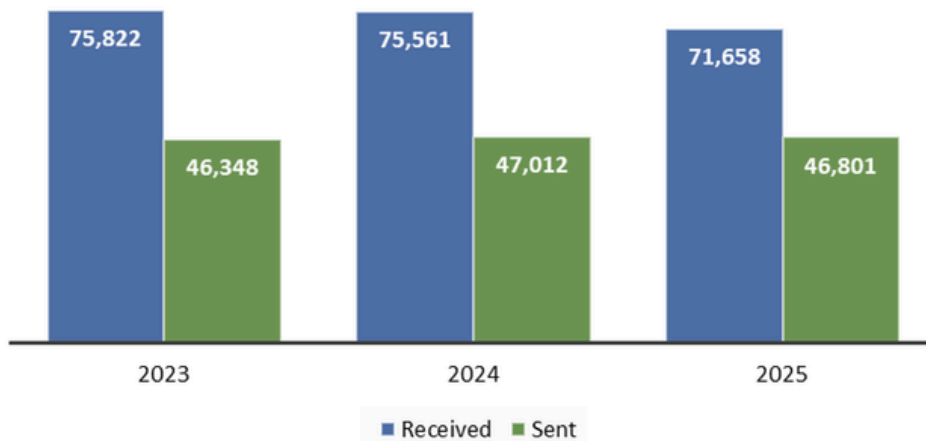
There were 74,243 checkouts of eBooks and eAudiobooks on Libby in 2025.



In addition to overseeing the circulation of Winchester materials, Circulation Services also manages the flow of materials to and from other Minuteman Network libraries. In 2025, Winchester Public Library received 71,658 items from other Minuteman Network libraries and sent out 46,801 items. Our two MeeScan self-checkout stations, which were added in 2024, were used 20,414 times to check out 89,793 items in 2025.

Winchester Public Library is proud to offer home delivery service for homebound Winchester residents. This year, Circulation Services made 311 deliveries of 1,108 items to 19 individual patrons.

Annual Minuteman Network Delivery



STAFFING

In 2025, Circulation Services welcomed several new team members. Jeanne Buckley, formerly a Circulation Aide Substitute, joined the team as a Circulation Aide, as did Kathleen Sheehan. Anita Colasante, a long term Circulation Aide, transitioned to a Circulation Aide Substitute role. We also added several Circulation Aide Substitutes: Joshua Leung, Sarah McCracken, and Estefany Ramos Parada.

PROJECTS

Circulation Services undertook several large shelving projects in 2025 to assist both staff and patrons in locating materials. These included shifting, weeding, and improved shelf labeling in a number of collection areas.

Minuteman Library Network launched its new mobile app, Minuteman Mobile, in the Spring of 2025. Circulation worked with many of our patrons to assist them in getting the new app up and running.

Over the summer, Circulation Services offered on-demand curbside service as needed during the library parking lot construction project.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

BRITTANY DELORME, DEPARTMENT HEAD

2025 was a fun, busy, eventful year in Children's Services!

STAFFING

Children's Services was fully staffed with one full-time Department Head, one full-time Children's Librarian and two part-time Children's Librarians for all of 2025.



Brand new flooring in the Children's Room.

CHILDREN'S ROOM UPDATES

This year the Library was able to facilitate a much-needed flooring update in the Children's Room. The Children's Librarian chose two flooring options, a hardwood-style laminate for the more high-traffic areas, and a plush carpet well-suited for both the many toddler-tumbles the Children's Room experiences and the outdoor meadow-theme of the Children's Room. The flooring installation was finalized by the end of May 2025 and completed the transformation of the Children's Room that began in late 2021.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

We continued to offer school visits to any classes, schools, and school libraries who wanted them, and in 2025 we provided everything including storytimes, database instruction, Open House presentations, and public library field trips for Prek through Fifth Grade. It's always been a joy to collaborate with our local school librarians and teachers, and we look forward to continuing this teamwork for years to come.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

In 2023 the Children's Librarians collaborated to write a new classification system for the Children's non-fiction collection. The new system, dubbed WILLOS (Word-based Interfiled Library Location Organization System), classifies Children's non-fiction materials by subject and not by number. The transition from Dewey to WILLOS was finished at the end of February 2024. In October of 2025 three librarians from the Winchester Public Library, Brittany and Victoria from Children's and Tony from Bibliographic Services presented WILLOS at the New England Library Association's Annual Conference to an enthusiastic and extremely interested audience.



Children's Librarians Brittany and Victoria presenting at NELA.

Additionally, the Children's Room added a Young Authors collection during 2025; kid residents of Winchester can now have their work "published" here at the Library. Submissions from kids in 5th grade and under are always welcome; so far we've received novels, newsletters and short stories, all now have their own call number and library barcode. We're thrilled to be able to support our budding local authors.

Finally, we've continued to expand our ever-popular Kids Library of Things (KLOT). In addition to the tens of thousands of print and AV materials available in the Children's Room, kids can also check out a new toy or tech to take home and use. The KLOT consists of puzzles, games, and fine motor toys; recently we've added Nintendo Switch Lites, a Toniebox and Tonies, a Kindle, Bongo Drums, a robot dinosaur and more!

PROGRAMMING, AND PATRON INTERACTIONS

Our librarian-led Storytimes in Series continued to be consistently popular: Step into Storytime (weekly; stories and songs, all ages), Itsy Bitsy Readers (twice weekly; stories, songs, and literacy tips, infants), Books and Building (weekly; stories and interactive building materials, ages 3-6), Pattycake Place (weekly; toys, stories, and songs, toddlers), and Shake, Rattle, and Read (weekly; songs, music, and stories, ages 2-3). We love our weekly storytime routine!

Additional popular librarian-led programs include our monthly Graphic Novel Book Club (grades 3-5), which is going strong into its fifth year, Young Writers (grades 3-5) which is definitely creating some content for our Young Authors collection, and Scratch in the Sandbox coding class (grades 1-5). We also host a variety of crafting programs including but not limited to Craftyspace (all ages), Bracelet Buddies (grades 3-5), and sewing classes for all different ages.



In the Kitchen for Kids @ WLF.

We continued our collaboration with Wright-Locke Farm's Education Team and the farm's Chef Kelcy Scolnick by continuing our Storywalk, adding new education programs including but not limited to Chicken Cooping, Full Moon Walks and Maple Sugaring, maintaining our monthly visits to the Farm's Forest Friends Kindergarten class, and running our always popular kids' cooking program In the Kitchen for Kids (quarterly cooking program for kids ages 7+).

Additionally, our Kids Summer Reading Program continues to grow every year. We saw more attendees than last year, and awarded a dozen prizes at the end of the Summer, including a Grand Prize of a one year family membership to the Children's Museum.

And finally, as expected, outdoor programming continues to be hugely successful. We kicked off our 2025 Summer Reading Program with a new program, a hugely successful Foam Party, wrapped up Summer Reading with Mini-Golf out on the Library Lawn, and our favorite bands Rockabye Beats and Matt Heaton and the Outside Toys drew large crowds yet again. Due to their popularity we plan to continue offering outdoor programs.



L to R: A patron getting her first library card; Foam Party; Building Hexbug Mazes; A patron reading in the Children's Room.

Below are some comprehensive and comparative Children’s Services programming statistics:

Total Children’s Programs 2025	Total Children’s Programs 2024
447	500

Program Attendance 2025 (Children Only)	Program Attendance 2024 (Children Only)
6,158	4,753

Total Patron Interactions 2025	Total Patron Interactions 2024
8,274	7,683



Above: A young patron using the self checkout station; A young artist showing off her creation after a workshop with Studio on the Common.

We look forward to another wonderful year of bringing songs, stories, crafts, information, and early literacy education to the families of Winchester!



Clockwise from top left: A young patron getting a boost to reach the Circulation Desk; Jumping for joy at the Foam Party; Measuring at PreK STEM; Fun at Itsy Bitsy Readers; Ralph Masiello’s Authorfest session at WPL; Bubbles with Rockabye Beats on the lawn; Author visit with Josh Funk. in collaboration with Book Ends.



GRANTS & FUNDS IN TRUST

NICOLE LANGLEY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Library Trust and Endowment Funds are conservatively invested by the Winchester Commissioners of Trust Funds. The beginning value of our Library Endowment was \$2,998,869 and the ending value was \$3,569,536.35. Interest income totaled \$93,033.77 and gifts to the Endowment Fund totaled \$15,385.

The beginning value of our Trust Funds was \$751,086.47 and the ending value was \$857,535.67. Between \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year is budgeted for new materials from trust funds and helps offset our material expenditure requirement for state certification.

The Library benefits from many unrestricted gifts generously donated, usually in memory or honor of a loved family member. In FY2025, gifts totaled \$24,610.27, including a \$15,000 gift from Roberta and Russell Ellis from the Donald R Ellis Revocable Trust. These funds are mostly spent on new materials and help offset our material expenditure requirement for state Certification.

In spring 2025, the second of two state aid payments was received bringing our FY2025 State Aid Award to \$55,127.56, an increase of almost \$5,000 over the FY2024 award amount. The State Aid award requires state certification and its purpose is to enhance library services and is not to be used to offset general operating costs.

Since 2015, Mt. Vernon House has supported our large print collection. In 2025, \$3,000 was donated. We are grateful for their continued generosity.

BUDGETS

NICOLE LANGLEY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

	FY 26	FY 25
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
Permanent	1,798,805	1,620,598
Sick Leave Buy Back Non-Union	11,571	10,537
Temporary	100,450	95,017
Overtime	96,625	87,876
Custodian Clothing and Boot Allowance	1,200	1,200
Personnel Services Total	2,008,651	1,815,228

	FY 26	FY 25
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		
Office Supplies	17,800	21,400
Printing and Supplies	400	2,000
Books and Periodicals	365,000	355,000
Cleaning Supplies	2,500	2,500
Household Supplies	4,400	4,400

	FY 26	FY 25
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS (continued)		
Electrical Supplies	2,000	2,000
Hardware	1,000	1,000
Painting Supplies	1,000	1,000
Small Tools	1,000	1,000
Chemicals	300	300
Food and Groceries	650	600
Total Supplies and Materials	396,050	391,200

	FY 26	FY 25
SERVICES		
Printing & Stationery	4,500	5,000
Postage	750	1,750
Telephone	7,420	6,000
Advertising	800	800
Travel	950	1,000
Clean and Sanitary	25,000	30,188

	FY 26	FY 25
SERVICES (continued)		
Landscaping	7,080	9,500
COM R&M Tools & Equipment	2,250	2,750
R&M Bldg & Structure	20,000	40,000
R&M Furniture/Equipment	2,000	5,000
Tuition	2,000	5,155
Contractual Service	110,500	100,000
Computer Equipment & Software*	20,000	0
Office Equipment*	10,000	0
Total Services	213,250	207,143

*In FY26, the Furniture & Fixtures line item was split into Computer Equipment & Software and Office Equipment.

	FY 26	FY 25
OTHER		
Dues & Membership	1,550	1,535
Furniture & Fixtures*	0	37,496

	FY26	FY 25
LIBRARY TOTAL	2,619,501	2,452,602