

## Annual Report Quantifies Public Library Services Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library continues to expand our reach in the community.

That's my takeaway after compiling data for the 2024 Oregon Public Library Statistical Report, an annual requirement as a legally established public library in the state.

The full report is available on the library's website at [www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org](http://www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org); click on "Library Resources." It summarizes statistics collected between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

For the second consecutive year, the library exceeded 100,000 checkouts. Of the 110,414 circulations, 70% were physical items and 30% were digital items. There was a 1% increase in physical checkouts and an 8% increase in digital checkouts.

Looking more closely at checkouts of physical items, 58% were for youth materials, an amazing achievement I attribute to the efforts of Youth Services Librarian Aurora Ropp. She loves nothing more than putting the right book into the hands of the right kid at the right time, an art she has perfected.

The library holds 82,000 items in the building and added 4,500 items last year. Because our goal is to provide a popular collection of new materials, 88% of the items added were purchased with operating funds, grants, donations and memorials. The rest were donations that fit specific criteria identified by Aurora and me such as new titles, books that filled series and items that replaced worn copies.

Digital circulation occurs on two platforms, cloudLibrary and Libby. Electronic audiobooks accounted for 15.5% and electronic books 14% of all circulation.

I was especially pleased to note an 18% increase in library visitors, up to nearly 78,000 last year. Not only did people check out books, they used meeting rooms, logged into the public computers, studied and hung out in a beautiful space.

They also attended programs at an unprecedented rate. Last year, Aurora presented 123 programs for children up to age 12, and 5,500 people attended them. I always love watching our youngest learners explore the library, and classroom visits from preschoolers are some of my favorite events.

Grab-and-go craft kits, which Aurora introduced when COVID-19 closed the library, remained incredibly popular. Last year, Aurora created 29 crafts, and library staff and volunteers packaged materials for 3,800 kits that were distributed at the library and outreach events.

Aurora produced 35 teen programs, which were attended by 357 young adults. AmeriCorps member Christian Sala and I oversaw 51 programs for adults, and 600 people attended presentations, computer classes and book groups.

Finally, we couldn't do all we do without our amazing volunteers, and 21 people contributed 1,200 hours. Friends of the Roseburg Public Library volunteers added 1,800 hours.

We're well into the 2025 fiscal year, and we are purchasing new materials, planning programs and welcoming folks into the library. Stop in and check us out.

### This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, October 1, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Wednesday, October 2, 10:15 a.m. – Dolly Parton's Imagination Library 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary storytime and celebration

Wednesday, October 2, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen program