



Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Strategic Planning Retreat 3:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Library

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Council Chambers

Agenda Item	Discussion Points
I. Call to Order	
II. Public Comment	
III. Approval of Minutes	A. September 18, 2025
IV. Consent Agenda Samuel Mitchel, Director	A. Financials
V. Director's Report – Sam Mitchel	
VI. Department Reports	A. Circulation – Erin Coughlin B. Public Services – Molly Guerra 1. Adult Services – Justin Armbruster 2. Teen Services – Brena Barton 3. Children Services – Kelly Munter, Brittany Burk C. Acquisitions – Evan Anderson
VII. Policy/Procedure Review	
VIII. Committee Reports (Evaluation, Finance, Marketing, Policy, Staffing, etc.)	
IX. Friends of the Library (<i>Update</i>)	
X. Old Business	
XI. New Business	A. Strategic Plan 1. Review Draft B. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) C. FY27 Budget & FY26 Amendment: Initial Discussion D. State Library of Iowa Annual Report
XIII. Adjourn	A. Next Meeting: November 20, 2025

**KIRKENDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Regular meeting: 6 p.m.

Location: Library

Present: John Meyer, Miranda Piepho, Gene Lucht, Amber Sommerfeld, Nancy Medema, Fred Schuster, Heather Stephenson

Staff: Sam Mitchel

Other: Jennifer Sease

Topic	Discussion
Call to Order	Schuster called the meeting to order.
Approval of Minutes	Schuster asked to have his name corrected as the person who pointed out information about the elections. Meyer moved to approve minutes with these changes. Stephenson seconded. All approved.
Public Comments	
Consent Agenda	<p>Mitchel presented financials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run rate = 16.6% • Mitchel going to get information from city on the process to set up a Library Gift Fund. Lucht moved to allow Mitchel to go to city to ask for information. Medema seconded. Approved by all.
Policy/Procedure Review	<p>Sex Offender Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchel outlined recommendations by city attorney. • Stephenson moved to approve. Meyer seconded. Approved by all.
Director's Report	<p>Mitchel presented Director's report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrated several employee anniversaries. • Completed monthly AED and fire extinguisher inspection. • Month was filled with meetings, including strategic planning meeting (notes from this meeting located under Committee Reports), Mitchel met with city department directors, and conducted a full-time staff meeting. • Schuster asked about what volunteers help with. Mitchel responded that they help with shelving, Friends of the Library events, etc. • Working with admin team to trial a system for book drop-offs for assisted living/nursing home residents.
Department Reports	
Committee Reports (Evaluation, Finance, Marketing, Policy, Staffing, etc.)	<p>Strategic Plan Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed mission statement. • "Welcoming all to Explore, Experience, Engage" is the new mission statement.
Friends of the Library (update)	
Old Business	
New Business	<p>Adult movie night – BYOD (bring your own drink). Medema approved. Piepho seconded. All approved.</p> <p>Board of Trustees: Budget Expenditure Authority Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sease commented – The city has many budgets to balance. The city has to balance

Topic	Discussion
	<p>the “need” to have vs the “nice” to have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meyer mentioned that in the past, board requests for funds for necessities to fall on deaf ears. Sease responded that the city compares all of the requests from all departments and determine which they deem are most important. Some of the asks are granted – like the sunshades and sound panels. The rest may come in a phased approach. The city will prioritize funds for the safety services, like fire and police. • Stephenson mentioned that many changes are being implemented across city departments and that it’s not only the library that is changing. • Meyer requested that if there are budget cuts coming, that the city has a discussion with the library board. The board should feel like we are able to have that conversation. • Schuster asked if the board has ultimate authority on how we spend the allocated budget. Sease said that the board has authority to spend the approved budget, but that we may not get approved for anything above that amount. Mitchel commented that budget requests can be submitted, but it’s up to the city to approve those requests. • Mitchel asked about gifts – any gifts made to the library are put into the general fund and looks like it zeros out on the budget. Only money gifted to the Friends of the Library can be used as a gift. • Mitchel commented that budget prep time is coming up, and that we can consider what the library’s priorities are and how we can account for those appropriately.
Continuing Education	
Executive Session	
Adjournment	<p>Lucht motioned to adjourn. Next meeting: October 16, 2025</p>

Respectfully submitted, Miranda Piepho, Secretary

City of Ankeny
Ankeny Kirkendall Library
Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditure Report

		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY26	As of	FY 2026	%
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	September 30, 2025	Balance Remaining	Expended
Personal Services								
Salaries and Wages	4101	677,830.34	720,126.47	703,808.39	778,206.00	209,516.74	568,689.26	26.92%
Overtime Wages	4102	321.17	147.40	733.60	1,000.00	50.33	949.67	5.03%
Temporary Wages	4103	752,179.54	788,424.85	850,193.70	928,000.00	222,066.76	705,933.24	23.93%
Longevity	4109	2,807.58	3,269.10	3,999.84	4,211.00	1,076.88	3,134.12	25.57%
FICA	4116	108,192.25	113,975.82	116,180.46	131,307.00	32,489.57	98,817.43	24.74%
IPERS	4117	144,774.57	141,638.57	143,006.99	161,557.00	40,434.11	121,122.89	25.03%
Deferred Compensation	4119	5,000.06	5,000.06	5,000.06	5,000.00	1,346.17	3,653.83	26.92%
Employee Insurance	4120	107,940.82	126,673.46	118,495.87	141,139.00	40,547.36	100,591.64	28.73%
Workers Compensation	4122	1,303.00	1,576.00	1,936.00	2,122.00	0.00	2,122.00	0.00%
Total Personal Services		1,800,349.33	1,900,831.73	1,943,354.91	2,152,542.00	547,527.92	1,605,014.08	25.44%
Contractual Services								
Legal and Recording Services	4212	495.00	765.00	465.00	1,000.00	300.00	700.00	30.00%
Financial Services	4214	2,531.33	2,336.87	1,564.12	1,000.00	0.03	999.97	0.00%
Computer Services	4215	57,108.29	45,727.15	73,499.83	63,100.00	39,339.46	23,760.54	62.34%
Waste Management Services	4224	715.54	1,131.46	1,272.26	1,300.00	240.00	1,060.00	18.46%
Land and Tree Services	4227	2,113.05	17,634.51	4,263.60	6,000.00	2,102.10	3,897.90	35.04%
Advertising & Publication	4240	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Communications	4244	10,989.76	9,131.57	10,076.19	8,880.00	2,243.64	6,636.36	25.27%
Electric Charges	4247	59,856.64	65,217.69	64,206.43	73,000.00	18,892.23	54,107.77	25.88%
General Insurance	4251	69,254.39	78,923.67	122,034.52	128,371.00	0.00	128,371.00	0.00%
Dues, Memberships, and Licenses	4261	46,189.17	57,833.36	60,091.34	69,000.00	17,460.55	51,539.45	25.31%
Training and Education	4265	1,884.00	2,659.00	2,680.38	3,950.00	0.00	3,950.00	0.00%
Travel	4266	1,365.68	592.32	860.27	2,850.00	0.00	2,850.00	0.00%
Meetings and Food	4269	695.22	599.22	376.51	500.00	146.97	353.03	29.39%
Building Maintenance Services	4270	147,228.73	124,323.62	121,988.32	141,000.00	61,616.09	79,383.91	43.70%
Electronic Services	4273	4,953.15	5,932.64	5,740.48	6,000.00	1,459.87	4,540.13	24.33%
Other Repair Services	4289	1,615.30	0.00	0.00	1,900.00	0.00	1,900.00	0.00%
Special Program/Event Services	4292	8,564.80	10,053.10	10,862.14	11,000.00	2,745.00	8,255.00	24.95%
Postage and Shipping	4296	2,626.68	2,893.40	4,193.40	4,000.00	973.35	3,026.65	24.33%
Refunds	4297	7,231.25	1,975.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00%
Total Contractual Services		425,417.98	427,929.58	484,174.79	528,851.00	147,519.29	381,331.71	27.89%
Commodities								
Office Supplies	4310	9,930.86	9,618.55	7,774.09	11,000.00	2,328.80	8,671.20	21.17%
Periodicals	4315	8,627.38	8,030.49	8,758.49	9,000.00	490.71	8,509.29	5.45%
Medical and First-Aid Supplies	4333	0.00	16.78	134.99	200.00	12.68	187.32	6.34%
Special Programs/Events Supplies	4343	12,084.72	11,016.64	13,141.76	13,000.00	2,563.23	10,436.77	19.72%
Circulation Materials	4344	10,078.76	12,600.05	12,041.99	20,000.00	1,888.14	18,111.86	9.44%
Library Books/Reference Materials	4345	148,990.58	153,333.18	154,952.70	157,000.00	48,638.28	108,361.72	30.98%
Multimedia Materials	4346	84,263.61	71,877.04	73,953.89	74,000.00	21,418.22	52,581.78	28.94%
On-Line Subscriptions	4347	20,809.28	48,356.39	51,097.91	54,200.00	41,991.33	12,208.67	77.47%
Safety Equipment	4352	0.00	0.00	1,790.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Minor Equipment	4354	6,758.37	6,093.18	7,299.41	10,000.00	342.46	9,657.54	3.42%
Building Maintenance Supplies	4380	19,776.81	14,193.16	10,848.71	24,000.00	3,365.97	20,634.03	14.02%
Total Commodities		321,320.37	335,135.46	341,793.94	372,400.00	123,039.82	249,360.18	33.04%
Capital Outlay								
Building Improvements	4420	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Capital Outlay		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Debt Service								
Equipment Reserve Payments	4595	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Expenditures		2,547,087.68	2,663,896.77	2,769,323.64	3,053,793.00	818,087.03	2,235,705.97	26.79%

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City of Ankeny
Ankeny Kirkendall Library
Fiscal Year 2026 Revenue Report

		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	As of	FY 2026	%
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	September 30, 2025	Balance Remaining	Received
Commissions	3415	460.20	918.23	235.64	0.00	423.16	(423.16)	
Lease/Rent Payments	3420	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Facility Rental	3422	81,900.53	92,326.08	64,056.04	24,000.00	8,742.11	15,257.89	36.43%
Equipment Rental	3423	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
County Library Contribution	3503	185,284.00	161,032.00	158,260.00	158,260.00	46,626.00	111,634.00	29.46%
Other Local Contributions	3509	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
State Library Open Access	3516	12,130.41	9,209.71	9,651.04	9,651.00	0.00	9,651.00	0.00%
Operating Grants	3517	16,856.61	16,875.07	17,037.73	17,038.00	18,305.42	(1,267.42)	107.44%
Operating Grants	3537	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Special Program Fees	3615	0.00	174.68	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Copy Charges	3691	10,147.84	11,992.39	12,476.61	10,000.00	4,519.11	5,480.89	45.19%
Miscellaneous Service Charges	3699	1,129.05	1,205.18	1,226.48	1,000.00	312.60	687.40	31.26%
Salvage Sales	3822	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Sales	3829	477.68	436.35	427.45	400.00	115.45	284.55	28.86%
Private Contributions	3831	0.00	564.31	2,225.00	0.00	30.00	(30.00)	
Refunds	3841	561.52	50.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rebates	3842	358.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Reimbursements	3849	81.02	6,469.37	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Library Fines	3861	19,373.61	18,257.05	18,084.72	16,000.00	3,983.16	12,016.84	24.89%
Lost Materials	3868	3,779.14	4,320.97	4,132.08	4,000.00	918.74	3,081.26	22.97%
Legal Settlement/Damages	3869	2,287.08	2,231.93	2,669.03	2,000.00	848.72	1,151.28	42.44%
Overages/Shortages	3891	36.53	38.61	98.06	0.00	80.13	(80.13)	
Miscellaneous Other	3899	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Revenues		334,863.53	326,102.57	290,734.88	242,349.00	84,904.60	157,444.40	35.03%

Director's Report September 2025

I. Personnel

- Employment Anniversaries
 - Brita Greenough, Library Associate, 25 years
 - Jill Hausler, Library Associate, 13 years
 - Alicia Grubb, Library Associate, 11 years
 - Amanda Ellis, Library Associate, 8 years
- 9/5: Staff development training and City employee tailgate event

II. Facility

- Monthly AED and fire extinguisher inspections
- Elevator #2 still inoperable (waiting on part)

III. Misc.

- 9/8: Strategic plan committee meeting with facilitator to discuss Strategic Initiative #1: Mission Statement
- 9/12: Notary training workshop
- 9/18: City new employee library presentation (Molly Guerra) and tour (me)
- 9/22: Metro-area library directors meeting
- 9/25: Marketing meeting regarding Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- Notary appointments: 4

IV. Marketing/Communication

During the month of September, library staff has utilized the following avenues to market and communicate resources, services, and other information. Relationship building and fostering of opportunities is represented as well.

Resources	Services	Information	Relationship
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology Resources and services highlights via Facebook and eNewsletter (New York Times online highlight)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August programs, book discussions, author talks, via social media, eNewsletter, lobby digital display, and calendars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Sign-up Month via eNewsletter, Ankeny Living, and Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9/9 & 30: City departments meeting

Sam Mitchel



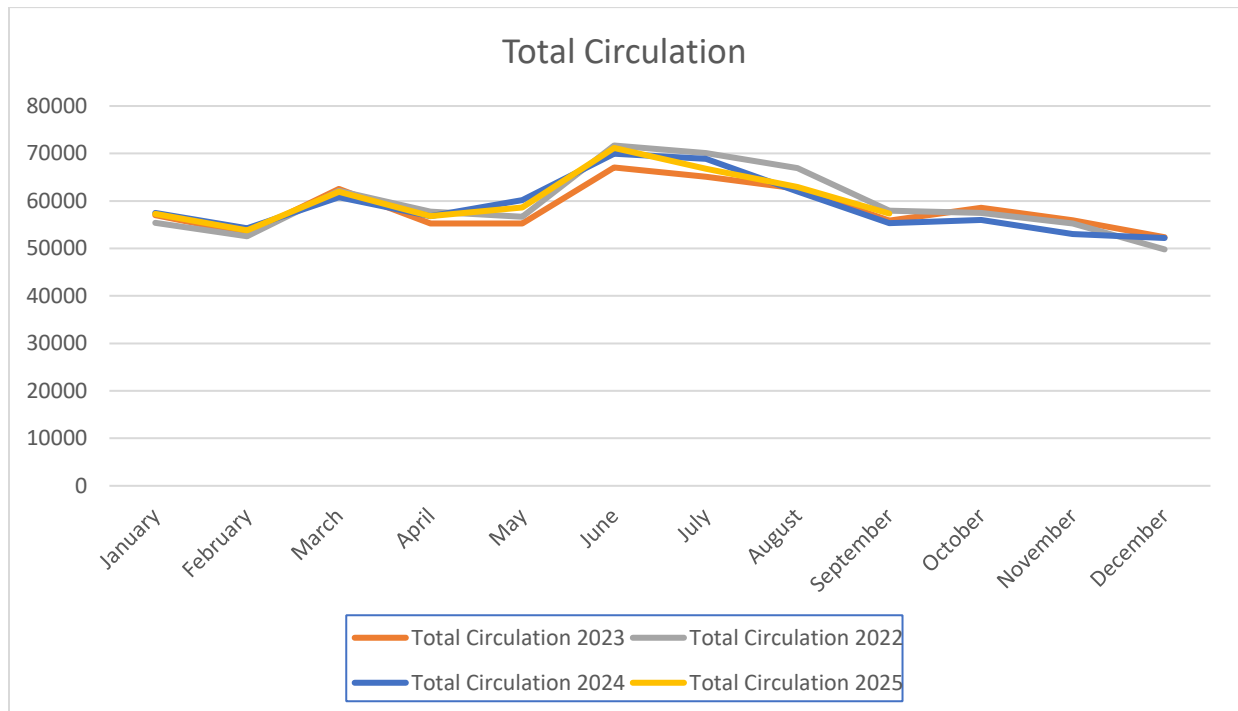
By: Erin Coughlin

Date: 10/1/2025

- Our busiest day was September 2, 2025, with 1,452 visitors. This was following a closure for Labor Day and was the first day of bringing back regular youth programming after Summer Reading.
- We had 31 volunteers helping during September for a total of just over 225 hours, an average of 7 hours and 17 minutes/day of volunteer time. I also trained 2 new volunteers in September.
- For National Library Card Sign Up Month we had a total of 363 new cards issued, not quite meeting our goal of 400.
- I'm working on contacting people with delinquent accounts owing more than \$50 in lost/missing items from the first half of 2025 before sending the batch to Municipal Collections Agency.
- Continuing Education
 - I earned 15 CE credits from the ARSL conference this month.
 - I also viewed a webinar through the State Library of Iowa on Navigating Iowa's Legal Resources. A second part of the training will occur later this month, and it's something I'll be recommending our reference staff view at a later date to learn how best to help patrons who may ask legal questions. We cannot provide answers, but we can guide them to resources that may help them find the answers.
 - This month, Molly and I are offering Print/Scan/Fax training to Library Associates who would like a refresher. This service is popular in the library, but if staff don't help with it often, those skills become rusty.
- Goals for October
 - Work on creating new circ data report that is more accessible for screen readers.
 - Learn more about Ankeny's budget process.

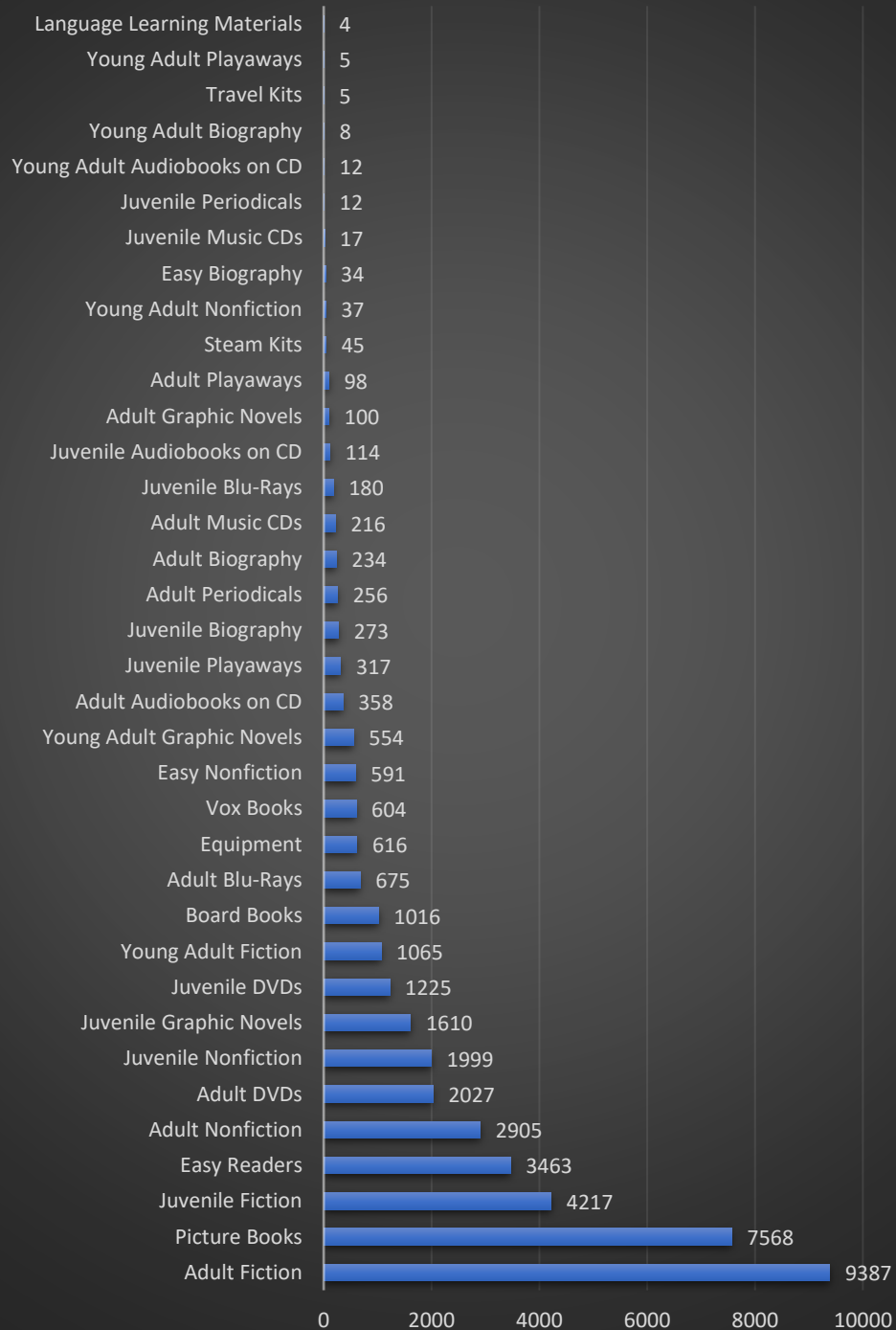
September Circulation Statistics

	September 2025	September 2024	Difference	July 2025 - September 2025	July 2024 - September 2024	Difference
Physical Checkouts & Renewals (including Automatic)						
<i>Books</i>	35674	35101	2%	118331	121582	-3%
<i>Videos</i>	4107	4158	-1%	13910	15359	-9%
<i>Audio</i>	1134	1276	-11%	3986	4623	-14%
<i>Magazines & Other</i>	929	894	4%	2825	2539	11%
Total Print Transactions	41844	41429	1%	139052	144103	-4%
Downloadable Transactions						
<i>Ebooks</i>	5,176	5355	-3%	16,352	16,725	-2%
<i>Audiobooks</i>	8,565	7013	22%	26,128	21,266	23%
<i>Magazines</i>	1724	1456	18%	5,344	3,836	39%
<i>Adventure Pass</i>	55	56	-2%	193	208	-7%
Total Downloadable Transactions	15,520	13880	12%	48,017	42,035	14%
Total Circulation (Physical + Downloadable)	57,364	55309	4%	187,069	186,138	1%
Highlights						
<i>Steam kits</i>	45	70	-36%	202	262	-23%
Residency Checkouts (Print Transactions)						
<i>City of Ankeny</i>	35247	35047	1%	117474	122027	-4%
<i>Rural/Unincorporated Polk County</i>	2841	3172	-10%	10512	11700	-10%
<i>Open Access</i>	3398	3028	12%	10716	9843	9%
Total Residency Checkouts	41486	41247	1%	138702	143570	-3%
Cardholders						
<i>Basic Access</i>	309	258	20%	67	1015	-93%
<i>Temporary</i>	47	10	370%	927	32	2797%
<i>Organization</i>	1	0	#DIV/0!	1	0	#DIV/0!
<i>Online</i>	6	55	-89%	117	155	-25%
Total New Cardholders	363	323	12%	1112	1202	-7%
Total Active Cardholders	28227	28054				
Visitors						
	29350	29005	1%	100292	103883	-3%



Circulation by Collection

September 2025 Print Checkouts and Renewals





Public Services Summary: by Molly Guerra

Highlights:

It is always nice to return to the rhythm of school year programming. Our programming librarians have done an excellent job planning innovative and informational events this fall. The desks in the Children's and Reference Department have been watching a webinar from the American Library Association (ALA) about ChatGPT and conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) so we can continue to provide information literacy support in the AI age.

The Makerspace has been very busy with a handful of users tackling large digitization projects. Feedback continues to be positive from groups that use the new Makerspace. Brena is holding a monthly Maker Monday program that will highlight some of the Makerspace technology. I have been working with IT to establish a timeline for updating two of the Makerspace PCs to Windows 11.

I spent a large amount of time on auditing our digital resources for compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA. The City will need all digital content, including content we provide through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to be fully compliant by April 24, 2026. We are working hard to gather documentation regarding compliance from third parties and update our content on the website and social media to meet ADA standards. While this is a big undertaking in the short-term, it will ultimately lead to a more accessible library and better experience for all of our library users.

Accomplishments:

- Continue to work with IT to determine the schedule for updating Makerspace computers
- Worked with CTI to troubleshoot AV equipment in Meeting Room B
- Worked with Communication Department to begin the process of collecting documentation from third parties regarding compliance with WCAG 2.1 Level AA
- Completed three hours of continuing education
- Repaired application files on Makerspace computer to allow patrons to continue to digitize audio cassettes

Upcoming Goals:

- Completed three hours of continuing education
- Complete two part-time and one full-time evaluation
- Listen to AKPL staff and the community in order to understand how I can best serve the library
- Improve signage and communication regarding meeting room organization
- Continue to update and organize the Makerspace



Public Services Report – September 2025

September 2025	September 2025		Year to Date by Age Level		September 2024	
	Programs	Attendees	Programs	Attendees	Programs	Attendees
Early Learners (0-5)	43	1642	50	2648	41	1318
School Age (6-11)	2	96	4	235	2	15
Tween/Teen (12-18)	22	208	50	550	12	87
Adult (18+)	31	380	77	874	32	269
General Interest	12	321	36	2958	10	1139
Monthly Total	110	2647			97	2828
Year to Date of All Program Types	212	7236			180	7375
Additional services	September 2025		FY26 Year to Date		September 2024	
Technology Appointments	10		31		11	
Exam Proctoring	2		16		3	
Notary Appointments	108		265		51	
Patron Computer Usage	1253		4870		1308	
Reference Interactions	0		0		1564	
Youth Scavenger Hunt	444		2153		360	
Storytime To-Go Kits	1000		4000		1000	
Unique Wireless Usage	6510		18042		5379	
Room Usage	September 2025		FY26 Year to Date		September 2024	
Children/Teen Program Rooms	64		86		46	
City Council Chambers	20		52		18	
Conference Rooms and Lounge B	605		1709		622	
Meeting Rooms (A, B, C, ABC, BC)	73		205		77	
Makerspace	35		118		43	
Off-Site /Virtual / Misc.	11		26		2	
Total Usage	808		2196		808	
Digital Resources (Included)	September 2025		FY26 Year to Date		September 2024	
Ancestry Library Edition	75		216		389	
Consumer Reports	813		2992		707	
Heritage Quest	88		2461		201	
Hoopla	1052		1133		1169	
Library Speakers Consortium	1312		1892		1680	
Lote4Kids	20		20		17	
New York Times Online	887		1040		575	
Novelist K-8	0		0		--	
Novelist Plus	238		243		161	
Novelist Select	318		3797		622	
Reference Solutions	5		5		156	
ValueLine	1755		1873		1486	
Digital Resources (Not Included)						
Niche Academy	26		26		26	
Total Usage (Included Only)	6563		16380		7255	



Youth Services Report by Brittany Burk and Kelly Munter

Summary

We hit September hard with lots of old programs and some new programs too. Overall attendance has been great, especially with families getting into a new routine after summer and losing some regulars to school. This month we had **1,938** patrons attend our programs and **444** kids complete our scavenger hunts.

Family Events: Taste-It Tuesday Pretzels Edition & Bingo for Books

Due to the popularity of K-5 Taste-It Tuesday, we decided to change it to a family program. When this was just for K-5th Grade, we would notice that several siblings, parents, and grandparents would want to get in on the fun as well. We put this program in the evening for now, to try to accommodate working families. We had 45 attend in September and will continue to track numbers throughout the fall. We will blindly taste-test colas in October and ranch in November. We had 43 attend Bingo for Books this month; we are guessing that number will increase in October.



K-5 fun this month: Pokémon Club & Maker Crew

We had 39 attendees for Pokémon Club and 57 for shrinky-dink crafts at Maker Crew.



Instrument Petting Zoo with Des Moines Symphony

We had 74 show up for this evening event. Kids were able to practice playing different instruments.



Goals

Our biggest goal is to continue providing educational and fun events for families and children.

- Finalize November calendar and all marketing materials: creating, posting, printing, updating



Public Services Report – September 2025

- Post more content to our Facebook page, schedule out posts and increase engagement
- Finish formatting the next story stroll book and put it out
- Complete scavenger hunts for next month's themes
- Continue partnerships with Allison Philson and ISU Extension and work on new partnerships with Little Gym of Johnston, Motivate Dance, and Des Moines Symphony



Teen Services Report by Brena Barton

Summary of Program Attendance:

- Week 1 – 19
- Week 2 – 71
- Week 3 - 32
- Week 4 – 63
- Week 5 - 23

Total Patrons at events this month: 208 (average of 10)

Number of Technology and Patron Appointments: 3

Total Notary Appointments: 14

Teen Events Overview:

Snack Attack – (People) Puppy Chow on September 2

We had 16 attend to make (People) Puppy Chow! The students all really enjoyed making (and eating) this classic Midwestern snack.



Description:

Join us to learn how to make easy, low-or-no cook snacks. We'll make and eat the snack, and you'll go home with the recipe! This month we are making (People) Puppy Chow! This is not for dogs and only for people as it has chocolate in it. This program is open to tweens and teens in grades 4-12. Registration required.

Tween Book Club on September 4

We had 3 attend to discuss *Keeper of the Lost Cities*. The three that showed up were huge fans of this book series and ended up talking a little past the end time of 6 pm about all their theories and speculations about the series and the upcoming book!

Description:

Do you like to read and talk about books? Join our book club for tweens! This month's book is ***Keeper of the Lost Cities*** by Shannon Messenger. Stop in for fun activities and to talk about the book. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk while supplies last. This book is also available on the Libby App in e-book and e-audio format.



Books & Bagels (AHS) on September 8

We had 24 attend! I think it was a great idea to move the book club to Mondays to avoid any band conflicts. I talked to Mrs. Wirtz and we did change our Books and Bagels for October to the last week of September since she will be out with her grandbaby the first Monday of October. We also decided to help promote the voting for the Iowa High School Book Awards and make a bookmark that students could have to check off the books that they had read and instructions on how to vote that I would make available in the library and to all the schools.

Description:

Join us before school to eat bagels (or other breakfast pastries) and chat about what you're reading!

Fabric and Friends: Teen Craft and Chat on September 8

We had 5 attend.

Description:

Bring a craft you are working on and join fellow crafters to work on projects and get tips from other creative people. All crafts are welcome, including sewing, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, paper crafts, and so on. This program is in partnership with Central Iowa Fiber Arts (C.I.F.A.). **Tweens and teens, grades 4 - 12, are welcome to join; no registration is required.**

Homeschool Book Club on September 9

We had 8 attend. This was our first meeting and it was pretty popular! They decided to read *The Inheritance Games* for the next book club meeting and *The Maze Runner* for the one after that!

Description:

Join us in the Teen Program Room to enjoy snacks and discuss your favorite books! We will choose a book to discuss for next month that will be available at the circulation desk!

Pokémon Club on September 9





We had 13 attend. I had a few younger kids who showed up and I think that their parents had just mixed up the teen events with the youth events.

Description:

Bring your cards to trade or play the Pokémon Trading Card Game with others, play Pokémon Go on your device, do themed crafts and activities, or just hang out and chat with other Pokémon fans.

Please note that library staff cannot monitor trades and that participants are responsible for keeping track of any cards and other materials that they bring to this event. Monetary trades are NOT allowed.

This program is open to tweens and teens in grades 4-12. Registration recommended.

Fun Friday on September 10

We had 5 attend. We did have to change our date from Friday to Wednesday because the Northview principal changed the way that Flex Period on Fridays worked because students could no longer choose on Fridays what classroom they went to during Flex but they still could for the other days of the week. The new librarian there seemed really friendly and I look forward to continuing to work with her!

Description:

Sign up at Northview to join us during Flex to eat snacks and chat about what you're reading!

Anime Club on September 11



We had 16 attend! This was our first meeting and it was very popular. We made onigiri (rice balls) and watched some anime. I also had the opportunity to talk more with some of the older teens about the anime that they were watching and get some good ideas for next time as well. I hadn't realized that both of the projectors were checked out to patrons, and we hadn't moved the TV from the Makerspace to the Teen Room, so I used my laptop so that they could watch clips of different anime.

Description:

Calling all anime fans! Join us in talking about anime and making a delicious Japanese snack, onigiri! We will also be watching some anime episodes, rated TV-14 ([learn more about ratings here](#)). Questions about what we are watching? Contact Teen Librarian Brena at bbarton@ankenyiowa.gov. **This program is for tweens and teens. Registration required.**



Fabric and Friends: Teen Craft and Chat on September 15

We had 4 attend.

Description:

(See Fabric and Friends 9/8)

Teen Advisory Group on September 16

We had 3 attend. Zoey, Ella, and Ally helped me to prep our October Teen Craft and discuss upcoming teen events.

Description:

Do you have a passion for books and planning fun library events? Are you looking for leadership opportunities? Do you need Silver Cord hours? Join us in the Teen Program Room to participate in our Teen Advisory Group! At the Teen Advisory Group, we will discuss upcoming events and take suggestions about what books YOU would want at the library and hear feedback about the events that YOU would want at the library. By participating in Teen Advisory Group, you will form leadership skills and serve your community! **Open to teens grades 6 - 12. No registration required.**

Gaming Club on September 18



We had 13 attend. I brought in a projector so that the kids could play video games together, but it would be nice to have the TV brought in from the Makerspace (old teen room) into the new Teen Room to make it easier.

Description:

Bring your device and/or log in to play Minecraft, Mario Kart, Stardew Valley, or any number of video games on your device, do themed crafts and activities, or just hang out and chat with other video game fans.

Please note that library staff cannot monitor every video game world/server and that participants are responsible for keeping track of any devices, chargers, log-ins, and other materials that they bring to this event.



Southview Book Club on September 19

We had 12 attend. We decided to read both *Clown in a Cornfield* by Adam Cesare and *Once Upon a Broken Heart* by Stephanie Garber since about half of the group wanted to read something scary for Halloween and the other half was not interested in horror.

Description:

Sign up at Southview to join us during Flex to eat snacks and chat about what you're reading!

Shipwrecked! Escape Room on September 22



We had 37 attend! I also was contacted by an adult day camp for adults with developmental disabilities from Ames who attended from noon – 1 pm and they seemed to like it as well. Most people finished the escape room in about 40 minutes, although one group was very quick and completed in 20 minutes. I only had one group that did not want any hints or suggestions who did not complete the escape room.



Description:

After a stormy night, your research boat has been shipwrecked on a mysterious island! Can you and your fellow researchers discover the mysteries of the island and escape, or will you and the others remain lost? **This event is for tweens and teens. Registration required.**

Fabric and Friends: Teen Craft and Chat on September 22

We had 0 attend. I think that with the escape room right before and no school, teens likely forgot about this event.

Description:

(See Fabric and Friends 9/8)

Young Adult Book Club on September 22

We had 6 attend! We decided to read the first book in a duology, *A Fate Inked in Blood*, by Danielle L. Jensen for our next book.

Description:

Love chatting with fellow bookworms while supporting a local business? Then check out Young Adult Book Club! Open to teens and adults, this book club meets monthly at Smokey Row and reads a variety of young adult and new adult books. Copies of the current book are available at the circulation desk. This month we are reading *Where the Library Hides* by Isabel Ibanez.

The Bears Book Club (DMAACC) on September 23

We had 0 attend. This was a little frustrating since Justin and I had gone to DMAACC the week before and tabled and people had seemed really interested. I hope that October has a better turn out, and it also could be too that this is just the first meeting and that as the semester goes on, students will be more available and have a better understanding of their schedule.

Description:

Join us in the DMAACC Library (Building 6) to enjoy snacks and discuss your favorite books! We will choose a book to discuss for next month that will be available at the Ankeny Library Circulation Desk!

ACHS Book Club on September 24

We had 5 attend. I thought there would be more but according to the students who did show up, they said that the other kids were busy with some of their coursework and getting ready for the semester but that they



planned to be there in October. We decided to read the next book in the series, *Where the Library Hides*, and I look forward to our discussion!

Description:

Join us after school in room 2405 (Mrs. Eklund's Classroom) to enjoy snacks and discuss this month's book club book, *What the River Knows* by Isabel Ibanez! You can pick up copies of our book from Mrs. Eklund!

Chili Supper Taste Test on September 25



We had 7 attend, which while it was small, I was able to have some great discussions with the teens who showed up. After the event, I was able to help a teen find a new book series to start based on some of his interests too!

Description:

Enjoy sampling different types of chili and discover which side goes best with chili!

Books & Bagels (ACHS) on September 26

We had 8 attend for our first meeting of the fall!

Description:

Join us before school in the library to eat bagels (or other breakfast pastries) and chat about what you're reading!

Books & Bagels (AHS) on September 29

We had 19 attend. This is the October Books and Bagels for AHS to accommodate Mrs. Wirtz's schedule. For this meeting to have happened right after Homecoming Weekend and have been changed, I think the turn out was great!

Description:

Join us before school in the library to eat bagels (or other breakfast pastries) and chat about what you're reading!



Fabric and Friends: Teen Craft and Chat on September 29

We had 0 attend.

Description:

(See Fabric and Friends 9/8)

Graphic Novel Book Club on September 30

We had 4 attend to discuss *The Dragonet Prophecy* and for half of them, this was their first time reading the series. A couple of kids had to leave early but other than that we had some great discussions and they really seemed to like the book!

Description:

Do you like reading graphic novels? This club is for you! Join us for fun activities and to talk about *The Dragonet Prophecy (Wings of Fire #1)* by Tui T. Sutherland. Didn't finish the book? That's ok! We'd still love to see you. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk while supplies last.

Goals:

September was a great start to the school year and the fall season. I had the opportunity to table at DMACC to promote the library and upcoming adult events. I really hope that next month more people show up for my book club at DMACC! It was also great to get back into the local middle and high schools to meet the students where they are at to promote reading and the Ankeny Library.

1. Finalize the October Calendar
 - a. Continue updating bookmarks and reels for readers advisory
2. Continue prepping October and fall events
3. Continue fall event preparations including:
 - a. Working on Canva to make marketing materials
 - b. Purchasing supplies
 - c. Prepping notes/activity plans/hand-outs/etc
 - d. Reaching out to school librarians to verify upcoming school year events

I had no major frustrations in September. I hope that we can move the TV over to the Teen Room for teen programs that require a large screen, as the projectors work, but aren't always ideal, especially with wiring.



Adult Services Report by Justin Armbruster

Overdrive Checkouts – 15,465

Documents Notarized – 63

Book a Librarian Appointment – 7 (two scheduled – five walk-in

Proctored Exams - 2

In September, we had some great programs for our community. First, we offered our first workshop in partnership with the Hopeful Mama Foundation. This group has regular meetings at the library, but this was an additional program about fertility and fitness. The attendees were extremely appreciative for the program. We are discussing hosting that same workshop again since it was successful, in addition to other workshop possibilities. Further, we hosted a program directly related to the history of our town: What's in a Name? A History of Ankeny Founder, John Fletcher Ankeny. I believe programs like this are vital for our community. It provides us a glimpse into our historical past and we can see the origins and growth of our community. Our Teen Librarian Brena Barton and I also reserved a table at DMACC's student community center. We took calendars, brochures, business cards and a little candy to help promote the library and one of our book clubs that meets at DMACC. We chatted with several students, many of whom were unaware of all the services and events that take place at the library.

My goals for October include continuing to advertise for a couple of fun events which I really want to be successful. One is our first-ever Holiday Decoration Swap, in which community members can exchange holiday décor to help spruce up their homes without spending any money. Another is a special afterhours showing of the 1996 movie *Scream*. This is the first time I have attempted a movie after the library is closed and I'm hoping it could become a quarterly event, much like the puzzle competitions. Furthermore, I am hoping to book a cooking event in November, which I have also never attempted. Even though our kitchenette is "behind" the meeting room, I do believe we can make it work.

In terms of frustrations this month, I did not really experience any.

Acquisitions Report – September 2025

September was a steady purchasing month for the library. However, in the book world, it has been tumultuous. Our former primary vendor, Baker & Taylor was set to be acquired by Readerlink (a vendor that supports book sales to non-bookstores like Costco) but the debt problems that plague B&T caused the deal to be cancelled on the day it was supposed to be finalized. Fortunately, we have fully transitioned to another vendor, Ingram. B&T has historically offered the best prices, so we will continue to observe what happens with the firm and will resume business if they get out of their current predicament.

Print Collections	# Added	A/V Collections	# Added
Adult Biography	15	Adult Audio Books	19
Adult Fiction	419	Adult Blu-Rays	25
Adult Graphic Novels	17	Adult DVDs	47
Adult Non-Fiction	197	Adult Music CDs	22
		Adult Playaways	6
Picture books	137		
Board books	13	Juvenile Audio Books	0
Easy Non-fiction	13	Juvenile Blu-rays	3
Easy Readers	21	Juvenile DVDs	4
Vox Books	2	Juvenile Music CDs	0
		Juvenile Playaways	3
Juvenile Biography	4		
Juvenile Fiction	101	Young Adult Audio Books	0
Juvenile Graphic Novels	27	Young Adult Playaways	0
Juvenile Nonfiction	32		
		Totals	129
YA Biography	0		
YA Fiction	45		
YA Graphic Novels	21		
YA Nonfiction	0		
Totals	1064		

Twelve Month Comparative Totals

	9/4	10/24	11/24	12/24	1/25	2/25	3/25	4/25	5/25	6/25	7/25	8/25
Print	900	1013	759	507	800	605	976	718	960	813	840	837
A/V	98	119	85	102	58	116	92	103	115	92	119	88