



Monthly Activity Report

June 2021

Service Highlights

The Summer Reading Program began on June 1. There was strong interest from individuals and families who saw different marketing for the program around town. By the end of June, there were 507 registered for Baby Bookworms, 2,791 for Kids Read, and 644 for Teens Read, for a total of 3,942 participants. This is a 41% increase from this time in 2020, although still distant from the 10,033 in 2019. Programs have been held virtually or outdoors.

The Library's #ReadICT podcast, "Read. Return. Repeat.," released its fourth episode discussing category eight, "a book about local history." Librarian Sara McNeil talked with Jami Frazier Tracy, Curator of Collections for the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, about Wichita history, the museum and local history books.

The Library began circulating its second "Library of Things" item, radon detectors, on June 7. These are provided through a partnership with Pure State Radon LLC who provides radon detectors to libraries for customer borrowing. Customers are now able to borrow a radon detector kit for 14 days to test radon levels in homes or businesses. According to the EPA, Sedgwick County is considered to be a medium risk zone for radon. [Learn more.](#)

Wichita's Diverse History of Baseball kicked off on June 12th with the first planned program, *The Other Boys of Summer* documentary followed by a discussion with filmmaker Lauren Meyer facilitated by WSU Prof. Wilma Moore-Black. The film highlighted stories of the athletes who played Negro League Baseball prior to integrated baseball leagues. Attendees learned why Meyer chose this particular subject matter and things that surprised her along the way, plus fun stories from her interviews. One attendee wrote, *"I have recently been learning about the Negro Leagues and was especially glad to hear the stories as told by their players themselves. Wichita certainly has had opportunities to participate in the integration of baseball. Excellent programming. I am a great fan of Ken Burns but this was equal to his programs."*

Raymond Olais presented on Mexican American baseball around Wichita, specifically in Newton, where they are about to host the 73rd annual Men's Fast Pitch Tournament. Ray is a retired art teacher who started researching local baseball lore in order to paint a mural celebrating the tournament. Mexican Americans had to build their own stadium to house the tournament because the city eventually made it difficult for them to rent the town park. Because of their ethnicities, Mexican Americans were not allowed to play on the white teams or the black teams, so they started their own. Mr. Olais presentation provided a review of teams, players, coaches and sponsors that helped these leagues endure over the last century. The grant-funded project will continue into August.

Other News

The Digital Services team worked on two funding opportunities through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- State Library of Kansas to support digital inclusion efforts and to support library services that meet the needs of the community. The Library will ask for funding to update and add functionality to its Laptops Anytime dispenser at the Advanced Learning Library.
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to provide funding for internet connectivity and devices to customers in areas beside library locations. This funding would create a new service to provide long-term internet and device borrowing to customers by providing internet and hotspot bundles for customers.

Human Resources released 12 positions and interviews have begun to fill these vacancies. In addition, recruitment for the Director of Libraries position has begun.

Activity pieces for the Children's STEAM Garden have arrived, and JR Customs started the fabrication of the airplanes that will provide shade for the area.

Librarian John Cleary worked with six SCORE/Small Business Association clients this month, collecting information for business plan start-up, market research and demographic information. Some of the areas researched were freight hauling services, commercial real estate services, traveling nurse services, auto sales services and non-profits.

The Library is a community partner of the Wichita Journalism Collaborative, a cohort of news outlets and community partners working together to bring timely and accurate news and information to Kansans. On Wednesday, the Collaborative hosted an online panel discussion about mental health as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. [You can watch it here.](#)

The Library and community partners are thrilled to announce the next selection for the NEA Big Read: Wichita, *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. This book tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. The story of Esperanza's childhood is told through a series of heartbreaking and joyous vignettes and discusses childhood and self-discovery. The next installation of the NEA Big Read: Wichita will be February 12-March 27, 2022.

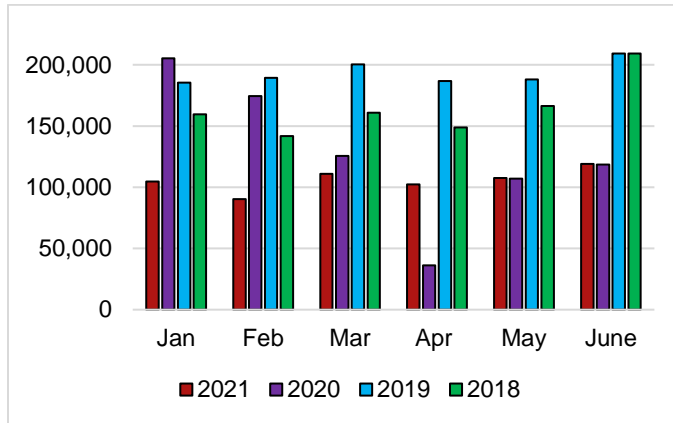
The Teen Library Ambassador program is working well towards its intended purpose, producing many creative posts and art pieces to use on library social media or for future purposes in the Teen Pavilion, as well as building teen skills in workplace-relevant tasks like digital media and using online communication software. In June 2021, the 16 Teen Library Ambassadors collectively contributed over 85 volunteer hours to the library.

Alford and Walters Branches are both jobsites for a summer teen Way to Work employee. The teens are doing a great job learning new job skills at the library and helping staff get work done.

Service Dashboard

All Library buildings were closed to the public from March 17-May 25, 2020. From November 25, 2020-March 7, 2021, all locations were limited to curbside and drive-up services. Although services have expanded, they are still reduced from pre-COVID levels. The Evergreen Branch closed on November 30, 2020 for renovations and a temporary outlet opened on December 21 at the Evergreen Recreation Center. The Linwood Park Branch closed on January 15, 2021 and the Walters Branch opened on February 1.

LIBRARY VISITS (door count, catalog sessions, and website visits)

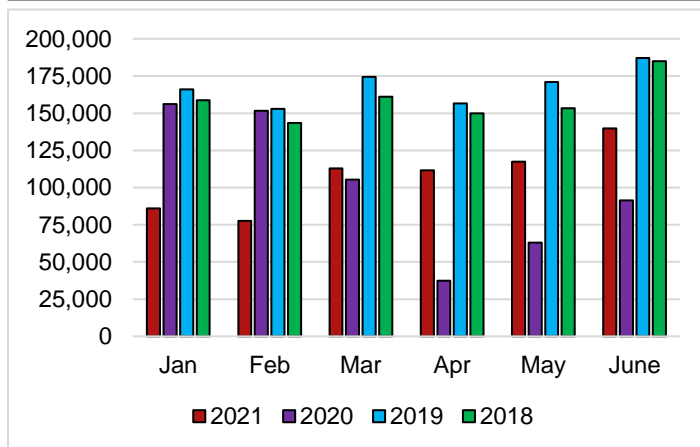


JUNE

	2021	2020	% change
Door Counts	39,900	30,897	29.14%
Catalog Log-ins	34,854	40,980	-14.95%
Website Visits	44,289	46,680	-5.12%
Total	119,043	118,557	0.41%

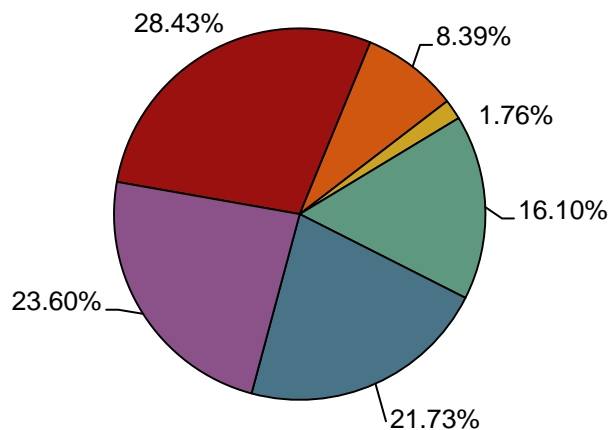
Due to equipment failure, the door count for the Angelou Northeast Branch is artificially low in April and May 2021.

CHECKOUTS



JUNE

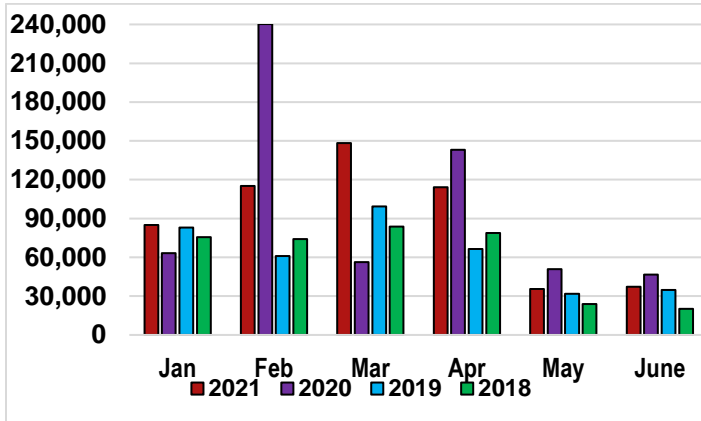
	2021	2020	% change
Physical Circ	106,744	59,256	80.14%
Virtual Circ	32,971	32,227	2.31%
WPL	25,859	23,120	11.85%
State	7,112	9,107	-21.91%
Total	139,715	91,483	52.72%



Circulation by Location

- Advanced Learning Library
- South branches
- North branches
- East branches
- West branches
- Virtual branch

QUESTIONS ANSWERED (by staff in person/phone and through online services)

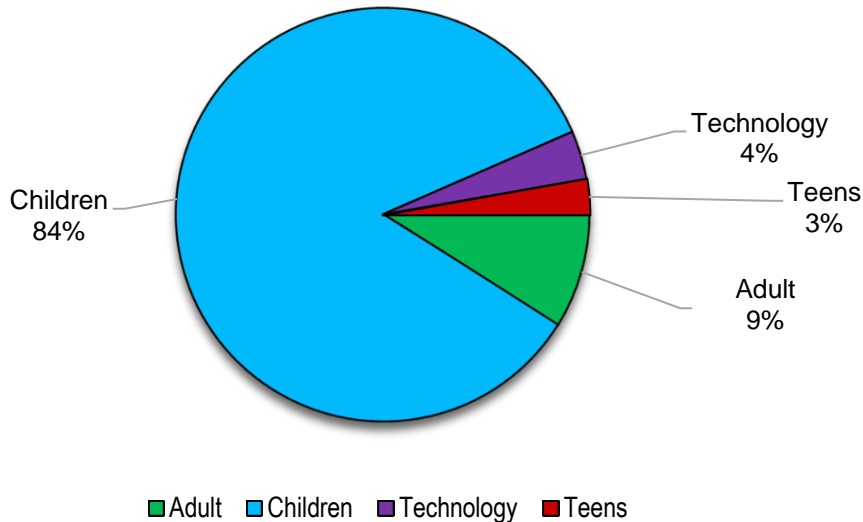


	JUNE		
	2021	2020	% change
Reference Questions	6,493	1,629	298.59%
Database Searches	28,122	43,883	-35.92%
Technology Assistance	2,327	999	132.93%
Book-A-Librarian Appointments	190	112	69.64%
Total	37,132	46,624	-20.36%

Database usage for May 2021 was initially under-reported. It has been updated.

Some locations did not report the number of reference questions answered or technology assistance provided between June-December 2020.

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

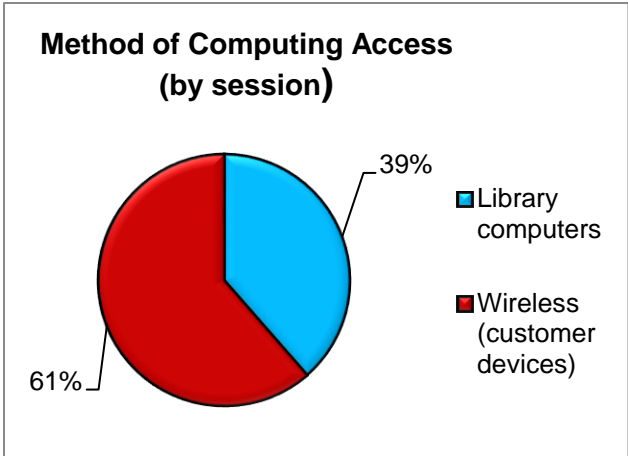


JUNE ATTENDANCE

	2021	2020	% change
Adult events	134	0	N/A
Children's events	1,266	0	N/A
Technology training	57	0	N/A
Teen events	41	0	N/A
TOTAL	1,498	0	N/A

Book-A-Librarian appointments are now counted as Questions Answered rather than Program Attendance.

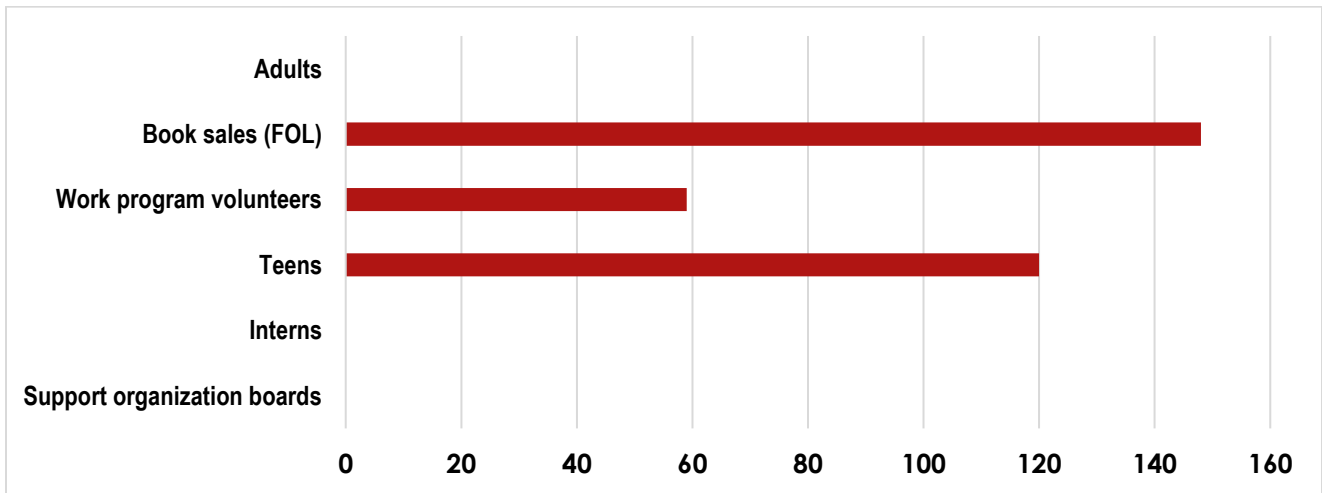
PUBLIC COMPUTING



JUNE

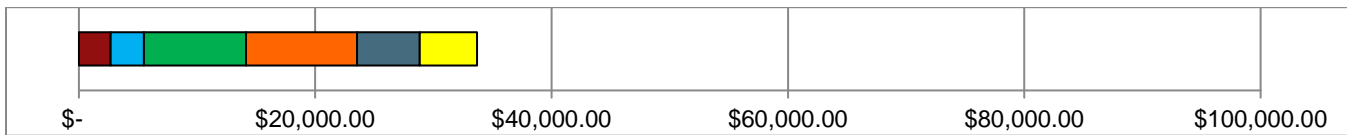
	2021	2020	% change
Workstation Sessions	3,749	4,361	-14.03%
Wi-Fi Sessions	5,849	3,328	75.75%
Number of Users	635	466	36.27%
Hours of Access	5,956	5,542	7.47%

VOLUNTEERS (hours of service)



Number of volunteers YTD = 47 Hours of service YTD = 976

MATERIALS DONATIONS (value if purchased)



Year to date total = \$33,695.79 Items added to Library collections YTD = 1,946

Service Snapshot: Recent Raving Fans Stories

A customer at the Rockwell Branch redeemed the 500 and 700 reward for their child's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program and gave the following praise: *"Just wanted to let you know that you have a great program with 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. My child isn't even in kindergarten yet, and he can read **because** we've been doing this program. We just had him tested and he's at first grade level!"*

Bill Rohde had a customer come into the Children's Pavilion at the Advanced Learning Library looking for educational DVDs for his fourth grader. Unfortunately, the reading DVDs were for a younger audience and not what he was hoping for. Bill showed him how to get to the homework help page on the library website and walked through a couple of the websites that classroom teachers like to use. The patron was thrilled and expressed his gratitude to Bill for taking the time to walk him through how to find the sites again from home.

A participant in the "Pandemic Pets" program went out of her way to send Noelle an email about the program: *"I wanted to say that I enjoyed the Pandemic Pets program. I was able to use two techniques later that were successful! One, when going home and entering the front door, I backed-up when my puppy wanted to jump on me and gave her the 'sit' command. She did it! Second, a friend came over who is scary like a big spider [referencing an analogy the speaker used], and we had him throw treats over the gate to her and he gave her the 'sit' command also. She stopped barking long enough to go after the treats and sit for him. Both times were successful! Yay!"*

A customer visited the Westlink Branch and told staff his wife is currently in the hospital. When she is released, she will be placed in an assisted living center with memory care. Since he had no computer access, Library Assistant Emma Marlow helped him look at five facilities online that he was interested in getting additional information for, compiled the information and printed it for him.

A customer at the Rockwell Branch Library had a medical emergency while he was in the facility using Wi-Fi. He began feeling pain, shouted out that he was having a heart attack, and then fell from his chair. Library Clerk Sydney Hawkins rushed to the man to check on him, and Library Clerk Jack Welch immediately called 911. Youth Services Librarian Katrina York stayed with the customer until the EMTs arrived, asking him questions to both keep him focused and coherent and to try to build a better understanding of the incident. The EMTs examined the customer, discussing with him his current medical conditions and trying to determine what steps needed to be taken. The customer ended up driving himself to the hospital after being examined by EMTs. The quick action that was taken by all three library staff members and their ability to stay calm during an emergency is commendable.

Two Rockwell Branch Library customers wanted to thank library staff for all they felt that staff have done this last year. One commented that she felt she should be paying the library more money for all the times staff came out and delivered by curbside and drive-thru in the cold and rain. She was glad she was still able to get books. The other commented, *"I consider you all heroes, right up there with all the others."*