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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022

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Town of Southington, Connecticut



## **SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

255 Main Street,  
Southington CT 06238  
860-628-0947  
southingtonlibrary.org



## **THE BARNES MUSEUM**

85 N. Main Street,  
Southington CT 06489  
860-628-5426  
thebarnesmuseum.org



Kristi Sadowski, M.L.S.  
*Executive Director*  
Sandy DiCicco  
*Assistant Director*

### **Southington Public Library**

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This year, the Southington Public Library began preparing for a most exciting new adventure. The passage of the Library Building Project Referendum in November by a margin of 16.7% was wonderful news, and we can't wait to enhance our services and resources to you in the new building. We encourage you to keep following the planning process and telling us your needs so you will Love Your Library.

We started two new programs – The SPL Express and the SPL Depot to be more present in the community. We recognize that without public transportation in town, it can sometimes be difficult for all our neighbors to visit our building. Which is why the SPL Express, a mobile pop-up Library, makes regular stops at predetermined locations around town. Resources, holds, and programming are all services offered by the SPL Express. SPL Depots are self-service honor-system branches where patrons can browse and borrow books and pick up literature on how to get a library card and visit our digital branch.

We were excited to seek grant funding for the Literacy of Laughter Program and to digitize many years of Lewis High and Southington Public High School yearbooks in addition to offering several genealogical programs.

This is of course a fraction of what we do, so please keep informed by signing up for our digital newsletter, following us on social networks, and checking our events calendar.

Sincerely,  
Kristi Sadowski

## Children's Department - Molly Virello, Head of Children's Services

The Children's Department continues to be innovative and community-focused. The 2021-2022 fiscal year brought many changes, community partnerships, and program revamps. Children's programming has continued to thrive, despite a four-month long staff outage, new staff members joining the team, and continued pandemic precautions.

### **Material Circulation**

**Programming:** Coming down from the COVID-19 pandemic, we brought many more live, in-person programs into the library - over 90, compared to 2 in-person programs in the 2020-21 year.

363 total (digital and in-person) programs  
23,216 participants (digital and in-person)

Our new 2021-22 programs included:

- **Tiny Travelers:** Children ages 5-7 can travel the world with Ms. Sarah by making a continent-themed craft each month while learning fun facts about the region.
- **Space Camp:** children ages 8-12 learn about space and make fun space related crafts!
- **Hack This:** Tweens ages 10 to 14 learn life-skills like sewing, cooking, camping disguised as fun projects.
- **Weather Wednesday:** 18 months to 4-year olds learn about different seasons, weather, make a coordinating craft, and participate in a storytime.
- The Children's Department hosted 3 local Southington authors for programs and book signings.
- We were the first library in the state to have the Kid Governor Reese Naughton (a Southington native) attend and speak about her platform.
- Partnered with the Southington CyberKnights for summer 2021 programming kits and a spring 2022 robotics program series for ages 6-10.

We expanded the board game collection and started participating in the Sustainable Shelves initiative – which both recycles our old books, and gives us credit back to use for future purchases.

We reinvigorated our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program – swapping out prizes for more exciting, age appropriate, and educational options, and making the recording sheets more accessible and interactive for children to use. Participation reflects these changes with 98 participants in 2021-22, a 78% increase from 2020-21.

We also began a pilot program in October 2021, Southington Library: Growing a Family of Readers, with three local preschools. Each registered three-year-old received a kit that included the newly revamped 1000 Books Before Kindergarten binder, a picture book, library card application, information about the library, programming, and museum passes. The goal of the

program was to foster a child and family’s love of reading, provide children with direct involvement in their reading progress while building skills for school success, and introduce families to materials, programs, and services available for all ages at the Southington Library.

**ComicCon** made a triumphant return in June – being held at the Southington Drive-In having outgrown the library. 587 people attended this program – which hadn’t run since June 2019.

**Summer Reading Program** – 2021-22 brought the first full year of the Tween Department (grades 6-8) back with Children’s for the Summer Reading Program. Bringing our numbers 70% higher than the previous year.

**Kids Sign Ups: (0-11): 385**

**Tween Sign Ups: (12 – 14): 88**

**Summer Reading Reporting: 502\***

(\*children are only allowed to report their reading 1x per week. The program runs for 8 weeks.)

### **Digital Resources/Social Media**

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Totals 2020-21</b>	<b>Total 2021-2022</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Facebook	17754	18606	4.8%
Instagram	14828	32387	118%
TikTok*	n/a	6167	n/a
Pinterest	6187	6193	.097%
YouTube**	403	2438	505%
Bookflix	6064	8126	84%

\*We didn’t start consistently using TikTok until fall 2021.

\*\*We didn’t track stats for YouTube until fall of fiscal year 2020-2021.

**Outreach Initiatives** – The pandemic limited preschool outreach, even in 2021-22. However, we brought digital storytimes, programming calendars, and more to 4 local schools, reaching 3231 people.

### **Cataloging Report - Billie Gaber, Head of Cataloging**

The Cataloging Department continued to be a busy place, not only with the cataloging of new materials, but also with record corrections, weeding of media, purchasing media, and maintaining the Hallmark Collection and Binge Boxes. We also added new item types to the database, such as Hot Spots, Keeping Busy Kits, and Chromebook Kits, as well as constantly adding to our already existing collection of puzzles, games, vinyl records, etc.

This year’s total for new records added to the database (both adult and children combined)

Media: 3,836

Print Materials: 8,524

Total added: 12,360

**Circulation Department - Shelley Holley, Head of Circulation**

The Circulation Department continued to excel at friendly professional customer service having contact with a majority of the Library's patrons. Last year 243,952 physical materials circulated, a 31% percent increase from the previous fiscal year. E-Materials circulated 46,332 times rising 16%. Physical materials continued to be the top borrowed format at 84% compared to e-Materials 16% usage.

<b>FY 22 Statistics</b>	
<b>In House</b>	<b>Totals</b>
e-Materials Circulation	46,332
Physical Materials Circulation	243,952
Patrons Served Monthly	53,161
Lockers Used	118
Contactless Pick-Up	2,512
Daily Items Circulated	235,721
Total Daily Transactions	152,972
Days Open	287
Hours Open	2,720
Patron Counter	88,124
Materials Covered	5,962
Materials Mended	661
Discs Cleaned	1,801
<b>Consortium</b>	
Circs on items sent to other libraries	23,149
Circs on items sent to Southington	19,570
Holds placed via catalog	27,621
<b>State Delivery System</b>	
Transactions	18,989
Holds filled by our items all locations	25,828

Department Head, Shelley Holley continued to purchase popular and varied adult fiction and all adult e-Materials. She promoted these materials and library services via print and social media. Her QR code bookmark for card renewals was well received by families. Holley spearheaded Food for Fines, e-Resource information and library cards for schools, Mulberry Gardens outreach, Library Depot curation and outreach, and the Adult/Teen Summer Reading incentives.

Circ /Adult Summer Reading participation	3,568
Circ/Teen Summer Reading participation	58
Food for Fines 2021 collection	1,957 lbs.
Mulberry Gardens participants	60
Passport to Libraries participants	119
Library Depots at LiveWell and YMCA	100 books

## **Additional Programs**

### SPL Express

The SPL Express is a pop-up, mini-mobile library delivering materials and services on a regular basis to underserved populations. It began in October 2021 with stops at Bread for Life, Community Services, and a monthly craft group with children at Summer Brook apartments. Patrons are able to open library cards, check out and return library materials, and discover all the Southington Library has to offer. New partnerships continue to evolve alongside the needs of the community.

### The Literacy of Laughter: A Community Gets Schooled in the Art of Comedy

The Southington Library was awarded funding in spring 2022 from CT Humanities and the Main Street Community Foundation to partner with Sea Tea Improv Comedy Theater. Six improv workshops and a final performance, Southington Night Live, were offered to diverse community groups and ages as part of the 2022 Summer Reading Program. For designing and executing the project, Librarian Lynn Pawloski was awarded the 2022 Innovation in Outreach Programming Award from the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, recognizing a library's achievement in planning and implementing an innovative or creative outreach program having a measurable impact on its community.

## **Reference & Teen Services - *Nicole Kent, Reference/Teen Librarian***

The numbers of patrons coming in each day has been increasing since the previous fiscal year, with an average of 8,251 patrons a month, and an overall increase of 108% from the previous year in total visits. The library has also been open more hours with a total of 2,670.5 hours open, an increase of 45%, since the previous year. This increase in visits is due to returning to regular hours open, more in-house programming, and people feeling more comfortable in public.

Reference questions answered: 24,786

Serviced 99 book group requests and ordered 815 books.

Museum passes reserved: 295

Documents notarized: 176

Proctoring sessions: 9

Computer use sessions: 6,464

Wireless print jobs: 406  
Wireless pages printed: 1,260  
Fax machine uses: 463  
Scanner usage: 1,150  
RequestIT usage: 3,263  
    EBSCOhost: 2,067  
    ProQuest: 1,033  
    ReferenceUSA: 163  
Southington Library Databases Usage: 2,237  
    Mango Languages sessions: 307  
    Universal Class: 327  
    Creative Bug: 149  
    Author Alerts: 1,454 patrons registered  
Website views: 65,405  
Total patron visits: 99,009  
Total hours open: 2670.5

Programs designed to enrich, educate, and entertain remained the primary focus of Reference and Teen Services programming in FY2021-2022. Understanding that some community members were reticent to return to the library with COVID ongoing, Reference and Teen Services offered many of its in-house, non-book club programs in hybrid format, allowing members to attend remotely or in person. Self-directed activities such as the take and make craft kits introduced during lockdown remained popular, while attendance of in-house self-directed activities such as knitting and adult coloring continued to slowly increase. Reference was also pleased to offer multiple well-attended programs at Kinsmen Brewing, as part of the library's continuing efforts to increase engagement and awareness by meeting the community where they are.

Total adult programs 43  
Total adult attendance 418  
Total adult live attendance 315  
Total adult virtual attendance 19  
Total adult self-directed attendance 84

Total teen programs 28  
Total teen attendance 310  
Total teen live attendance 20  
Total teen virtual attendance 112  
Total teen self-directed attendance 178