

Month: February Year: 2023

**Statistics**

-Circulation (number of physical items checked out) in 2022 was 84,693 items, a decrease of 8.8% from 2021. This was more than the overall regional decrease of 1.1%. It is still the second highest(after 2021) total circulation in Albany since 2008, which peaked at 94,434.

-System wide GRRL saw a total digital circulation of 299,366 eBooks, audio books, streaming music and videos downloaded from our digital platforms, a 11.6% increase from 2021.

**Programs**

Local programming in Albany is still coming back to pre-2020 levels. Our adult book club returned to in person meetings in 2022. Pre-school storytimes on Wednesday mornings went well. However, our longtime storytime volunteer Kathy decided that December would be her last storytime. She is irreplaceable and our storytimes are currently on hold while we determine the best way to provide quality storytimes.

The 2022 Summer Reading Program (Read Beyond the Beaten Path) was again surprisingly successful. Our participation in 2019 peaked at 476 children and teens participating, 2020 dropped to only 85, and 2022 was up to 458 participants. 51 more participants than in 2021.

**News**

2022 Library activity was focused on staffing. We restructured our schedule so that Albany only has public facing staff to make it easier to keep the library open in the event of illness or bad weather.

**Building/Maintenance Issues**

None to report.

On behalf of the library and the community we serve, I would like to thank the City of Albany and City staff for their continual support of the library and their flexibility and dedication in getting through the past year.

John Hannon- Library Services Coordinator  
 Albany/Melrose Public Libraries  
 320-845-4843

