

# Racine Public Library Report for July 2026 Library Board Packet

## Executive Director's Report - June

Prepared by Nick Demske

June is always a huge month at the RPL, what with **the start of our Summer Reading Program** and the kids leaving school and coming to us in droves. This year, it was even more of an active month, because **the “official” implementation of our newly board-approved org chart was June 1st**. It required a ton of change, a ton of new processes, and we’re certainly still just getting a new normal established from those many changes. In the meantime, here are some of the other highlights from the month of June:

- The city has set up **quarterly finance meetings** with willing departments this year and the library had their second meeting in June. These meetings have proven to be really valuable in a short amount of time. Unbelievably, **work for the 2027 budget is already in full swing** by the month of July. But among the helpful things we were able to discuss at this last meeting were the issues of some **capital expenses we will encounter in the next 2-6 years**, including the need for a new bookmobile, a new automated sorter, potential fleet vehicles for our home delivery services, a potential replacement for our delivery van, and even a potential charging station for our parking lot. It’s great to have opportunities to discuss these things years in advance and I feel much more confident we’ll be ready to navigate those costs because of it, once they do occur.
- With our two FT bookmobile drivers gone, we went through the long and arduous **hiring process for 1 new FT BKM Assistant**. It was a competitive process with many good candidates, but **the successful candidate was our own, internal staff member, Heather Saunders**. Heather has been on the BKM team for a few years now and we’re really excited for her to step up into greater leadership in this full time role. **Congratulations, Heather!**
- In addition to that, because of those staff vacancies, **we needed to temporarily cut back on the bookmobile schedule for the start of the summer**. It’s been a big team effort to cover as much as possible, and with **Shay King** overseeing that team now--and the team’s active input--**there will be a minimal amount of gaps** until we are able to fill in the other FT bkm role.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for June, so dive into the subsequent reports and see in what other ways the RPL has been bringing joy to the Racine community during this first summer month. Enjoy, and **thank you all, as always, for your service on the board!**

# Deputy Director's Report - June 2026

Prepared by Lizzie Hjelle

## Projects and Updates

- **Circulation:** I continued as interim Circulation Supervisor this month, working with the circulation team on sustaining services while beginning the hiring process for the new Access Services Supervisor. I continued my work gathering existing procedural documentation and creating new documentation to support the new supervisor, as well as filling in to support operations as we experienced staffing shortages.
- **Organizational Chart Implementation:** This month marked the official transition into phase 1 of our new organizational chart. In support of this process, much of my time was focused on ensuring position descriptions were accurate and accessible, working with HR and supervisors to post several vacant positions, and participating in hiring committee meetings and applicant review processes.

## Continuing Education

- Building and Leveraging Your Municipal Relationships - IFLS - 1 hour
- Building Successful Student Internships - WiLS - 1 hour

# Social Services Report - June 2026

Prepared by Ashley Cedeno, Head of Social Services and Public Safety

## Patron Service Interactions

| Category                            | Jan        | Feb        | Mar        | Apr        | May        | Jun        | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Social Service                      | 82         | 83         | 66         | 69         | 90         | 62         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| General Library Support             | 186        | 167        | 110        | 135        | 85         | 48         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Incidents Supported or De-escalated | 20         | 27         | 38         | 29         | 26         | 11         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Return Plan                         | 0          | 1          | 2          | 0          | 0          | 0          |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Total Patron Interactions:</b>   | <b>288</b> | <b>278</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>233</b> | <b>201</b> | <b>121</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*\* Increased out of office time due to conference (June)*

## Social Service Needs Addressed

*(Social Service Total above)*

| Category of Need                           | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Aging and Disability Resources             | 7   | 3   | 4   | 6   | 3   | 7   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Applying for Benefits/Financial Assistance | 7   | 9   | 6   | 7   | 13  | 12  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Clothing/Laundry                           |     |     | 1   |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Domestic Abuse                             |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Education                                  |     | 3   | 3   | 3   | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Emotional Support                          | 1   | 8   | 8   | 6   | 8   | 6   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Employment                                 | 16  | 9   | 7   | 2   | 3   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Food Insecurity                            | 3   | 4   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Healthcare                                 | 3   | 2   | 4   | 8   | 8   | 5   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Housing                                    | 10  | 7   | 13  | 7   | 15  | 7   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Internet/Hotspot                           |     | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Legal                                      | 8   | 8   | 1   | 5   | 10  | 5   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Mental Health                              | 2   | 5   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Re-entry Services                          | 4   |     | 1   |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Refugee/Immigration Support                |     |     | 1   | 2   | 2   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sensory Room                               | 3   | 7   | 7   | 5   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

|                         |    |    |   |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sexual Assault Services |    |    |   |    | 3 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Substance Use           |    |    |   | 1  | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation          | 12 | 16 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Veteran Services        |    |    |   |    | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Bus Pass Program

| Transportation need met:            | Jan       | Feb       | Mar       | Apr       | May       | Jun       | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Medical/Healthcare                  | 45        | 41        | 36        | 28        | 36        | 27        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Mental Health                       | 3         |           | 1         | 2         | 5         |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Employment                          | 12        | 18        | 27        | 16        | 32        | 24        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Housing                             | 2         |           | 4         | 4         | 2         | 13        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Re-entry Support                    | 3         | 5         | 7         | 2         | 7         | 6         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Education                           | 5         |           |           | 1         |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Financial/Benefits related          | 10        |           |           | 1         |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Legal/Court                         |           |           | 1         |           | 2         |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Other                               |           |           | 2         | 2         | 2         | 7         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Total Bus Passes Distributed</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>77</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*Other: Substance use support, crisis, and social security office (no appointment)*

## Programming Reports

### Coffee and Conversation

- 6/25- Participants: 5 participants

### Community Resource Fair

- NA

### Program Sponsorships

- NA

## Community Engagement

|                                                         | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Communication/Collaboration with Community Organization | 20  | 21  | 36  | 20  | 22  | 19  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Trainings and Professional Development

- 6/10-6/13: Attended and presented at the National Association of Social Workers Conference in DC
  - Presented:** From Shelves to Support: Reimagining Libraries as Partners
    - Description: “From Shelves to Support: Reimagining Libraries as Partners” explores how modern libraries are evolving beyond traditional services to become community hubs for wellbeing, social support, and resource navigation. This session highlights innovative library-social work collaborations, the role of student interns, and strategies that transform public libraries into accessible, stigma-free spaces that promote connection, stability, and holistic care for all patrons.
    - Presented alongside Library Social Work colleagues: Sharita K. Sims, MSW, CCHW (New York) and Lee Patterson, LMSW (South Carolina)

## Highlights

- NA

## Sensory Room

|                                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Room Uses/Picktime Reservations | 0   | 0   | 20  | 30  | 39  | 32  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*\*Jan-Feb: closed for renovations*

## Other/Misc.

- NASW Presentation-** I presented alongside two library social workers from t=other states at the National Association of Social Work Conference in Washington D.C. in June, “*From Shelves to Support: Reimagining Libraries as Partners.*” The presentation was well received and generated thoughtful discussion among attendees from a variety of social work practice settings. It reinforced that many social workers are interested in collaborating with libraries but are often unaware of the breadth of services libraries provide or how to initiate those partnerships.
  - Thoughts and takeaways: Presenting at a national conference was a valuable opportunity to showcase the innovative work being done at RPL (and across the

country). The conversations that followed highlighted a growing national interest in community-based approaches to service delivery and affirmed that libraries are increasingly recognized as critical access points for social services.

- **PSS Supervisory Role-** June marked my first full month serving as the supervisor of the Public Safety Specialists. During this month, I held supervisor meetings with the PSS's, and established ongoing expectations. I also managed the transition of one PSS through their resignation and departure from the organization.
  - **Professional Collaboration with Peer Library Leaders-** During this month, I met with two leaders from public libraries in different states that have organizational structures similar to RPL, where social services and public safety are managed within a single department: Rob Simmons, Director of Social Services and Public Safety, Oak Park Public Library; and Nicole Campolucci, Director of Safety & Social Services, Salt Lake City Public Library. These conversations focused on sharing best practices related to safety operations and interdisciplinary collaboration. There was a focus on the unique perspective and practices that emerge when public safety teams are supervised by professionals with social work backgrounds.
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# Marketing Report - June 2026

Prepared by Shay King, Head of Community Engagement

## Overview

### Community Engagement Update

June marks the first full month of the new Community Engagement department's work together. This month focused on a smooth transition into the new team as well as hiring for the new full-time Bookmobile Assistant. We're happy to announce the promotion of Heather Saunders, four-year Bookmobile Driver, into the role of Bookmobile Assistant beginning Monday, July 6.

### Training and Development

- American Library Association Conference — Head of Community Engagement, Friday, June 26 - Monday, June 29

## Viewership and Engagement

### Press and Advertising

In June, the library was referenced **in the media** [at least 14 times](#).

#### Press highlights

- [Bus Poems: New verses to ride city bus lines | WisBusiness](#) - WisBusiness, June
- [Racine Public Library announces updated bookmobile schedule. June 2026 stops - Civic Media](#) - CivicMedia, June 1
- [Racine Public Library bookmobile changes Thursday. Friday stops starting June 22](#) - Racine County Eye, June 19
- [Racine Arts Council awards nine ArtSeed grants](#) - Journal Times, June 23
- [Community invited to donate, sew fabric as part of project for Racine Art Museum](#) - Journal Times, June 24
- [Racine Public Library executive director wins state poetry award](#) - Journal Times, June 25
- [Cooling Centers in Racine County 2026](#) - Racine County Eye, June 29

### Website

#### 2026 Views & Visitors

| 2026 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Totals |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|

|          |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |         |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------|
| Views    | 27,193 | 24,185 | 25,526 | 23,882 | 23,462 | 25,551 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 149,799 |
| Visitors | 7,686  | 7,190  | 7,294  | 7,122  | 7,031  | 6,988  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 36,220  |

### June's most-viewed pages

- [Home](#) - 15,442 (up from 12,492)
- [Calendar](#) - 2,366 views (up from 1,869)
- [Hours & Locations](#) - 1,862 views (up from 1,067)
- [Job Opportunities](#) - 395 views (down from 414)
- [Borrow from the Library](#) - 342 views (up from 323)

## Google Business Listing

- **Current rating:** 4.5 stars, 224 reviews
- **June Google profile views:** 2,886
- **June appearances in search results:** 1,211
- **June calls:** 381
- **June direction requests:** 822
- **June website clicks:** 2,390

## Newsletter

| 2026               | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr    | May    | Jun    | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Open rate          | 38.6%  | 30.4%  | 31.1%  | 31.7%  | 35.0%  | 34.4%  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Click rate         | 1.3%   | .9%    | .7%    | .8%    | .7%    | 1.0%   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Current recipients | 25,366 | 25,376 | 25,390 | 25,409 | 25,638 | 25,820 |     |     |     |     |     |     |

To sign up for our newsletter, visit [RacineLibrary.info/newsletters](https://RacineLibrary.info/newsletters).

## Social Media

### Facebook

Current followers: 7,880

June views: 10,198

### Instagram

Current followers: 1,584

June views: 577

TikTok

Current followers: 1,027

June views: 88

# Technical Services and Circulation Activities Report - June 2026

Prepared by Lizzie Hjelle, Interim Circulation Supervisor

## Circulation By Location

| Location      | Items Circulated - Monthly | Items Circulated - YTD |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Main Library  | 31,667                     | 186,862                |
| Bookmobile    | 2,318                      | 14,791                 |
| Home Delivery | 2,010                      | 14,055                 |
| Bulk Loans    | 320                        | 2,022                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>36,315</b>              | <b>419,383</b>         |

## Holds and Interlibrary Loan

| Service               | Item Count - Monthly | Item Count - YTD |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Holds Placed & Filled | 7,820                | 50,032           |
| ILL Loaned            | 9,401                | 54,453           |
| ILL Received          | 7,580                | 42,646           |

## Cardholder Registration

| Library Cards Issued - Monthly | Library Cards Issued - YTD |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 433                            | 2,229                      |

## Consortium sorting / AMH activity:

- Circulation staff inducted **66,840** items in May, and **78,923** items in June through the library's automated materials handler (AMH).

## Technical Services Report of Activities

A total of **1,016** items were cataloged and processed for the library's collection this month.

# Digital Services and Innovation Activities Report - June 2026

Prepared by Melissa Donaldson, Head of Digital Service and Innovation

## Monthly Highlights

- 797 technology assistance interactions provided to patrons.
- 122 participants were served through Innovation Lab programs and outreach activities submitted for June.
- 121 makerspace projects completed, including 120 3D print projects and 1 laser engraving project.
- 7,704 Wi-Fi connections recorded throughout the building.
- 13,721 digital materials checked out through Libby and Comics Plus.
- Biblio+ usage increased significantly in June, with 268 patron signups, 124 active users, and 218 video views.

## Innovation Lab Programs & Outreach

The Digital Services & Innovation Department submitted 8 Innovation Lab programs and outreach activities for June, serving 122 participants. Programs included STEAM Time, Techquity, Take and Make, Maker Monday, and the Lakeshore Linux Users Group Meeting. Staff also provided outreach at the Downtown COP House for First Friday and at the Racine Friendship Clubhouse.

Notable June activities included STEAM Time with 25 participants, Maker Monday with 15 participants, two Techquity sessions serving 29 participants, outreach to the Downtown COP House serving 25 participants, and outreach to the Racine Friendship Clubhouse serving 15 participants.

## Technology Assistance

Staff provided 797 technology assistance interactions during June, helping patrons with device setup, software troubleshooting, printing, email, internet access, and digital resource navigation. Matt provided 347 interactions, Tati 202, Melissa 140, Terrence 84, Felix 22, and Rastko 2.

## Makerspace Services

The Innovation Lab completed 120 patron 3D printing projects and 1 laser engraving project during June. These services continue to provide community members with access to creative technologies and hands-on learning opportunities.

## Public Technology Usage

Patrons completed 1,684 public computer sessions during June, including 750 library card sessions, 289 student ID sessions, and 645 guest pass sessions. Library Wi-Fi supported 7,704 wireless connections throughout the month.

## **Digital Resources**

Digital resource usage remained strong in June with 13,433 Libby checkouts and 288 Comics Plus checkouts, for a total of 13,721 digital material checkouts. Patrons also completed 239 unique Ancestry Library Edition searches, 82 Mango Languages sessions, 1,134 LinkedIn Learning content completions, and 109 Reference Solutions searches.

Biblio+ streaming usage increased during June, recording 268 patron signups, 124 active users, and 218 video views.

## **Department Projects & Initiatives**

Staff continued work on several strategic technology initiatives, including planning for the Aspen Discovery catalog implementation, supporting public and staff technology needs, maintaining Innovation Lab equipment and services, and promoting digital resources. The department also continued supporting digital inclusion efforts through community outreach and participation in regional digital equity work.

## **Summer Intern Program**

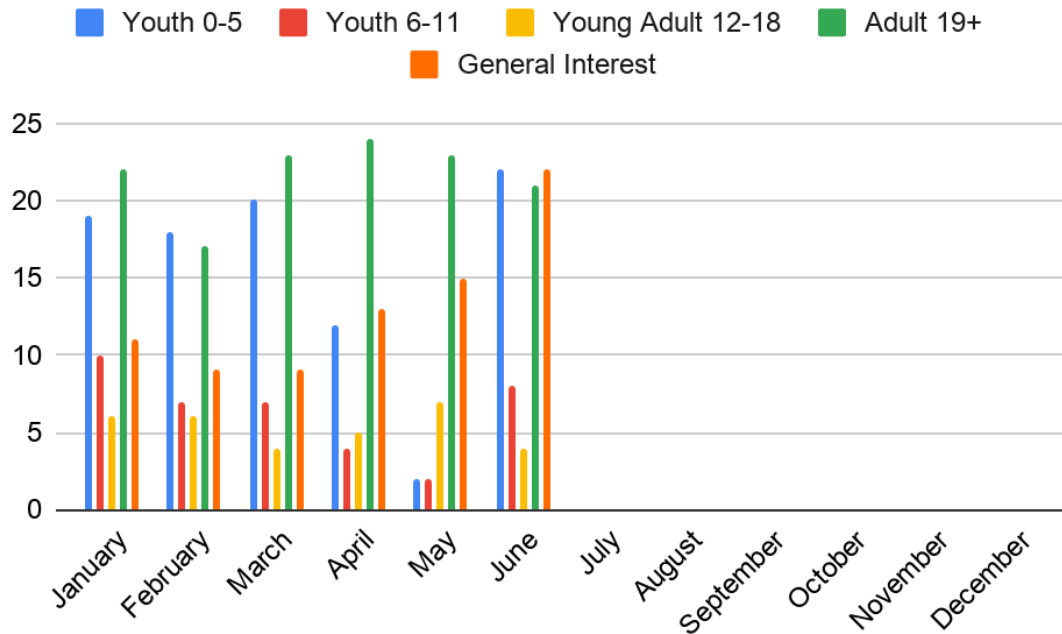
The Digital Services & Innovation Department welcomed four summer interns who have quickly become valuable members of the Innovation Lab team. Throughout the summer, these interns have embraced opportunities to build their technology skills while providing meaningful support to the community. They have assisted patrons with technology questions, supported Innovation Lab operations, and played an important role in managing the increased demand for 3D printing services during the busy summer months. Their enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and commitment to serving the public have made a positive impact on both the department and the patrons we serve.

# 2026 Year to Date Library Services Statistics

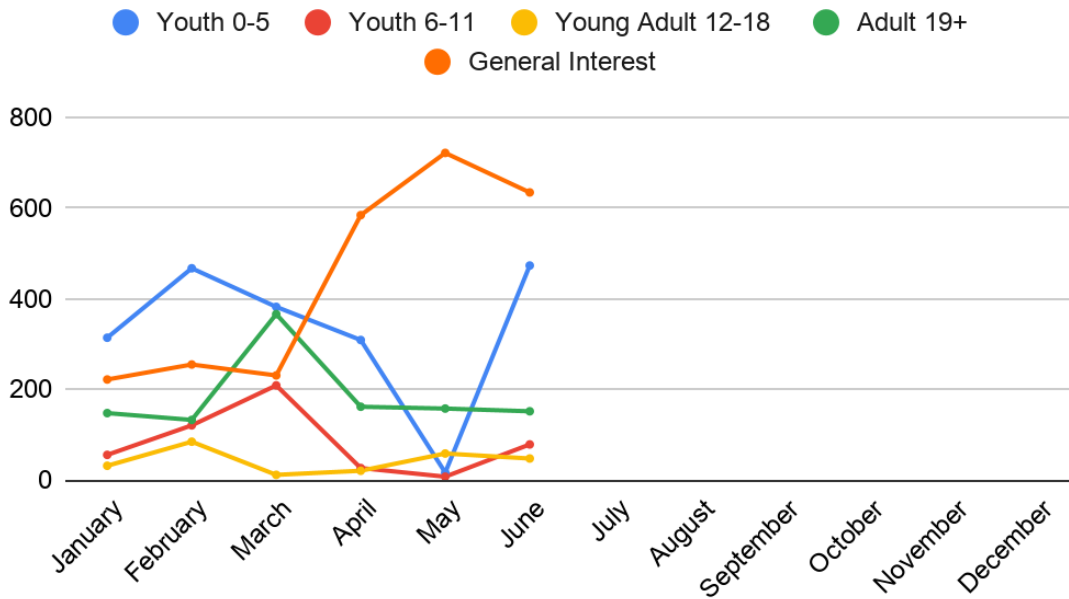
## Library Programming Statistics

In March, the library hosted 58 programs attended by a total of 1,103 patrons.

### 2026 Number of Programs

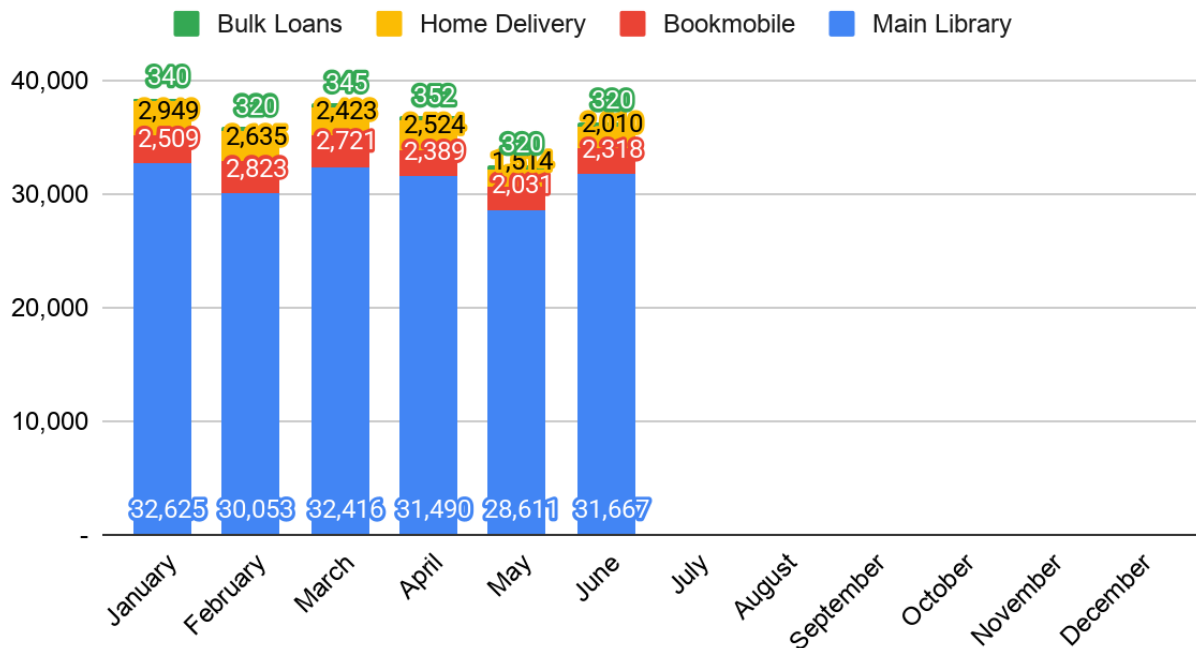


## 2026 Program Attendance

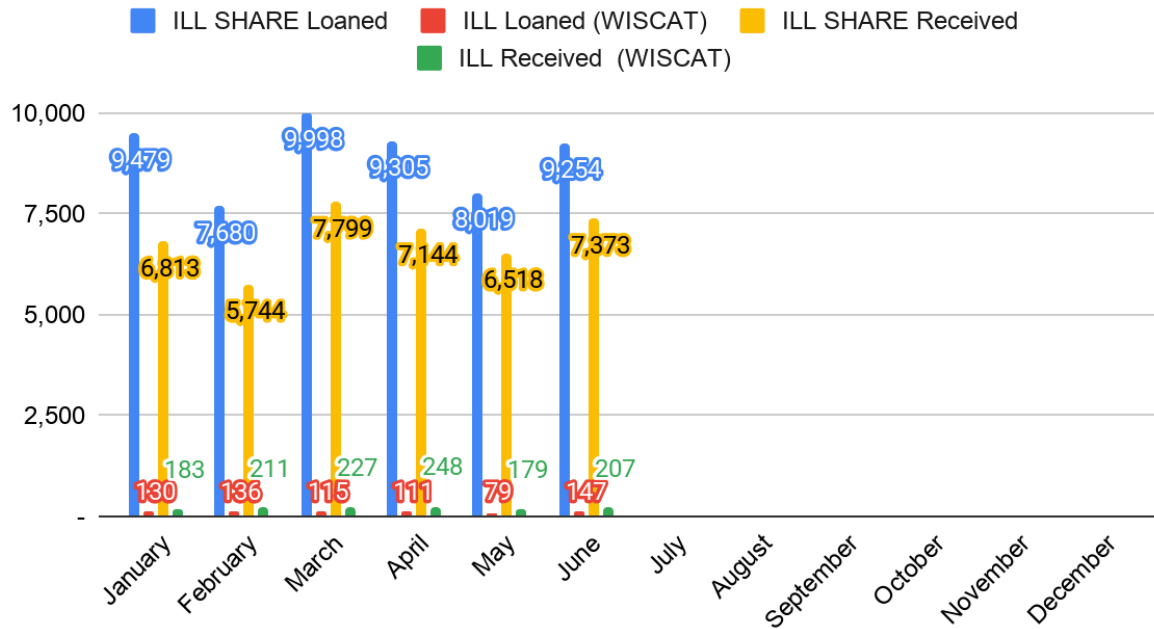


## Physical Circulation Statistics

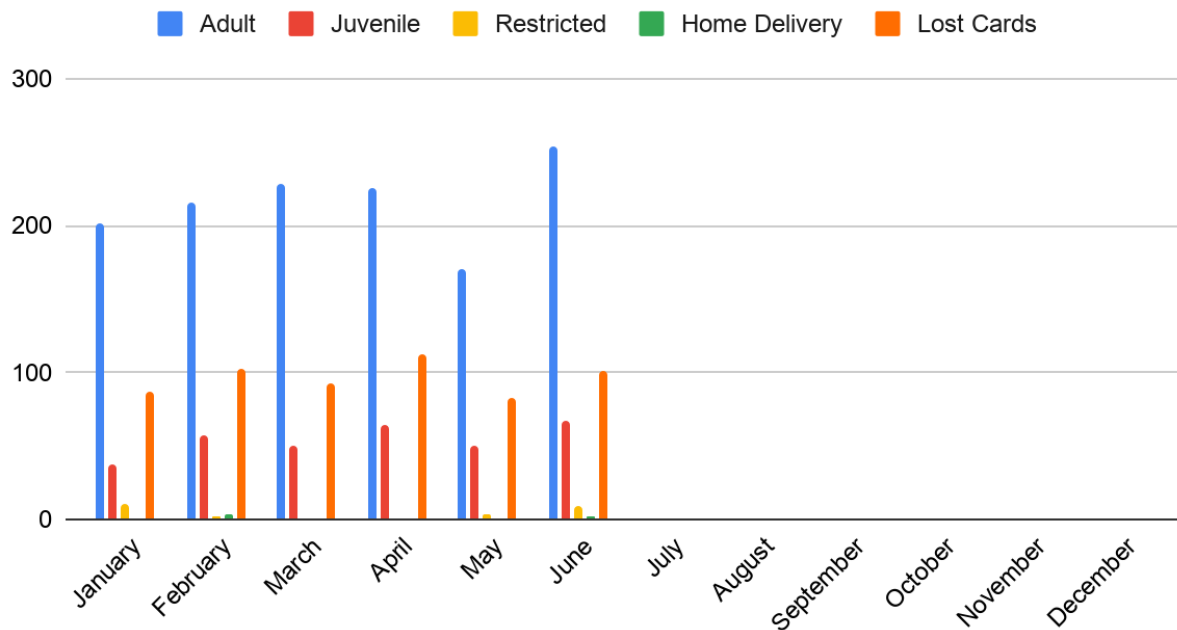
### 2026 Monthly Circulation



## Interlibrary Loans 2026



## 2026 Library Cards Issued



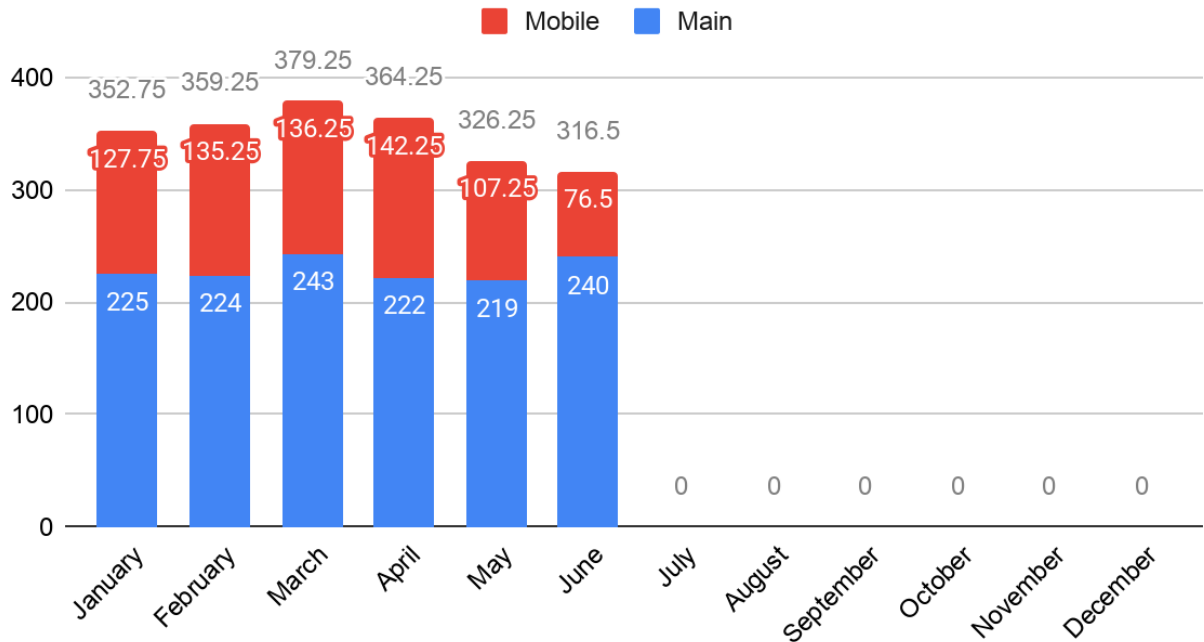
## Monthly Circulation by Municipality

| <b>Main</b> |        | <b>Bookmobile</b> |       |
|-------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| DAMADISONC  | 4      | KNKENOSHAC        | 7     |
| GTPLATTEVC  | 3      | OUTOFSTATE        | 2     |
| KNKENOSHAC  | 228    | RACALEDONV        | 603   |
| KNPLEASPRV  | 35     | RAELMWOODV        | 3     |
| KNSALEMLKV  | 1      | RAMOUNTPLV        | 917   |
| KNSOMERSV   | 28     | RANORTHBYV        | 13    |
| KNTWINLAKV  | 1      | RARACINEC         | 501   |
| MIBAYSIDEV  | 1      | RARAYMONDV        | 20    |
| MIFRANKLIC  | 4      | RASTURTEVV        | 139   |
| MIMILWAUKC  | 1      | RAWINDPOIV        | 101   |
| MIOAKCREEC  | 15     |                   | 12    |
| ONMINOCQUT  | 4      | Total             | 2,318 |
| RABURLINGC  | 4      |                   |       |
| RABURLINGT  | 20     |                   |       |
| RACALEDONV  | 7,524  |                   |       |
| RAELMWOODV  | 133    |                   |       |
| RAMOUNTPLV  | 5,763  |                   |       |
| RANORTHBYV  | 207    |                   |       |
| RARACINEC   | 15,548 |                   |       |
| RARAYMONDV  | 234    |                   |       |
| RAROCHESTV  | 15     |                   |       |
| RASTURTEVV  | 469    |                   |       |
| RAUNIONGRV  | 63     |                   |       |
| RAWATERFOT  | 2      |                   |       |
| RAWATERFOV  | 6      |                   |       |
| RAWINDPOIV  | 1,226  |                   |       |
| RAYORKVILV  | 15     |                   |       |
| RKBELOITT   | 2      |                   |       |
| WKMUKWONAV  | 4      |                   |       |
| WWEASTTRYV  | 2      |                   |       |
| WWELKHORNC  | 1      |                   |       |
|             | 105    |                   |       |
| Total       | 31,668 |                   |       |
| DAMADISONC  | 4      |                   |       |
| GTPLATTEVC  | 3      |                   |       |
| KNKENOSHAC  | 228    |                   |       |
| KNPLEASPRV  | 35     |                   |       |
| KNSALEMLKV  | 1      |                   |       |
| KNSOMERSV   | 28     |                   |       |
| KNTWINLAKV  | 1      |                   |       |
| MIBAYSIDEV  | 1      |                   |       |

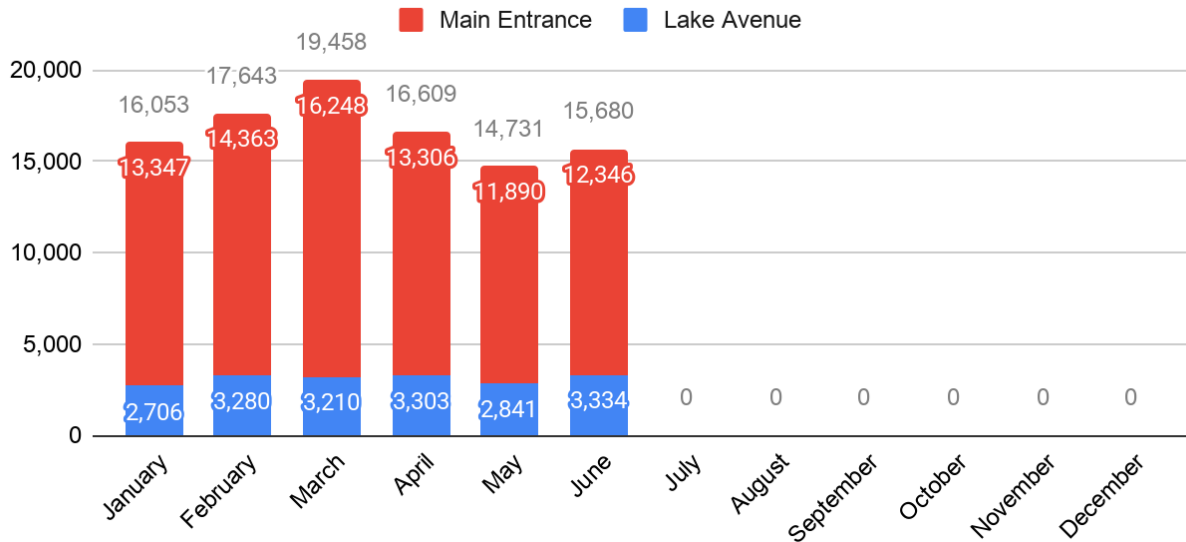
|            |        |  |  |
|------------|--------|--|--|
| MIFRANKLIC | 4      |  |  |
| MIMILWAUKC | 1      |  |  |
| MIOAKCREEC | 15     |  |  |
| ONMINOCQUT | 4      |  |  |
| RABURLINGC | 4      |  |  |
| RABURLINGT | 20     |  |  |
| RACALEDONV | 7,524  |  |  |
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| RANORTHBYV | 207    |  |  |
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| RARAYMONDV | 234    |  |  |
| RAROCHESTV | 15     |  |  |
| RASTURTEVV | 469    |  |  |
| RAUNIONGRV | 63     |  |  |
| RAWATERFOT | 2      |  |  |
| RAWATERFOV | 6      |  |  |
| RAWINDPOIV | 1,226  |  |  |
| RAYORKVILV | 15     |  |  |
| RKBELOITT  | 2      |  |  |
| WKMUKWONAV | 4      |  |  |
| WWEASTTRYV | 2      |  |  |
| WWELKHORNC | 1      |  |  |
|            | 105    |  |  |
| Total      | 31,668 |  |  |

# Building Usage Statistics

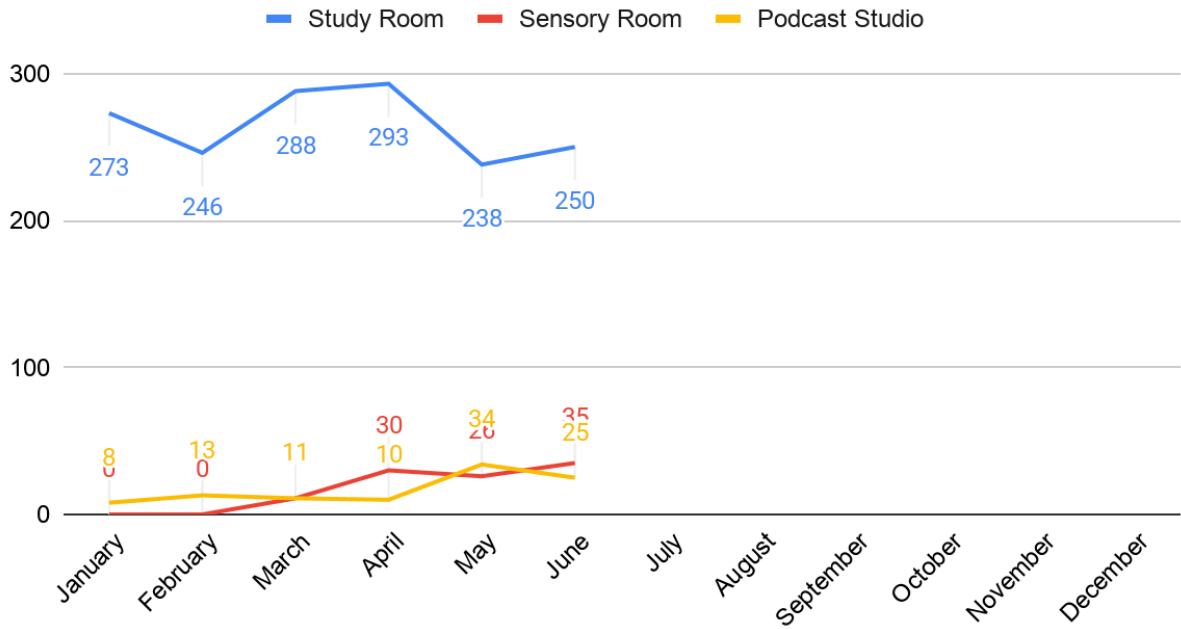
## Hours Open 2026



## People Counter 2026



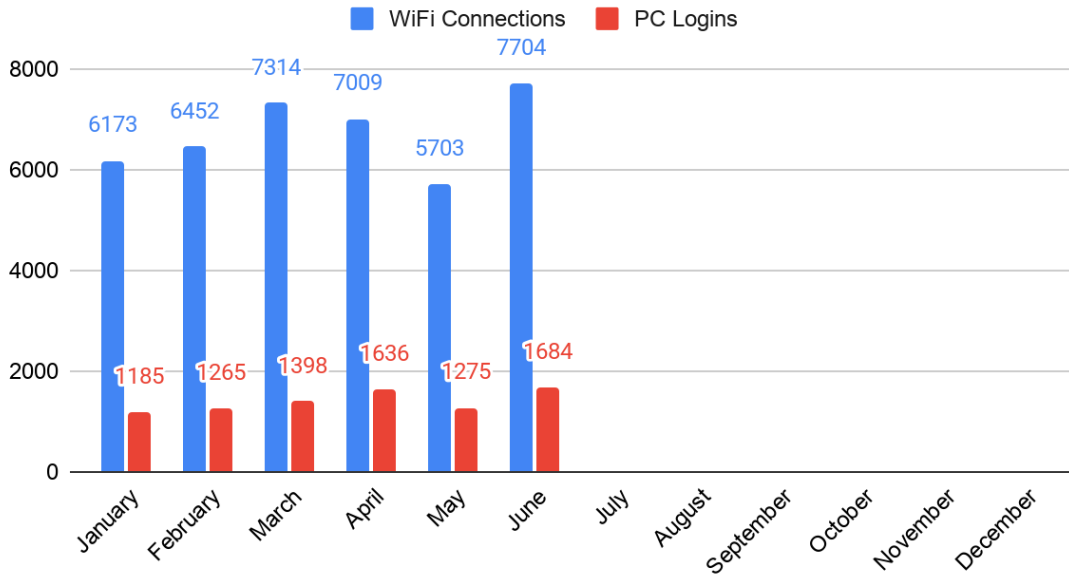
# Public Room Use 2026



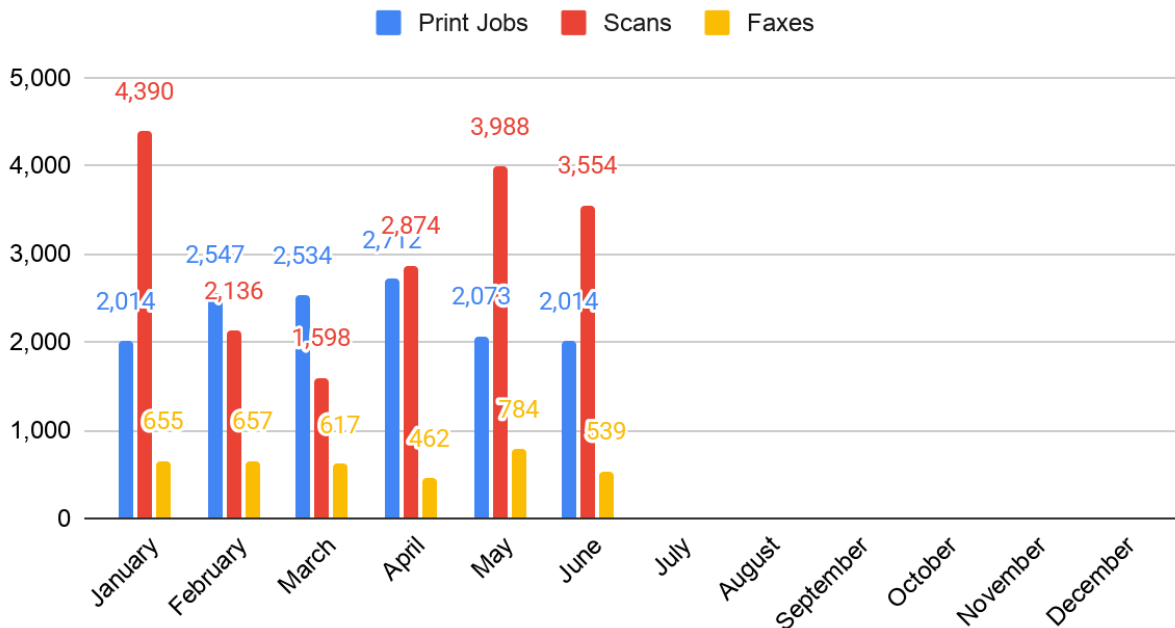
\*Sensory Room was closed for maintenance August 2025 through March 2026

# Technology Statistics

## WiFi Connections & PC Logins 2026

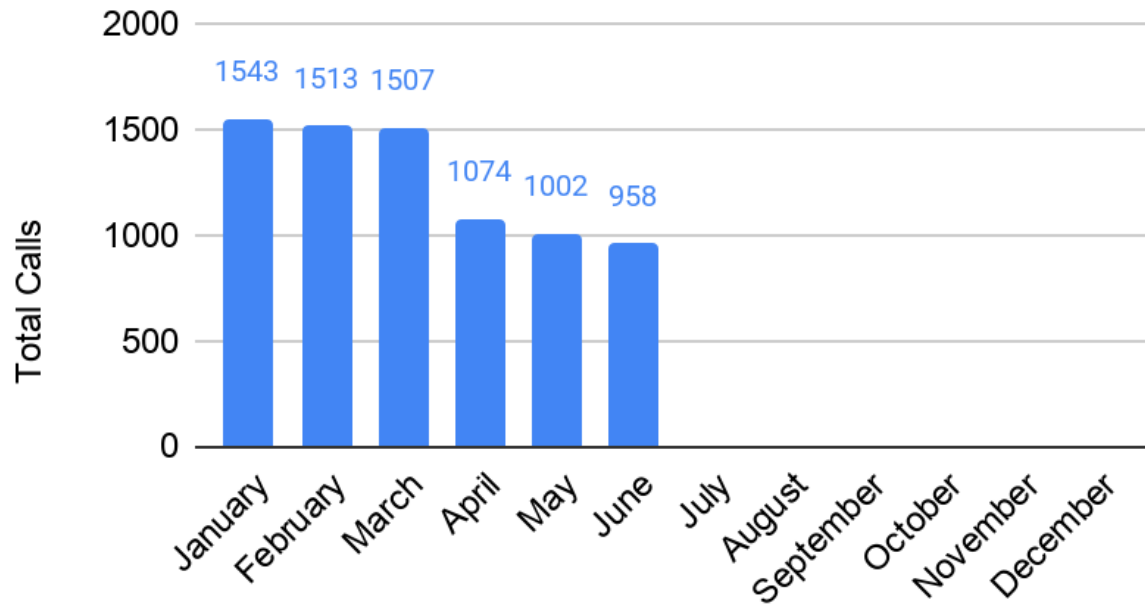


## Printing, Scanning, & Faxing 2026

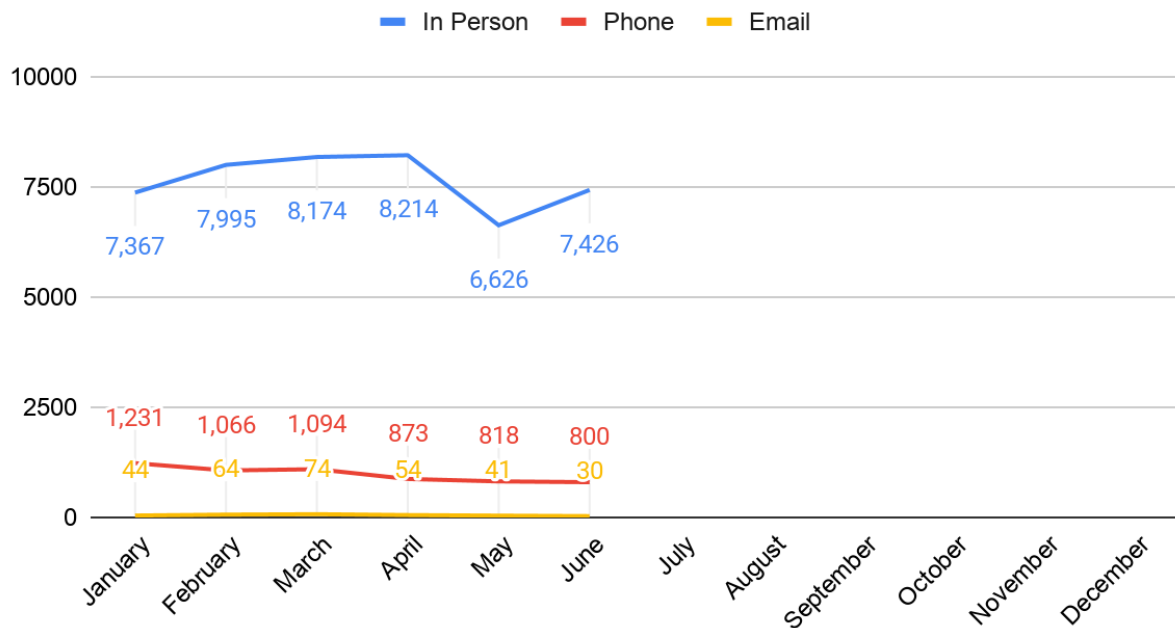


## Reference Statistics

### 2026 Call Center : Number of Calls

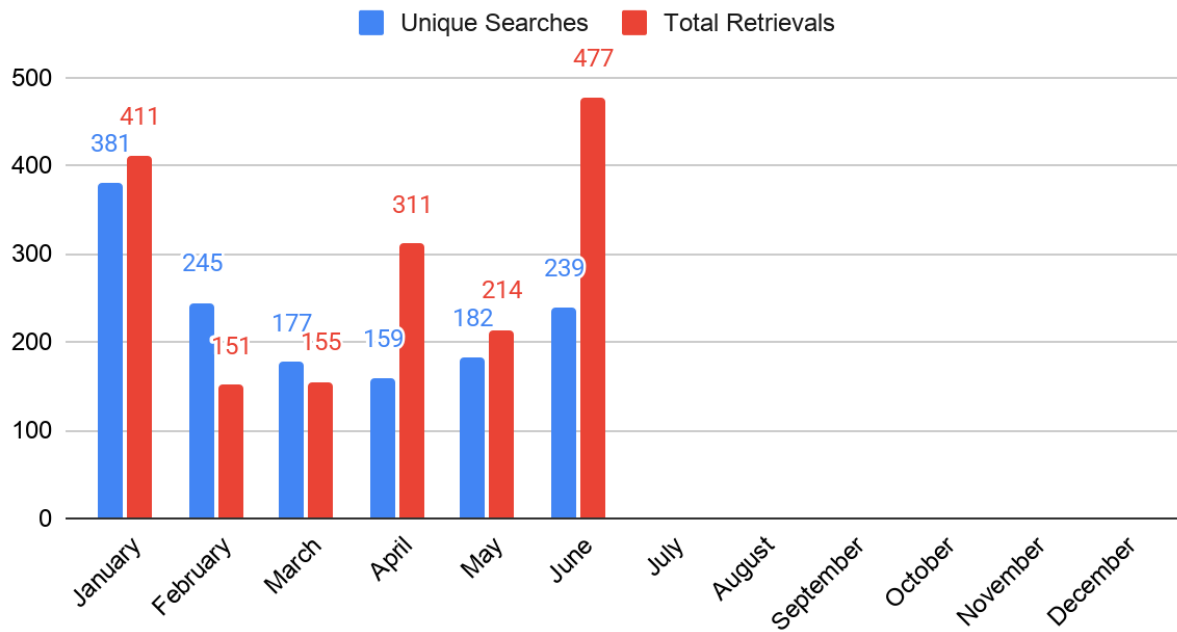


### 2026 Reference Interactions

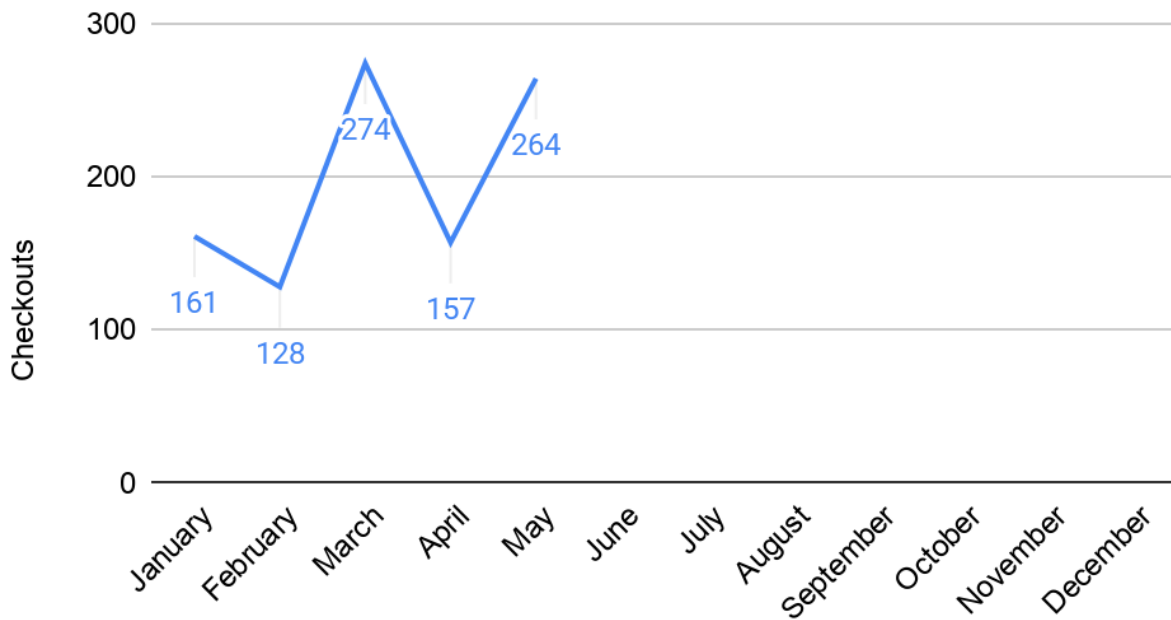


# Digital Resource Usage Statistics

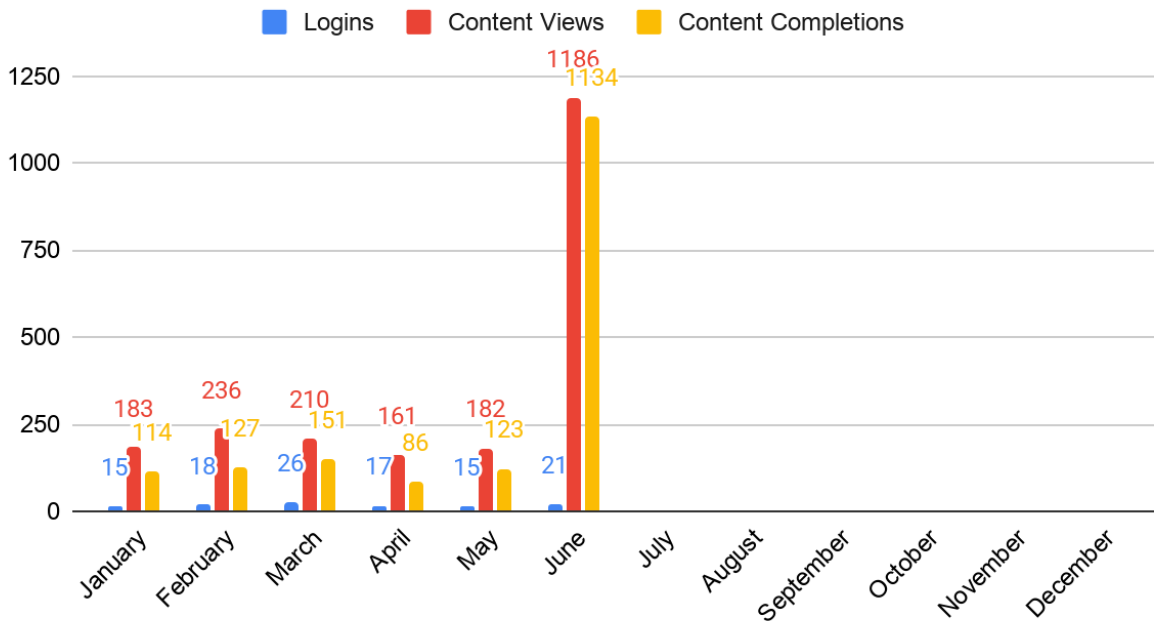
## Ancestry Usage 2026



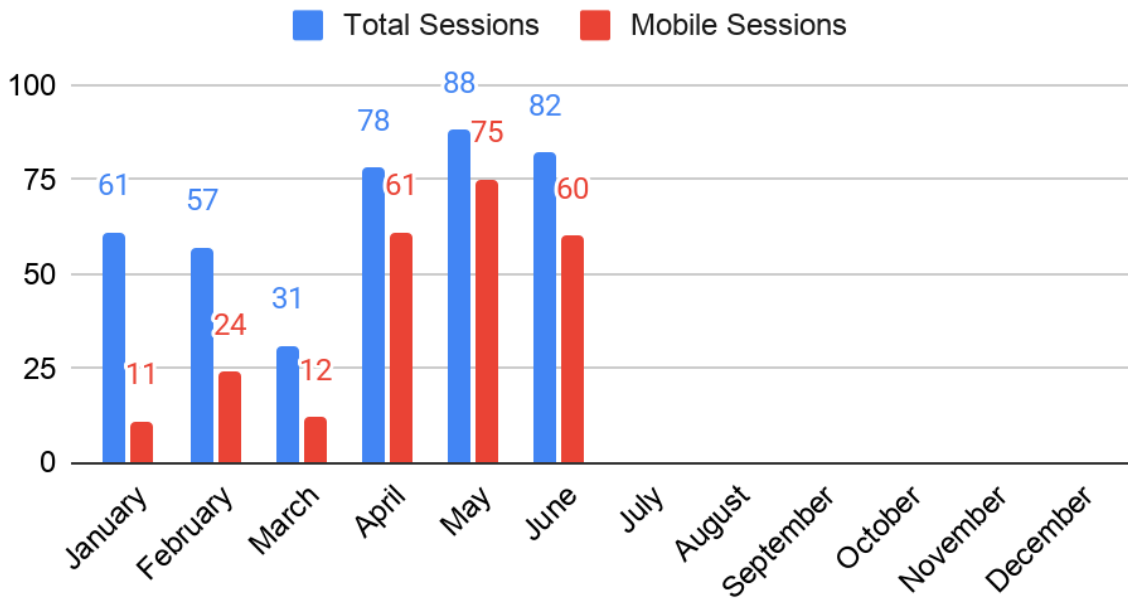
## Comics Plus Checkouts 2026



## LinkedIn Learning 2026



## Mango Languages 2026



## Overdrive (Libby) Downloads 2026

