



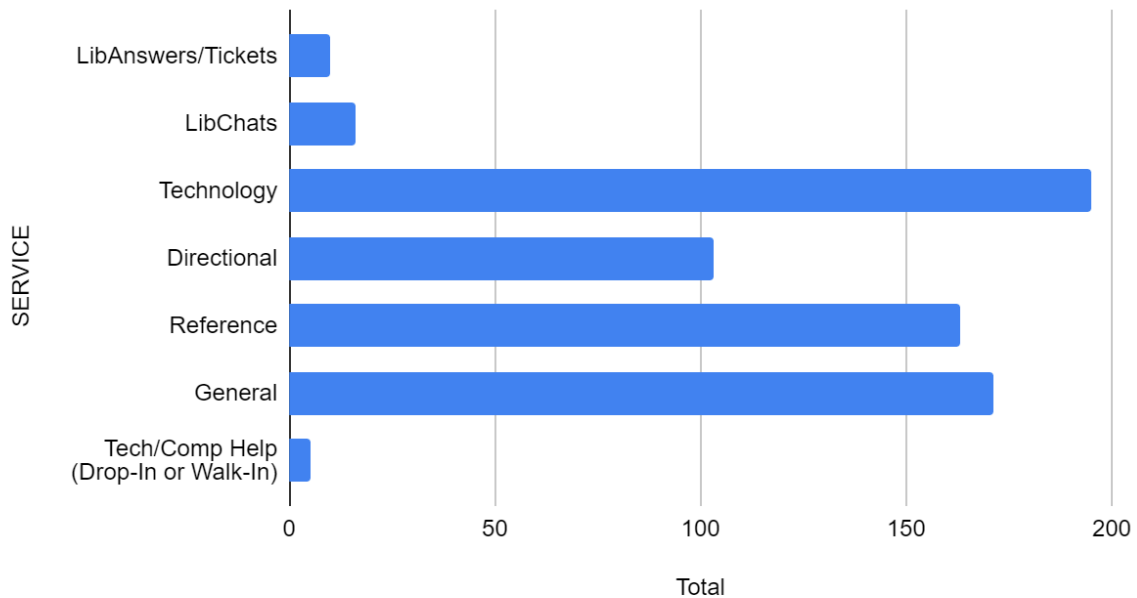
Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
February 12, 2024

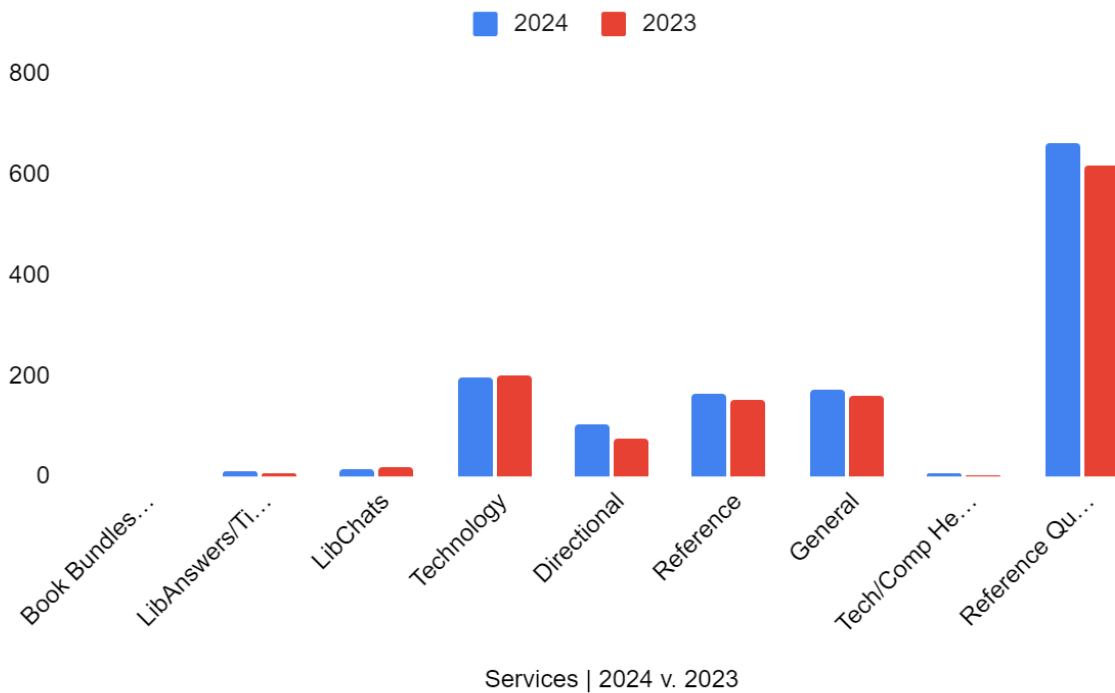
Library Updates

Adult Services:

The Adult Services department had a very exciting January! Maryam, Sean and myself are experimenting with new ways after tracking and visualizing information and data across all aspects of the department, but especially as it relates to tracking our statistics. For example, see the charts below regarding reference transactions. We are always looking for feedback if anyone has suggestions!

Adult Services Transactions & Services | January 2024





Example of general questions: includes finding books/placing holds, study rooms, and general library info.

We are also working with Andy to simplify the steps patrons need to follow to use the equipment on the 2nd Floor. For example, patrons no longer need to release and prepay to retrieve their print jobs. For wireless printing service, patrons just need to email what they want to print to westwoodprint@minlib.net, then visit the Information Desk to pay and pick up their papers.

BiblioUnderground.org Update

Since the [Fox25 News story](#) aired, several more news outlets have reached out to me and/or the Town for interviews. The BiblioUnderground has been featured on [Boston.com](#), [WBZ NewsRadio 1030](#), [WHDH Boston Channel 7](#), [WCVB Channel 5 Boston](#), [I Love Libraries](#) (an ALA affiliate), etc. On Thursday, February 8 I spoke with Faith Karimi from CNN Digital (cnn.com), and the article should air over the weekend or early next week.

I also spoke with Jen Bolton from DOVE, Inc. the Jane Doe, Inc. affiliate for Norfolk County. We plan to collaborate on several programs related to Safety Planning/dating and domestic violence to take place at the Library. I have also heard from the Massachusetts Library System and am working to scheduled a meeting with several of the MLS consultants. To learn more about the BiblioUnderground, visit www.bibliounderground.org.

The town and local community have been incredibly supportive. Thank you for all the goodwill!

-Molly Riportella

Youth Services

January was a busy month with lots of programs in Youth services. Across programs for babies all the way up to teens and including Outreach visits, we reached 1235 participants! A truly mind boggling number and insight into just how busy Youth Services is. Highlights included a STEAM TEAM Lego Engineering program on Friday afternoons run by the Westwood High School Robotics Team, as well as large numbers in our regular favorites like Storytime and afterschool gaming for teens. One program that we are working on building up is Sensory Friendly Storytimes and Movies, created by Caitlyn. After researching best practices, Caitlyn has gathered feedback and input from the Holliston schools SEPAC and created these programs specifically for neurodiverse kids.

Islington Branch Library:

In January we hosted Book Tasting at Neroli; this is always a hit and has a long list of patrons wanting to attend. The themes this month were Found and Bound Families, Fairy Tales Reimagined and Romance. Kristin really puts a lot of work into this program. We have different staff members with her time we hold the program so everyone gets to participate and interact with patrons.

We also hosted a therapy dog from *Every Great Dog*. It's a great program for all ages. The dog does tricks and the patrons can pat him if they want to. We are hoping to offer this once a month.

We decided the Mystery Book Group wasn't a draw and added a Page to Screen one. It's on Thursdays at 5PM once a month. The book groups and knitting are popular and we are getting new patrons to join in.

Strategy Update: Action Plan 2024

Please see additional action chart to review our progress but a few things I wanted to highlight:

- Thanks to 21st Century funding, we have secured renting a billboard slot for the month of March. This billboard is located on Rt.1 heading south before Lamberts (across from the Dunkin Donuts). We will be targeting our message for non-library users showcasing what the library has to offer. We have three slides so we are considering highlighting our Library of Things collection, access to streaming movies, tv, books, and music, and that the library is all about access and convenience (locations Main, branch, digital library, and soon bookmobile!).
- Andy, Molly, Maryam, and Sean have all started the process of becoming notaries so soon we will have notary services at both locations.
- Andy started Books, Balls, and Brews at Comellas with 8 attendees. I received a wonderful email from an attendee thanking the library for the program!

Budget

We had a lot of changes in staffing from FY23 to FY24 so we are keeping a close eye on the budget lines as we move into the later part of the fiscal year but I am happy to report that the FY24 budget is running on track and on target.

The FY25 budget was presented to the Select Board at their last meeting and did not include the

requested additional Children's Librarian position. Danielle and I are meeting with the Finance team next week to discuss this position and to look over the whole budget together; we are seeking to request potentially adding fewer hours for this position for FY25 for the Children's Department. Even a few hours of staffing would make a huge difference in keeping up with services and programs that the community desires.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director