



ACDL

The Month In Review

LIBRARY EXPERIENCES/TESTIMONIALS/REPORTS – September 2022

Thanks for using my name every time I come into the Library and treating me with respect. It makes me feel like I matter and reminds me that I'm human.

~ Patron, *Chance, to Sybil, Front Desk Manager, Ashtabula*

“Thanks for having ‘holds!’ I didn’t know what they were, but now that I do, I love having access to more material.”

~ *New Patron, Ashtabula*

Many patrons have told me that they really enjoy Ellen's book recommendations. One patron said, “Ellen is THE BEST!”

~ *Sybil, Front Desk Manager, Ashtabula*

A patron and her husband stopped in to see the new library. She had fond memories of the old library and they spent a long time reminiscing and really enjoying the new library, saying it was “beautiful.”

~ *Sybil, Front Desk Manager, Ashtabula*

A gentleman came in and wanted change for \$20 in order to donate to the library. He said the gentleman upstairs let him make a copy when he had no money and he appreciated the kindness. He said we are “The best!”

~ *Sybil, Front Desk Manager, Ashtabula*

A patron said she was so happy with the services we provide and that our library is stunning!

~ *Sybil, Front Desk Manager, Ashtabula*

Long-time patron, Pat F. flagged me down at the Front Desk and said (pointing toward Ashlee) “I want you to know, you have a great crew here at the desk! Everyone is so nice and so helpful!”

~ *Lyn, Public Services Coordinator, Ashtabula*

A patron gave us a substantial donation after using our FAX services. He said, “It sure is nice that the Library offers faxing. You have saved me a lot of trouble!”

~ *Lyn, Public Services Coordinator, Ashtabula*

“My son has been coming to Storytime with Miss Melissa all summer and she is amazing! So very welcoming, helpful and friendly. She has been very accommodating for my child’s needs and so very great at book recommendations, which the library has a robust selection of. We adore her and love coming back again and again thanks to her.”

~ *Google reviewer, Rhiannon*

I just moved to Ashtabula after many years of living in Florida. It’s so nice to see that people in Ohio really care about their libraries! I also like that you are running this nice book discussion group.

~ *New member, Ashtabula Senior Center Book Club*

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Geneva
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“I have enjoyed using the Hoopla electronic books... I so much appreciate this service from our library.”
~ *Patron Thomas, Ashtabula*

You guys have really been putting in a lot of effort here and it shows! I can't wait for you to be officially “open for business.” How do I get a new library card?
~ *Lakeside teacher's reaction to the Media Center reopening*

A patron came in with a 176-page document that needed to be notarized. Fortunately, only 5 pages needed an actual notarial certificate completed. However, she asked me to wait and make sure there was nothing else that needed to be notarized before she left. Once completed, she asked the cost and when I said our notary service is provided for free she said “you need something for your patience and time” and wrote the library a check for \$100. ~ *Karen, Administrative Assistant*

I had a customer come up to thank me for bringing books to the Indian Creek book collection. The eclectic mix of items in the collection allowed her to try reading authors she would not have picked up otherwise. She looked forward to seeing the new items I bought each month.
~ *Jim, Outreach Services*

While working the front desk a patron came in and when I asked him how he was doing he said, "great now that I'm at the library." He said that he "loves the library" and that the one thing he always votes for is a library levy. I said that we have a levy on in November and he immediately asked what day in November was he to vote and what could he do to help get the word out and the levy passed.
~ *Karen, Administrative Assistant*

My homebound patrons love when Austin accompanies me on visits. Even their pets love Austin!
~ *Jim, Outreach Services*

A couple from Illinois who enjoy summers near Geneva stopped to tell me how much they enjoy Geneva Public Library. They love visiting here in the summer and miss the Geneva Library when they return to Illinois.
~ *Jim, Outreach Services*

As I arrived outside the location for a mobile storytime, I could hear my participants indoors calling my name. That made my whole day!
~ *Tina, Youth Services Coordinator, Geneva*

A patron expressed appreciation for the beautiful Geneva Library building and our friendly, helpful staff. They couldn't thank us enough for what we do.
~ *Jim, Outreach Services*

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A customer new to the Geneva area told me, “Congratulations on being #1 library! This is the best one I’ve ever been to!”

~ Codi, Public Services Coordinator, Geneva

A customer stopped me to express his gratitude for the changing station in our men’s restroom. He shared that most places do not think to have one in their men’s restrooms, and he really appreciates that amenity!

~ Codi, Public Services Coordinator, Geneva

One of our new Geneva students told us they feel really safe in our building, and they really like our staff. They mentioned sometimes having a hard time at school, but they love the library.

~ Codi, Public Services Coordinator, Geneva

“The library is the mostest funnest place ever!”

~ 6-year-old Chloe from the Stars & Popcorn movie event

PUBLIC SERVICE


- Ashtabula Library and Geneva Library both served as polling places for the August primary election.
- 133 documents were notarized at the Ashtabula Library in August. An additional 13 notary appointments were facilitated at the Geneva Library.
- COVID test demand was steady in August. The Ashtabula Front Desk distributed 192 tests. Geneva Library distributed 92.
- Ashtabula distributed 15 gun safety locks in August.
- Geneva Library hosted an *Open House for Students and Families* during the week ahead of the new school year. About 50 visitors stopped by to learn about library resources that can help to support educational success for all types of students. Highlighted resources included: Peterson’s Test & Career Prep, Explora, InfOhio, and Transparent Language. The library also connected students and families with a free keyboarding resource called TypeTastic! which helps K-12 students build strong keyboarding skills through interactive games and exercises.
- Our Technology Dept. installed Xbox Series X consoles at both locations with Xbox Gamepass Ultimate. This is a significant update to our gaming capabilities for the system.
- Codi completed 15 Tech Help appointments with Geneva patrons. Sessions included help with photo & file organization, website creation, email etiquette, and assistance with learning how to use online sales sites such as Etsy.
- Ashtabula collections highlighted in displays this month included: Back-To-School; Staff Picks; Books to Movies; National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and National Sewing Month. Youth Services created a non-fiction juvenile display (focusing mostly on biology) entitled “I Didn’t Know That!”

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- The community organizations that used the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Room, Ashtabula Foundation Room and other spaces in the Ashtabula library in August included: Ashtabula County Board of Elections, NEO Fund, Catholic Charities, LEADERship of Ashtabula County, Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LGBTQ Coalition, Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Second Chance Citizen's Circle, Woman's Fortnightly Club, Edgewood High School Reunion Committee, Ashtabula County Time Banking, Youngstown Business Incubator, Building Resiliency Together, Berkshire Hathaway Group, Growth Partnership, Ashtabula Lighthouse, Lenape Native Path, Ashtabula County Alzheimer's Association, Sexual Assault Response Team, League of Women Voters, Ashtabula High School Alumni Association, Lion's Club, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, Ashtabula County Animal Protection League, HOLA Ohio, Society of Human Resource Management, Art Group, Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, Peloris Group, Community Counseling Center and the Ashtabula County District Library Foundation.
- Geneva Library served as a meeting space for organizations including: Kiwanis Club of Geneva, Geneva Rotary Club, Buckeye Online School for Success, Geneva Academic Boosters, Geneva Community Gardeners, and the Geneva Camera Club. A total of 15 meetings were held inside the building, and 4 meetings utilized the Geneva Library gazebo.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive Room averaged about 27 in-person researchers each week in August, many of whom were from out of state. States represented this month were: Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, and three separate researchers from Florida.
- The Edith R. Morrison & Mary W. Morrison Genealogy and Archive has received as a donation a framed diploma from 1904 from the New Lyme Institute. The diploma recipient, George Porter Dodge, was a lifelong Colebrook resident. We believe the diploma is printed on sheepskin. Plans are in place to have it properly framed and hung.
- We have, once again, been approached by the Italian Citizenship Assistance group to assist with a person who is trying to obtain dual citizenship. We have provided a copy of a document that is on microfilm. Carrie is working to locate the original naturalization paperwork as this time the original is not in our possession.
- The Elmira (Wheeler) Shidler's diaries that cover the years 1877-1947 have been prepped & uploaded to ContentDM and will be available on our Ashtabula Memory page soon. (Big thanks to Rebecca for assisting with the PDF conversions!)
- Students and staff at Lakeside HS are showing great interest in borrowing materials from the Media Center. We loaned out our very first materials to a student looking for a book for a book report.
- The work of reopening the Media Center at Lakeside High School has focused on performing an inventory of materials, and making certain that everything that is on our



shelves is ready to check out. Penny, Mike, and Alecia put forth a great effort to do the inventory, weeding, and basic cataloging of all materials. Dwight is very pleased with the progress, and thankful for the excellent support in his new position as Branch Manager of Lakeside H.S. Library.

- An ESL teacher at Lakeside approached Dwight for a book for a native Spanish-speaking student. A copy of *El Mar De Los Monstruos* (The Sea of Monsters) by Rick Riordan was secured, which was the Spanish language version of the assigned classroom text.
- The Bookmobile continues to visit regular community stops in Ashtabula, Harpersfield, Footville, and Austinburg. Nearly 150 patrons accessed materials via the Bookmobile in the month of August. Staff look forward to the addition of a new community stop in Dorset to begin in September.
- Jim completed 28 homebound stops resulting in more than 230 circulated items, and he completed 16 Express Delivery stops. He was also able to place 220 items into Bookdrop locations throughout the ACDL service area.
- Austin created book displays in Geneva that highlighted International Cat Day, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and Back to School Resources for Students. Cindi also created a book display to highlight the upcoming Grape Jamboree.
- Local artist Chad Davis created a vibrant gallery of splatter paint canvases to display in the Geneva Library lobby. Davis uses combinations of paints that cause colors to “pop” against their contrasting backgrounds.
- Geneva Library staff made adjustments to several areas of the collection with the intent to better showcase certain types of materials. Biographies have been moved to the area near the west fireplace, and New Items have been moved to shelving much closer to the front desk and entrance area. The “Library of Things”, which includes musical instruments and memory kits, has been moved to shelving along the main corridor, and materials in the Teen Area have been rearranged to better facilitate browsing and display.
- The Geneva Branch Manager office has been relocated back to the staff work area in order to allow the Mary Louise Legeza Room to be made available once again as a quiet reading area and supplemental meeting space.
- Justice Binette joined the Public Services team at the Geneva Library. He brings a passion for music and books, a curious mind, and a patient demeanor.


PROGRAMMING

- Sybil created back-to-school coloring sheets as a passive program in Ashtabula. The front desk distributed 245 of the packets!
- Ric's *Tech Tuesdays* in Ashtabula served 12 patrons this month. Most patrons need help using their small devices and setting up email accounts. Ric taught one patron how to use some of the features on his Samsung laptop. He showed him the electronic resources that the library has to offer such as Hoopla, Ohio Digital Library, and Kanopy. After seeing all

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of the great services we offer, the patron decided to get a library card so that he could use these online resources.

- Dwight held an inaugural *Tech One-on-One* session at the Ashtabula Senior Center and helped ½ dozen people (mostly with their cell phones). Additionally, a patron at the Information Desk was quite frustrated with her phone. She was completely unfamiliar with how to use the “dialer” function to call people “the old fashioned way” or even how to call 911 in an emergency. She was quite relieved to receive Dwight’s tutorial on the process.
- Ashtabula storytimes celebrated themes Rain, Blue and Forests in August. Many of our regular attendees started pre-school/school and Head Start by the close of the month, but Melissa has already met new parents and kiddos, who have already established a pattern of regular attendance at Friday morning storytimes.
- Fifty movie-lovers joined us to watch *Encanto* on the south lawn of the Ashtabula Library during our outdoor movie event on August 5.
- Stephen and Tina provided mobile storytimes for several Geneva-area day programs including ViaQuest Adult Day Program, Loving Cup Kids Academy, and Carol’s Corner Childcare. Participants at each location enjoyed a selection of seasonal stories and sing-along songs.
- Members of the *Cookbook Club* shared hot wings, Wiener schnitzel, and a simple no-bake cheesecake. These items were all made by members of the group from the recipes in the book “Simple and Delicious” by Gordon Ramsey, which they discussed with Dwight.
- The *Ashtabula Book Discussion Group* discussed the themes of how vulnerable we can be to stalking and manipulation in our hyper-connected digital age. “You” by Caroline Kepnes is the story of a sociopath who runs a bookstore and how Joe Goldberg removes all obstacles to his love, including her best friends. This was a very popular book as eight people joined Dwight for our largest book discussion yet.
- The Geneva session of the *ACDL Book Group* discussed “The Curious Case of the Dog in the Night Time” by Mark Haddon. Dwight selected this book about a young man on the autism spectrum who investigates the mysterious death of his neighbor’s dog, Wellington. Regulars of the group had an engaging discussion on autism, divorce, and London, which all feature heavily in this clever book.
- The Influenza Pandemic of 1919 raged through Ireland near the end of The Great War. Julia is a midwife who is severely understaffed as she helps women deliver their children and with luck they will survive this new and mysterious disease as well. Dwight facilitated a discussion with members of the *Senior Center Book Group* who enjoyed the historical novel, “The Pull of the Stars” by Emma Donoghue.
- The *ACDL Writers’ Group* hosted members via Zoom. Cindy is a relatively new member and she was very happy for the feedback on her piece about a prison riot. She was concerned that the writing was very flat and lifeless. The members discussed the techniques

to weave dialog into exposition, which forced the characters to do the storytelling rather than the narrator.

- The new school year is off to a great start. Geneva Library has had an average of 76 student visitors each day after school. Students received an introduction to the library where staff discussed our after school programs and outlined the ways that students can positively interact with the library space. Students have expressed great interest in the after school *Video Gaming Club*, *Stir It Up* cooking program, and *Gadgets, Gizmos & Games* program.
- Carrie and the Genealogical Society hosted a program by Sunny Morton entitled, *Help! There's No Class on Researching My Ancestral Homeland*. Nine people attended in person & twelve online via Zoom.
- Lauren's *DIY* program participants created felt cord organizers using a variety of solid and patterned felt pieces. Participants also used scrap felt material to create and embellish bookmarks.
- ACDL hosted a final virtual field trip to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Viewers in our buildings and logging in from home had a chance to see and learn about freshwater creatures who live at the aquarium.
- *Summer Reading Edventure* ended on August 6. We had a busy, fun and interactive year, and saw new registrations in every category every week throughout the summer!

Category	Unique Registrations
Grade K - 2	98
Grade 3 - 5	112
Grade 6 - 8	97
Grade 9 - 12	44
Caregiver & Me	45
Adult	118
Total	514


* There were 514 unique registrations for *Summer Reading Edventure*. As with last year, it was not possible to get a complete total on the number of participants in each *Caregiver and Me* group—but each group consisted of *at least* 1 person 18+ and 1 person under 18, for a minimum total of 90 persons participating in the category.

As such, we had *at least* 559 persons taking part in the ACDL Summer Reading Edventure 2022.

- Geneva Library celebrated the conclusion of the *Summer Reading Edventure* by hosting a children's luau. Children learned to hula dance, created leis, and learned to play a song on the ukulele.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

- AACS Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, RoLesia Holman introduced Melissa to the new assistant superintendent for AACS, Dr. Kelly Washington during a luncheon and training session held at the Ashtabula Library. Dr. Washington had Melissa give an impromptu session to the new educators about the library, its resources, and what services are available to them.
- Melissa and Ryan attended Ashtabula Area City School's *Dragon Bash* and met with all ages of students to share info and handouts about library cards, digital offerings, and "in person" schedules of events. We gave out lots of swag and many free books, and visitors made clothespin dragons!
- Jim and Ryan attended Buckeye Local Schools' *Back to School Event* and met with all-ages of students to share info and handouts about library cards, digital offerings, and "in person" schedules of events. Free books and swag were distributed to excited students and their parents.
- Lauren and Ryan attended Youth Opportunities! Anniversary Celebration and shared information on ACDL events, and information on getting cards for digital and/or physical materials borrowing. We shared free books and swag!
- Penny and Ryan hosted a vendor table at Austinburg Country Days, where we shared free books, swag and info on events, and met with several local families, encouraging them to visit us remotely or in-person. Penny drove the van in the Saturday parade, and volunteer members of Geneva's TAG walked along passing out candy.
- Geneva Library and the City of Geneva partnered to offer this summer's final *Movie Under the Stars* event. The August film, *Finding Nemo*, was shown indoors at the Geneva Library as a result of rainy weather. Participants were treated to popcorn and hot dogs.
- Lauren attended an August meeting of the Dorset Township Trustees. She presented information about available services including Home Delivery, Hotspot Lending, and the Bookmobile. Trustees agreed to allow the Bookmobile to utilize the Dorset Community Center as a Bookmobile stop beginning in September.
- Mike attended meetings in his capacity as Secretary of the Ashtabula Lions Club. He continues to assist the club with their website, marketing, and social media.
- Mike attended board and community meetings as a member of the LGBTQ+ Coalition Board. He has been assigned to chair the policy committee of that board, tasked to develop a policy handbook for that board.
- Penny and Mike represented the Library at the United Way LIVE UNITED Luncheon.

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- Mike represented ACDL at the August meeting of the Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula partners.
 - Carrie and Lauren attended the Master Penman, Michael Sull / Platt R Spencer portrait dedication to the courthouse in Jefferson.
 - Internal Marketing related to the 2022 Levy launched with the introduction of the 2022 Levy website and video in August.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- We gained 26 likes and 45 new followers on Facebook and five new followers on Instagram.
 - The most far reaching post was the open job position, followed by the Seed Saving program.
 - The most reactions were garnered by the photo of Phil Hayes receiving the proclamation of gratitude for the Friends of the Ashtabula Library.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Lyn and Ryan attended a webinar titled, *Harassment in the Library*, presented by NEO-RLS.
- Hayley, Hannah, and Myah all attended the webinar, *Sexual Harassment: How to Respond to a Customer's Inappropriate Comments* presented by Ryan Dowd.
- Ryan attended an online webinar about Administration / Staff relationships hosted by VORYS.
- Dwight attended a webinar titled *Patron Response Framework: Responding with Empathy, Kindness, and Love to Difficult Situations* presented by NEO-RLS.

VOLUNTEERS / LIBRARY FRIENDS

- Geneva volunteers assisted with shelving and helped library staff at the Austinburg Country Days parade by passing out candy.
- Friends of Geneva Library held a brief meeting to follow up on proceeds from their book sale table at the Geneva Sidewalk Sale in July. Members look forward to their upcoming October book sale and Christmas tree & wreath sale.
- Ashtabula volunteer Sheila assisted the front desk with maintaining the fiction collection by facing, shelving, and shelf reading our collection. She helped Alecia with relabeling books. She also helped prep our seasonal and holiday cut outs for decorations. She cleaned DVDs, music CDs, and books on CD, and assisted Melissa with various small tasks in the children's area.
- Ashtabula volunteer, Phoebe, has really dug her feet into shelf-reading juvenile nonfiction this month. It is a long and tedious process but her hard work has already made a huge difference.



- Volunteers in Archives/Genealogy continue on their projects:
 - Char L. covers the room Wednesday mornings for Carrie and continues to sleeve & catalog our photo collection and work on organizing our Family Vertical Files. She's also been helping with the scanning of yearbooks.
 - Kelsi J. is prepping recently scanned yearbooks for upload to Ashtabula Memory.
 - Paula R. helps scan the photograph collection.
 - Duane B. staffs the room on Saturdays when Carrie is not here.
 - Marilyn S. works from home & she extracts & then enters information from the Gazette and Star Beacon into the RB Hayes Obituary index. She also takes the information from the obituary binders that Carrie creates and enters that into the obituary index.
 - Tom M. works from home & proofs the obituary notebooks that Carrie creates.
 - Carol H., our contract employee, continues to add metadata for the 5th box of historical photographs and the Elmira Wheeler-Shidler Diaries.

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