



Main Library

Recent Foundation campaigns have helped the library system with the explosion in the demand for e-Books. These funds have helped decrease waiting time for popular titles that have been placed on hold. As a direct result, we saw our highest ever digital circulation numbers. The library's fiscal year 2023 (July 22 – June 23) saw 59,846 digital items borrowed by our customers. The first half of fiscal year 2024 (July 2-Dec 23) had 29,927 digital loans or downloads. We are now having months where the digital loans are greater in number than all items checked out at Wilderness Branch or Gordonsville Branch.

At the Main Library I purchased e-Books of bestsellers from Tessa Bailey, David Baldacci, C.J. Box, Susan Mallery, Nora Roberts, John Sanford, Ruth Ware, Rebecca Yarros and many more. I updated print items about computers, grief, self-help, crafting, baking, mental health, gardening, and fitness.

Print circulation is also improving as we continue to bounce back from COVID. At the Main Library, I used the Foundation funds to replace worn large print books and update some outdated items in the adult non-fiction collection. As our world speeds up, the demand for our book collections to be current has increased. People have never wanted to use a 10-year-old book for anything medical or legal, but now that is extending into crafts, home decorating, and history. Our state funding for books is good but it doesn't cover updating materials, so we must be selective. We are also seeing our buying power erode as the prices of new books climb. I cannot overstate how much difference the extra funds the Orange County Library Foundation make in our ability to provide solid and engaging collections for our community to use.

Katie Hill
Library Director

Gordonsville Branch

E-Books are the fastest growing collection in the Orange County Library System. Bestsellers are usually available through our consortium, so I like to use the Foundation funds in that collection to add titles that aren't bestsellers, but which are critically acclaimed, enthusiastically reviewed, or just plain fun. Some of the new e-Book titles include: *Between Two Strangers: A Novel of Suspense*, *The Blade Itself*, *Death Comes to Marlow: A Novel*, *The Drowning Woman*, *Good Omens*, *Hard Dough Homicide*, *A House With Good Bones*, *Immortal Longings*, *The Lost English Girl*, *Silver Nitrate*, *This Bird Has Flown* and *The Paris Agent*.

I have also taken the opportunity to add some nonfiction to our Large Print collection, as well as refresh and update regular adult nonfiction. It is important to keep the collection current to meet our patrons' needs, as well as keeping it diverse to address the wide array of interests in our community. A sampling of the new Large Print and nonfiction titles include: *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, *Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA and Changed the Future of Espionage*, *Me, Gemstones of the World*, *The Way Out: a Revolutionary, Scientifically Proven Approach to Healing Chronic Pain*, *Peterson Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs of Eastern and Central North America*, *The Beginner's Guide to Raising Chickens*; *How to Raise a Happy Backyard Flock*, *Parrots for Dummies*, and *The Complete Fishing Manual*.

Patricia Keister
Gordonsville Branch Manager

Wilderness Branch

The Wilderness Branch Library continues to be a destination for our community! We love seeing new people discover our library and come in to get a library card – whether it's their first ever library card or just their first one with our library.

This year, we used most of the campaign funds to continue to build and grow our digital collections. E-Books and e-audiobooks are now an extremely popular collection that we offer at our library, and we have many patrons who really enjoy having materials to read or listen to available any time they wish.

Many people, of course, want to stop by our branch and browse our print collections and interact with staff and others in the community. Some of this year's campaign funds were spent on revitalizing our biography and memoir and large print nonfiction collections. There is always something to learn and appreciate from reading about history and the lives of others.

A sampling of our new biography and memoir titles include: *All My Knotted-up Life: a Memoir* by Beth Moore; *Elizabeth Taylor: the Grit & Glamour of an Icon* by Kate Brower; *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age* by Debby Applegate; *Mystery of Mysteries: the Death and Life of Edgar Allan Poe* by Mark Dawidziak; *The Watchmaker's Daughter: The True Story of World War II Heroine Corrie Ten Boom* by Larry Loftis; and *Feral: Losing Myself and Finding My Way in America's Wilderness* by Emily Pennington.

New additions to our large print history collection include: *Countdown 1945 The Extraordinary Story of the 116 Days That Changed the World* by Chris Wallace; *The Vagabonds The Story of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison's Ten-Year Road Trip* by Jeff Guinn; *Gentleman Bandit: the True Story of Black Bart, the Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber* by John Boessenecker; *The President and the Freedom Fighter: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Their Battle to Save America's Soul* by Brian Kilmeade; and *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore.

The library aspires to be the place everyone comes to connect with each other and to find joy in the discovery of new things. The continued generosity and support of Library Foundation donors is why the library can be such a place.

Michele Beamer
Wilderness Branch Librarian



Playaway device

Youth Services Coordinator

Thanks to the generosity of the Library Foundation fundraising campaign, Youth Services was able to add a wide variety of e-resources to be used by our teens and juvenile patrons. The e-resources focus of previous campaigns was especially timely, given that usage continues to soar. More of our patrons have discovered the benefits of easy access to great children's books not only for the enjoyment of reading, but for literacy and education goals as well. From picture books for our youngest patrons, chapter books for children, and manga (comics or graphic novels origination from Japan) for young adults, we strive to have something for every kid.

As the Youth Services Coordinator for Orange County, I am grateful for the support of the Library Foundation in this pursuit. Working together we can make a significant difference for the youth in our area.

Michelle Pursel
Youth Services Coordinator

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