

March 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	16,763	18,059	8,792	5,621	15,811	269
Visitors	12,360	5,923	2,851	4,634	5,473	114
Computer Sessions	58,165	12,339	31,525	13,190	13,761	3,788
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	100	N/A	283	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 11 Attendance: 71	Events: 17 Attendance: 336	Events: 15 Attendance: 133	Events: Attendance:	Events: 10 Attendance: 254	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled checkouts or sessions 17,028
- Patrons used study rooms 443 times
- Staff performed 37 notary services
- in person and virtual Reference questions were answered
- 39 volunteers donated 139 hours of service
- Staff completed 34 requests for 3D printed items
- 571 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 134 registered for eCards
- 7,717 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 234 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,475 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 15,024, accounting for 23% of checkout interactions
- Total circulation for March was 89,802

Highlights

In-Person Programming

The Osceola Library System resumed limited in-person programming in March. Rhythm, Rhyme, & Storytime debuted at the West Osceola and BVL Libraries with caps on attendance based on room size. An afternoon homeschool program also debuted at the St. Cloud Library. All programs were very well received, so much so that we had to add second programs either right after or on a following day to accommodate all who were interested. Staff were excited to see our littlest patrons back in the Library! These in person programs were accompanied by the Osceola School District's READ Bus which paid visits to most of the Libraries and is equipped with a scaled-down Pre-K classroom to engage preschoolers, toddlers, and their grownups with early literacy activities.

Book Bundles

As a fun way to encourage checkouts, Osceola Library System staff developed themed Book Bundles. The bundles consist of 5-6 items tied up and displayed creatively with props and cards announcing the theme. The bundles have proved to be a popular way to move larger numbers of books, an easy way for patrons to grab and go items of interest, and an excellent creative outlet for staff to flex their readers' advisory muscle. Topics explore adult themes (Book/movie combos, "Learn Something New!", or Staycation), teen interests (Marvel/DC or "Explore Your Backyard!") and of course, kid-centric subjects (123s, Outer Space, Fairy Tales, etc.).

In addition to grab-and-go bundles for adults and kids, the Library developed a program to encourage participation in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative. This initiative improves early literacy skills and creates a strong family bond over the shared joy of reading. In the online catalog, there are records for the type of books that align with their appropriate age level – Board books for pre-readers, Easy or Picture books for sharing with a grownup, and Beginner books for kids just starting to read on their own. When a hold is placed for a particular type of book, knowledgeable staff will pull together a fun and interesting assortment of titles, place the titles on hold and then the patron can pick up the items when they receive the notice they're ready. Once a child has read 1000 books, they can place their handprint on our Trees of Literacy hanging in the Libraries.

VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Tax Day was postponed this year until May 15, which was good news for those who needed a little extra time. Also good news was the availability of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at the Hart Memorial Library taking appointments on Wednesday and Saturdays through April to provide valuable free tax assistance in English and Spanish, which is especially beneficial this year with many assistance programs to navigate.

Gallery



March brought the return of in-person programming at the Libraries. Kiddos got to see their favorite Youth Team for in person Rhythm, Rhyme, & Storytimes (**ABOVE-LEFT**) and homeschoolers practiced STEAM activities at the St. Cloud Library in our Homeschool Libratory program (**ABOVE-RIGHT**).



We implemented a new program where our online catalog now includes records of book types by age group.

When a parent or child places a hold on a particular type of book, our staff gathers an assortment of titles that would best fit the request. **This new program was created to support the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative,** and to help families find the books needed for their child to reach their goal and get their handprint on our Tree of Literacy (**LEFT**).



Book bundles are now available at the Libraries!

Perfect for finding new authors or interests on the go, staff have gathered titles together that share a common theme to create Kids Book Bundles (**LEFT**) and Adult Book Bundles (**BELOW**).

The Book Bundles have been very popular already and are a great way for patrons to find more of what they'd love.

