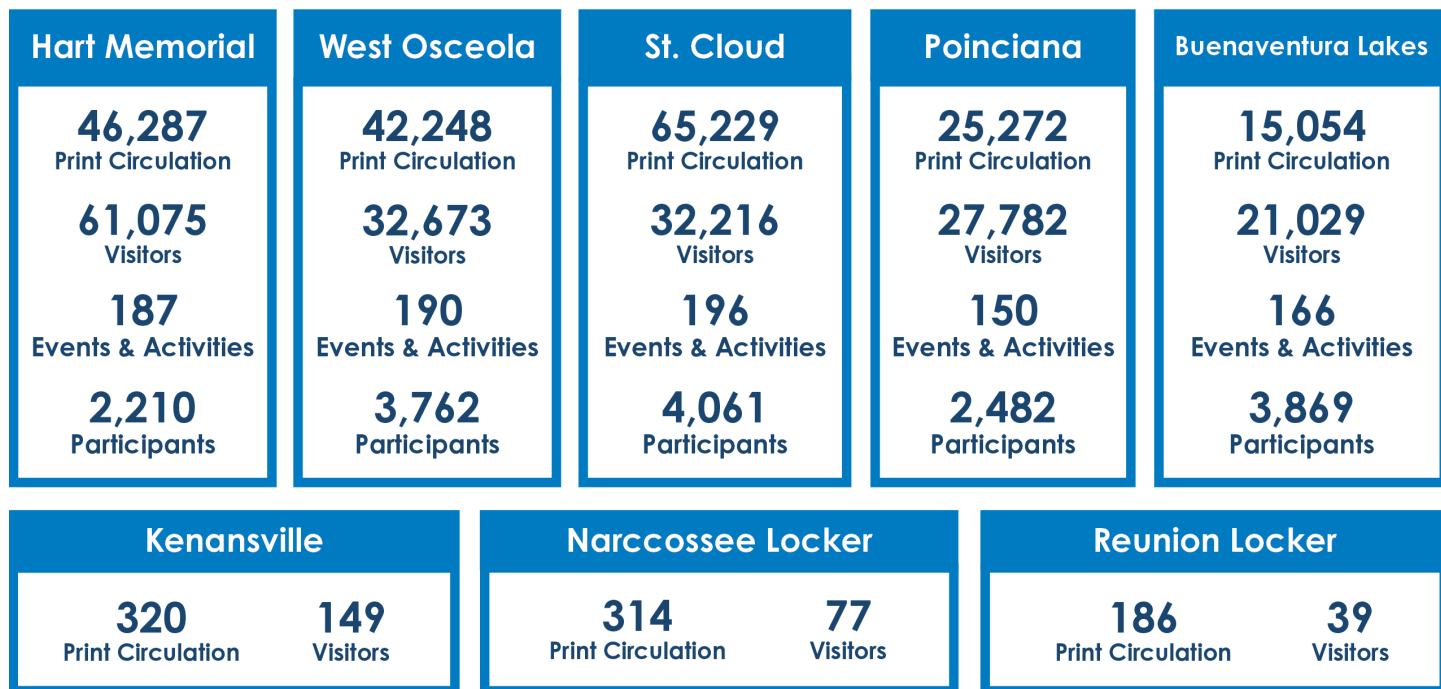
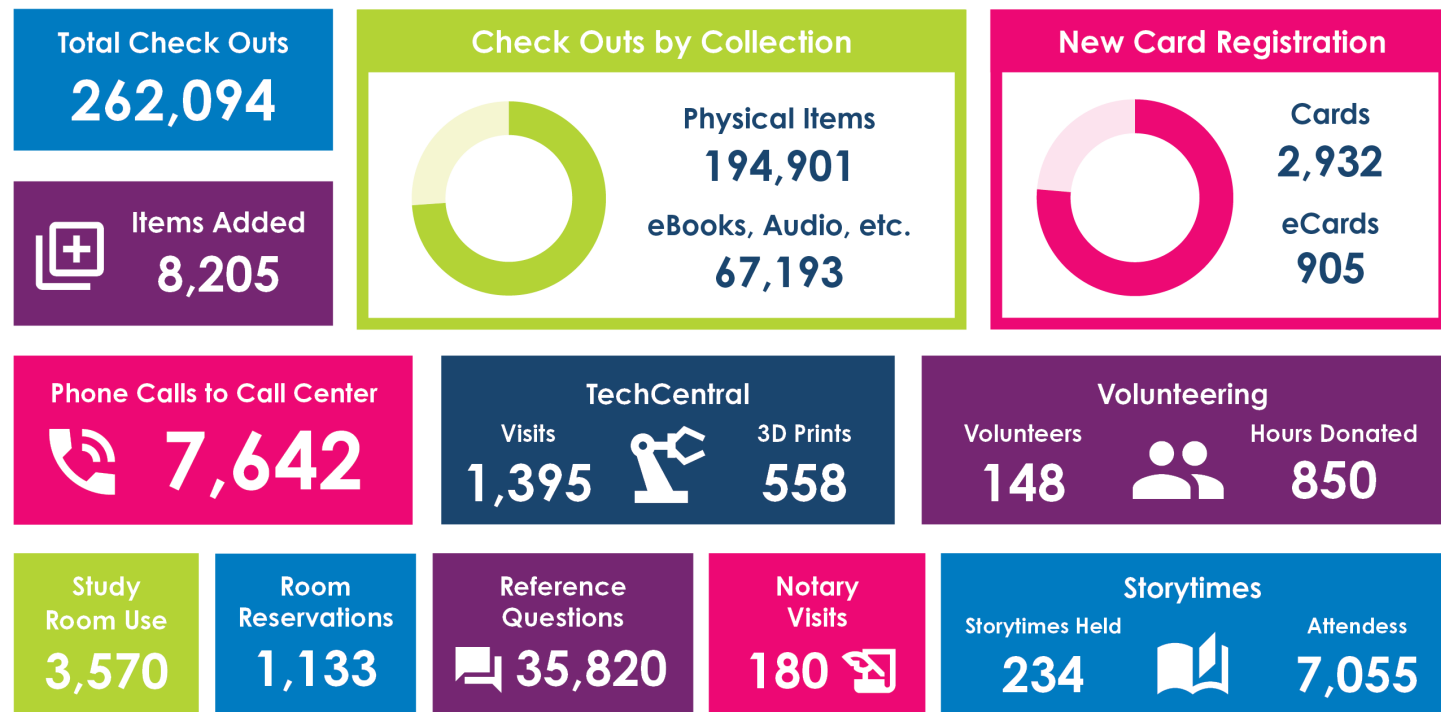


## Quarterly Report FY 2025 | Q2: January – March 2025



## System Stats at a Glance



## Programming Highlights

### ***LitMag: The Osceola Literary Magazine* | Jan – Mar | Systemwide**

This year's edition of the Literary Magazine for kids ages 8 to 17 was the most successful in years. 52 entries were submitted, reflecting the theme, "Gone Missing," which explored the idea of something or someone vanishing and the impact it can have. 10 of the entries were artworks, and 42 were poems and short stories.

Six illustrations, six poems, and 9 short stories were selected by a panel of local authors and published in a glossy magazine available at all libraries and made available digitally on Biblioboard, the Library's digital publishing platform.

76 people attended the *LitMag* reception to celebrate the winners and contributors and enjoyed live readings by the young authors. *LitMag* is a brilliant way to engage our young, creative, and talented writers and artists and give them a platform to share with the community.

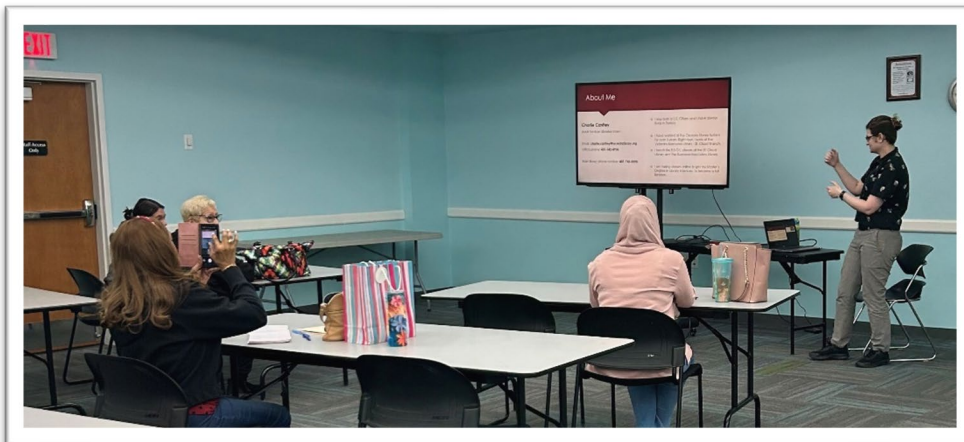


### **Citizenship classes**

**| Jan – ongoing |  
Hart Memorial**

Citizenship classes have returned to the Hart Memorial Library. Every Tuesday starting at 5:30 pm, students gather to spend an hour learning about United States history and civics to prepare for

the United States Citizenship exam. An instructor offers lessons in how to ace the interview, and the group class structure provides support for the personal journey. Since launching in January, 70 people have attended the Library's Citizenship classes.



### **Bingo for Books | Jan – ongoing | West Osceola**



The West Osceola Library is the place to be for a fun evening of games and book prizes. The Bingo for Books program is a staple at several libraries but has exploded in popularity at the West Osceola Library.

From teens to Disney College Program workers to seniors, the

Multipurpose Room at the Celebration library is bursting at the seams on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm with everyone eager for a little good-natured competition and book knowledge tests. These types of simple yet effective programs help to build community and create connections while reinforcing literacy and learning. 134 people have so far this calendar year, with each session averaging 45 people.

### **Tax Help | Feb – Mar | Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial**

Through robust partnerships with VITA and AARP, the Library offered weekly tax assistance at two Osceola libraries extending through Tax Day.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is run by volunteers who help those making \$60,000 or less file their federal income tax returns for free. They provided one-on-one assistance to 320 people at the BVL and 155 people Hart Memorial Libraries through April.

The AARP's IRS-trained volunteers also offered tax filing assistance. While focusing on seniors and lower-income families, tax prep services were available to all through weekly appointments at the Hart Memorial Library, where 187 people were assisted.

### **Be My Neighbor Day | Feb | Hart Memorial and Buenaventura Lakes**

In partnership with local PBS affiliate WUCF, the Library hosted Be My Neighbor Day, a month-long event that

promotes community service and kindness. On February 1, families gathered at the Hart Memorial Library for storytime, met Daniel Tiger, and packed 100 comfort care kits for families and donated to the Children's Advocacy Center of Osceola.

On February 8, the Buenaventura Lakes Library hosted storytime and led a family activity of making friendship bracelets. 337 people attended both programs.

The Osceola Library System is partnered with WUCF-PBS for the Ready to Learn grant from the US Department of Education and has hosted several events that reinforce the Library as a community learning hub for high-quality literacy engagement.





### **Paint-N-Swap | Jan | St. Cloud**

This after-hours art program was a night for family fun. Each person received a canvas and a prompt for an idea of the painting subject. Fifteen minutes in, a call to swap paintings with friends and family came, with hilarious and creative results. 26 people attended.

Hosting after-hours events is a great way to be flexible and accommodate library patrons of all ages, introducing them to the types of programs available and encouraging library participation and support.

### **CSI Spring Break | March | Buenaventura Lakes**

Solving crime has never been this fun! During spring break, tweens and kids practiced their sleuthing skills with a different forensic science topic each day. Through hands-on experiments with fingerprints, blood spatter analysis, and biological and chemical reactions, plus a visit with real-life forensic scientists at the Osceola Sheriff's Department, kids learned how to use their critical thinking skills and scientific training to crack the case. This innovative program brought nearly 100 kids into the library for STEAM activities.



### **Herstory Tea | March | St. Cloud**

Through a partnership with the Women's Club of St. Cloud, famous women from local history are brought to life in this presentation. 62 attendees sipped tea and chatted with each engaging actor. Famous women represented included Helen Strait, a St. Cloud civic leader who shaped the development of St. Cloud by writing property deeds for veterans, and Mary George, the first president of the St. Cloud Ladies Improvement Club and eventual developer of the first dedicated library building in St. Cloud.



### **Conversational Spanish | Jan – ongoing | Poinciana**

While the Library has provided ongoing Spanish for Beginners classes and makes language learning available through online databases, there's no substitute for immersive conversation experiences for language learning. The Poinciana Library introduced Conversational Spanish, allowing participants to "show what they know" in a supportive environment. Led by a native Spanish-speaking staff member, the group meets monthly, and classes average 5-7 people.

### **New Services and Resources**



**LOTE4Kids:** An online database of children's eBooks and audiobooks in many world languages, including ASL, French Creole, and Spanish. Also includes comprehension quizzes and learning activities.

**ASL added to Mango Languages:** A new module was added to Mango Languages to teach American Sign Language through grammar, fingerspelling, rules, a special course for Librarians, and the use of a "magic mirror" to model and practice.

**ScholasticTeachables:** Contains over 30,000 printable educational resources created by teachers and available by levels and audience, such as homeschoolers, PreK to grade 6, and Summer Stay-On-Track Packs.

## Stories of Impact

### Kids-Lib Mini-Con and Off the Hook at the BVL Library:

Youth Librarian Rachel Morrison was selected to present at the Kids-Lib Mini-Con conference held in Ocala, FL. The conference featured presentations and workshops focusing on children under 13 and their families. Rachel presented about Off the Hook, her weekend crafting program teaching school-age children how to crochet, which has been so popular that she offers two sessions to ensure everyone gets the attention they need when learning this fun and fulfilling hobby.

Rachel notes the class is filled with stories of self-discovery and personal development for all ages:

*Two patrons in the morning class showed me pictures of things they've crocheted outside of the class. Neither had ever tried crocheting before joining the class, and both mentioned how addictive it is and how much they enjoyed it. They wanted to share with me to thank me for offering the class and welcoming parents along with their kids.*

### Customer service at the St. Cloud Library:

*A patron stopped in my office this morning to offer gratitude for the service that she received at the library. She stated that there are not a lot of places you can visit in today's world and receive genuine, exceptional service, and she said that she always receives it at our library. She wanted to be sure that it was noted that Brenda and Matthew were a great help and that they are a benefit to the library.*

- Michelle Mosely, Adult Programming Coordinator

### Flex Your Fingers at the West Osceola Library:

*A patron who brought their grandchild to the Flex Your Fingers program (and comes to the library nearly every day of the week) was emphasizing how important the library has been to her and her family. The grandchild loves to be surrounded by books and read to them, and the older sister is doing so well in school. This patron insisted that the library has been the foundation of that academic success and the love of reading that it has instilled in both kids.*

- Ashleigh Bachmann, Youth Services Librarian Intern