



PETERS TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Peters Township Public Library
616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317
www.ptlibrary.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2023 was a wildly successful year for the library, thanks to our extraordinary team of staff, board members, volunteers, and Foundation members. We continued to grow and update our programs, resources, and services to meet the needs of the Peters Township community.

Thanks to our programming team, we increased program attendance by 17% in 2023, and we offered 40 additional programs in the spring with funding from an NEA Big Read grant. The Youth Services Department’s outreach came back full swing this year, making 25 visits to local preschools, daycares, and classrooms. The Circulation and Tech Services teams continued to do a wonderful job of getting books and materials into the hands of our patrons, and we remained the highest circulating library in Washington County in 2023. More than 800 people watched local history programs produced by the PTPL Archives, and although we’re sad to see Margaret Deitzer retire after 25 years of service to the library, we’re excited to see what the future holds for the Archives.

Our partnerships with volunteers, the Library Board, Foundation, and the Township have remained crucial in sustaining the library as an outstanding community asset. We have lots of new and exciting changes on the horizon for 2024, so please visit ptlib.org/news to stay up to date with our weekly newsletters.

Lacey Love
Library Director



Tie Dye



Upcycled Tote Bags



Bower Hill Read-A-Thon

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY

2023 Library Staff

Lacey Love, Library Director
Illyanna Logan, Assistant Library Director
Katie Marchand, Administrative Assistant
Carrie Weaver, PR Coordinator
Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator
Dani Mizia, Adult Services Technician
Margaret Deitzer, Local History Librarian
Stephanie Shultz, Reference Assistant
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian
Patty Hartenbach, Youth Services Technician
Beth May, Youth Services Technician
Mary Kipling, Head of Cataloging
Nancy Lojek, Cataloging Assistant
Dianne Finnegan, Patron Services Coordinator
Sue Andrewson, Library Assistant
Karen Goldstein, Library Assistant
Carol Johnson, Library Assistant
Jamie Mack, Library Assistant
Victoriya McKay, Library Assistant
Roz Rider, Library Assistant
John Masilunas, Library Assistant
Anne-Marie Shaw, Library Assistant
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance
Sydney Gisoni, Page
Matthew Pollock, Page
Anna Stephenson, Page



Board of Directors

Ian W. Parker, Chair
Scott Beinhauer, Vice Chair
Yvonne Weaver, Treasurer
Beth Markocic, Secretary
Lauren Cantwell
Lara Clarke
Rachel Gogos Kartofilis
Stephan Shepard



THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the library with financial and volunteer support. The Foundation raises funds to fill in the gaps for projects that are beyond the library's normal operating budget. Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who made gifts to the Foundation in 2023 through the annual mailer, honor and memorial gifts, Novel November ads and sponsorships, and the WCCF Day of Giving.



The Foundation generously funded and supported a wide variety of library projects in 2023, including:

- ◆ Digitization of historic Peters Township newspapers
- ◆ Three new public computers
- ◆ New Makerspace technology, including iPads, Cricut machines, 3D printer, sewing machine, and embroidery machine
- ◆ Additional fiction shelving
- ◆ Home delivery for patrons with mobility challenges

Our annual Novel November event brings a nationally known author to our community for an evening of conversation. In 2023, nearly 400 people joined us in welcoming best-selling author V.E. Schwab. We are excited to announce that this year we will host Patrick Radden Keefe, the author of *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* on November 7th, 2024.

Visit ptlib.org/patrickraddenkeefe to be notified when tickets go on sale.



2023 Foundation Board

Maura Kelly, President Shar Campano, Vice-President Marji Dickson, Treasurer Diane Lioon, Secretary
 Sue Freyder Kathleen Gallant Meghan Greenwood Linda Hlavinka
 Maggie McCauley Kay McEvoy Matt Siconolfi

READ LOCAL EAT LOCAL 2023

The greater Pittsburgh area is home to many talented authors and illustrators, and we are proud to continue to support them through our Read Local Eat Local author showcase. Since its inception in 2018, Read Local Eat Local has featured local writers, illustrators, and food trucks in a unique festival. Our 4th RLEL on September 9, 2023 welcomed over 350 individuals who visited the 22 local authors and three food trucks.

As guests arrived, they received a reusable tote bag, info about the authors, and a passport sheet to stamp for chances to win a prize basket donated by local businesses. The Foundation and the Library Board had members present to meet guests and talk about their work. There were plenty of activities for children, including crafts, balloon art, and face painting. This showcase allows authors to share new and unique titles with the community and public each year. From children's picture books to juvenile chapter books to adult fantasy, mystery, and local history, there is something at RLEL for everyone!

Next year, we have plans to continue to improve upon this much-loved author festival that The Peters Township Library Foundation generously funds. You can check for updates at ptlib.org/rlel and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 7, 2024 when Read Local Eat Local returns!



YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Department offers programs, materials, and services for our youngest readers and their families. The Department was very busy in 2023, hosting nearly 400 programs for children that more than 9,000 people attended. Youth Services programming is anchored by six weekly storytimes, as well as several recurring monthly programs, including Family Bingo, Lego Nights, Chess with a Champion, and PAWS for Reading.

One of the year's most exciting programs was a new "I Love Pittsburgh" Night, featuring a meet and greet with Iceburgh from the Pittsburgh Penguins. Over 100 people attended, where they took photos with Iceburgh, created Pittsburgh-themed crafts, and listened to the story *Love is All Over Pittsburgh*. Additionally, Preschool Palooza returned in 2023—an annual event where families can come to the library to meet representatives from a dozen local preschools and learn about available resources for their children.

Our programs also hit the road this year! The Youth Services Department provided a variety of outreach in 2023, including visits to local preschools, daycares, Open Houses, Read-a-Thons, and classrooms at PTSD and Intermediate Unit 1. Library staff also handed out free children's books to more than 1,300 people at events like Summer Reading at Mingo Park, Community Day, and the Holiday Kick-Off.



Preschool Palooza



Family Bingo



"I Love Pittsburgh" Night



Storytime with PT Fire Dept



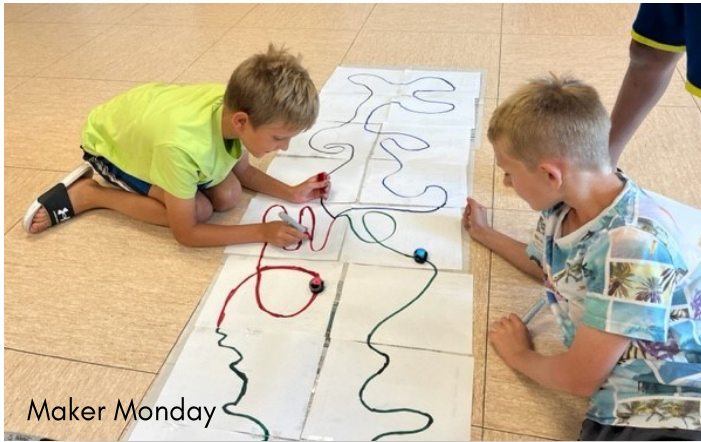
We kicked off our summer reading program, "All Together Now," with a performance by local singing duo Josh & Gab, snacks from Wu's Shaved Ice, and games and crafts for 250 patrons of all ages. Our Reading Challenge was held through the Beanstack app, where almost 500 readers logged 422,000 minutes, 15,000 books, and 140,000 pages throughout the summer! 121 readers completed the challenge and received a prize basket.

Each year, some of our most well-attended programs are specialty and holiday programs. Families looked forward to programs like the Easter egg hunt, Noon Year's Eve celebration, pumpkin decorating contest, and Elf on the Shelf kick-off. We appreciated our partnerships in 2023 with the Pittsburgh Zoo, National Aviary, Pittsburgh Puppet Works, PT Police and Fire Departments, Carnegie Science Center, and Goldfish Swim School, among others. Community partnerships are a valuable piece of our programming line-up.

The Youth Services Department continues to be supported by WOED *Inquire Within*, funded by Clearview Federal Credit Union. *Inquire Within* is an impactful program which is designed to encourage family engagement and a love of learning through hands-on activities. Programs that were offered through this grant in 2023 included Night with WOED, Wild Kratt Wednesday, Space Exploration Camp, Curious George Club, and Bridges of Pittsburgh.



TWEEN AND TEEN SERVICES



Maker Monday



Valentine's Sundae Social



TweenMade—Holiday Truffles



TeenMade—Hot Cocoa Bombs

Much of the department's success in 2023 is reflective of our wonderful teen volunteers. In order to volunteer at the library, teens have to participate in our monthly VolunTeen Group. This group helps to plan and orchestrate many of the library's teen events. These volunteers also gather to complete particular projects for the library, including decorating the library for holidays and the summer reading program and working on service projects. For instance, volunteers worked together to create Stress Kits that were available for any teen who visited the library to take anonymously and use to help reduce stress during finals and test-taking season. In 2023, teens volunteered more than 500 hours of their time at the library!

Over the past few years, teen and tween programs at the library have really flourished. One of the most unique and successful of these programs is our Teen and Tween Writing Groups. These groups meet on a monthly basis and have become a welcoming place for young writers to share and develop their craft. We were thrilled to welcome guest presenters to the Writing Groups this year—local authors Kit Frick, Nick Courage, and Rachel Ekstrom Courage. Tween and teen readers and writers alike enjoyed meeting these accomplished authors and learning about the craft of writing.

In addition to the Writing Groups, the Youth Services Department offered several monthly programs for tweens and teens. These events included our Tween Book Club and Teen Choice Book Club, and TweenMade and TeenMade DIY events. We have also offered video game tournaments, taste test challenges, themed events highlighting popular books or shows, mindfulness and meditation classes, and board game nights.

Tweens and teens flexed their DIY skills in 18 different crafting and cooking classes throughout the year. They made homemade hot cocoa bombs in January, food imposter cupcakes in March, mini bundt cakes with homemade fondant decorations in June, and chocolate holiday truffles in December. When they weren't baking, our teens crafted a wide array of projects, including hand-dyed coffee filter flowers, Pokeball terrariums, tiny libraries in Altoid tins, mini book keychains and earrings, acrylic paint-poured canvases, CottageCore wreaths, and more.

One of our most popular tween programs is Maker Monday. Maker Monday is a monthly program where students learn about a variety of STEM topics by working individually or in groups on projects. This year, participants explored Ozobots, discovered 3D printers in the new Makerspace, built domino structures, learned math with playing cards, raced Brushbots, and created marble runs.

The department continued providing outreach to teens through our connections with the Middle School and High School. Through library card sign-up drives, we created more than 150 new library cards for teens. We also hosted our first joint DIY program with the high school book club, where they created mini book keychains.



Chess with a Champion



TeenMade—Wreaths



Carnegie Science Center



VolunTeen—Stress Kits

ADULT SERVICES

The year 2023 brought new and novel opportunities to the Adult Services Department. The library hosted its first year-long A to Z reading challenge that encouraged patrons of all ages to read books throughout the year—at least one for every letter of the alphabet. In total, 268 readers logged over 21,000 books. This successful challenge is also back in 2024! We invited adult readers to a Book Tasting in October, where library staff shared information about 40+ books. Book tastings are an excellent way to learn about a variety of books and find your next great read. Everyone walked away with book menus from the evening and several additions to their 'To Be Read' lists.



Books and Brews Book Club



WWII Discussion Group



Book Tasting

The library hosted several educational programs and events to help individuals learn new skills and information, such as Crochet Fundamentals, Meditation and Mindfulness classes, and Composting 101. The library supported patrons' thirst for knowledge with a Medication Safety seminar and virtual tours worldwide. Several beloved programs returned in person, like the U.S. Army War College officers, and we explored new ways to engage the community. Our first Volunteer Fair had 80 visitors, and an after-hours Halloween event had guests eating, crafting, and completing a library-wide scavenger hunt.

ADULT SERVICES

At the end of July, we welcomed a new addition to the Adult Services team, Dani Mizia. Dani holds DIY classes for teens and adults and helps support larger library events such as Read Local Eat Local and Boos, Brews, & Books. She also oversees the library-sponsored clubs, including Crafternoons, where adults of all abilities meet at the library to create a unique piece of art or decor. The library has a variety of monthly groups and clubs for all interests, our newest being the Books and Brews Book Club, held on the second Thursday of the month at Monday's Brewing.

Through surveys and feedback, the Peters Township community has shared that they enjoy opportunities to learn, grow, and share at the library. We will continue to offer a wide array of classes and events for folks to enjoy. If you have an idea for a presentation or would like to teach a class at the library, please see our Program Proposal Form online.



Chamber of Commerce Mixer



U.S. Army War College



Life in Peters Township

The PTPL Archives had a very busy year in 2023, continuing to reach out to the community through programs and displays, sharing historical photos and documents. In June, the Archives hosted its largest program of the year—Life in Peters Township. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Life in Peters Township oral history project, the Archives honored the 21 original interviewees for their contributions to preserving the history of Peters Township. More than 120 community members attended this celebration (pictured on the front cover.) Another large archival undertaking was the digitization of three historic Peters Township newspapers—*Peters Township News*, *News Progress*, and *Commerce News*. These text-searchable newspapers are now available online through PA Photos and Documents.

MAKERSPACE & TECHNOLOGY

The Makerspace had quite a few changes throughout 2023 including the hiring of our new Technology and Makerspace Librarian Sarah Quinn, the addition of new equipment, and a move to a new location in the library. The Makerspace hosted 57 creative workshops in 2023. Since she was hired in May, Sarah also held 72 individual Book-A-Librarian sessions teaching everything from how to use the Cricut machine to navigating the library's e-resources.

Makerspace programs each focus on a different piece of equipment. We offer monthly series of Cricut classes, 3D printing classes, and a variety of sewing, embroidery, and crafting classes. One of the most popular program series is Cricut Creations. These programs begin with a basic review of the Cricut machine and Design Space app before venturing into a guided project. Some of the projects included a faux leather bookmark, a shadow box, and a multi-layered paper holiday card.

Moving the Makerspace into its own room provided a dedicated space for advancing digital literacy through creative technology. With the support from The Peters Township Library Foundation, the Makerspace was able to purchase new embroidery and sewing machines, a high end Bambu Lab P1S 3D printer, and 6 new iPads. The Foundation is also supporting Sarah's initiative to develop the Makerspace To Go. This new collection allows you to check out select Makerspace equipment with your library card to try at home.



NEA BIG READ GRANT

In April 2023, the library put on an amazing slate of programs through the 2022–2023 NEA Big Read, a nationwide grantmaking program from the National Endowment for the Arts encouraging community conversation around a selected book. We celebrated the novel *Circe* by Madeline Miller with a full calendar of events for all ages. We partnered with many local organizations to offer 39 programs that more than 1,000 people attended, including 114 people tuning in to Madeline Miller’s virtual author talk. We also gave out 423 copies of *Circe* to the community as free giveaways.



Greek Pottery



NEA Kickoff



Mythic Fiction Contest

One popular NEA program was our Mythic Fiction Writing Contest for tweens and teens. The positive response to the writing contest and reception, where readers could share their work, was overwhelming. Our Kickoff and Greek ‘Pottery’ Class invited artists of all ages to participate and create masterpieces. It was a pleasure seeing families and adults of multiple generations interact with one another and share their art. Partnering with local businesses for the PT Odyssey Scavenger Hunt and Books & Brews Book Club helped us connect with participants who might not regularly visit our physical space otherwise.

The NEA Big Read allowed our library to strike new partnerships, nurture past collaborations, and reacquaint ourselves with the community after a few years of atypical programs and offerings. We have a strong following of patrons dedicated to our events, but this program helped us think about our community in new ways and challenged us to reach past our active users to see how we could connect with more of our residents and beyond.

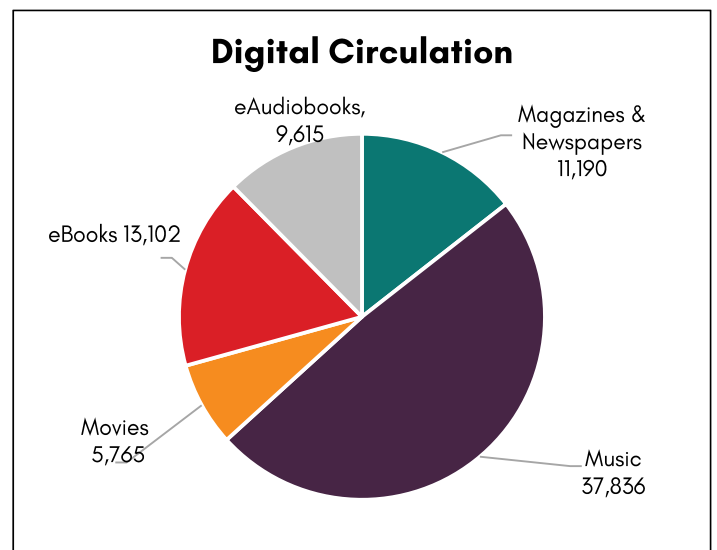
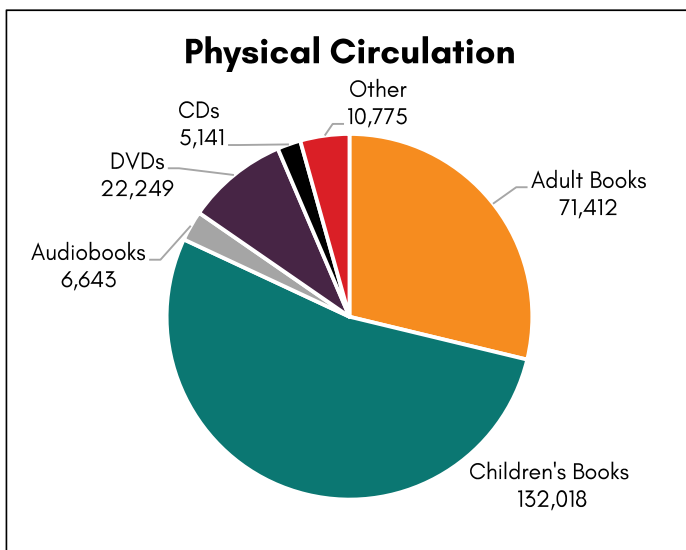
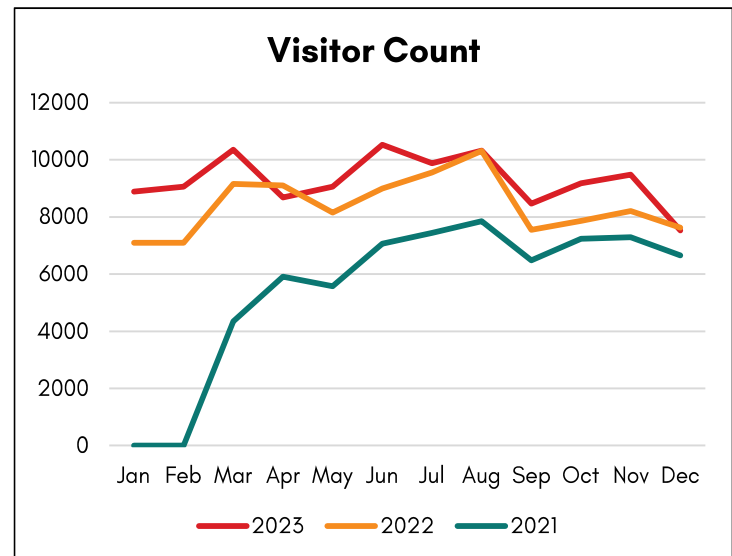
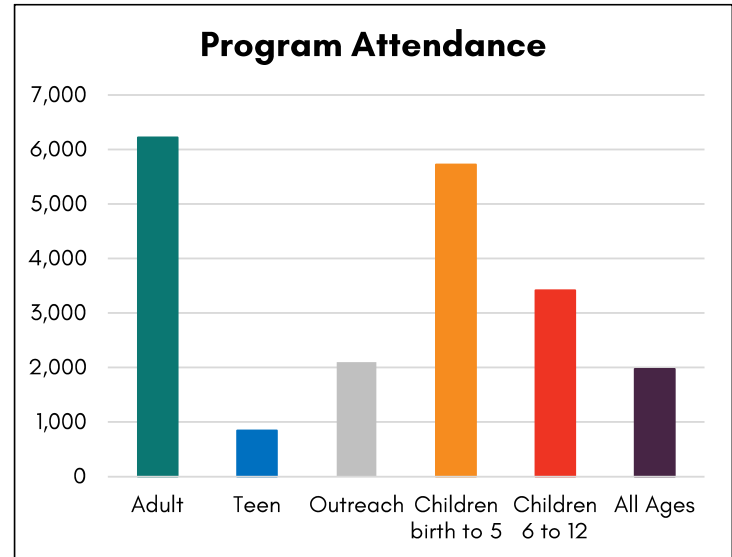
LIBRARY STATISTICS

This past year saw more than 18,000 community members attend library programs, both virtually and in person—a 17% increase in program attendance over 2022! We also provided services and programs to another 2,000 patrons through outreach and community events, and to 1,500 community members who used library meeting rooms.

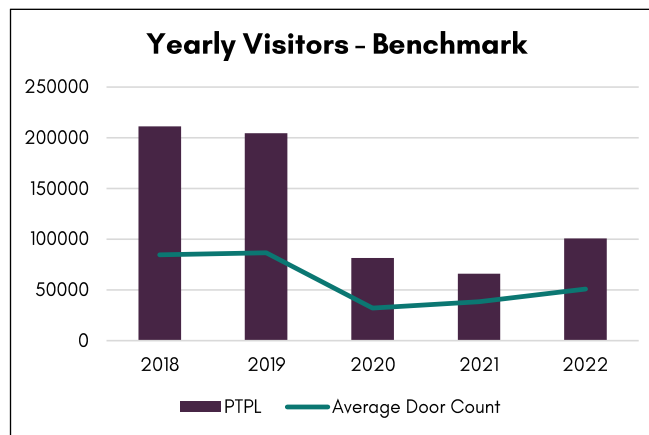
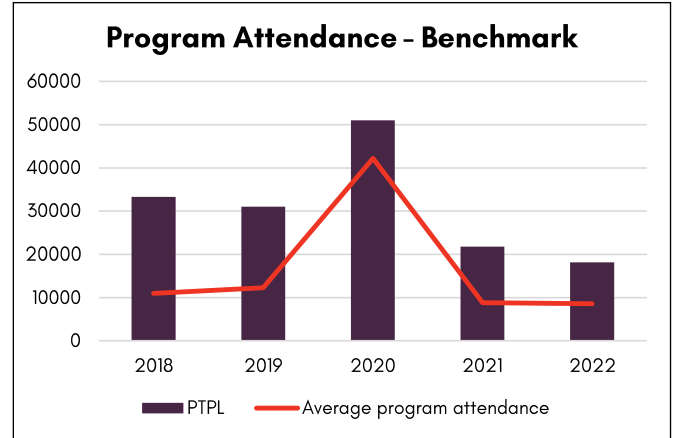
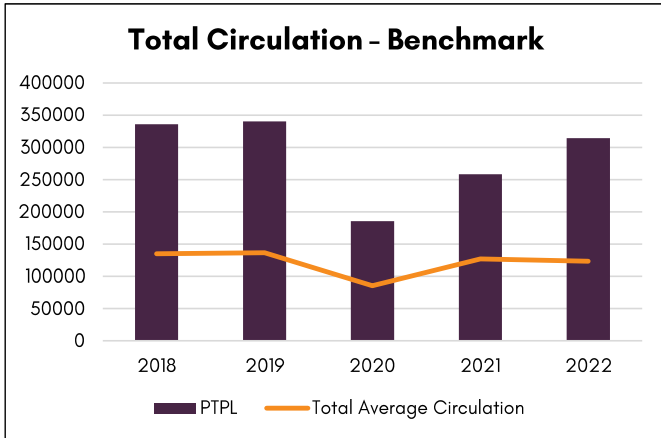
In 2023, we handed out 1,500 program kits, signed 3,600 patrons into study rooms, checked out 1,600 seed library packets, created library cards for 1,500 new patrons, and welcomed more than 110,000 patrons through our doors!

The library circulated more than 327,000 items in 2023, both digitally and physically. Some of our most popular physical collections were adult fiction, easy readers, chapter books, and DVDs.

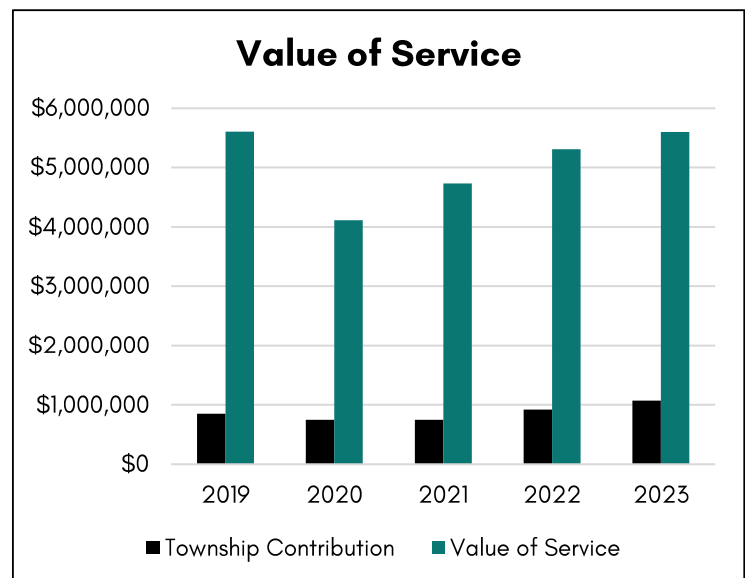
Last year, we added the NovelList Plus digital resource—the premiere database for readers! NovelList includes expert book recommendations, reviews, articles, lists, and more. This resource was used almost 2,000 times in 2023 to help guide our patrons to their next great read. Check it out for yourself at ptlib.org/novelist.

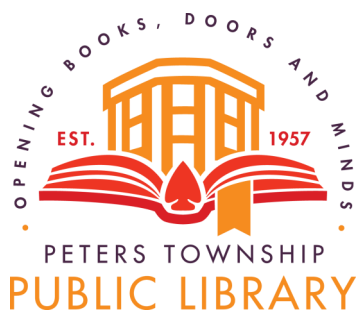


One of the most effective ways to measure the success of a library is to look at comparable libraries. The three charts below show Peters Township Public Library statistics compared to the average statistics of similar libraries across Pennsylvania. We looked at the circulation, yearly visitors, and program attendance from 50 PA libraries with similar service populations. While PTPL has followed very similar trends and changes due to Covid, our statistics remain well over the average of comparable libraries, and we have consistently outperformed our cohort.



Another measure of library success is the monetary value of services provided to the community—our return on investment. PTPL’s value of service was obtained through an online calculator that determines how much money library services would cost if patrons had to pay for them directly. For example, the average cost to purchase an audiobook is \$27.00, and PTPL loaned around 7,200 audiobooks last year, for a total of \$196,000 that the Peters community did not have to spend on these services. For every \$1 of Township funding the library receives, we put \$4 to \$6 of value back into the community. These numbers include our collection, programming, digital downloads, technology usage, among other library services.





616 E McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317



Mission Statement

*The library strives to enrich and empower every patron
by fostering a love of learning.*