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# Lydia Taft Pratt Library And Data Practices

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## The Big Picture: How do people use the library?

- Some come to the library for programs
- Some do not have or want library cards
- Some get a single library card for their whole family
- Some only ever use our online resources and never come to the library at all
- Some come to the library to find and check out DVDs or books or use a Museum Pass
- Some use our interlibrary loan services
- Some come to socialize with neighbors or with library staff
- Some only ever use our wifi in the parking lot
- Some come with their kids to socialize with other parents and other kids
- Some walk to the library
- Some drive from East Dummerston
- Some spend winters in warmer climates
- Some help with volunteer projects
- Some get a library card, and then never use the library ever again
- Some borrow books over and over again. Some attend programs over and over again.

## We can take a snapshot of these library users, to form an impression of how and how many people use the library:

- The library has **547** registered borrowers
- Last month (March, 2025), we held **12** programs in which **193** people participated

In the last 12 months:

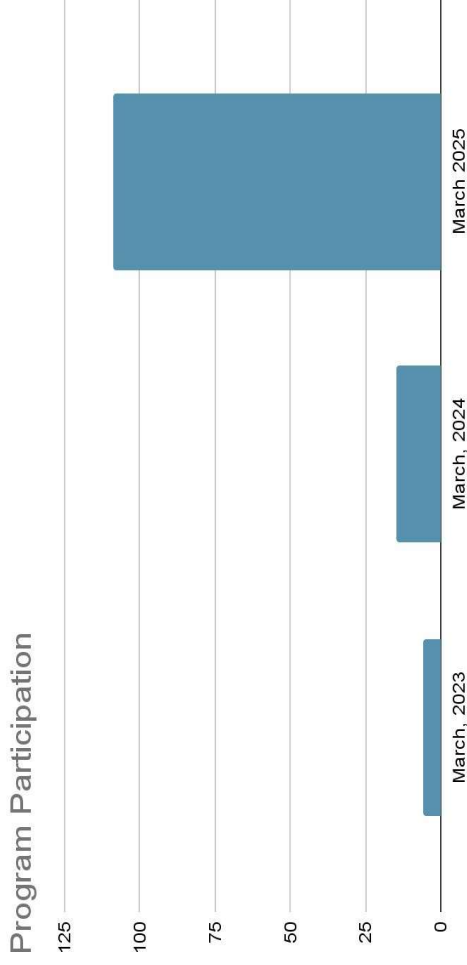
- **121** people got new library cards
  - **127** people checked out **1532** books/items (average of 12 titles/person)
  - Lydia Taft Pratt Library borrowed **160** items from other libraries via Interlibrary Loan for our library users
  - **45** distinct people used **1576** combined eBooks or audiobooks (average of 35 titles/person)
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# A year from now, we'll be in a position to show change over time

Thesis: More people come to the library when we have programs.

In March 2025, the **first month** of having more open hours (26, up from 15) and more staff hours (28, up from 16), we have held 12 programs in which 193 people have participated.

- In March of 2024, we held two programs in which 15 people participated
- In March of 2023 we held two programs, one cancelled due to snow, and one had 6 participants



## **As a result of expanded open hours, facilities and staffing, made possible by grant funding, a year from now:**

- We will be able to look at whether more people have borrowed library materials than have in previous years.
- We will be able to see how many new people have become registered library borrowers.
- We will know how many more programs we were able to host, and how many people participated in them.
- We will know something about people's level of satisfaction with the children's program

## Why do we collect data?

1. To gauge how well we are meeting our mission/vision
2. As part of the state and national documentation of public libraries
3. As part of our obligation to BBF VECF
4. To help plan for the future

# 1. Gauge how well we are meeting our mission/vision

## LTP Vision Statement:

As a community information hub and gathering place, the Lydia Taft Pratt Library endeavors to **enrich lives** and **strengthen community** by engaging the evolving informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of the Dummerston Community through:

- the provision of diverse traditional resources
- new technologies
- accessible public space
- culturally competent staffing
- innovative programming

*Our library provides resources, staff, and space to attempt to deliver on this vision.  
Our data collection should illuminate how well we do that.*

## 2. We collect the data.

### What do we collect for the State Report?

#### 1. *Physical Circulation*

- a. Books/DVDs/Library Materials
- b. Non-traditional circulating items (like museum passes)
- c. Interlibrary Loans and consorial loans

#### 2. *Electronic Circulation*

- a. OverDrive eBooks
- b. OverDrive audiobooks

#### *Where does this data come from?*

- ILS (LibraryWorld, soon to be Koha)
- CLOVER
- OverDrive



## 2. We collect the data. What do we collect for the State Report?

### *Programming*

1. How many programs by age category?
  - a. How many people in attendance in each category?
2. How many onsite or other?
  - a. How many people in attendance in each category?
3. How many are non library sponsored programs?
4. How many self directed activities?
  - a. Estimated use

### *Where do these stats come from?*

We count people who attend programs, and record on a spread sheet.

Programming		
By Age	Programs	Attendance
Kids 0-5		
Kids 6-11		
YA/Teens 12-18		
Adults 19+		
General Audience		
Total (Calculated)	0	0
By Location	Programs	Attendance
Off-Site		
Virtual		
On-Site (Calculated)	0	0
Non-Library Sponsored Programs		
Outreach Events		
Self-Directed Activities	Activities	Estimated Use

## 2. We collect the data.

### What do we collect for the State Report?

#### **Services**

1. Visits: how many people walk in the door?
2. New Patrons: how many new cards do we make?
3. Reference Questions
4. Computer/tech training
5. Public Computer sessions
6. WiFi Usage
7. Volunteer Hours

#### ***Where do these stats come from?***

- Mostly, they are recorded daily by hand, and ideally transferred to a spreadsheet, where they will be available when annual report time rolls around.
- We don't really have the ability to track WiFi usage at this time

## 2. We collect the data. What do we collect for the State Report?

### 1. Database Usage

#### *Where do these stats come from?*

We request them from the Department of Libraries who make these resources available to us.

Database Usage	
Provider / Metrics	Metrics
Gale/VOL -	Full Text Retr./Sessions
Chilton Library	Resources Used
LegalForms	Documents Used
Peterson's	Card Click/Sessions
Udemy	Lectures/Users/Courses Start/Video Min.

### **3. Our Obligation to BBF VECF**

1. We were asked to design impact measures, in the form of Process Metrics/Milestones and/or Outcome Metrics.
2. We are asked to submit a mid-grant report and a final report

# 3. Our Obligation to BBF VECF

## Mission and Objectives for the Grant

### Mission

“To expand the reach of our early childhood literacy programming and library services and to create more community space for children and their families to learn and form social bonds.”

### Objectives

1. **Provide improved access** to early childhood literacy and library services for Dummerston Children
2. **Increase engagement** of Dummerston area children and families
3. **Increase satisfaction** with the quality of children’s services offered by Lydia Taft Pratt Library

# 1. Provide Improved Access to Early Childhood Library and Literacy Services

- Process Metrics
  - Create an attractive space with age and developmentally appropriate materials
  - Establish increased open hours
  - Expand the number of opportunities for families to engage with our program
  - Focus on outreach and publicity around the new program

## 2. Increase Engagement of children and families

- Outcome Metrics
  - Track the number of people visiting the space
  - Track the number of children's materials circulating
  - Track the number of programs and participants
  - Identify the number of new families obtaining a library card

### **3. Increase satisfaction with the quality of children's services offered**

- Collection of feedback and stories from participants about the impact of the program(s)





## **Where we need help:**

- **Data Visualization and Telling Our Story**
- **Publicizing our results**

