

Bestsellers, Graphic Novels Popular at Library Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg Public Library patrons are closing in on 100,000 checkouts since Jan. 1 – amazing!

More than 71,000 circulations have been for physical materials. Not surprisingly, national bestselling titles also generate the most interest locally.

The most popular book for adults in 2023 was “Demon Copperhead,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Barbara Kingsolver, which circulated 51 times. Other popular fiction titles were “The Boys From Biloxi” by John Grisham, “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus and “Hello Beautiful” by Ann Napolitano.

Adults routinely gravitate toward the mysteries of Michael Connelly, C.J. Box and Harlan Coben, and this year was no different. “Desert Star,” the 24th book in the Harry Bosch series, led the way with 43 checkouts. Box’s “Storm Watch,” the 23rd book in the Joe Pickett series, and Coben’s “I Will Find You,” a standalone book, were close behind.

The most popular nonfiction book was Prince Harry’s autobiography, “Spare,” which checked out 37 times.

Teens love graphic novels. This collection of 1,500 books accounted for 27 percent of the young adult section and 52 percent of its circulation. Manga, a graphic novel style that originated in Japan, was the most popular subgenre. Hot titles included “One Piece” by Eiichirō Oda and “Demon Slayer” by Koyoharu Gotoge.

Junior readers continued to check out books in the Dog Man books by Dav Pilkey. There are 11 titles in the series, and we regularly replace copies because they are well used. The most recent addition, “Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea,” circulated 18 times since it was added to the collection seven months ago.

Our youngest readers have made it clear that Mo Willems is their favorite author. Willems writes the Pigeon picture books and the Elephant and Piggie easy readers. “There Is a Bird on Your Head,” “I Really Like Slop,” “Waiting Is Not Easy” and “The Thank You Book” led checkouts.

When it came to electronic materials, most checkouts were for adult material. The library offers two platforms: 78 percent of circulation occurred on the Libby platform and 22 percent on cloudLibrary.

Audiobooks accounted for 51 percent of all electronic circulation. Although materials for adults were most popular overall, Roseburg patrons checked out the seven books in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling about 100 times in audiobook format.

Look for more popular titles on the library's online catalog at roseburg.biblionix.com. Under the green "What's Hot" banner, check the tab labeled "Most Popular." Patrons may place holds by logging in and clicking on the book titles. Library staff is available to help in person, by email at library@cityofroseburg.org or by phone at 541-492-7050.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, December 5, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Wednesday, December 6, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, December 6, 3 p.m. – Artist Exploration for grades K-5

Thursday, December 7, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, December 7, 6 p.m. – Computer Basics (registration required at 541-492-7052)