

Roseburg Library Starts Year Strong Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg Public Library is rocking in 2024.

In the past two months, almost 13,000 people have visited the library, a whopping 43 percent increase over the same period in 2023.

We have seen a lot of meeting room use, the public computers are in high demand and classrooms are visiting for storytimes and library tours with Youth Services Librarian Aurora Ropp.

Circulation of physical materials increased nearly 5 percent over the same period in 2023.

Nearly 13,000 items have checked out so far this year. Youth materials were the most popular, accounting for 55 percent of all circulation. Picture books led the way with 2,100 checkouts.

Adults preferred general fiction and mysteries, which made up 58 percent of adult materials circulation.

The library purchases 300 books a month for the physical collection using funds from the operating budget, grants, donations and memorials. We also add donations of items, primarily of new books and those that fill holes in popular series.

Circulation of digital materials increased 9 percent over the first two months of 2023. The Libby platform was especially popular with a 14 percent increase in use over last year.

The library's participation in the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (ODLC), which provides Libby, is supported for the second consecutive year by a grant from the Douglas County Library Foundation.

Their funding covers not only the membership fee but money to purchase additional licenses for the most popular titles. These special purchases are prioritized for Roseburg Public Library patrons, then become available to the entire consortium when local users have not checked them out.

This is a great perk because 113,000 people across the state utilized Libby in the past year, meaning holds lists can be rather long. Between ODLC purchasing multiple licenses and Roseburg adding copies, we strive to limit wait times.

To help alleviate the burden on Libby, we provide access to a second digital platform. cloudLibrary is available as part of a sharing agreement with libraries in Albany,

Corvallis-Benton County and Salem. The collection is smaller, but wait times for the most popular items typically are shorter.

cloudLibrary is funded by the library's operating budget.

The library is off to a great start this year, and I invite you to visit us in person or online at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org to learn more about our services. We're here to help!

This Week's Library Events

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 7, 12-2 p.m. – Drop-in tech time with Spanish interpreter available

Thursday, March 7, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen drop-in hangout