

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
OCTOBER 2025

The Montana State Library has officially opened the Public Library Annual Statistical Reporting for the current fiscal year. I've been busy gathering and entering the detailed statistics we track throughout the year. Participation in this reporting is required for libraries seeking State Aid. Once submitted, the data is forwarded to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for national comparison.

This month, I met with Mary Drew Powers, Director of the Whitefish Community Library, for one of our regular check-ins. We enjoy staying connected and sharing updates about what's happening at our respective libraries. I also had a great conversation with Morgan Ray, Director of the FVCC Library. I truly value these opportunities to connect with fellow Library Directors and exchange ideas.

We've received many positive comments about our new sign in Kalispell, and it's wonderful to have signage that clearly identifies us as a library and part of the county system. We were able to implement a cost-effective solution by handling some of the work in-house, while the professional printing was done by KalCopy. We're very pleased with the final result, especially since our wonderful volunteer has tidied and cleaned up our flower beds!

Roof repair for the Bigfork Library is scheduled. The Library Foundation has agreed to pay for the repair in full. With the repair of the damaged areas and the installation of heat tape and gutters, we will be set for whatever weather may come our way! The irrigation system has been winterized and snow removal lined up for the season.

Baker & Taylor, a long-standing book vendor for libraries, is permanently closing its business. As a result, all backordered items will be canceled, and any remaining orders will be fulfilled only with inventory currently available in their warehouse. About a year ago, we began transitioning our materials purchasing to a different vendor after noticing increasing difficulty in obtaining items from Baker & Taylor. We will continue to manage this transition carefully to ensure that library services to our patrons remain smooth and uninterrupted.

I recently had the opportunity to attend an outstanding leadership training sponsored by Express Employment Professionals. Flathead County has partnered with Express for many years to help fill open positions. The 4-hour workshop, titled *Motivate or Deflate – Which Do You Do With Your Team?* was engaging. It offered valuable strategies for leadership effectiveness. I also enjoyed connecting with other local employers from across the valley.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- SEPT 2025
Kalispell- 10,579
Columbia Falls- 4,609
Bigfork- 1,627

TRAFFIC COUNTS- SEPT 2024
Kalispell- 10,304
Columbia Falls- 4,304
Bigfork- 2,443

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
OCTOBER 2025

Placed a new surveillance camera in Columbia Falls covering the entrance, staff perch and public computer areas. The camera integrated easily into the existing network requiring minimal installation time and material. This is the first camera installation in Columbia Falls.

Added two surveillance cameras in Kalispell one covering the YS staff area the other expands coverage on the 2nd Fl. New cabling, done in-house, was required for both these Kalispell cameras. Both also integrated easily into the existing network after cabling.

Public computer station #4 in Columbia Falls developed a problem restarting that rendered the station unusable. After a few hours troubleshooting, reinstalling the OS and making final configuration changes, the station was back in service quickly with no new costs incurred.

Ordered eleven new Mobile Beacon hotspots through Techsoup, who provide the lowest cost hardware with 12 mths of service. Five for Kalispell and three each for Columbia Falls & Bigfork. After shipment they were configured, entered into Workflows by Collection Services and placed into circulation. All units quickly received patron holds.

We continue to be on track to save \$500 again this year utilizing Microsoft Azure server file share back up instead of Carbonite. The savings is mostly realized because MS charges based on how many Gigabytes the library actually uses vs others that charge a fixed fee for a fixed amount of storage, used or not.

COMPUTER/WIRELESS USAGE - JULY THRU SEPT - ALL LOCATIONS

Public computers total = 17,202 sessions

Public wireless total = 9,542 sessions

The result being 26,744 unique patron internet sessions during FY26 QTR I.

COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON
OCTOBER 2025

September 2025 Circulation Statistics

| | September 2025 | September 2024 | September 2023 | September 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Juvenile | 17427 | 17056 | 15827 | 16528 |
| Young Adult | 1089 | 1074 | 1082 | 750 |
| Adult | 11363 | 11431 | 12949 | 12768 |
| Overdrive ebooks | 3941 | 4343 | 4493 | 4035 |
| Overdrive audiobooks | 8117 | 7345 | 6864 | 6396 |
| Overdrive magazines | 2105 | 1308 | 737 | 500 |
| Total | 44042 | 42557 | 41952 | 40977 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| ILLs Borrowed | 49 | 46 | 52 | 55 |
| ILLs Loaned | 41 | 65 | 40 | 42 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Outgoing Partners Crates | 288 | 300 | 364 | 285 |
| Incoming Partners Crates | 298 | 298 | 329 | 310 |

Lakeside and Marion FY26 Circulation Statistics

| | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Lakeside | 140 | 166 | 133 | | | | | | | | | |
| Marion | N/A* | N/A* | 4 | | | | | | | | | |

*Marion closed first week of June through August.

COMMUNICATIONS LIBRARIAN
LUNE AXELSEN
OCTOBER 2025

This past month I've been occupied with promoting the large roster of adult events while making sure to get the word out about kids and teens events. I have sent out press releases, done multiple paid promotions on social media, created Facebook Events, updated print calendars, our website, designed multiple posters and flyers, and sent out our Newsletter featuring all of our upcoming programs. The Communications team has also updated online calendars and created outreach flyers to get the word out. As a result, our events have been well attended. I was pleased that the Daily Inter Lake picked up my press release and published an article on the front page of the Entertainment section of the paper about our artist talks and exhibits at the library this fall.

I've also been training our new part-time library advisor Joni Jenks, and I'm preparing to train another new advisor, Stephanie Knight, who starts next week! Both will assist in Communications tasks. Let's just say between all of the new fall events and programs and training new staff, I've been very busy.

Social Media Snap Shot

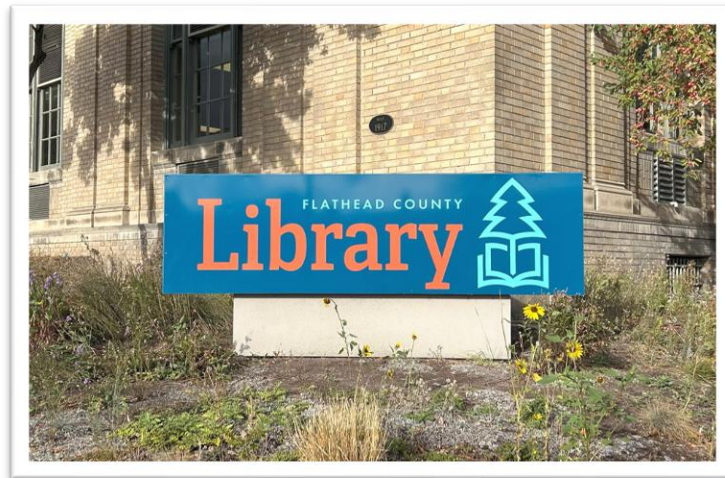
This month we saw significant growth in followers and engagement on both Facebook and Instagram due to an increase in quality content including History Friday, Montana Mondays, new reels and photos featuring library programs.

Social Media Stats:

- **Facebook:**
 - 238 New Followers this period (3% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Views:**
 - 382K page views this period (50% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Comments:**
 - 513 Comments this period (200% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Followers:**
 - 31 new followers this period (1% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Views:**
 - 38K account views this period (30% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Reels Reach:**
 - 3K Reels views this period (360% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Story Views:**
 - 3.8K Story views this period (51% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Website Pageviews:**
 - 19,692 pageviews this period (9% decrease in the last 30 days)
- **Website top 5 viewed pages in the last 14 days:**
 - **Teens**
 - **Kids**
 - **Events**
 - **Databases and Resources**
 - **Locations & Hours**

PUBLIC SERVICES
TONY EDMUNDSON
OCTOBER 2025

We have seen the completion of many long-awaited projects here this fall. Especially exciting, and noticed by the public, is the corner sign. A lot of planning and design work went into that project, and a huge part is due to our very talented Lune Axelsen. She's done great work adapting our branding into our new library cards and signage, and this is maybe one of the biggest and brightest examples. This sign, along with the newly painted lettering, have brought a fresh and vibrant look to the front of the building.



Another improvement was the replacement of the front globe lights. Last December, one of the globes fell off the wall and shattered. Investigation showed that the fixtures had aged and one had simply fallen off as it deteriorated. Kalispell Electric spent some time looking for just the right replacement, as we wanted something that matched the historic aesthetic of the building. We are pleased with the end result, and trust they will welcome patrons with their illumination for many years to come.



COLUMBIA FALLS BRANCH LIBRARIAN
LIZ CAMARILLO
OCTOBER 2025

The Glacier Institute didn't only gift us with decorating our display window throughout September, but they also ran one of our Wednesday Workshop programs, which was an absolute hit! Their set up was educational, and very entertaining for our kids.

Kylin will once again be representing the library at Harvest Fest in Hungry Horse this year. We recently received a lovely compliment from Laura Gadwa from the Chamber, who shared that wherever the library is set up, will draw people in and encourage them to explore the surrounding rooms. A big shout out to both Kylin and Liza for consistently knowing exactly what to offer the children in our community. Their thoughtfulness and attention always makes an impression.

The Doug Follett documentary screening was a great success. We welcomed both locals and visitors who were deeply moved by Doug's story and his beautiful poetry. Craig Blair, who hosted the event for the Columbia Falls Historical Society, expressed interest in continuing to collaborate with the library to offer more public events in the future.

Adult Programming had a successful tea towel stenciling event during the September zone. It was delightful to see participants carefully stamping their towels and leaving with a lasting memento. Lisa led the pumpkin pillow workshop, which faced some technical difficulties and the typical frustrations of first-time learners. Nevertheless, Lisa did an excellent job facilitating the workshop and ensuring everyone felt supported. Everyone left with a smile and their very own pumpkin pillow!

I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to Jeremiah Jost, owner of Bullfrog Contracting, for his outstanding generosity and service. Jeremiah was contracted to do work and repaint the Columbia Falls City building. When I inquired about the cost to rehang our flags, he graciously offered to do it at no charge. Additionally, his team addressed a recurring issue with the book drop entryway, which jams during the cold winter months. We are so grateful for his generosity and quality of work.

**ADULT PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN
BIGFORK BRANCH MANAGER
DEIDRE MCMULLIN
OCTOBER 2025**

Here are some of the programs we have planned for adults in October and November:

Audubon Christmas Bird Count Presentation

Join us for the final presentation of our Audubon collaboration with Denny Olson, a retired bird educator with a long history in conservation and education. Denny will explain how the Christmas Bird Count works and why it matters for birds and bird watchers alike.

The first two presentations arranged with Audubon were highly successful, with a full house and all seats taken. This is partly due to the topic, which many people are drawn to, but also the power of partnering with an organization that has such a strong foundation in the community.

Creative Aging with Megan Canning: Slow Stitching Sampler Class

Join a small group of adults (ages 55+) led by mixed-media textile artist Megan Canning for a free 5-week class series exploring a variety of embroidery stitches. This is the third iteration of the Creative Aging program, funded by the Foundation. The first class ended on 10/15. I noticed two of the participants making plans to meet up on another occasion. Sometimes making new friends is challenging after we're all "grown up" and library programs can help foster those connections.

Genealogy Classes

Join instructors from Kalispell's FamilySearch Center for genealogy classes geared toward individuals and families aged 13 and older. Learn personal researching skills, connect with family history groups, and get expert help navigating genealogical sites. This program will repeat every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Kalispell and every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in Bigfork.

Nature Painting Class

Appreciate the beauty of nature through observation and painting. Join local artist and library staff, Lauren, in a guided nature painting lesson. The library will provide materials or you can bring your own supplies.

This class is taught by a Bigfork library advisor, who also happens to be a talented painter. She taught this class earlier this year, and some members of the public asked if there could be a repeat. The patron who had attended previously attended with her nieces who were Juniors in high school. We have been discussing more programming that is designed for adults, and also teenagers in those last two years of high school.

Fall Bookmarks

Create and laminate your very own fall-inspired bookmark! Perfect for cozy reading days! Liz and her team in Columbia Falls have continued planning engaging craft activities for the community. They usually run for one week each month.

Seed Cleaning & Packing Party

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome as we either separate and clean seeds or label and spoon seeds into envelopes. Stop by these family-friendly events and help us restock the Columbia Falls Library's seed library and save seeds for next year's Free the Seeds event.