2024 FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM

Annual Report to the Community



Proudly serving our members for over 65 years!

As we reflect back on 2024 and our work at Finger Lakes Library System, I would like to start by highlighting that 2024 brought new staff to FLLS. Carlos Perez, our Business Manager, joined us in February 2024 and manages our finances, provides financial reports to our Board of Trustees, and acts as our benefits administrator. Aimee Dorward joined us in April 2024 assisting us as Shelving Page, getting our library materials out to our member libraries each day. Wayne Stephenson, our Computer Network Services Manager, joined us in July 2024 and provides Polaris support and training to our member libraries.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, our libraries came together for the solar eclipse. Our libraries' social media accounts highlighted all of the great displays, crafts, creative snacks and viewing parties that took place across our service area on that day. FLLS and our libraries distributed (free of charge) over 10,000 eclipse glasses leading up to April 8. I spent the day traveling throughout our service area that was in the path of totality and ended up viewing the eclipse at the Fair Haven Public Library with library staff, volunteers, trustees and the public. Our library directors shared that the eclipse brought new patrons into their libraries with many libraries registering new borrowers and there was a tremendous feeling of community togetherness.

One of our largest projects in 2024 was our very first FLX Road Trip. Held between July 1 and August 31, 2024, this program encouraged library users in our five counties to head out on the road and visit as many of our 33 libraries as they could. Open to all ages, our Road Trip was a great way to celebrate libraries and library patrons, encouraged folks to visit and use local libraries, helped create awareness of everything our libraries have to offer their communities and helped grow library advocates.

Nationally, material challenges continued to problematic for public libraries. According to the Office for Intellectual Freedom, in 2024 there were:

- 414: Attempts to censor library materials and services.
- 1,128: Unique titles challenged.
- 48% of the titles challenged prominently feature BIPOC/LGBTQIA+ representation.

In the same reporting period in 2023, ALA tracked:

- 695: Attempts to censor library materials and services.
- 1,915: Unique titles challenged.

Though these preliminary numbers suggest a decline from the all-time high of 2023, the number of documented attempts to censor books still continues to far exceed pre-2020 levels.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our library directors, staff, and trustees for the incredible work you have done over the past year. Your dedication to serving your communities—through collaboration, creativity, and resilience—has made a lasting impact, even in challenging times. Libraries remain vital community spaces because of your commitment, hard work, and care. We deeply value the time and effort you devote to ensuring that your libraries thrive and continue to meet the needs of those you serve. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue working together, building on the strength of our partnerships and the shared vision that makes our libraries such essential parts of the community.

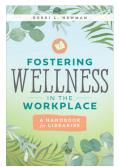
Sarah Glogowski Executive Director **Top Circulating Professional Collection Titles:**



3







265,5 Checkouts in **OverDrive**



\$166,9



1,575

Attendees at

135

Workshops & **Meetings Held** on Zoom & In-Person!

Items Sent & Received, Including

Out-of-System ILLs!

2024



Our mission is...

"To stimulate, coordinate and strengthen library and information services within Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga and Tompkins counties."





2024

Here's what our members have to say!

"FLLS employees have a true librarian attitude: you've never told me "no, I can't" when I ask for help."

"Appreciate everything you do to support us!"

"In my 15 years, Sarah is by far the best director that FLLS has had. She is fantastic."

"Great Job! Thanks for addressing our needs and answering our questions"

"FLLS's staff support is the best!"

"Jenny and Heidi, you always do an excellent job!"

"We love the people at FLLS and appreciate all that they do to help us succeed."

"You guys are fabulous and I am so thankful to be part of this system!"

"Thank you for everything you do!"

"Thank you to ALL of you for ALL you do to assist us."

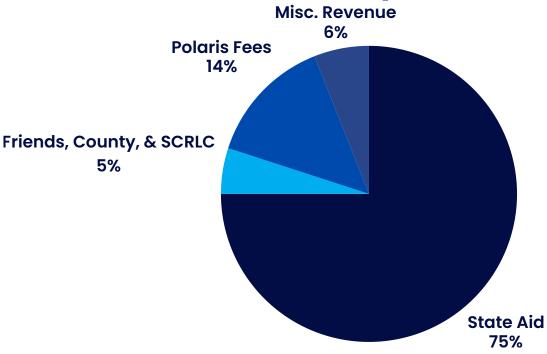
"You all do an amazing job and I very much appreciate everything you do!!!"

"Eric you are always there for us here at Port Byron! I'm so thankful to have you on the job! I know you are one heck of a troubleshooter, because I've witnessed it first hand! Thank you for all that you do to keep our whole system going!"



2024 SYSTEM FINANCIALS





Expenditures

Polaris, OverDrive, & OCLC

General Admin./Equip.

5%

Materials
7%

Salaries & Benefits
38%

Building & Facilities
3%

Delivery Costs
5%

7

BALLOT FUNDING

We are happy to report that all 2024 school ballot votes were successful. This was a relatively quiet year in terms of ballot votes as there were no new libraries going on the ballot for the first time. Our largest increases were for the Coburn Library in Owego and for the Seymour Library in Auburn who held their special legislative district budget vote in October 2024. All ballot votes passed with very large percentages.

Having stable and secure funding is vital for your library's future. At Finger Lakes, we work with both boards and directors in a variety of ways to assist with ballot funding. We offer help at community meetings such as school board, town or village meetings, as well as library board meetings. Our staff can provide statistical help, create infographics, and offer social media tips and strategies. If you are unsure how to go about getting on your local ballot or need help asking for an increase, please contact Sarah Glogowski sglogowski@flls.org or Heidi Eckerson heckerson@flls.org.

County	Library	School System	2023	2024	Increase			
Cayuga	Auburn-Seymour *	Special Leg. District	975,000	1,043,250	68,250			
Cayuga	Aurora	Southern Cayuga Central	80,000	85,000	5,000			
Cayuga	Cato-Lang	Cato-Meridian	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Cayuga	Fair Haven	Red Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Cayuga	Moravia-Powers	Moravia Central	94,500	96,390	1,890			
Cayuga	Poplar Ridge-Hazard	Southern Cayuga Central	56,825	61,825	5,000			
Cayuga	Port Byron	Port Byron Central	N/A	105,147	4,000			
Cayuga	Union Springs-Springport	Union Springs Central	92,000	95,500	3,500			
Cayuga	Weedsport	Weedsport Central	88,058	89,819	1,761			
Cortland	Cortland	Cortland-Spec. Leg. Dist.	449,602	N/A	N/A			
Cortland	Homer-Phillips	Homer Central	208,605	214,330	5,725			
Cortland	Marathon-Peck	Marathon	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Cortland	McGraw-Lamont	McGraw Central	69,500	N/A	N/A			
Seneca	Interlaken	South Seneca Central	80,000	85,860	5,860			
Seneca	Lodi	South Seneca Central	80,000	85,860	5,860			
Seneca	Ovid-Ford	South Seneca Central	84,000	85,860	1,860			
Seneca	Ovid-Ford	Romulus	29,000	29,580	580			
Seneca	Seneca Falls	Seneca Falls Central	352,000	367,000	15,000			
Seneca	Waterloo	Waterloo Central	296,730	315,217	18,487			
Tioga	Apalachin	Owego Apalachin Central	162,444	167,444	5,000			
Tioga	Candor	Candor Central	35,000	36,050	1,050			
Tioga	Newark Valley-Tappan	Newark Valley Central	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tioga	Nichols-Cady	Tioga Central	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tioga	Owego-Coburn	Owego Apalachin Central	N/A	150,000	30,000			
Tioga	Spencer	Spencer Van Etten	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tompkins	Dryden-Southworth	Dryden Central	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Tompkins	Groton *	Groton Central	219,886	236,886	17,000			
Tompkins	Lansing *	Lansing Central	255,989	270,000	14,011			
Tompkins	Newfield	Newfield	N/A	81,000	5,000			
Tompkins	Trumansburg-Ulysses	T'Burg Central	127,773	135,216	7,443			
* Vote is separate from school vote								

^{*} Vote is separate from school vote.



COMPUTER NETWORK SERVICES STATISTICS

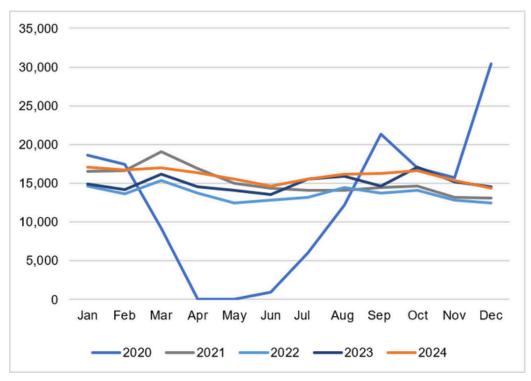
The CNS Department began 2024 with **35** open problem tickets. There were an additional **600** new tickets during the year, including **94** requests for supplies.

We ended the year with **572** closed tickets for a closure rate of **95**%!

In 2024, 16 libraries took advantage of the Computer Bulk Buy, ordering a total 38 Dell computers and 3 Chrome devices.

FLLS INTERLIBRARY LOAN VOLUME

January 2020-December 2024



2024 MEMBER LIBRARY INTERLIBRARY LOAN ACTIVITY

Alphabetical Order							
Library	Borrowed	Loaned					
Apalachin	4,462	4,334					
Auburn	14,163	16,427					
Aurora	3,478	3,028					
Berkshire	2,804	1,133					
Candor	3,357	3,320					
Cato	1,567	4,118					
Cincinnatus	2,036	3,808					
Cortland	8,806	16,600					
Dryden	11,273	8,131					
Fair Haven	1,202	3,382					
Groton	3,983	5,888					
Homer	6,649	5,988					
Interlaken	1,662	1,842					
Ithaca	44,439	31,242					
Lansing	11,631	4,799					
Lodi	1,831	2,846					
Marathon	1,912	2,650					
McGraw	1,929	3,077					
Moravia	3,292	3,548					
Newark Valley	2,621	2,661					
Newfield	4,481	4,571					
Nichols	1,390	1,816					
Ovid	2,368	3,324					
Owego	4,396	6,228					
Poplar Ridge	1,553	2,531					
Port Byron	2,239	5,484					
Seneca Falls	7,037	5,366					
Spencer	2,356	3,526					
Trumansburg	13,570	6,111					
Union Springs	3,398	3,835					
Waterloo	3,583	4,425					
Waverly	3,762	5,625					
Weedsport	3,349	2,833					
Other ¹	5,143	7,225					
TOTAL	191,722	191,722					

Rank Order							
Library	Borrowed	Library	Loaned				
Ithaca	44,439	Ithaca	31,242				
Auburn	14,163	Cortland	16,600				
Trumansburg	13,570	Auburn	16,427				
Lansing	11,631	Dryden	8,131				
Dryden	11,273	Owego	6,228				
Cortland	8,806	Trumansburg	6,111				
Seneca Falls	7,037	Homer	5,988				
Homer	6,649	Groton	5,888				
Newfield	4,481	Waverly	5,625				
Apalachin	4,462	Port Byron	5,484				
Owego	4,396	Seneca Falls	5,366				
Groton	3,983	Lansing	4,799				
Waverly	3,762	Newfield	4,571				
Waterloo	3,583	Waterloo	4,425				
Aurora	3,478	Apalachin	4,334				
Union Springs	3,398	Cato	4,118				
Candor	3,357	Union Springs	3,835				
Weedsport	3,349	Cincinnatus	3,808				
Moravia	3,292	Moravia	3,548				
Berkshire	2,804	Spencer	3,526				
Newark Valley	2,621	Fair Haven	3,382				
Ovid	2,368	Ovid	3,324				
Spencer	2,356	Candor	3,320				
Port Byron	2,239	McGraw	3,077				
Cincinnatus	2,036	Aurora	3,028				
McGraw	1,929	Lodi	2,846				
Marathon	1,912	Weedsport	2,833				
Lodi	1,831	Newark Valley	2,661				
Interlaken	1,662	Marathon	2,650				
Cato	1,567	Poplar Ridge	2,531				
Poplar Ridge	1,553	Interlaken	1,842				
Nichols	1,390	Nichols	1,816				
Fair Haven	1202	Berkshire	1,133				
¹ ACF, CCF, FPCF, Alternatives Library, FLLS & OCLC							

SUMMER READING 2024



Member Libraries Participating

Your library is the perfect summer destination. All FLLS libraries joined in the adventure.

33

7802

Youth Registered

Children and teens signed up to be part of the library's summer fun.

Adults Registered

Libraries offer adult and multi-generational programming for their communities.

1615

1830

Summer Sessions*

*All ages. In-person or live-streamed.

From author visits to storytime, libraries have something for everyone.

Program Attendance*

*All ages. In-person or live-streamed.

Libraries were the place to be and welcomed patrons of all ages.

43,137

2024 OVERDRIVE STATISTICS



TOTAL CHECKOUTS

263,512*

*Home and Visitor Users



TITLES IN COLLECTION

40,851*

*ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines

NEW USERS

UNIQUE USERS

4358

15,220



Borrow magazines for free from our digital library.



2024 DATABASE USAGE



HERITAGEQUEST Unique Searches

26,253



JOBNOW Coaching Sessions

1002



MANGO LANGUAGES
Learning Sessions

4409



TUMBLEBOOKS
Titles Viewed

1394



2024 MEMBER LIBRARY OPERATING RECEIPTS

Library	Chartered to Serve Area Population		County	Town	City or	School &	AII	Total
Library			County	IOWII	Village	Tax District	Other*	
Apalachin	CDP	2,632	\$8,612	\$1,510	\$0	\$167,444	\$76,457	\$254,023
Auburn	Special District	33,261	\$18,672	\$421,814	\$555,199	\$0	\$166,871	\$1,162,556
Aurora	Town	1,655	\$3,500	\$0	\$5,000	\$85,000	\$165,708	\$259,208
Berkshire	2 Towns	2,523	\$8,612	\$17,400	\$0	\$0	\$42,228	\$68,240
Candor	Village	786	\$8,612	\$6,000	\$0	\$36,050	\$22,771	\$73,433
Cato	2 Towns	4,587	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$34,257	\$116,257
Cincinnatus	Town	902	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$174,836	\$174,836
Cortland	City & 2 Towns	28,390	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$455,313	\$149,042	\$604,355
Dryden	Village	1,887	\$39,605	\$16,000	\$10,600	\$50,000	\$171,463	\$287,668
Fair Haven	Village	760	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$45,000	\$11,125	\$59,625
Groton	School District	5,784	\$39,130	\$0	\$0	\$223,275	\$56,979	\$319,384
Homer	School District	12,003	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$214,330	\$43,702	\$258,032
Interlaken	Village	595	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$85,860	\$33,069	\$150,429
Ithaca	County	105,740	\$4,244,682	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,077,844	\$5,337,526
Lansing	School District	7,882	\$39,605	\$270,000	\$0	\$0	\$72,435	\$382,040
Lodi	Town	1,482	\$25,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$37,989	\$146,989
Marathon	Village	892	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$82,000	\$89,076	\$171,076
McGraw	Village	972	\$226	\$7,500	\$7,000	\$69,500	\$26,917	\$111,143
Moravia	Village	1,224	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$94,500	\$52,576	\$157,076
Newark Valley	Village	928	\$8,612	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$17,998	\$76,610
Newfield	Village	725	\$39,605	\$25,000	\$0	\$81,000	\$58,350	\$203,955
Nichols	Town	2,347	\$8,612	\$40,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$11,705	\$64,317
Ovid	3 Towns	7,706	\$25,000	\$18,500	\$0	\$114,860	\$148,936	\$307,296
Owego	Village	3,654	\$8,612	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$150,000	\$58,076	\$220,688
Poplar Ridge	3 Towns	4,582	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$118,650	\$45,477	\$167,627
Port Byron	Town	2,114	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$101,147	\$8,493	\$113,140
Seneca Falls	School District	9,699	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$359,500	\$118,156	\$502,656
Spencer	Town	2,968	\$8,612	\$10,000	\$4,500	\$8,300	\$14,772	\$46,184
Trumansburg	Town	4,890	\$39,605	\$12,500	\$0	\$135,216	\$113,810	\$301,131
Union Springs	Town	2,227	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$95,500	\$29,665	\$133,165
Waterloo	Village	4,810	\$25,000	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$34,666	\$77,166
Waverly	Village	4,373	\$8,612	\$0	\$4,000	\$25,000	\$34,550	\$72,162
Weedsport	Town	4,314	\$3,500	\$21,137	\$17,289	\$89,819	\$32,113	\$163,858

Information is from the 2024 Annual Reports as submitted to Finger Lakes Library System.

^{*}Other includes: State and System Aid, Endowments, library fees, etc.

2024 MEMBER LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

Library	Population	Salaries & Benefits	Materials	Other	Total Operating	Per Capita	
Apalachin	2,632	\$116,572	\$19,749	\$121,635	\$257,956	\$98.01	
Auburn	33,261	\$842,243	\$74,988	\$164,767	\$1,081,998	\$32.53	
Aurora	1,655	\$79,055	\$11,659	\$87,265	\$177,979	\$107.54	
Berkshire	2,523	\$39,837	\$7,345	\$22,471	\$69,653	\$27.61	
Candor	786	\$40,199	\$5,035	\$35,496	\$80,730	\$102.71	
Cato	4,587	\$40,437	\$9,607	\$41,808	\$91,852	\$20.02	
Cincinnatus	902	\$103,662	\$18,327	\$213,847	\$335,836	\$372.32	
Cortland	28,390	\$390,006	\$64,767	\$163,111	\$617,884	\$21.76	
Dryden	1,887	\$158,269	\$15,744	\$110,852	\$284,865	\$150.96	
Fair Haven	760	\$18,549	\$14,416	\$19,527	\$52,492	\$69.07	
Groton	5,784	\$228,054	\$31,763	\$59,567	\$319,384	\$55.22	
Homer	12,003	\$151,348	\$39,062	\$87,937	\$278,347	\$23.19	
Interlaken	595	\$89,927	\$8,734	\$36,167	\$134,828	\$226.60	
Ithaca	105,740	\$3,470,634	\$710,374	\$746,510	\$4,927,518	\$46.60	
Lansing	7,882	\$228,049	\$27,215	\$110,632	\$365,896	\$46.42	
Lodi	1,482	\$71,797	\$9,838	\$59,372	\$141,007	\$95.15	
Marathon	892	\$62,129	\$5,665	\$35,896	\$103,690	\$116.24	
McGraw	972	\$62,929	\$12,620	\$16,830	\$92,379	\$95.04	
Moravia	1,224	\$75,619	\$16,934	\$72,294	\$164,847	\$134.68	
Newark Valley	928	\$42,269	\$6,811	\$17,776	\$66,856	\$72.04	
Newfield	725	\$111,445	\$14,597	\$67,729	\$193,771	\$267.27	
Nichols	2,347	\$39,228	\$14,267	\$26,389	\$79,884	\$34.04	
Ovid	7,706	\$235,596	\$5,842	\$89,839	\$331,277	\$42.99	
Owego	3,654	\$103,099	\$10,615	\$84,214	\$197,928	\$54.17	
Poplar Ridge	4,582	\$45,768	\$16,346	\$77,142	\$139,256	\$30.39	
Port Byron	2,114	\$68,702	\$10,800	\$37,105	\$116,607	\$55.16	
Seneca Falls	9,699	\$388,620	\$34,659	\$527,904	\$951,183	\$98.07	
Spencer	2,968	\$33,165	\$4,700	\$20,474	\$58,339	\$19.66	
Trumansburg	4,890	\$298,037	\$38,091	\$98,219	\$434,347	\$88.82	
Union Springs	2,227	\$48,434	\$16,839	\$24,147	\$89,420	\$40.15	
Waterloo	4,810	\$206,082	\$22,870	\$95,004	\$323,956	\$67.35	
Waverly	4,373	\$101,068	\$23,126	\$52,720	\$176,914	\$40.46	
Weedsport	4,314	\$92,249	\$8,028	\$97,370	\$197,647	\$45.82	

Information is from the 2024 Annual Reports as submitted to Finger Lakes Library System.

2024 MEMBER LIBRARY STATISTICS

Librani	Donulation	Total	Per Capita	Circulation	Circulation	2023 vs 2024	Per Capita	Avg Wkly Hrs
Library	Population	Holdings	Holdings	2023	2024	+/-	Circulation	of Operation
Apalachin	2,632	15,888	6.04	28,042	29,486	1,444	11.20	35
Auburn	33,261	62,612	1.88	134,217	133,155	-1,062	4.00	56
Aurora	1,655	10,899	6.59	15,665	17,358	1,693	10.49	20
Berkshire	2,523	8,583	3.40	8,771	9,453	682	3.75	25
Candor	786	20,701	26.34	13,188	13,937	749	17.73	27
Cato	4,587	13,198	2.88	9,344	7,409	-1,935	1.62	25
Cincinnatus	902	20,356	22.57	11,490	10,652	-838	11.81	26
Cortland	28,390	74,682	2.63	105,942	99,410	-6,532	3.50	55.5
Dryden	1,887	42,036	22.28	87,673	90,407	2,734	47.91	44
Fair Haven	760	14,477	19.05	6,257	7,008	751	9.22	21
Groton	5,784	23,192	4.01	23,998	27,349	3,351	4.73	42
Homer	12,003	24,858	2.07	36,194	42,779	6,585	3.56	37
Interlaken	595	8,588	14.43	8,942	7,736	-1,206	13.00	27
Ithaca	105,740	154,948	1.47	768,796	877,956	109,160	8.30	60
Lansing	7,882	21,573	2.74	63,333	58,855	-4,478	7.47	44
Lodi	1,482	10,751	7.25	10,975	10,262	-713	6.92	28
Marathon	892	13,189	14.79	10,840	10,824	-16	12.13	32
McGraw	972	14,319	14.73	8,385	8,627	242	8.88	22
Moravia	1,224	16,064	13.12	18,225	20,422	2,197	16.68	29
Newark Valley	928	13,654	14.71	10,893	11,456	563	12.34	25
Newfield	725	17,468	24.09	24,185	25,208	1,023	34.77	37
Nichols	2,347	12,908	5.50	4,889	6,257	1,368	2.67	25
Ovid	7,706	16,089	2.09	14,293	12,662	-1,631	1.64	43
Owego	3,654	35,057	9.59	30,844	31,305	461	8.57	31
Poplar Ridge	4,582	9,114	1.99	8,355	8,158	-197	1.78	26
Port Byron	2,114	18,796	8.89	16,512	16,095	-417	7.61	33
Seneca Falls	9,699	28,585	2.95	50,457	50,364	-93	5.19	58.31
Spencer	2,968	23,015	7.75	9,814	11,119	1,305	3.75	29
Trumansburg	4,890	24,701	5.05	70,559	68,533	-2,026	14.01	43
Union Springs	2,227	11,195	5.03	18,020	17,069	-951	7.66	28
Waterloo	4,810	20,757	4.32	20,472	21,210	738	4.41	41
Waverly	4,373	28,447	6.51	26,120	25,308	-812	5.79	33
Weedsport	4,314	14,231	3.30	15,919	15,202	-717	3.52	44.5

Information is from the 2024 Annual Reports as submitted to Finger Lakes Library System.

Central Library Collection Housed at TCPL: 10,325

<u>Note:</u> Total Holdings and Per Capita Holdings have decreased due to Annual Report changes; libraries are no longer asked to report total number of eContent holdings.