



# Black Rock Branch

## JANUARY 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards:	23	Number of questions answered:	
	number of visitors:	1655	[Reference, Technical, Other]	
			REFERENCE: 325 OTHER: 126 TECH: 376	
			TOTAL: 827	
Collections Statistics	Collection Size:	32668		
	Total Added:	55		
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:	1342		
	In House:	92		
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month:	367		
	Total Wifi connections:	216		
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance			
	Bookings:	6		
	Attendance:	11		
Programming	<b>REGULAR PROGRAMMING:</b>			
	4 Weekly Crafts:		13 Patrons	
	5 Story Times:		19 Patrons	
	1 Adult Book Club:		5 Patrons	
	2 Adult exercise:		35 Patrons	YOGA
	2 STEAM Thursdays		8 Patrons	
	3 Family Movies		3 Patrons	
	2 Movies for Grownups		2 Patrons	
	2 Lego Club		4 Patrons	
	3 Crafternoon		0 Patrons	
	2 Community Support Series		1 Patrons	
	Other Services	Digital Navigator	3 Sessions	3 Patrons
Notary		15 Patrons	15 Documents	
Passport		N/A		
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached			
Staff Development	Date(s)	Attendee(s)	Title/Topic(s)	
	1/14/2026	Margaret	Techniques for Uncomfortable Conversations	
	1/15/2026	Margaret	<b>Keeping Predatory People Out of the Library: Know the Signs of Harm</b>	
	1/15/2026	Joel	Bibliomation: New Features	
	1/21/2026	Margaret	Giving Effective Feedback	
	1/21/2026	Joel	Bibliomation: Parts (Cataloging)	
	1/28/2026	Margaret	Get Things Done: set yourself up for Success	
1/28/2026	Margaret, Joel	Bibliomation: New Reporter/Reports		

## HIGHLIGHTS

### COLLECTIONS

- At this point all Baker and Taylor Cancelled items have been detected and transferred to Brodart orders if needed.
- We are preparing to make some changes to the children's collection to draw more attention our recently updated nonfiction collections. More info to come!
- Mat and I are working with Library IQ to minimize our noncirculating materials and increase purchasing more specifically in subjects and genres that circ highly. Library IQ gives us additional options to deep dive into collections to achieve that and even offers tools to recommend materials we should consider purchasing.
- Joel has expressed a particular interest in GN/Manga collections; we are working with him to look for gaps in and ways to improve our current in our current collections of these materials.

### PROGRAMS

- With the holidays over, January was fairly quiet. However, Mat did launch this winter's Yoga to a large, appreciative audience. With 20+ people at the first session we had people inquiring for weeks about it. Even with the robust turnout, patrons seem to enjoy "yoga in the stacks" so until further notice this program is held- interestingly- right on the main floor, in the Nook area.
- Wee Readers is slowly growing again. Our newer style of program seems to be getting results. Instead of just songs, stories, and a coloring sheet, we are offering multiple learning-based activities at tables around the room and kids and caregivers can do one or multiple games, crafts, etc. that appeal to the age and capacity of the attendee. It offers broader appeal to our audience which ranges from almost newborn to early readers. The new program also offers "homework" for families who want it (coloring sheets featuring early learning activities, and sometimes a simple verbal assignment from me). I hope to continue to expand this program, though it is a lot of labor from the team!

### OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

- In the post holiday doldrums there were no major outreach events to attend. Mat and Margaret were able to attend the January NRZ meeting, though, where we met our new Council people along with new (and several familiar) faces from the community. We continue to keep our eyes open for ways to work with and develop community events through the NRZ and other opportunities as they arise.

### CONCERNS

- waiting on the facade (which we know is in the works)
- waiting on signage for the street.
- need to explore changing the signage over our book drop bins (one is labeled exclusively for audiovisual materials, this is really no longer necessary)
- Shoutout to Jose who has been kept busy with floor painting (mostly done!) and fixing other problems we find. This month he was able to seal up our kitchen windows to improve heat retention in that room, which has made a difference!
- The boiler has broken in a way that leaves the lower level without reliable heat on our lower level. Repairs are underway and in the meantime David and his crew have brought over space heaters. However, until the issue is fixed we are not allowing rooms to be booked by patrons. At one point one room dropped to 52 degrees, which is simply too cold to offer patrons as a meeting space.