



Black Rock Branch

JULY 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards:	40	Number of questions answered:	
	number of visitors:	1895	[Reference, Technical, Other]	
			REFERENCE: 173 OTHER: 172 TECH: 130	
			TOTAL: 475	
Collections Statistics	Collection Size:	33143		
	Total Added:	289		
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:	1621		
	In House:	91		
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month:	317		
	Total Wifi connections:	242		
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance			
	Bookings:	14		
	Attendance:	109		
Programming	REGULAR PROGRAMMING:			
	5 Weekly Crafts:		43 Patrons	
	9 Story Times:		25 Patrons	
	2 Adult Book Club:		8 Patrons	
	1 Nutmeg Book club		0 Patrons	
	4 STEAM Thur		29 Patrons	
	2 Digital Orientation		0 Patrons	
	3 Family Movies		14 Patrons	
	3 Movies for Grownups		4 Patrons	
	2 Lego Club		6 Patrons	
	1 Crafternoon		0 Patrons	
	1 Adult Take and Makes		15 Patrons	
	SPECIAL PROGRAMMING			
	1 Christine's Critters (Raptors)		0 Patrons	
	1 Bridgevolt bike/ebike info session		6 Patrons	
Other Services	Digital Navigator	5 Sessions	3 Patrons	
	Notary	14 Patrons	23 Documents	
	Passport	N/A		
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached			
	7/19/2025	BR Farmers' Market	34 people	
	7/30/2025	Bridgeport Lighthouse class visit (@Claytor)	18 people	
Staff Development	Annette G. Reviewed basic book repair videos; she will be taking over our most basic repairs now that Carmen is gone.			

HIGHLIGHTS

We continue to see significant increases in foot traffic to our building. In addition to statistical counts showing this, we have recently been encountering periods where multiple patrons are being assisted at once, which may be common in some branches but is a recent development here.

We've introduced a "Take and Make" craft for adults that has proven extremely popular. Starting with 15 in June and immediately seeing we needed more, Shauna prepped 59 kits in July that were all taken. These activities have attracted the interest of children too, so I am considering adding a kids take and make as well.

COLLECTIONS

With the start of the new fiscal year, we have already placed orders for over 300 new items in July alone.

Some projects we are commencing in this FY will be to shrink the DVD collection and to expand the YA collection. We particularly want to expand our Manga/Graphic novel collection.

Something new we tried this year was interfiled of mystery and fiction titles. This has freed up space and allowed us to ensure that authors' collections stay together. Whereas before, many mystery and thriller series were split across the two areas.

PROGRAMS

We've had a surprisingly quiet summer season here at Black Rock when it comes to programs. Story times are still gaining people but the numbers are inconsistent, and some patrons have asked for more activities for little ones to do. An improved story time structure is in the works and is something I have wanted to implement for a long time, so I am excited to be planning this to roll out this fall (probably October).

We've only done one paid program so far this year, with annual favorite Christine's Critters. However, we were shocked that no one came at all, even though we purposely hosted it on an evening so working families could attend...and we had families who said they were coming.

Christine was very understanding and will be returning in October for a free "makeup" program which I expect will get a larger audience since we will advertise through the BOE.

Summer Reading is going well with more participants than last year in some age brackets, and general excitement at the prizes from winners of all ages.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

We were less busy this year with outreach but our outreach was very successful. In fact, at the last Farmer's Market we did not have time to leave the table so many people stopped by with questions and to engage with us!

CONCERNS

Previously noted (outstanding) concerns: Signage for outside, facade repair, lower level floor sealing. Also previously noted: program attendance remains spotty. Foot traffic is increasing but this isn't translating to program attendance.

Newer concerns: our biggest concern is security related. Specifically we have need for additional cameras along the outside of the building, especially on the Melrose side. In the past year, 3 vandalism incidents have occurred on the Melrose side of our building, where we have little visibility on cameras.