



SCPL
Schenectady County Public Library



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

It is with great pride that I write the President's message on behalf of the SCPL Board of Trustees this year. After more than 10 years as a Trustee, serving on many committees, and as Treasurer and Vice President, I am excited to take on this role and to help lead this dynamic group of dedicated individuals, each committed to the thoughtful stewardship of our public library.

In the past year, we bid a tearful adieu to our Executive Director, Karen Bradley, who saw us through the COVID-19 pandemic with tenacity and grace. Karen is a respected and beloved leader who will be remembered for her tireless commitment to literacy and ensuring access to library services for everyone in our community. We congratulate her on her retirement!

Our search for a new library director began over a year ago and we were pleased to have attracted a pool of highly qualified candidates who recognized the unique opportunities presented by the Schenectady County Public Library. From this group, a most refreshing and experienced candidate emerged - and Schenectady was her hometown! We are thrilled to welcome Charity Thorne back to Schenectady to lead the Schenectady County Public Library as our new Executive Director. Charity has hit the ground running and we are confident she will bring the SCPL to new heights in access and efficiency as she continues to immerse herself in the community.

I am thankful to my predecessor, Deborah Escobar, who led us through this transition in library leadership and I welcome our two new Trustees, Madelyn Thorne and Jude McQueen to the Board. Together with our partners at the County and in the Legislature, and with the support of the Friends of Schenectady Public Library, we will continue to be a community asset that enriches the entire County by providing excellence in library service, empowering individuals, families, and children in our community.



Sincerely,

Tina Chericoni Versaci



HON. KAREN B. JOHNSON CENTRAL LIBRARY BECAME A “FAMILY PLACE LIBRARY”



In 2022 the library and the Youth Services Department realized a new definition of “business as usual.” In the fall, the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library was certified as a Family Place Library, an initiative where libraries serve as community centers for early literacy & learning, parent education and engagement, family support and community connectivity helping to ensure all children enter school ready and able to learn.

SCPL WENT FINE FREE IN 2022

Schenectady County Public Library went fine free in April to remove barriers to equitably accessing library resources and services. No longer charging late fees when materials are returned has allowed the library to welcome back many cardholders to encourage lifelong learning, exploration and innovation through access to library services and resources. Library staff have been excited to see many new and old faces returning to the library as a result of this change to utilize the many offerings the County provides to residents and taxpayers.

MULTIPLE BUILDING PROJECTS CAME TO FRUITION

Glenville Branch Library

With the generous donation to the Glenville Branch Library from Whitney Denio, the library was able to renovate the interior of the library including a new circulation desk, addition of comfortable seating for Adults, Teens and Children, updated furniture throughout and new public computer space.



Niskayuna Branch Library

As part of a multi-year capital improvement plan the Niskayuna Branch Library location embarked on several projects in 2022. The branch received several furniture upgrades including a new circulation desk, comfortable seating for Adults, Teens and Children, new program room furniture and public computer furniture. The parking lot and curbing were redone along with the HVAC replacement.



Rotterdam Branch Library

A collaboration between Schenectady County and the Library's Board of Trustees (thanks to a generous bequest from Ruth Shapiro) provided the ability to update the Rotterdam Branch Library. The project included new flooring throughout the interior branch and program room, updated furniture throughout including comfortable seating for Adults and Teens as well as the addition of fun, welcoming furniture to the children's space!



Scotia Branch Library

Schenectady County officially opened the newly updated Scotia Branch Library, which includes a brand-new addition, with a ribbon cutting earlier today. The library is housed in the Abraham Glen House on Mohawk Avenue, the main portion of which was built in 1728. The County worked with a historic renovation architect to design the addition and ensure all repairs were done in compliance with historic renovation standards. A new bathroom, furnishings, digital signage inside, sidewalk, and curb updates make the space more accessible to residents and families.



STATISTICS



CIRCULATION
2021: 638,914
2022: 693,267





REFERENCE QUESTIONS:
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2021: 19,653
2022: 22,482



VISITOR COUNT:
2021: 271,036
2022: 510,186

OF REGISTERED RESIDENT BORROWERS:
2021: 62,401
2022: 61,171


eCONTENT CIRCULATION  

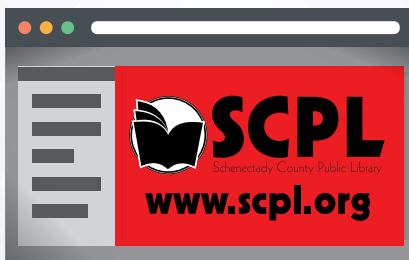
2020: 131,659

2021: 135,714

2022: 163,507 **+20%**

Our digital e-content of ebooks, graphic novels, audio books, music, and movies on Hoopla & Libby continue to increase year over year.

	2021	# OF ATTENDEES:	2022	# OF ATTENDEES:
	14,750		24,367	
ADULTS	2,283	+65%	6,745	
CHILDREN'S	12,457		17,622	



WIFI USERS

2021: 37,212
2022: 53,903

WEBSITE VISITS:†
2021: 224,739
2022: 236,494

†Revised Google Analytics used for 2022.

COMPUTER USERS:
2021: 12,033
2022: 28,629
+138%

* COMBINED FROM ALL 9 SCPL LOCATIONS.



SCPL
Schenectady County Public Library

Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library
99 Clinton Street
518.388.4500

**Phyllis Bornt
Branch Library
& Literacy Center**
948 State Street
518.372.4393

**Glenville
Branch Library**
20 Glenridge Road
518.386.2243

**Mont Pleasant
Branch Library**
1036 Crane Street
518.386.2245

**Niskayuna
Branch Library**
2400 Nott Street East
518.386.2249

**Quaker Street
Branch Library**
133 Bull Street, Delanson
518.895.2719

**Rotterdam
Branch Library**
1100 N. Westcott Road
518.356.3440

**Scotia
Branch Library**
14 Mohawk Avenue
518.386.2247

**Woodlawn
Branch Library**
2 Sanford Street
518.386.2248

www.scpl.org