

Adult Circulation Report to Board of Trustees May 2026

June 9, 2026

Adult Summer Reading Program Begins! – “Unearth A Story”

We have planned a **challenge card**, **six events**, **displays**, **crafts**, **social media posts**, and **newsletter features** encouraging patrons to take advantage of library resources and explore the world of dinosaurs, geology, and deep history. This program is generously supported by the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library. **Adult Summer Reading Challenge cards** will be available soon. Anyone who completes one wins a button and a free book. Raffle winners receive a bookstore gift card.

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30pm

Rapid Reviews — Adult Summer Reading Kick-Off!

Five library staff will review a total of fifty books in fifty minutes. Books are available for check out after the event to enjoy over the summer.

Tuesday, June 23, 6:30pm

Birds Are Dinosaurs – Live Birds of Prey with VINS – For All Ages

Vermont Institute of Natural Science will introduce us to live birds of prey and we will learn all about their dinosaur ancestry together. We'll explore the ways modern birds became masters of the air and understand the immense timescale over which these dinosaur-descendants adapted.

Saturdays, July 11, July 18, August 15, 10:30-12pm

Unearth Your Creativity Workshops with the River Gallery School

Teaching artists from the River Gallery School will teach three workshops at the library, leading participants in an exploration of drawing, painting, and making paints from natural materials.

Saturday, August 8, 10:30-12pm

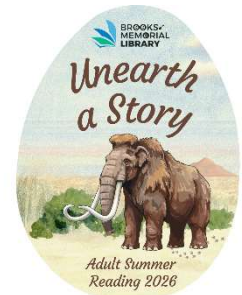
Dinosaur Needle Felting Workshop

Participants will have the opportunity to learn the basics of needle felting and make a dinosaur of their choice from loose roving wool.

Highlights from May

- Popular displays included **Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month**, **New York Review Books**, **Mental Health Awareness**, and **Foreign Films**.
- Patrons of all ages were invited to learn more about **plant anatomy** by coloring scientific drawings at the craft table.
- The library hosted **Stories with Starr** and **live music** to honor Starr LaTronica on her last day.
- Patrons enjoyed new and recurring events such as a talk on **Native Plants**, **Art & Exploration at the Library: Creating Cyanotype Art**, **SilverCircus**, **Talking about Tech**, and **Brattleboro in Stitches**. Community members learned more about volunteering at the **Town Committee Fair**.
- **The Field to Fork Tool Shed** and **eBike Lending Library** have opened for another season.
- The library served as a distribution point for special trash bags for **Green Up Day**.

Submitted by Amanda Whiting, Circulation Manager



Rapid Reviews



50 Books · 50 minutes

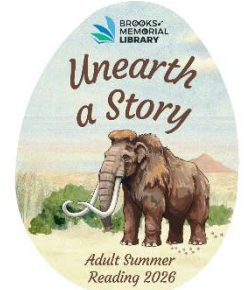


Adult Circulation Report to Board of Trustees
June 2026

July 14, 2026

Adult Summer Reading Program – “Unearth A Story”

- Adults have picked up over **200 challenge cards** so far.
- **Rapid Reviews – June 9 – 30 attendees**
- **Birds are Dinosaurs – June 23 – 115 total attendees, 40 children**
- Unearth Your Creativity Workshops with the River Gallery School, July 11, 18, August 15 – Registration Open
- Dinosaur Needle Felting Workshop – August 8 – Fully registered.



Meeting & Study Rooms

- Demand for meeting and study rooms has increased dramatically in recent years and finally seems to be leveling off.
- Patrons can now make and cancel their own bookings online, which has improved the patron experience and saved staff time. Staff still make and cancel bookings for patrons who prefer not to book online.
- The library provides accessible and confidential spaces to gather, work, learn, access healthcare, and interview for jobs, leading to better opportunities for our community members.

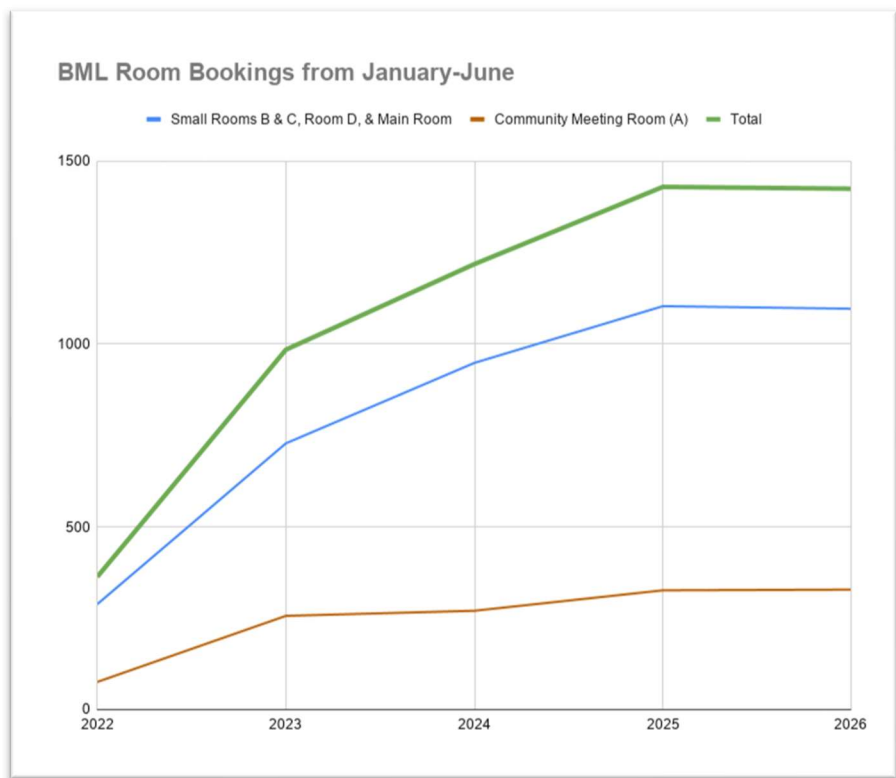
BML Room Bookings from January-June (6 months only)					
Room	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Small Meeting Rooms B & C, Room D, & Main Reading Room	288	728	948	1,103	1,096
Community Meeting Room (A)	75	256	270	326	328
Total Bookings	363	984	1,218	1,429	1,424
Increase		+171%	+23%	+17%	~0%

These figures do not include cancelled bookings.

Highlights from June

- Popular displays included **Pride, Local Writers, Foraging, Dinosaurs, and Geology.**
- Patrons of all ages experimented with painting at the **Watercolor Station.**
- The library offered **Art & Exploration with the Library**, an art and books workshop series for seniors, in collaboration with the River Gallery School and the Bradley House.
- In partnership with Out in the Open, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, and Everyone’s Books, the library co-sponsored the author talk **Better Off Read: an evening with Imogen Binnie and Torrey Peters.** Torrey and Imogen entertained a packed crowd of **119** at the museum with readings from their work and stories from their lives.
- The library celebrated the release of the poetry anthology **The Country in the Mirror: Poems of Protest and Witness** with a poetry reading from poets and editor Sharon Darrow. Local poets were invited to read poems on the theme of protest and witness.

Submitted by Amanda Whiting, Circulation Manager



Children petting a Wood Turtle at the Birds are Dinosaurs event



Birds are Dinosaurs with VINS



Rapid Reviews



Rapid Reviews

Youth Services Board Report- June 2026

The beginning of June saw a flurry of class visits as the school year came to a close. We quickly changed gears to our summer reading program with sign-ups beginning on Monday June 15 and a full roster of weekly events beginning on Monday June 22. As of June 30, 239 children have joined our Unearth a Story summer reading program. Children can continue to sign up into July. Boxes of summer reading program prizes piled up in the Children's Room office as we prepared to begin awarding prizes on July 1. Our summer reading program consists of four levels, with multiple prize choices for each level so each child can find a prize they are excited about. We have so many avid readers who fly through the levels at an impressive speed. We make the prizes available beginning on July 1 to give everyone a chance to get to join the program and start reading.

The upper entrance of the library continues to be closed as work on the outdoor project continues. Even with patrons needing to use the Main Street entrance and come up to the top floor, our circulation actually increased for June. We circulated 5304 children's items and 478 YA items for a combined 5782 items! That is 394 items more than 2025, 638 more than 2024, and an astounding 761 more than 2023!

The Children's Room participated in the Winston Prouty Day of Play on Saturday, June 27 from 10:00 to 12:00 pm. Maya and I brought bags of books, egg shakers and juggling scarves for kids to play with and explore. We were thrilled to see many library families at the event. We handed out summer reading program flyers, bookmarks and stickers.

Lindsay Bellville- Youth Services Librarian

Teen Summer Reading Program kicked off on the last full week of June with the distribution of Teen SRP punch cards to incentivize YA circulation and drive event attendance. The more teens do of both, the more opportunities they have to win prizes like vinyl stickers, books, and raffle entries for gift certificates from Main St. businesses. By the end of the month, we had handed out cards to 23 teens, an uptick from last summer at the same time.

We also had our first Teen Game Night of the summer, taking advantage of the ongoing construction to hold the event for the first time downstairs in the Main Reading Room. Teens spread out on the first floor to play games, eat snacks, and make art for three hours on a Friday night. This was a great opportunity to let them occupy a space which—while always open for them to use—can feel daunting to enter after a lifetime sticking to the Children's Room. More opportunities like this will hopefully help teens to feel more comfortable on the first floor/mezzanine and encourage them to utilize the resources available to them more readily.

Outside of my primary role working with teens, June 7th saw the first installment of the library's new Sci-Fi Film Series (SFFS) held in conjunction with the Latchis Theatre. This series is a direct offshoot of our popular Sci-Fi Reading Group which I have run for the past four years and which has amassed a robust following in that time. This first SFFS event—a showing of the 1997 film *Gattaca*—drew 27 attendees on a sunny Sunday afternoon! Other films planned for the series are *Stalker* (1979), *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), *Akira* (1988), and *Blade Runner* (1982). I'm looking forward to continuing this partnership with the Latchis Theatre on the first Sundays of the next few months.

Max Newirth - Teen Services Specialist