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ISHPEMING CARNEGIE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

2025  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

*[www.ishpeminglibrary.info](http://www.ishpeminglibrary.info) / 906-486-4381 /  
[jshirtz@ishpeminglibrary.info](mailto:jshirtz@ishpeminglibrary.info)*

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# Who's who at the library?

## Library Staff

**Jessica Shirtz,**  
Library Director

**Nicole Johnson,**  
Librarian

**Heather Lander,**  
Children's Librarian

**Heidi Silverstone,**  
Library Assistant

**Lorissa Laitinen,**  
Library Clerk (left May)

**Arwen Luttenton-Hamel,**  
Library Clerk (returned July)

## Library Board

**Paul Olson,** President

**Elyse Bertucci,** Vice President

**Brooke Routhier,** Secretary

**Darren Boldt,** Trustee

**Kaylee Reno,** Trustee

*Jason Chapman,* City Council Liaison  
to the Library Board





**Friends of the Library**

Shop the Friends of the Library Merch

MERCHANDISE PRICES

SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRTS	\$15.00
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRTS	\$20.00
LIBRARY TOTE BAGS	\$10.00
2024 CALENDARS	\$10.00
LATEST RECIPE BOOKS	\$10.00
OLD RECIPE BOOKS	\$5.00
SANDWICH CANVASES	\$10.00
CONUMENT	\$10.00

Carnegie Library  
514 1st St  
51701  
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**Association of Friends of the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library**

501(c)3 non-profit

**Kay Tupala**, President

**Amy Robare**, Secretary

**Ann Kananen DeVowe**,

Treasurer

**Jodi Firby**, Assistant

Treasurer



The Friends sponsored our Fall lineup of programs for adults! They expanded to three used book sales in April, August, and December.

The FOL were instrumental in the library receiving a grant from United for Libraries/Penguin Random House (and matching it!) to purchase updated titles on Native American peoples and other cultures.

[ishpeminglibrary.info/friends](http://ishpeminglibrary.info/friends)



# FROM THE FRONT DESK

*Respectfully submitted by Jesse Shirtz, Library Director*

We had a busy 2025! We continued to experience a high demand for new programs for all ages and correspondingly saw high attendance at programs new and old.

We welcomed back former staff member Teagan Olivia King for the launch of her debut novel *Spit Back the Bones*, and once again hosted this year's Young Author (Adam Rex) for a fun-filled presentation for area children.

There were a stressful few months when the IMLS was eliminated at the federal level and we feared the loss of state-wide inter-library loan. Luckily, that has not come to pass.

We ended the year with the unfortunate failure of our steam boiler the weekend before Thanksgiving. We are grateful to the City for electing to replace the entire system.

In the meantime the extreme cold temperatures outside translated inside. We are appreciative of our patrons who continued visiting and using the library with their jackets on. We look forward to having a more efficient system next winter!



*RIP steam boiler*

We are beginning 2026 in the midst of a complete replacement of our heating system, except for our existing small hot water boiler that heats the Children's Room and Ray Leverton Community Room. All radiators and existing piping have been removed (along with the old boiler) and the new units will be installed soon. The project has a projected completion date of May 1. The Carnegie Corporation also gifted our library \$10,000 in January for still operating as a Carnegie library! We remain committed to providing materials and programming on a wide range of subjects for all of the residents of our service area.

# BY THE NUMBERS



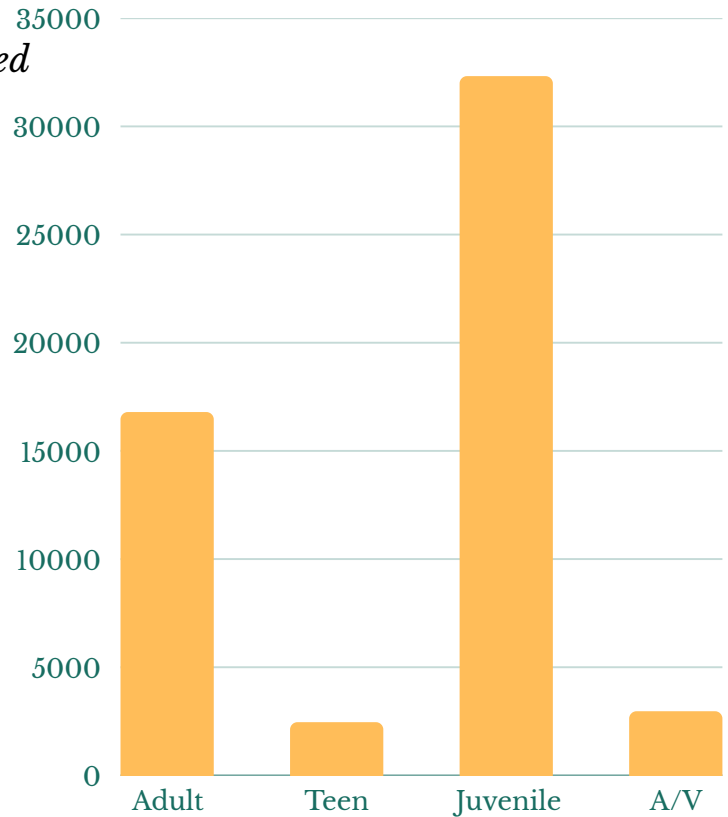
# CIRCULATION

The number and character of items checked out during this year.

# 59%

OF ITEMS CIRC'D ARE FOR KIDS

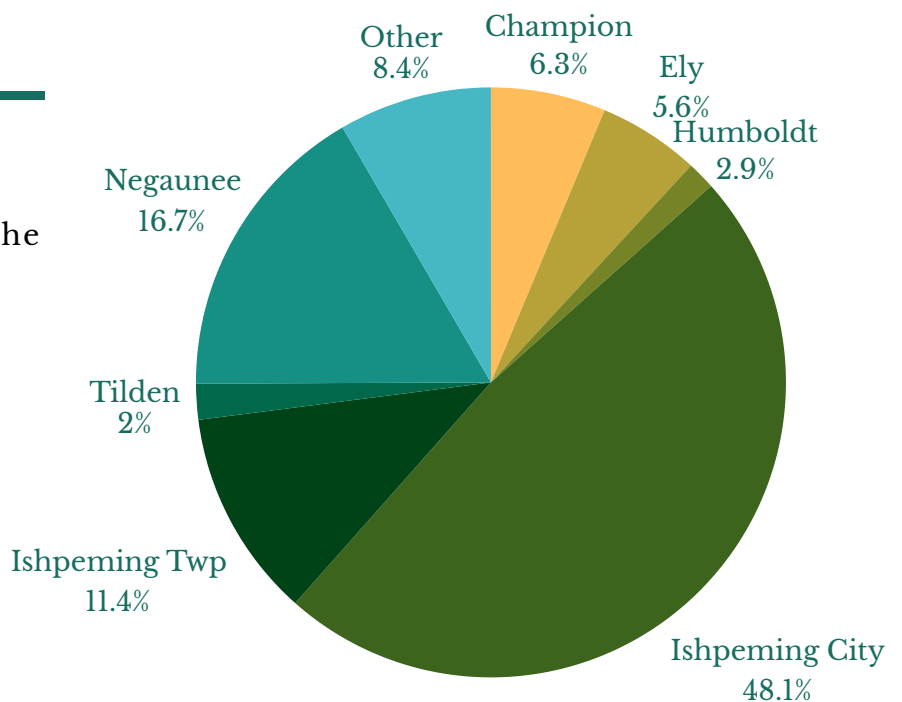
Juvenile items continue to be the most checked out at the library.



# 54K

TOTAL CHECKOUTS

Library users checked out 54,502 physical items this year. With an estimated individual cost of \$25, the value of all checked out items for 2025 was \$1,362,550.





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# PROGRAMS

*Regular, in-person programs are increasingly popular! The totals by age do not include Summer Reading programs.*

## 183

### Adult Programs

1,735 attended our programs for adults, including several book clubs, crochet club, author visits, and Italian lessons (plus many more)!

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### Teen Programs

## 26

194 participated in our programs for teens, including craft programs, book clubs, and Open Book/Tween Thursdays.

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## 123

### Children's Programs

5,173 took part in our programs for kids, including Tot Tuesday Storytime, Homeschool Hangout, afternoon movies, author visits, and book clubs.

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### All Ages All Year Long Programs

We had 9,355 attendees at programs throughout 2025. This shows a 18% increase in number of programs offered and a 3% increase in participation.

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## 403



Children and caregivers read 1,000 books together before starting Kindergarten!

## 2025 Statistics:

Children Registered: 24

Completed the challenge: 3

Books read by all registrants: 7,985

**Sponsored by  
the Friends of the Library!**





The library offered monthly, seasonal, and yearly reading challenges in 2025.

**New Accounts: 134**

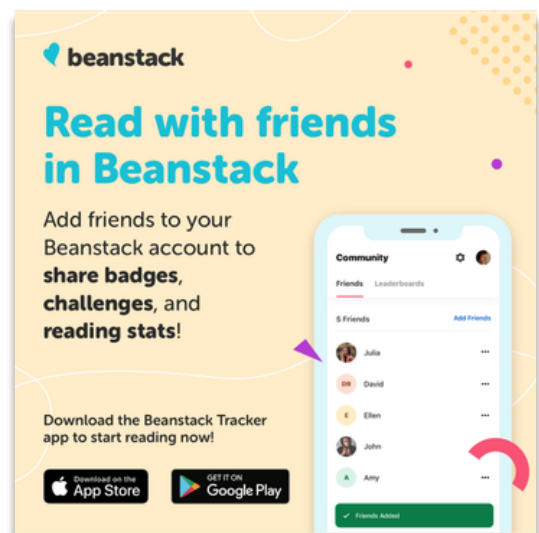
**Total Readers: 567**

**Challenges: 26**

**Challenge Completions: 335**

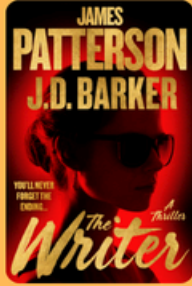
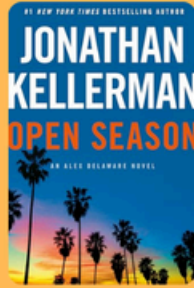
**Logged Books: 11,993**

**Logged Minutes: 720,108**



[ishpeminglibrary.beanstack.org](http://ishpeminglibrary.beanstack.org)

## TOP 5 ADULT BOOKS 2025



## TOP 5 TEEN BOOKS 2025



ICMPL  
ISHPEMING CARNEGIE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## TOP 5 KIDS BOOKS 2025



ICMPL  
ISHPEMING CARNEGIE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# LIBBY

*The library now has access to fourteen shared collections across the state of Michigan, resulting in a much expanded digital collection available for checkout!.*

**2354** eBooks

2,354 eBooks were checked out from the Great Lakes Digital Library site or the Libby app. 1,940 magazines circ'd.



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## eAudiobooks

eAudiobooks continue to be popular checkouts; now consistently overtaking eBook circulation.

**4048**

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**10,740** Shared Collection checkouts

10,740 digital items were checked out from the 14 additional shared collections by our patrons.

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## Average Monthly Unique Patrons

The number of Libby users each month varied from 145 to 194. There were also 130 patrons who began using Libby or the GLDL last year!

**167**

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# COLOR WORLD™

## Youth Summer Reading 2025

KIDS & TEENS

2025 SUMMER  
READING RECAP

560

PARTICIPANTS

94

MORE REGISTRANTS  
THAN 2024

30

PROGRAMS

1283

ATTENDEES



# COLOR WORLD™

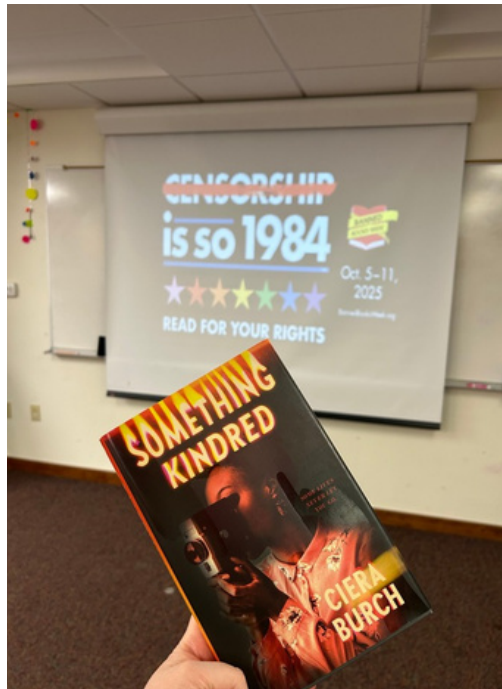
## Adult Summer Reading 2025



**ADULT**  
**2025 SUMMER READING RECAP**

<b>104</b> PARTICIPANTS	<b>667</b> BOOK REVIEWS
<b>41</b> PROGRAMS	<b>970</b> ATTENDEES





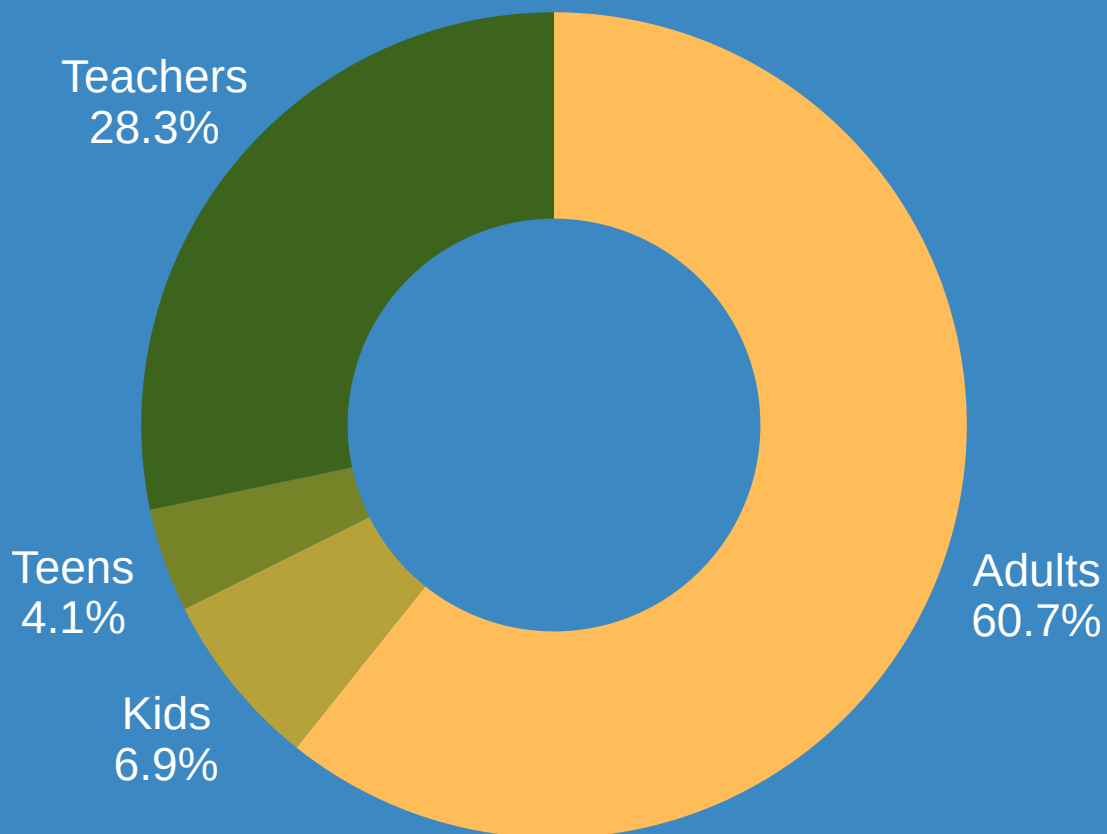
# Strawberry Hill Seed Library 2025

The Strawberry Hill Seed Library at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library opened in April 2023 with the help of Partridge Creek Farm and numerous volunteers.

During 2025, we had 39 people fill out forms to “check out” seeds. These 39 people checked out a total of 309 seed packets!

If you would like to donate seeds, please contact the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library at 906-486-4381 or send an email to Heidi Silverstone at [hsilverstone@ishpeminglibrary.info](mailto:hsilverstone@ishpeminglibrary.info)

# Who uses the library?



\*Percentage of items checked out on cards belonging to the listed demographics.

# 2025

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Checkouts	26,236
Cardholders	4,522
State Aid	\$6,999
Penal Fines	\$15,869

# 73%

of Ishpeming City residents  
have an active library card.

Ishpeming  
City



# 2025

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Checkouts	3,432
Cardholders	200
Contract Fee	\$394
State Aid	\$285
Penal Fines	\$646

## Champion Township

# 80%

of Champion Township  
residents have an active  
library card.



# 2025

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Checkouts	3,032
Cardholders	358
Contract Fee	\$2,652
State Aid	\$2,166
Penal Fines	\$4,910

# 18%

of Ely Township residents  
have an active library card.

Ely  
Township



# 2025

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Checkouts	844
Cardholders	65
Contract Fee	\$469
State Aid	\$373
Penal Fines	\$847

# 19%

of Humboldt Township residents have an active library card.

Humboldt  
Township



# Ishpeming Township

# 2025

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Checkouts	6,227
Cardholders	745
Contract Fee	\$4,646
State Aid	\$3,867
Penal Fines	\$8,766

# 21%

of Ishpeming Township residents have an active library card.



# 2025

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Checkouts	1,067
Cardholders	201
Contract Fee	\$1,324
State Aid	\$1,191
Penal Fines	\$2,700

# 19%

of Tilden Township residents  
have an active library card.

Tilden  
Township



# 2025 BUDGET

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