

Director's Report: Submitted by Patrick Pittman

March 2026

Director's Focus:

Space Analysis; Future Renovations; Year-End Assessment/Reporting

Personnel: See Personnel Committee report.

Finance: See Finance Committee report.

Facilities: See Facilities report.

Policy: See Policies Committee report.

Library Function: The library had a downshift in library visits for the month of March. The library had 5,947 total visits over 212 service hours. March 2025 had 6,468 patrons use the library over 227 open hours. An initial glance suggests the difference in hours played a significant role in the decrease. March had changeable weather and several power outages, which reduced the number of hours. Looking at the total picture, an aberration means very little in a broad trajectory. The library still has a net increase in usage for 2026, but analyzing building usage will move up in tracking priorities for the next quarter.

Programming in March 2026 focused primarily on time during the school break. The librarians indicated solid attendance during spring break programs, but the quick turnaround from February break led to a decrease in total programs offered in March. Attendance showed flattening from March 2025. In the context of concurrent breaks about a month apart, this offers a reasonable explanation. However, the librarians received instructions to stabilize regularity of educational programs throughout April, May, and June to stimulate habitual library usage for program attendees.

Material circulation remained stable in March. Circulation benchmarks hover around a plus or minus of a few hundred items. Certainly, no earth-shattering developments occurred on this metric. The trends and patterns indicate that this level of physical circulation has hit the pre-COVID plateau. The collection still has some growth potential by utilizing e-resources. A significant multi-license purchase made in March will show in April's numbers. If the library sees a major bump in circulated items, a clear pathway for getting materials in the hands of more patrons becomes clear.

The New York State Library has opened its annual reporting platform. Libraries have a two-week time, up to April 16th, to complete the statistics. As of the writing of this report, the compilation has nearly been completed. The NYS statistics act as a base from which to demonstrate the library's performance to the municipalities over the course of a year. Once finished, the library

will combine it with the year-end financials to create a total report with an executive summary. The package will go into the May board packet for approval to send to the municipalities.

Looking Ahead: The librarians began tuning the process for Seymour's Summer Reading Program, which continues to demonstrate high use and engagement. The librarians have started planning what the program will entail under this year's theme: "Unearth a Story". The Summer Reading Kickoff will take place on Thursday, June 25th. This event has gone well with the community over the last several years when held the day after public schools let out.

Items requiring attention of various committees this year include choosing a firm to audit the library, choosing a landscaper, implementing a community survey, and pulling together a budget for 2027. Broken into pieces over multiple committees will make short work with many hands. The library and its board have accomplished quite a bit in 2026, but we all have a lot of time left in the year.

In Closing: March ran somewhat atypically from prior year performance. Patrons used the building, albeit at a slightly slower rate than last year, books and items moved as expected, and programs turned out good attendance. Some challenges exist in categorizing a month in which the library worked as expected, but little happened in the way of notable reporting items.

A list of goals for the library and board to complete by the end of 2026 has started coming together, which will necessitate more meetings. As things pick up with seasonal changes, patrons visits and program attendance will, based on historical trends, start to increase too. The library will host a class visit on Monday, April 13th from Brockport High School. This will start a rotation of classes coming from the district to the library. If nothing else, these interactions will help bring awareness to the library within the community with a positive educational experience.