

LIBRARY LINES

LEXINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY — CONNECT. ENGAGE. ENRICH.

January 2026

BOOKED & READY FOR THE NEW YEAR

Community Connections – On January 20, Swansea Branch Library's weekly program, *Lifelong Learning: English for Beginners*, featured a potluck. Food provided a meaningful way for attendees to connect across cultures as they shared dishes, discussed recipes and completed English as a Second Language (ESL) worksheets focused on food items.



South Congaree–Pine Ridge Branch Library partnered with Herbert A. Wood Elementary School to host a bilingual event at the library on January 22. Families were invited to enjoy a bilingual storytime, crafts, library card sign-ups and doughnuts. Outreach Coordinator Kate Berry delivered a presentation about library services while Mobile Library Manager Meliannette Ruiz translated.



Book Club – Pelion Branch Library's Spinecrackers book club saw **14** attendees on January 22. The group read and discussed the historical fiction novel *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Library Assistant III Linda Lundeen enriched the conversation with photos and background details from the true story that inspired the novel — the remarkable 1938 journey of two giraffes transported across America from New York to the San Diego Zoo during the Great Depression.



Happy Retirement – On January 4, Louise Taylor retired as the Branch Librarian of the Gilbert–Summit Branch Library, where she led with care, consistency and a deep commitment to her community. That same community turned out in force on December 17 to celebrate her **29-year** legacy and wish her well at a heartfelt retirement party.



Bruce Cannan retired as our Network Administrator after **26** years. He kept our systems running and our staff connected, often behind the scenes, but always essential. On January 16, he enjoyed a mini parade outside his office window and a party to celebrate his years of service.



Kim Hill retired as the Branch Librarian of Irmo Branch Library on January 30, concluding **10** years of dedicated service. In keeping with her wishes, the occasion was marked quietly, reflecting the same humility and steady leadership she brought to her role.



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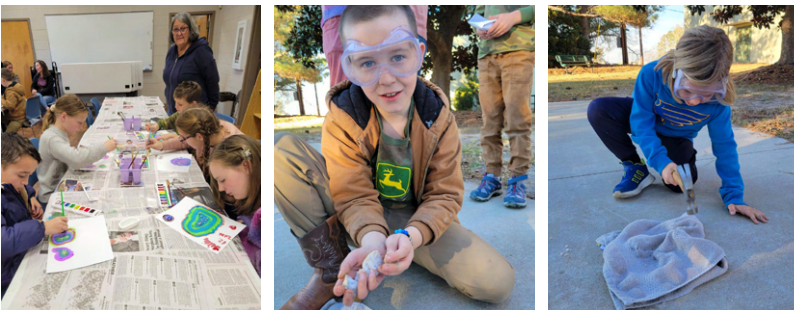
Crafts – On January 3, Chapin Branch Library put together *Social Scene: Craft Supply Swap*, welcoming **31** attendees to exchange materials, clear out unused supplies and spark new creative projects. The program also promoted conservation by encouraging reuse, reducing waste and giving craft items a second life.



Lexington Main Library welcomed **41** little ones to *Craft Squad: Yarn Self-Portraits* on January 22, where they created stunningly accurate likenesses of themselves using markers, buttons and yarn.



Full STEAM Ahead – On January 13, Batesburg-Leesville Branch Library held *Full STEAM Ahead: Crystal Quest*. The **14** mini archaeologists learned all about geodes in this rock-solid program. After painting their own geode masterpieces, they went outside with their tools, safety gear and buckets of dusty gray rocks. Using a screwdriver and a hammer, they broke the rocks open to reveal sparkling natural quartz.



Lifelong Learning – Cayce-West Columbia Branch Library put their chef hats on with *Lifelong Learning: The Clean Plate* on January 15. The attendees learned to make festive red cabbage and radicchio salad, honeynut squash risotto and a blood orange-almond sparkler.



Employee Recognition – Deputy Director Amber Conger received her Award of Achievement on January 13 for graduating from the Leadership Lexington Class of 2025. As part of the leadership development program, Amber toured various businesses and government sites around the county, learned from local civic and business leaders and completed a class project to support Carolina Wildlife Center. Their work included building new animal habitats and purchasing an anesthesia machine for the local nonprofit.



On January 14, Lexington County Public Library proudly honored the employees who most recently completed their professional Certificate in Library Science. The two graduates were PC/LAN Specialist II Marchella Pauling and Librarian I Summer Smith.



Homeschool Hub – Gaston Branch Library held *Homeschool Hub* on January 5. The **27** students participated in a book tasting, where they explored various genres like historical fiction, mystery, fantasy and poetry.



FUN FACT The most searched title in January was *The First Time I Saw Him* by Laura Dave.

Monthly Circulation Report

January 2026
Connect. Engage. Enrich.

Material Type	Batesburg- Leesville	Cayce- West Columbia	Chapin	Gaston	Gilbert- Summit	Irmo	Lexington	Mobile Library	Peillon	South Congaree- Pine Ridge	Swansea	Ebooks	SYSTEM TOTALS
Fiction Adult	562	2,373	1,569	175	321	2,720	6,156	342	404	352	150	—	15,124
Paperback	49	31	40	2	9	1	211	0	2	5	2	—	352
NonFiction Adult	228	1,322	589	113	240	1,301	3,334	86	267	268	85	—	7,833
LARGE PRINT	279	850	464	45	90	766	2,220	1,777	131	144	116	—	6,882
Non-Circulating	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	—	16
Interlibrary Loan	8	13	2	0	1	11	20	0	0	0	0	—	55
Periodical	113	170	346	14	31	209	308	42	63	43	35	—	1,374
Fiction Juvenile	388	1,247	848	148	318	1,467	7,295	657	141	170	109	—	12,788
NonFiction Juvenile	358	985	784	167	293	1,177	3,811	918	190	210	85	—	8,978
EASY	917	2,940	1,975	392	669	3,167	14,351	4,921	676	609	165	—	30,782
Fiction Young Adult	102	494	342	66	115	525	1,693	125	117	41	39	—	3,659
NonFiction Young Adult	11	27	21	3	18	35	124	8	6	8	4	—	265
Subtotal YS Print	1,776	5,693	3,970	776	1,413	6,371	27,274	6,629	1,130	1,038	402	—	56,472
Total Print Books	3,015	10,452	6,980	1,125	2,105	11,379	39,539	8,876	1,997	1,850	790	—	88,108
Audio Book Adult	10	61	45	3	1	145	234	151	19	13	1	—	683
Audio Book Juvenile	25	78	45	4	30	93	179	150	6	1	1	—	612
Video Adult	361	657	375	110	71	817	1,179	350	156	78	61	—	4,215
Video Juvenile	85	239	152	29	63	278	970	290	92	60	18	—	2,276
Total A/V	481	1,035	617	146	165	1,333	2,562	941	273	152	81	—	7,786
Realia	11	82	154	2	15	47	360	8	8	5	7	—	699
Total Hard Copy	3,507	11,569	7,751	1,273	2,285	12,759	42,461	9,825	2,278	2,007	878	—	96,593
Ebooks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,495	14,495
Downloadable Audio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,884	19,884
Downloadable Video	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Downloadable Magazines	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,008	5,008
Total Downloadables	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39,387
Total Circulation	3,507	11,569	7,751	1,273	2,285	12,759	42,461	9,825	2,278	2,007	878	39,387	135,980
Internet and WiFi	413	1828	291	214	146	1407	2917	0	324	130	247	—	7,917
Circulating Technology	0	34	1	1	0	4	12	0	0	0	0	—	52
Total Computer	413	1,862	292	215	146	1,411	2,929	0	324	130	247	—	7,969

Circ Changes from JAN 2025	-161	-1,348	465	75	241	-1,481	-842	300	-40	190	-113	-12	-2,726
YTD Total	25,949	85,553	52,877	9,405	18,644	98,155	308,866	53,707	18,134	15,066	6,784	268,189	961,329
Circ Change from YTD '25	-716	18	-762	200	2,363	-3,906	16,680	-2,941	2,111	2,701	-365	14,580	29,963
Percent Change YTD	-2.7%	0.0%	-1.4%	2.2%	14.5%	-3.8%	5.7%	-5.2%	13.2%	21.8%	-5.1%	5.7%	3.2%

Lifelong Learning Programs	Batesburg-Leesville	Cayce-West Columbia	Chapin	Gaston	Gilbert-Summit	Irmo	Lexington	Mobile Library	Pelion	South Congaree-Pine Ridge	Swansea					SYSTEM TOTALS	
Adult Onsite Programs (18+)	5	20	6	8	3	13	20	0	19	5	6					105	
Adult Onsite Attendance (18+)	43	126	56	12	27	77	104	0	111	37	42					635	
General Interest Program	0	6	4	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	1					19	
General Interest Attendance	0	130	56	0	0	39	0	0	10	35	13					283	
High School Onsite Programs (grades 9–12)	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	1					12	
High School Onsite Attendance (grades 9–12)	7	5	10	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	8					46	
Middle School Onsite Programs (grades 6–9)	1	1	5	2	1	1	4	0	2	1	1					19	
Middle School Onsite Attendance (grades 6–9)	2	8	19	27	4	0	29	0	13	0	8					110	
Children Onsite Programs (grades K–5)	4	3	3	9	3	2	12	0	2	2	2					42	
Children Onsite Attendance (grades K–5)	30	36	26	23	39	36	310	0	9	19	5					533	
Preschool Onsite Programs (ages 3–5)	5	10	5	5	4	6	17	0	4	3	4					63	
Preschool Onsite Attendance (ages 3–5)	53	134	129	6	6	97	414	0	20	21	17					897	
Toddler Onsite Programs (ages 1–3)	4	4	8	0	0	4	20	0	2	0	1					43	
Toddler Onsite Attendance (ages 1–3)	112	78	21	0	0	93	624	0	17	0	4					949	
Lapsit Onsite Programs (ages birth–3)	0	4	4	0	0	4	12	0	0	0	0					24	
Lapsit Onsite Attendance (ages birth–3)	0	43	25	0	0	73	224	0	0	0	0					365	
Adult Offsite Programs (18+)	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	11	0	0	1					21	
Adult Offsite Attendance (18+)	18	22	48	0	17	27	41	208	0	0	14					395	
Children/Teens Offsite Programs	3	4	11	2	15	4	50	1	0	9	3					102	
Children/Teens Offsite Attendance	50	480	222	24	334	101	1,144	10	0	145	160					2,670	
1:1 Training Sessions	0	4	0	0	0	13	6	0	0	0	1					24	
Adult Self-directed, Indirect, or Passive Activity Participants	0	15	0	31	29	61	76	0	23	12	22					269	
Youth Services Self-directed, Indirect, or Passive Activity Participants	269	0	235	0	63	70	770	0	0	35	10					1,452	
Book Drop Offs	135	11	45	0	80	0	0	57	0	0	80					408	
TOTAL # PROGRAMS	24	54	50	28	28	40	139	12	32	23	20					450	
TOTAL # PARTICIPANTS	315	1,062	612	92	427	551	2,890	218	188	257	271					6,883	
Resources Used																SYSTEM TOTALS	
Adult Books	1,137	4,671	2,818	337	676	4,846	12,317	2,213	812	774	360					30,961	
Children's/Teen Books	1,776	5,693	3,970	776	1,413	6,371	27,274	6,629	1,130	1,038	402					56,472	
Downloadable Reading															19,503	19,503	
Magazines, Newspapers	113	170	346	14	31	209	308	42	63	43	35					1,374	
Downloadable Watch/Listen															19,884	19,884	
Adult Audio Books	10	61	45	3	1	145	234	151	19	13	1					683	
Children's Audio Books	25	78	45	4	30	93	179	150	6	1	1					612	
DVDs	361	657	375	110	71	817	1,179	350	156	78	61					4,215	
Children's DVDs	85	239	152	29	63	278	970	290	92	60	18					2,276	
Database Searches*															46,074		
TOTAL CIRCULATION	3,507	11,569	7,751	1,273	2,285	12,759	42,461	9,825	2,278	2,007	878			39,387		135,980	
Individualized Assistance																SYSTEM TOTALS	
Total Reference Transactions	1,368	1,094	531	135	298	1,361	978	1,179	363	170	147			0	7	3	7,634
Notary Service	27	73	33	19	0	43	124	0	15	2	3			0	0	0	339
InterLibrary Loan (ILL) Incoming	0	2	0	0	0	13	23	0	0	0	0			0	0	12	50
TOTAL ASSISTANCE	1,395	1,169	564	154	298	1,417	1,125	1,179	378	172	150			0	7	15	8,023
Other Library Uses																	TOTALS
Door Counter	1,805	8,505	4,200	698	1,154	9,922	20,163	1,093	1,233	968	788						50,529
Total Meeting / Study Room Use	14	244	17	12	0	256	257	0	3	7	3						813
Total Meeting / Study Room Attendance	27	443	55	21	0	568	923	0	15	39	6						2,097
Total Computer Use	168	997	101	114	48	563	666	0	93	46	79						2875
WiFi	245	865	191	101	98	848	2263	0	231	84	168						5,094
New Cards Issued	37	202	74	34	18	134	470	78	33	24	17						1,121