

New & Noteworthy



Tuesdays at Ten Summer Series

This summer, our Tuesdays at Ten series will celebrate the library's 150th anniversary with a dive into library and local history. Presenters will include staff from the Champaign County History Museum, School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois, and more.

June 9 – July 30
Summer Drop-in Hours
Teens in the Studio Tuesdays + Thursdays
Drop in 2–4 pm

THE
STUDIO

Teens in the Studio

Teens can drop-in to The Studio every Tuesday & Thursday during the summer for fun crafts and games.

Program Highlights



An Eventful Summer Reading Kickoff

On May 17, over 1,000 community members celebrated the start of the Summer Reading Challenge and enjoyed games and crafts, live music, and fun giveaways.



Exploring with Watercolor

On May 13, 38 community members learned how to paint flowers and botanicals with watercolor in a session led by Urbana High School teacher and artist Joan Jach.



Bedazzling Butterfly Tents

On May 30, 478 community members experienced the beauty of live butterflies. This reoccurring program is presented in partnership with Absolute Science.

Douglass Branch



New Douglass Branch Play Area

The newly added play area includes a light table, a balance bar, and an interactive magnet wall, along with new shelving for the picture book collection and seating for children and caregivers.

Friday Night Jam Sessions

May's Jam Session featured an Open Mic Night with 12 community members in attendance.

Book Giveaways

Staff gave out 22 children's books in the month of May to add to their growing home libraries.

DIY Kids

During the month of May, 46 kids attended DIY Kids and learned how to make various crafts including lava lamps, tech toys, 150th anniversary cupcake decorating, and clay and seed mosaics.

Club Fred

Last month, 49 kids attended Club Fred and participated in games and activities afterschool. Club Fred will continue to meet three times a week throughout summer break.

Weekly Storytimes

In May, 182 community members attended the various storytimes offered weekly including Baby, Toddler, and Pajama Storytime.

Customer Comments

Getting Interview Ready

While staff were conducting a mock interview, the customer stopped halfway through to share, "These are really compelling questions. I already feel more than prepared!!"

A Good Environment for Kids

A customer shared the following sentiment with staff, "You have such a great library. So many wonderful activities for kids. They love coming here!"

An Impressive Selection

A customer new to the Studio space was very impressed with the number of tools and services provided for creating.

Summer Reading Fun for Everyone

An adult volunteer asked if Urbana cardholders could join the library's summer reading program, and said it was "the best news ever" that she could participate.

A Serendipitous Moment

At a recent storytime, staff read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and the number of the day was 4. Afterward, a parent approached staff and said, "That was perfect! Today is my child's fourth birthday, and later we're having a Very Hungry Caterpillar-themed party."

The Makerspace at Douglass Branch

Overview | January 2026–June 2026

Makerspace Drop-ins & Programming

From January through June, **86 community members** utilized the Makerspace Drop-ins which occur on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

Programming in The Makerspace

Specialty programs related to Makerspace tools and equipment bring in 2–5 attendees per session. From January through June, **15 community members** participated in introductory sessions on Glowforge, Cricut, and the sewing machines.

Equipment Usage: Glowforge, 3D Printing, and Cricut Machines

Customer usage of equipment in The Makerspace continues to increase during the monthly drop-ins as more community member learn about the various creative tools available for general crafting and personalized design projects.



The Studio at the Library

Overview | January 2026–June 2026

Book-A-Librarian Appointments

From January to June, library staff met individually with **35 community members** people how to use new technology including the Glowforge laser cutter, Cricut machines, recording booths, video recording, sewing machines, and 3D printers.

New Equipment & Software

Final stages of staff training are underway for the new sublimation printer in The Studio. This enhancement will expand customer project options by enabling full-color image transfers onto items such as tote bags, complementing current Cricut vinyl, printable iron-on, and mug sublimation offerings.

Programming in The Studio

From January through June, **62 programs** were offered in The Studio with **1,391 community members** in attendance for regular programming including Crafty Adults, Writer's Workshop, Studio Workshops, and our Getting Started with Tech Series.

Continued Interest in The Studio

While Studio tools like the Cricut and sewing machines consistently generate the most interest, community members continue to request one-on-one appointments on the various tools, as well as guided tours of the space.

