

New & Noteworthy



Top 5% Nationally *Library Journal* recently published their Star Library awards and we are honored to be included. Only 22 libraries in Illinois received a star rating this year. Champaign's three-star rating ranks the library in the top 4.67% nationwide, out of 5,608 public libraries qualified to be rated. In 2018, the Library was named one of just 69 American libraries to make the journal's "All-Time All-Star" list. (champaign.org/stars)

Tech-to-Go: 20 More Chromebooks & Hotspots, 10 New iPads

Using Champaign Public Library Foundation gifts and grant funding, we continue to add Tech-to-Go items to our collection to expand community access to needed technology. In 2020, we added more than 40 hotspots thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the UC2B board, bringing our total to 72 hotspots, 278 laptops, and 21 combination kits. We recently received \$10,000 from the Champaign Rotary's Joseph H. Cannon Memorial Grant fund, enabling us to start the new year by providing 20 additional Chromebooks and 20 more hotspots. These are on order and will circulate as soon as they are received from the vendors.

We've also purchased and received 10 iPads that include a data plan—essentially a built-in mobile hotspot. Funding was provided by the Champaign Public Library Foundation.

Program Highlights

A Facebook Live presentation!

Owl Valentine Card Holder

**Thursday
Feb 11
10 am**

**Artsy
Smartsy
Kids!** *For Grades 1-5



Mother Goose on the Loose Mother Goose Dana Antonelli continues to provide support and special storytimes for area daycare centers and preschools, as well as providing books for children to take home. Storytimes are shared as video recordings (53 total), audio recordings (100 total), and via Zoom (115 total). In December, she “visited” 38 classrooms at 9 centers including the French bilingual class at Champaign Early Childhood Center and Champaign Head Start, giving out 285 books. We recently reached the milestone of gifting more than 11,000 books to children ages 0-6.

Professional Engagement for Library Staff Library staff are represented on local, state, and national committees including:

- Nanette Donohue – American Library Association (ALA) Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Awards Coordinating Committee
- Essie Harris – Campus-Community Compact to Accelerate Social Justice Forum
- Brittany Millington – Public Library Association (PLA) Conference Committee
- Jordan Neal – Co-chair, Illinois Library Association’s Diversity Committee
- Mike Rogalla – YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), 2022 Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Committee
- Linda Wessels – State Ambassador for Illinois, United States Board on Books for Young People
- Madeleine Wolske – Small & Diverse Business Collaboration, Gies School of Business, U of I

Douglass Branch

Building Home Libraries Douglass Branch staff gave out 73 books for kids to take home in December. The DIY Kids Take & Make kits on Mondays are popular—we gave out 85 this month.

Table Talk Book Group Douglass Branch Manager Essie Harris leads this monthly book discussion via Zoom. December's group included 22 participants. Next up? The February discussion will be about Terry McMillan's *It's Not All Downhill from Here* (February 9).

Computer Use We were able to offer computer access to 41 community members at the Branch, one person at a time, in 30-minute sessions during December.

Parent and Family Learning Lab Amanda provided school/remote-learning support by recording a 20-minute winter-themed storytime to be posted to Parent and Family Learning Lab Facebook Group.

Customer Comments

One of the Get that Job! participants shared her appreciation: "I received an email from the company inviting me for a second round of interviews on Friday. I am happy to share that the questions that you asked me helped me a lot for my actual interview. It made me think of the scenarios of my experience." This same customer sent kudos via LinkedIn. She wrote: "It's incredible how thorough your work is #GoingAboveAndBeyond."

A grandmother called to thank us for the books that came with the DIY Kids Take & Make kit. She said her grandson likes Daniel the Tiger and her granddaughter is learning how to count. It's like we read their minds!

"I really appreciate the lengths you go to help me out when I come here. Good customer service comes a dime a dozen."

A parent called today to ask about our Take & Make craft. After I answered her question, she commented **"I just want to say thank you** for being so innovative in coming up with ideas during this time. It's made a BIG difference this past year! Thank you!"

