

New & Noteworthy



Short Story Contest The Writer's Workshop series launched in spring 2019, combining hands-on workshops taught by experts and a [Short Story Contest](#) for community members. This year's judges Ekta Garg and Jim O'Brien will select three winners from 30 entries. The 2020 Award Ceremony & Reading will take place via Zoom (Nov 18). Grand prize includes a one-on-one consultation with Ted Sanders who teaches in the University of Illinois Department of English.

New Tech Devices to Check Out As a way to extend access to the internet and offer up-to-date tech devices for community members, we are adding 10 new iPads and 20 additional Chromebooks to our collection. The iPads will check out for two weeks and include a data plan—essentially a mobile hotspot—so customers will have free access to getting questions answered online, reading ebooks and magazines, watching movies, updating resumes, checking email, and researching family history. Funding was provided by the Champaign Public Library Foundation.

Staff Featured at Statewide Conference Champaign staff were featured at the Illinois Library Association annual conference, sharing successes with the Get that Job! initiative, effective and creative ways of working with teens, workflow and staffing in Technical Services, approaches to connecting with caregivers and people with dementia, and more.

Program Highlights



Telling Turkey Tales In addition to presenting storytimes online (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, at 10 am), we're inviting kids and families to join us for an hour of turkey-themed stories and songs broadcast via Facebook Live (Nov 19 at 6 pm).

Computer Use Community members appreciate having access to computers at both locations. In October, computers were used 4,221 times to apply for a job, communicate with out-of-town family, watch a video, set up an email account, follow up on insurance questions, print documents, sign up for classes, and myriad other tasks.

Historic Number of Viewers On October 29, we broadcast two special events in one evening: [Scary Story Marathon](#) and [The History of Witchcraft](#). The viral reach of the history event (2.4 million reached, 138K interested, with 500 registered for the webinar) drew attention worldwide and led to higher-than-usual reach for the family event (30K reached, 744 families interested). During the livestream of the history event, our team fielded comments from 3K participants on Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook. Our YouTube channel recorded 18K unique viewers last month. In total, community members watched more than 1500 hours of video content on the library's YouTube channel and Facebook page during October.

Record High for Fall Reading Challenge With 637 children and teens signed up, our [Fall Into Reading Challenge](#) has already surpassed total participation last fall (492).

Douglass Branch

Building Home Libraries Douglass Branch staff gave out a total of 200 books for kids to take home in October. The Take & Make kits on Mondays are popular—we gave out 113 this month. Amanda attended an onsite materials distribution for Booker T. Washington STEM Academy students and families on October 8. She shared library resources with families and gave out 50 books for students to take home.

Table Talk Book Group Douglass Branch Manager Essie Harris leads this monthly book discussion via Zoom. October's group included 18 participants and November's, 21 participants. Next up? The December discussion will be about Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime* (December 8).

One-on-one Computer Assistance During September, Douglass staff helped 22 individuals with computer training.

New Partnerships Amanda met with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority representatives in preparation for partnering on a virtual Black History Trivia event in February.

Customer Comments

"Thank you so much for your **Book-a-Librarian service**. The pandemic made me finally get a Kindle and you lovely folks helped me learn to use it."

A customer **complimented us on the focus on African-American history and characters in our collection at the Douglass Branch**. She appreciated that her grandchildren can see themselves reflected in so many different books.

After having a challenging discussion with a customer about proper mask wearing, a passerby stopped at the Welcome Desk to thank us and let us know that **our hard work and efforts are very much appreciated**. The customer was very complimentary and encouraged us to keep up the good work.

During a Senior Task Force meeting, an attendee voiced that they see seniors who do not know how to use the technology they own. Before a CPL staff member could speak up, several other participants began mentioning our resources. It was satisfying that when a tech knowledge problem came up for discussion, **Champaign Public Library was immediately thought of as a solution**.

Sistering CU, a local nonprofit that serves families with newborns, has been sharing our **Facebook Live storytime videos** to their page, along with some "Library Love":



We recently shared an appreciation for Adriane Binky Donley who creates our **wonderful lobby installations**. Many community members chimed in:

"We love these installations."

"Thank you! The installations are spectacular."

"My family just loves these."

"They are great! Thanks for making it so inviting."

"These installations are my favorite part of going to the library."

"I love them!"

"Love her creativity and execution."

"We all appreciate her talent!"

"Thanks! Look forward to what I am going to see when I walk in the front door!"

"Love it!"

