

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

**Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, Washington
Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.**

AGENDA **TIME (approx.)**

We acknowledge that we gather on territory that has been the traditional and ancestral homeland to the Lhaq'temish (the Lummi People), the Nooksack People, and other Coast Salish tribes of this region Since Time Immemorial.

We honor our shared responsibility to this land and these waters, we commit to learning from Indigenous wisdom, and we strive to repair and deepen our relationships as neighbors and friends.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Call to order and introductions | 1 min |
| 2. Approve/modify agenda | 1 min |
| 3. Public comment
This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments.
Remarks will be limited to three minutes. | 3 min |
| 4. Consent agenda (see packet materials)
All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved in a single motion. A trustee may ask that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications and FYI• Minutes: March 21, 2023: Regular board meeting• Library performance & activity measures: March 2023• Financial reports
Claims: March 2023
YTD report: March 2023 | 5 min |
| 5. Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Chair• Library Board members• City Council liaison• Friends of Bellingham Public Library• Library Director (see packet materials) | 10 min |

Time check: 3:50

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 6. 1st Quarter Action Plan report | 10 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Judd, Director | |
| 7. Facilities Committee update | 10 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellis Fair Branch pilot update; Rebecca Judd, Director • RFQ update for Central Library remodel; Rick Osen, Board Chair | |
| Time check: 4:10 | |
| 8. Fundraising update | 30 min |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Giving Day update and Burgeon Group funding – Action item; Rick Osen, Board Chair • 1st quarter donated funds review (see packet materials); Rebecca Judd, Director • Planned Giving video: <i>Transformational Gifts that Shape the Future</i> by Rachel Myers; Rick Osen, Board Chair | |
| 9. New business | 3 min |
| 10. Agenda items for next meeting | 2 min |
| Time check: 4:45 | |
| 11. Adjourn | |

Accessibility:

The Bellingham Public Library Lecture Room is ADA accessible. Elevator access to the lower floor is available at the Central Avenue entrance. If you require a sign interpreter or other accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours' notice. For additional accommodation, contact the Administrative Assistant at 778-7220 in advance of the meeting. Thank you.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Lecture Room, Central Library, 210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, Washington

Man trespassed from Bellingham library after 'twirling' hatchet inside

[BY RACHEL SHOWALTER](#)

MARCH 28, 2023 5:00 AM

Bellingham Herald



A man was trespassed from the Bellingham Public Library Sunday, March 26, after swinging a hatchet inside. WARREN STERLING The Bellingham Herald

A man was asked to leave the Bellingham Public Library Sunday after he was allegedly twirling a hatchet around in the building. Bellingham Police officers were called around 3:45 p.m. on March 26 to the library's downtown location at 210 Central Ave. for a report of a person inside swinging a hatchet on a string while walking through the library, according to Bellingham Police Lt. Claudia Murphy. Officers located the unnamed man outside of the library, actively twirling the hatchet, Murphy told The Bellingham Herald. Police asked him to put the hatchet down, but he did not, according to Murphy.

A friend of the man then physically took the hatchet away from him. Police trespassed the man who was swinging the hatchet from the library for one year, Murphy told The Herald. He was not arrested and left the library on foot.

Sunday, April 2, 2023 Bellingham Herald

Here's why Bellingham library adds staff to information and security desk

BY ROBERT MITTENDORF
rmittendorf@bhamherald.com

Bellingham Public Library will be adding a staff member to its information and security desk, in an effort to provide service on both floors of its downtown location.

At its meeting Monday, March 27, the City Council unanimously approved an extra \$147,000 annually to hire one employee at 35 hours a week and add hours for the three other part-time security and information attendants.

"A two-person security team is a much better fit for our two-story building," said Rebecca Judd, library director, in an interview with The Bellingham Herald.

A decision to expand

the service desk was made before the incident Sunday, March 26, when a man swinging a hatchet was escorted out of the building and received a one-year trespassing notice.

"Unfortunately, incidents like the one on Sunday happen in our public place," Judd said.

"(But) it's a free and open space. That's the beauty and complexity of our space," she said.

The library's downtown location, at 210 Central Ave., holds its main collection of books, video and audio recordings on the main floor, along with meeting rooms, public computers, a newspaper and magazine section, and an area to sit and read.

Downstairs features an activity and lecture room, the children's collection



ROBERT MITTENDORF The Bellingham Herald

Officials at the Bellingham Public Library will be adding a staff member to its information and security desk, allowing coverage for both the first and second floors, after a City Council decision Monday, March 27.

and a children's activity space.

Security and information attendants are not armed and are trained in basic first aid, Judd said,

They greet library patrons and are trained to provide information and directions, connect people in need with local resources and can contact local crisis response teams, firefighters or police when necessary, she said.

"During the pandemic lockdown, they handed out thousands of curbside

bags," Judd said.

Bellingham Public Library consistently ranks among the highest circulation per capita and is among the most-visited libraries in Washington state and the nation, she said.

It has almost 60,000 active cardholders and circulates more than 1.6 million items annually,

Robert Mittendorf:
360-756-2805,
@BhamMitty

Easter egg hunt brings families, community to - Cascadia Daily News (WA) - April 8, 2023 - page 1

April 8, 2023 | Cascadia Daily News (WA) | OLIVIA PALMER

Through the doors of Bellis Fair mall and just beyond a trail of pink bunny footprints, hundreds of families gathered Saturday morning in search of more than 5,000 plastic Easter eggs.

At the event, hosted by Bellis Fair management, little ones delighted in filling their baskets with candy, as well prizes and vouchers redeemable at roughly 35 stores within the mall. Of the more than 250 children pre-registered, one lucky raffle winner even got to take home a 2-foot-tall, 8-pound chocolate bunny, donated by Chocolate Necessities.

"Here in Washington, outside Easter egg hunts are flip-a-coin — it could be a beautiful morning, or it could be pouring rain," said David Prince, assistant property manager of Bellis Fair Mall. "And so the idea was, 'hey, let's provide an indoor, perfectly comfortable environment where we can provide hundreds of kids the opportunity to go have a great time.'"

By just after 9:30 a.m., families dashed across their respective starting lines. Children under 3 looked out onto a rainbow of eggs scattered across the floor in front of Dick's Sporting Goods, while older kids, divided into 4–6 and 7–10 age groups, quickly spied their hidden treasure beneath the leaves of potted plants and around the corners of surrounding businesses.

Families also had the chance to join in on a springtime story time hosted by the Bellingham Public Library, a photo corner with the Easter Bunny and a coloring station.

"I think this is great," event-goer Steve Ruben said. "It's nice to see all the kids out here having a good time."

Ruben's 5-year-old, Mace, agreed.

"I got all this candy," Mace said, revealing a handful of chocolate eggs and an empty Twix wrapper from a pastel blue Easter basket.

The Easter egg hunt is also part of a broader effort by Bellis Fair Mall to re-envision its future in the community.

In December 2022, 4th Dimension Properties closed on an auction sale of the mall. Since the

purchase, new management has been brainstorming ways to bring foot traffic back to the mall in the face of online shopping's growing popularity. A big part of that conversation, Prince said, has been considering what the mall can offer beyond shopping.

"It has to provide not just shopping experiences but other types of experiences, as well to be a place that people want to come and have fun," Prince said.

For event-goers like Sara Eftekhar, that approach seems to be working.

Eftekhar, who lives in British Columbia, said her family occasionally comes to Bellis Fair for shopping. When she visited last month and heard the mall was planning an Easter event, she knew she had to come back with her daughter, Amina.

"We woke up so early just to come here as a family," Eftekhar said.

As Bellis Fair looks to the future, Prince said he hopes to continue to organize family experiences and welcome new local vendors.

"We're really trying to focus on more community involvement, and local-type businesses have a place here that maybe they did in the past," he said. "I think a lot of people think of a place like a mall as all the national chains, the big brands, but we want it to be more than that."

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

OLIVIA PALMER, 'Easter egg hunt brings families, community to Bellis Fair mall - Event fits into mall's new vision for community engagement', *Cascadia Daily News* (online), 8 Apr 2023 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.bpl-wcls.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/190CAA0FD67567A8>>

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**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – Central Library Lecture Room
3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

Board Members Present: Jim McCabe, Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness and Melissa Morin

Board Members Absent: Rick Osen

Library Staff: Rebecca Judd, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins

Others Present: Kristina Michele Martens, City Council Liaison; Leigh Ann Giles and Jennie Tuckerman, Friends of BPL Co-Presidents; Carol Comeau, Friends volunteer

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Vice Chair, Jim McCabe. Carol Comeau was introduced. She will be serving as the Friends' representative for BPL board meetings, starting with the May board meeting.

Approve/modify agenda: Rebecca Judd mentioned that representatives from the Sister Cities Association will be meeting in the Lecture Room after the board meeting and may arrive early to speak with Board members informally about upcoming plans in the Friendship Garden. Kristy Van Ness moved to approve the agenda. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: no comments.

Consent agenda: Jim observed that 2023 youth circulation is close to what it was in 2019; adult print circulation is still lagging behind; and computer usage is down significantly. Jon mentioned that he would share statistics and information about this later in the meeting. Bethany mentioned that online circulation for adults has increased significantly. Melissa Morin moved to approve the February 21, 2023 Regular meeting minutes and the February 2023 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Board Vice Chair report:

- Jim reported that Rebecca Judd provided a well-received presentation to the Cordata Neighborhood Association on March 14.
- Jim visited the Spokane downtown library. He said it was a big building, but the square footage is not as usable as it is here. Their hold shelf contained only 30-40 holds – Jim verified with a librarian that this was the actual full count of their current holds at the downtown library.

Board member reports:

- No reports.

City Council liaison report:

- Kristina reported on the ordinance banning open drug use that did not pass at the March 13 Council meeting. She suggested the Library has experience with this issue and could provide feedback to help develop solutions.
- As community news, Kristina shared that Whatcom Intergenerational High School has organized a rally, *No More Stolen Sisters*, at Maritime Heritage Park on March 25 at noon.

Friends of BPL report:

- Co-Presidents Jennie and Leigh Ann introduced Carol Comeau as a long time Friends' member who has stepped up to serve as an At-large board member and board meeting representative.
- The Library Giving Day pop-up sale will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from this sale will go directly to the Bellingham Library Board of Trustees to purchase interactive educational panels for the Bellis Fair Branch Children's area.
- The Friends' Annual Membership meeting is on Saturday, April 22, starting at 10 a.m. in the Lecture Room. Rebecca Judd, Rick, and Katie Bray will all be speaking. Monica Koller, from Connecting Community, will also be presenting.

Library Director report:

- Rebecca provided an update on the Safety, Security and Ease item from last month's meeting:
 - a budget amendment is going forward for a 1.5 FTE increase in Security Attendants. This will allow for a security presence on both floors during all Central open hours.
 - Jen is working on procedures for staff-volunteer Narcan administration.
 - Human Resources has contracted with Labor & Industries to look into the impacts of controlled substances in library/parks public restrooms to make sure we are appropriately and safely handling the situation.
- The Central Library freight elevator is scheduled for modernization starting in early April. The elevator will be out of commission for approximately 6 weeks.
- A new position, Library Staff Development Coordinator, will post this Friday and run for 4 weeks. Rebecca encouraged Board members to share the posting with their networks.
- The Director's Report is in the newly adopted Ebrima font.

Statistical Trends: Inputs and Outputs through 2022:

- Jon McConnel provided a reprise presentation of last February's Statistical Trends with updated 2022 data (*see Attachment #1 for Statistical Trends: Inputs and Outputs through 2022, including slides and notes. All Attachments are at the end of the minutes*).

Facilities Committee update:

- Bellis Fair Branch pilot update: Rebecca Judd reported that with contracting pieces in place, on-site work is now beginning. In addition, Library staff are busy ordering materials for the opening day collection and training new Library clerks. A ribbon cutting ceremony with the Mayor and long-time northside Library advocate Julianna Guy is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26. Invitations will be sent soon. A small open house for mall neighbors will be held from 10-10:45 a.m. on the same day.
- RFQ update for Central Library remodel: Rebecca Judd reported the process is moving ahead, and the first round of architect interviews are finished. There is a good slate of candidates.

Fundraising update:

- Planned Giving: Kristy reported a contract has been signed with Rachel Meyer's company, RM+Co. Members of the Fundraising committee will be meeting with Rachel this week to discuss next steps. She will be invited to present at a board meeting later this spring, and hopefully the Friends as well.
- Library Giving Day, April 4, 2023: Rebecca Judd shared the image that will be used for advertising (*See Attachment #2 for Library Giving Day, April 4, 2023 image*). As soon as the Whatcom Community Foundation link is activated, Annette will send out information for the Board, Friends, and Kristina to share with contacts.

Policy update:

- Rescind Additional Temporary Rules of Conduct during COVID-19 Pandemic: Jen Vander Ploeg explained that this policy was written for the pandemic and no longer applies. Rebecca Craven moved that the Additional Temporary Rules of Conduct during COVID-19 Pandemic be rescinded. Kristy Van Ness seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- No new business

Action items for next meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – April 18, 2023 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Attachments:

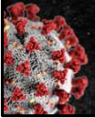
- Attachment #1: Statistical Trends: Inputs and Outputs through 2022 (slides & notes)
- Attachment #2: Library Giving Day, April 4, 2023 image

BellinghamPublicLibrary



Statistical Trends

Inputs and Outputs through 2022



It is statistics time! The Washington State Library has opened up the annual stats survey for 2022 metrics, and we thought it would be helpful to provide an update to the run-down shared the past two years of some of the statistics we report. Last year we reported through 2020 plus some 2021 measures for BPL & WCLS. This year it'll be the statewide stats for 2021 plus some 2022 data for us locals. The 2022 data comes from the Jan. 2023 Board Reports of BPL and Whatcom County Library System, and also from some reports I've run.

This year I want to change the focus of the report somewhat. Previous years have focused on how BPL is exceptional relative to other Washington libraries. This year I want to highlight ways in which we are more alike than different, especially in how we're impacted by external forces and societal trends. I'll be looking at two themes: First -- COVID impacts + recovery; and second, long-term trends impacting libraries, esp. the shift from physical to digital, and changes in computer & internet use.

RCW 27.12.260: Annual Report of Trustees

- At the close of each year the board of trustees of every library shall make a report to the legislative body of the governmental unit wherein the board serves, showing the condition of their trust during the year, the sums of money received for the library fund from taxes and other sources, the sums of money expended and the purposes of the expenditures, the number of books and periodicals on hand, the number added during the year, the number retired, the number loaned out, and such other statistics and information and such suggestions as they deem of public interest. A copy of this report shall be filed with the state librarian.
- [[1935 c 119 § 12](#); RRS § 8226-12. Prior: [1909 c 116 § 8](#); [1901 c 166 § 8](#).]

Quick reminder -- Libraries in Washington State are required to submit metrics to their sponsoring jurisdictions, and to the State Librarian. Nowadays there's an online tool to submit stats. Used to be a paper form....

Washington Public Library Statistics

sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/libDev/publications.aspx#WAStats

COB.ORG Staff Central Library Staff Home... Imported Thycotic Secret Ser... Outlook Online Secret Server Web... OverDrive APIs Stat... Dashboard - OCLC... IT Service Desk IT Service Des

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Washington Public Library Statistics

Public library statistics including budget, collections, and usage data, are collected and compiled on an annual basis by Library Development staff. More statistics are available from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

[Washington 2020 Map of Public Library Service](#)

[2021 CSV file of Library Administrative Data and 2021 CSV file of Branch Library Data](#)

Note: the two csv (comma separated values) files contain the same data as presented in the Excel Spreadsheet below, but in a more open, non-proprietary format.

[2021 Excel Spreadsheet - Note: there are multiple tabs](#)

[2021 Full Report \(1.7 MB\)](#)

2021 Report Categories

COVID-19 Impacted Library Services	Library Programs
Top Ten Lists	Annual Library Service Measures
Summary of Service	Computers
Revenue and Expenditures Summary	Automated Systems, E-Rate and Filters
Total Revenue Sources	Electronic Service Measures
Operating Revenue Sources	Internet Presence
Local, Federal and Capital Revenue Detail	Branch Data
Local, State and Federal Revenue Per Capita Detail	Salaries
Total Expenditures	Benefits
Total Operating Expenditures Detail	Public Library Service by County
Personnel, Collection, Other & Capital Expenditures	Glossary
Outlets, Registered Users and Staff	Notes
Collection/Holdings	Credits
Circulation and Collection Use	Table of Contents
Resource Sharing: ILL and Cooperatives	

[Previous Statistics \(1999 - 2020\)](#)

The Washington State Library collects the submitted data, cleans it up, does some analysis, and publishes each year's data online. They also pass the data along to the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services for their Public Libraries Survey.

Merged!

The screenshot shows the Bellingham Public Library website with a search bar and navigation menu. Below the menu is a large table of statistics data. The table has columns for various categories and rows for different years and library types. The data is color-coded with a gradient from green to orange.

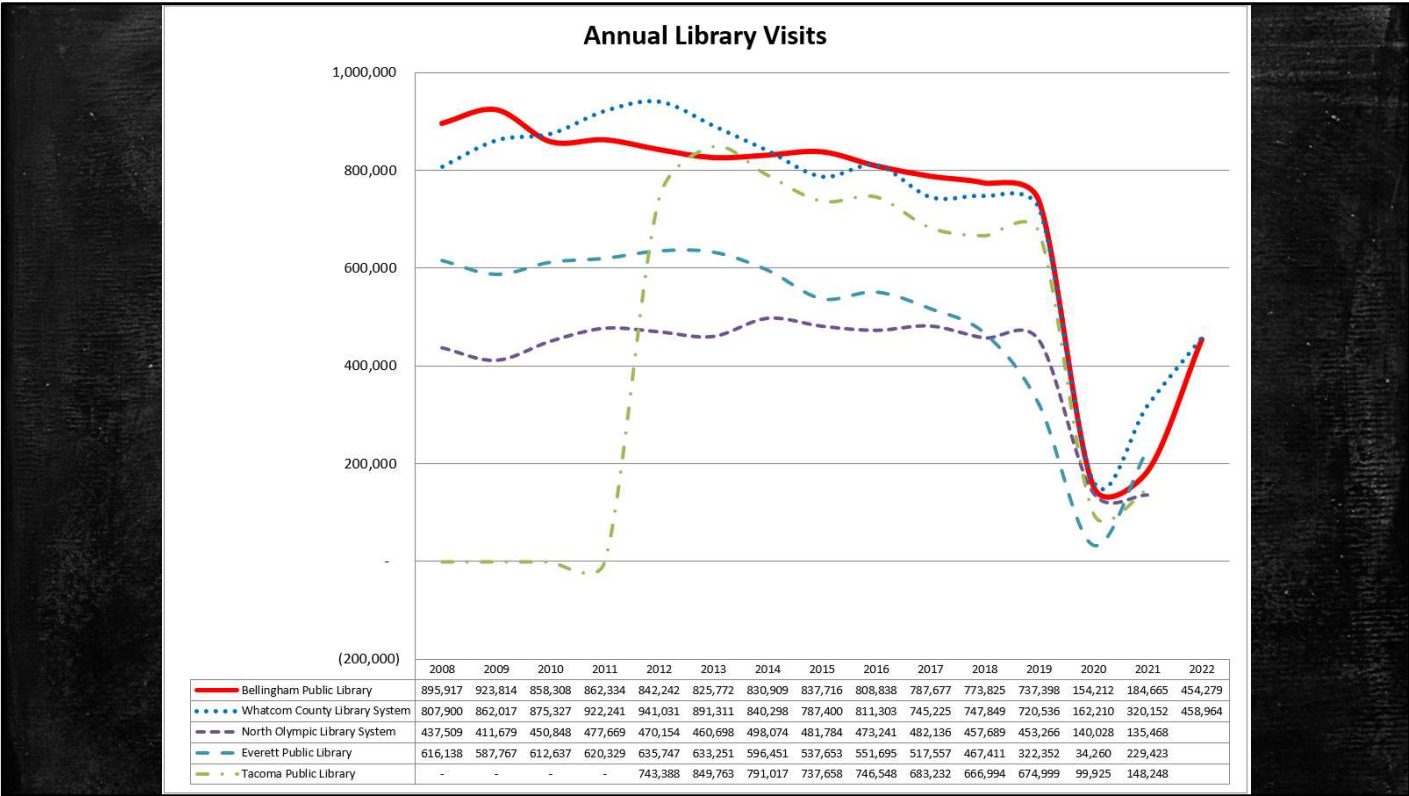
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Library	47.22	44.59	50.93	59.33	59.63	64.54	68.21	79.09	79.26	77.36	76.02	81.41	79.08	64.44	61.66	71.76			
Regional Library District	127.52	128.68	139.89	136.34	139.62	166.45	122.41	133.07	134.28	140.95	113.63	129.16	129.79	102.03	121.85	126.84			
Library	23.30	20.60	19.80	18.95	17.42	20.34	19.49	21.59	20.71	13.38	14.70	16.52	16.30	16.20	12.56	16.47			
Library District	70.80	65.07	69.02	74.63	74.84	79.47	61.21	89.77	84.94	62.19	67.59	93.55	90.23	49.92	57.06	66.75			
Library	7.99	8.62	7.62	7.87	8.80	8.44	10.22	10.40	8.50	10.07	10.00	10.89	10.84	8.86	8.32	8.96			
Library District	26.93	25.29	31.43	34.80	33.90	33.20	34.70	39.75	39.56	27.63	33.89	36.50	37.60	26.97	29.70	30.44			
Library	126.96	129.27	140.51	149.53	149.52	167.62	162.49	184.81	187.80	169.66	148.93	184.93	127.07	121.27	124.36	123.31			
Library District	101.42	104.43	114.89	115.10	120.76	105.71	120.20	128.42	127.88	127.96	102.21	123.12	125.27	117.88	122.30	120.62			
Library	17.74	16.99	17.24	18.49	18.30	18.43	18.45	19.87	19.50	17.20	17.51	18.25	18.25	16.90	17.02				
Library District	41.61	41.60	43.61	42.80	43.32	39.05	29.07	39.25	39.99	44.69	40.01	51.77	50.47	54.21	49.42				
Library	19.52	142.99	159.79	159.27	167.85	162.25	184.13	238.43	202.86	179.39	167.87	195.02	191.88	152.01	148.07	144.32			
Library District	19.52	20.86	23.02	23.81	24.63	24.97	25.29	26.09	26.10	26.13	27.74	29.23	28.91	28.41	28.48				
Library	39.05	39.05	41.92	44.37	51.39	57.50	63.37	74.43	84.25	89.69	96.36	104.24	119.79	144.22	137.09	144.09			
Library District	10.06	126.20	123.00	122.84	121.26	123.44	122.44	140.97	140.97	142.21	149.45	158.57	162.55	127.01	122.71	127.86			
Library	24.89	27.30	27.64	28.07	28.71	30.09	33.84	38.50	38.45	38.13	33.80	33.92	36.90	38.44	34.97				
Library District	16.10	191.09	184.01	185.94	181.94	181.94	189.96	193.91	192.27	192.27	194.29	195.21	195.16	149.09	165.20	162.62			
Library	26.90	30.46	31.65	33.10	33.70	35.49	38.46	40.10	41.82	38.69	39.82	34.82	39.25	38.91	44.17	42.90			
Library District	17.79	17.79	18.96	18.96	19.90	19.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.90			
Library	37.46	37.46	37.59	38.69	42.26	43.42	44.44	45.05	46.50	47.07	44.01	44.77	45.00	45.07	47.21	42.24			
Library District	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07	18.07			
Library	127.34	122.60	120.39	125.96	120.23	122.48	128.81	164.77	162.28	169.52	162.60	148.52	141.90	134.91	127.26				
Library District	127.34	122.60	120.39	125.96	120.23	122.48	128.81	164.77	162.28	169.52	162.60	148.52	141.90	134.91	127.26				
Library	74.88	82.47	84.28	75.25	80.29	83.93	102.07	82.20	86.59	87.40	95.13	93.01	84.02	84.84	96.28	104.90			
Library District	18.75	125.49	120.02	149.21	153.23	127.20	120.90	160.21	176.34	187.20	140.32	146.92	189.00	161.06	189.97	137.91			
Library	218.00	202.29	198.26	186.76	171.42	205.20	202.07	205.46	179.54	171.41	162.84	170.02	127.64	167.24	193.20	148.26			
Library District	14.48	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70			
Library	163.30	165.60	164.25	165.93	168.82	171.90	159.30	162.50	228.99	232.27	224.42	208.68	219.72	235.52	232.62	229.23			
Library District	10.77	9.61	10.01	11.90	11.90	12.92	9.27	8.23	9.90	8.00	8.23	8.00	8.23	8.00	8.00	8.00			
Library	2.90	4.60	4.34	4.93	5.00	5.00	4.37	4.23	5.46	6.25	7.41	6.41	6.25	6.42	5.73	5.50			
Library District	45.01	46.56	48.78	48.05	45.58	50.99	58.19	60.79	64.25	64.47	63.03	62.33	60.92	59.33	59.36	57.27			
Library	36.33	36.12	36.76	36.11	32.96	36.27	36.61	38.23	39.95	37.20	37.42	39.42	39.07	39.07	39.07	39.07			
Library District	22.49	34.12	34.94	37.54	39.05	41.23	47.32	50.53	53.73	54.23	50.79	50.09	61.14	63.04	62.02	63.04			
Library	19.43	169.80	120.43	102.27	127.96	121.24	141.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24	162.24			
Library District	16.37	70.69	77.20	76.63	76.67	81.27	89.44	89.20	87.40	90.05	85.23	102.71	100.97	103.16	103.94				
Library	129.96	142.93	144.96	228.80	176.96	169.32	169.96	179.09	178.43	177.88	178.92	148.40	144.79	151.04	154.95				

Search for 'public library statistics' on BPL's website.

In 2013 the Board of the Whatcom County Library System asked for a report on 10-year data trends in comparison to other comparable libraries. I pulled together 10 years of the Washington data and prepared a tool that would allow for comparisons, as well as making it fairly easy to change which libraries are being compared. I've been adding new data ever since. You can download the Excel file from the BPL website.

COVID-Related Trends

So let's get going!



One thing we normally track is bodies in and out of our locations, divided by two to represent a 'Visit'.

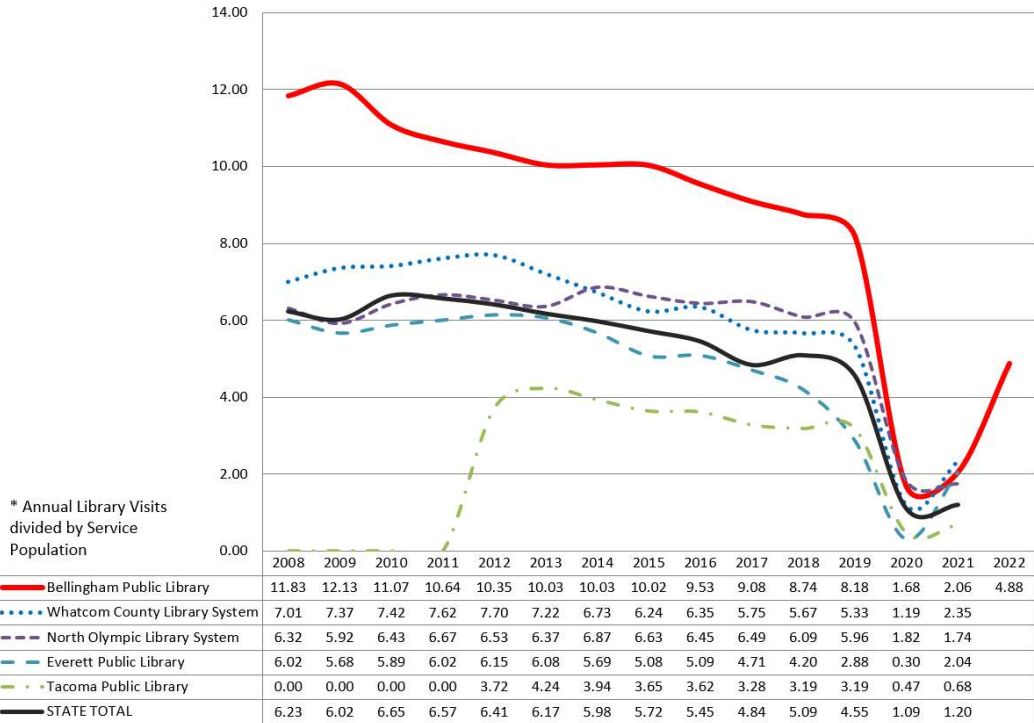
BPL's visits have been trending down since 2009.

2020 was a real dive with COVID 19, but we started to climb out of the hole in 2021, though not as rapidly as WCLS.

In 2022 we very nearly caught up with WCLS!

Neither of us are back to where we were pre-pandemic, but then the pandemic wasn't over in 2022 (and still isn't fully).

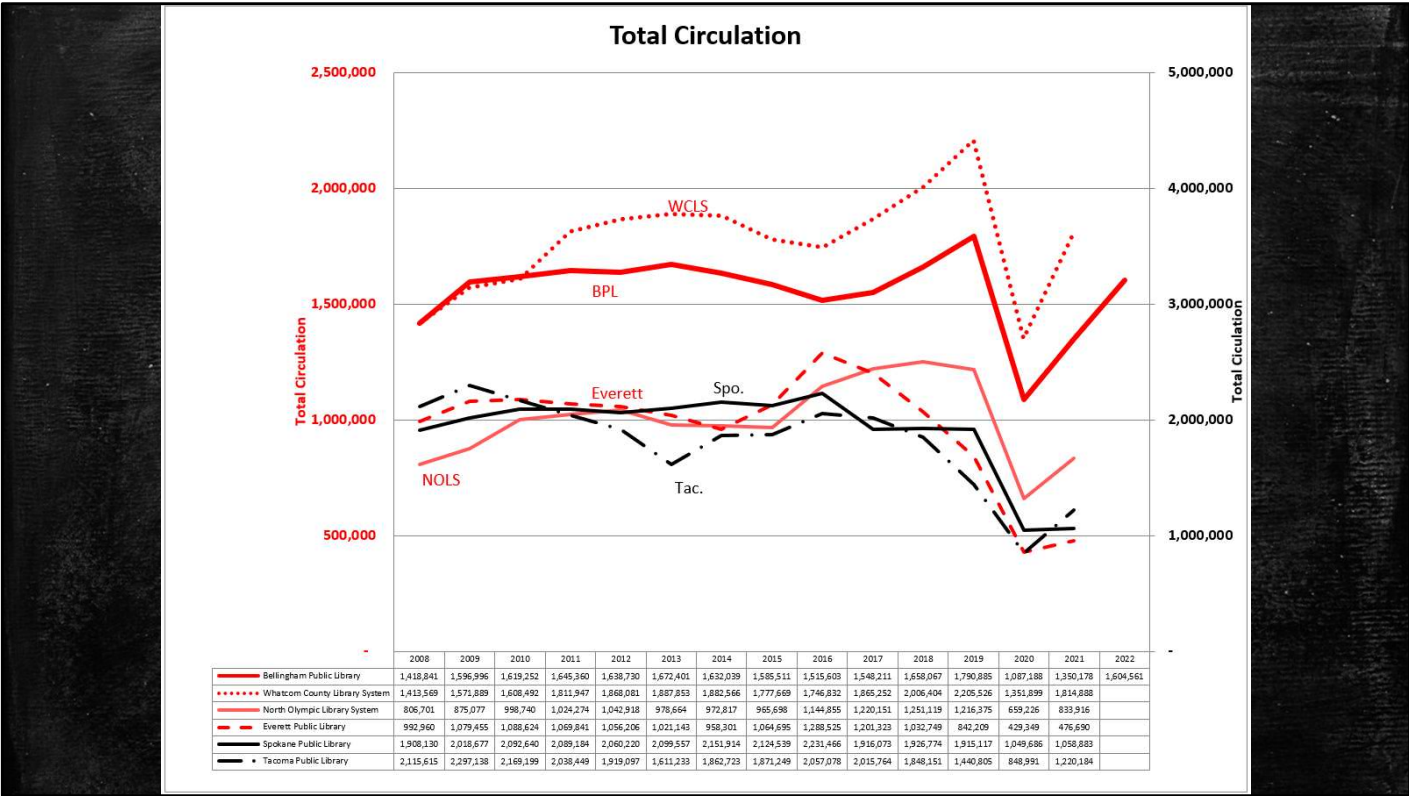
Visits per Capita



Visits normalized by Population:

For 2020 and '21 we dropped an enormous amount, even when curbside visits are counted. In 2022 BPL recovered about halfway to where the previous trends would likely have us. It'll be interesting to see if we climb all the way back up to that trendline, or not.

Next up: circulation!



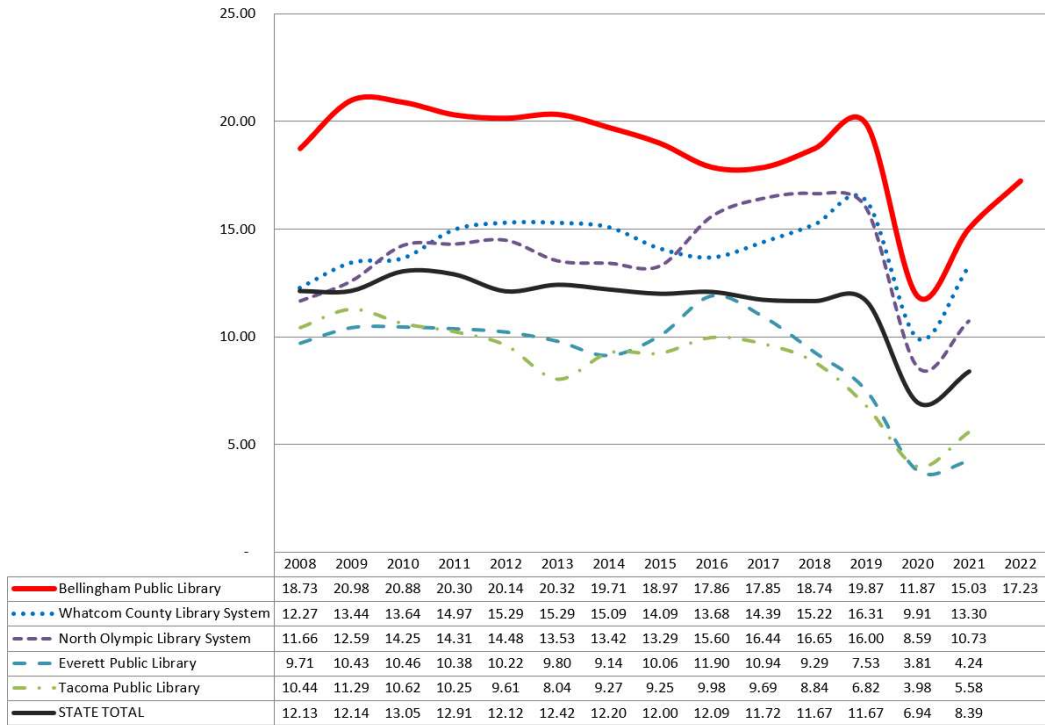
This compares BPL’s total circulation to 3 libraries with similar-sized circulation, and 2 libraries, Spokane and Tacoma, with larger circulation, shown on a 2nd Y-Axis. BPL had a few years of declining circulation in the middle 20-teens, but the 3 years to 2019 saw increases when ebooks are included.

For 2022 we’re pretty much back up to where we had been in the middle of the last decade.

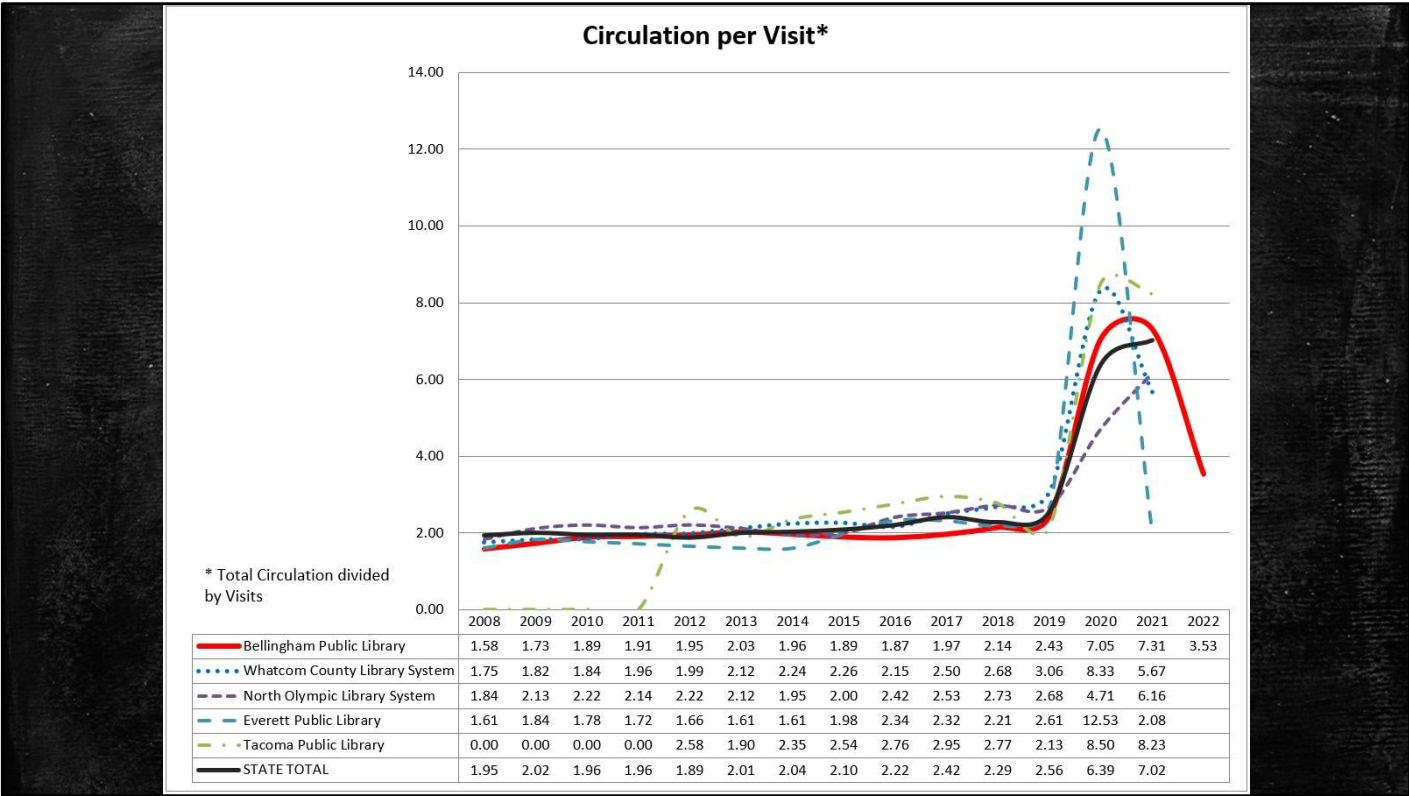
There’s a difference though – the split of what makes up the final number is shifting, but we’ll get to that later.

This again doesn’t really show the intensity of circulation at BPL, though. Again it helps to use per Capita-type comparisons....

Circulation per Capita

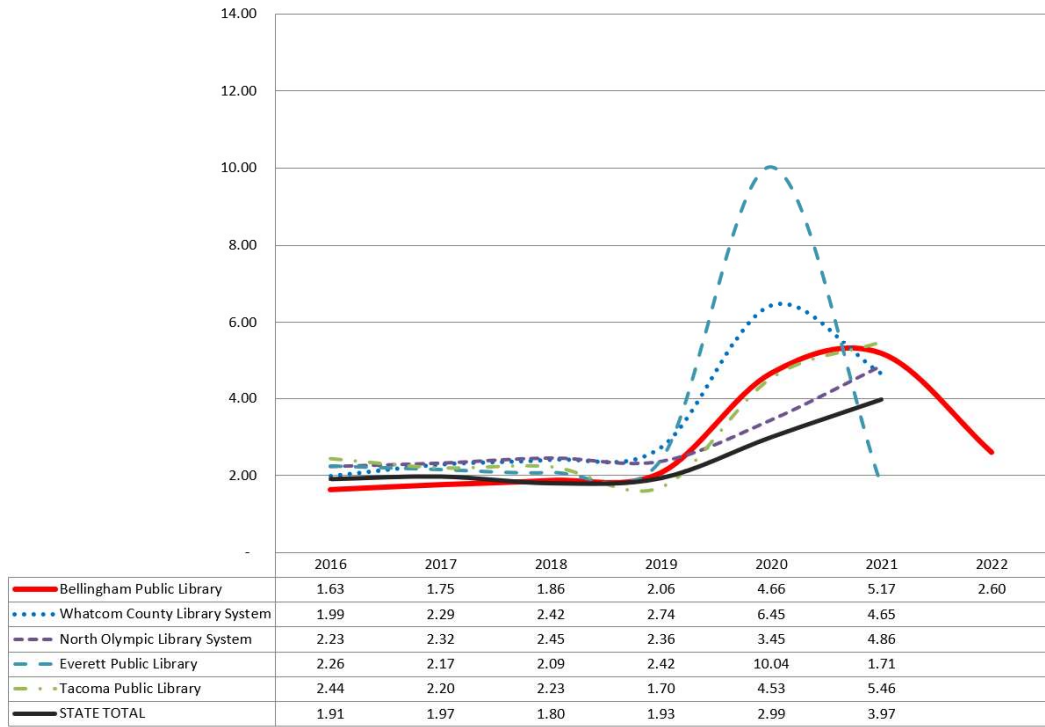


Circulation per Capita is a common metric, which shows us well above the State average. These libraries mostly kept their same order on this measure during the 2020 & 2021. BPL really looks to be recovering well.

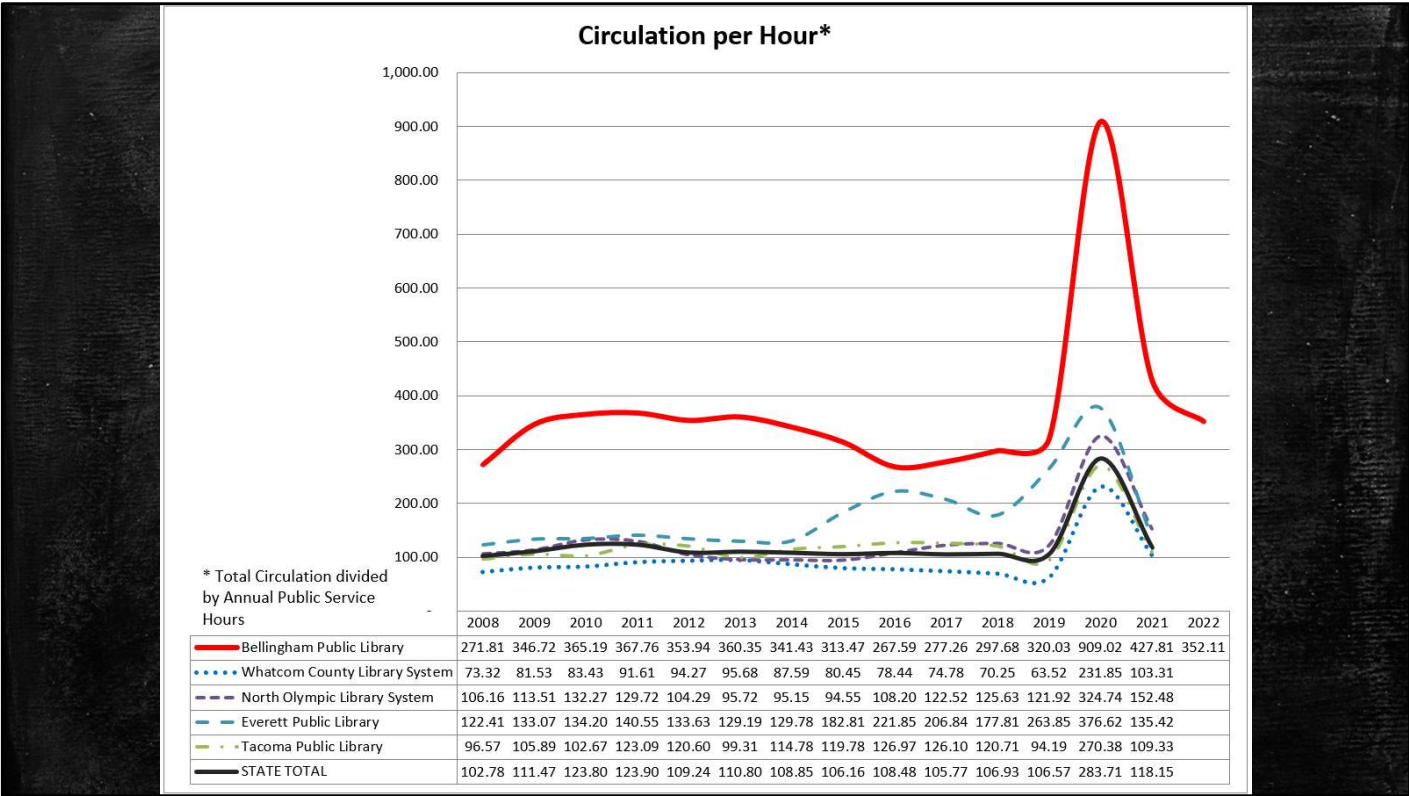


One metric that had a huge impact from the pandemic was Circulation per visit. The metric change from about 2 items per visit for all the libraries we’re comparing here, to between 5 & 12 items per visit. The State average leapt up to 7 from 2; both BPL and WCLS saw large increases in 2020. WCLS decreased in 2021, while BPL actually increased a little bit more. Both during curbside and after, with in-person visits we see people borrowing more items at once, and visiting less frequently. For 2022 BPL saw this return to much closer to a normal value as we opened back up and did much less curbside circulation. Note that ‘Total Circulation’ includes e-materials. A comparison based on physical materials would be a little bit different, but not hugely.

Physical Circulation per Visit

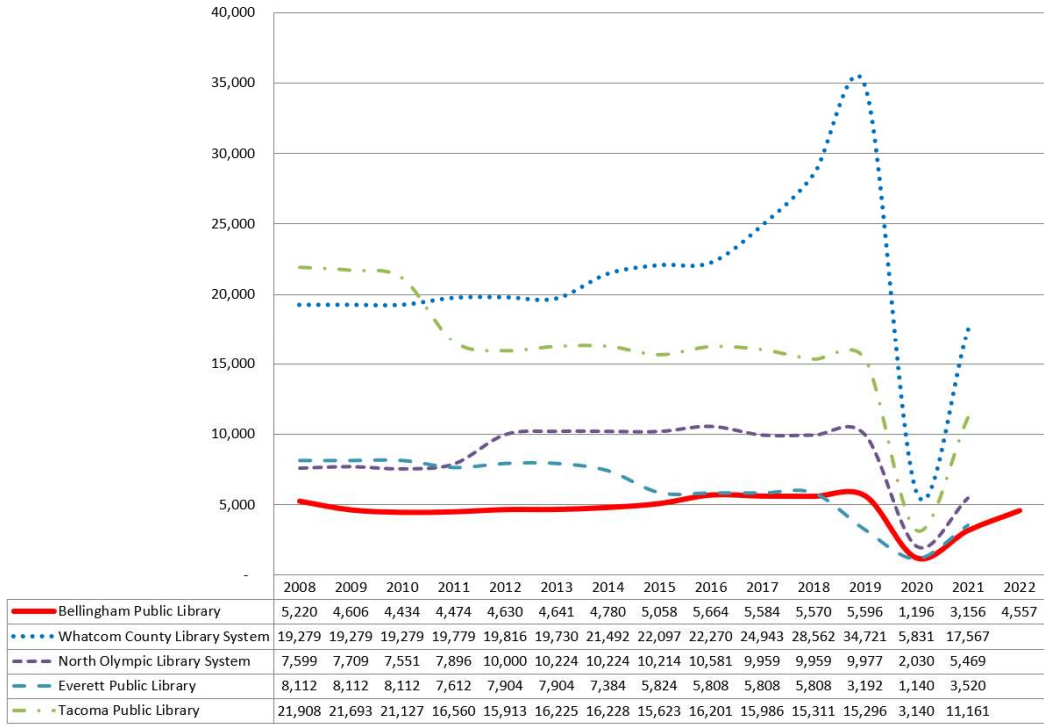


And in fact we do see a difference when we pull out electronic circs from the measure, though not an enormous one. BPL's peak in 2021 goes down 2.14 from 7.31 to 5.17 items borrowed per visit. 2020 had a larger impact, 7.05 to 4.66, a difference of 2.39. In 2022 we're still elevated a bit above pre-pandemic numbers.

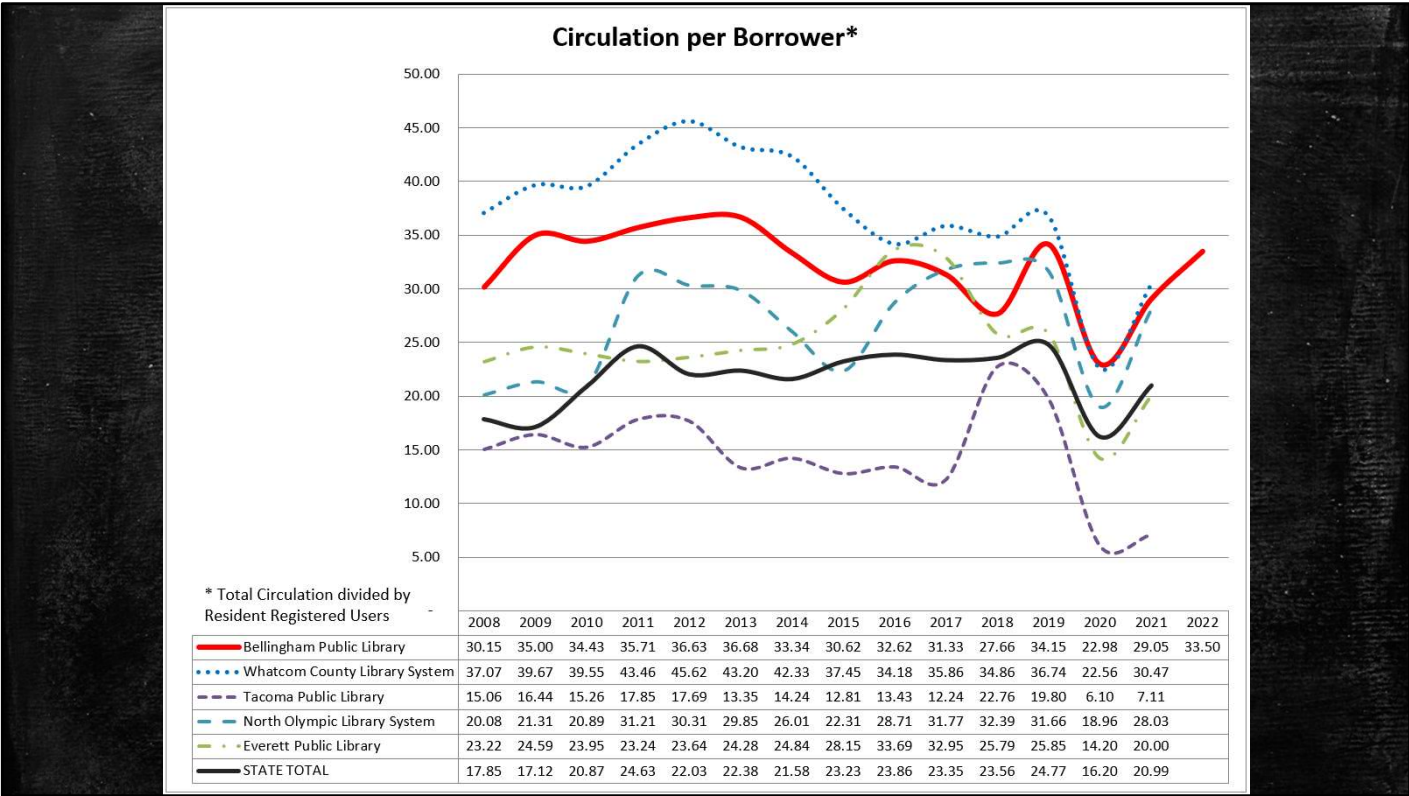


Another metric where the pandemic had a big impact was Circulation per Hour (Total Circulation divided by Annual Public Service Hours). 2020 was extraordinary, while 2021 returned to a point more in the realm of sustainable workload. For 2022 we're pretty much back to pre-pandemic numbers. The spike was so high because, while circ. dropped by 40%, hours dropped by 78%.

Annual Public Service Hours



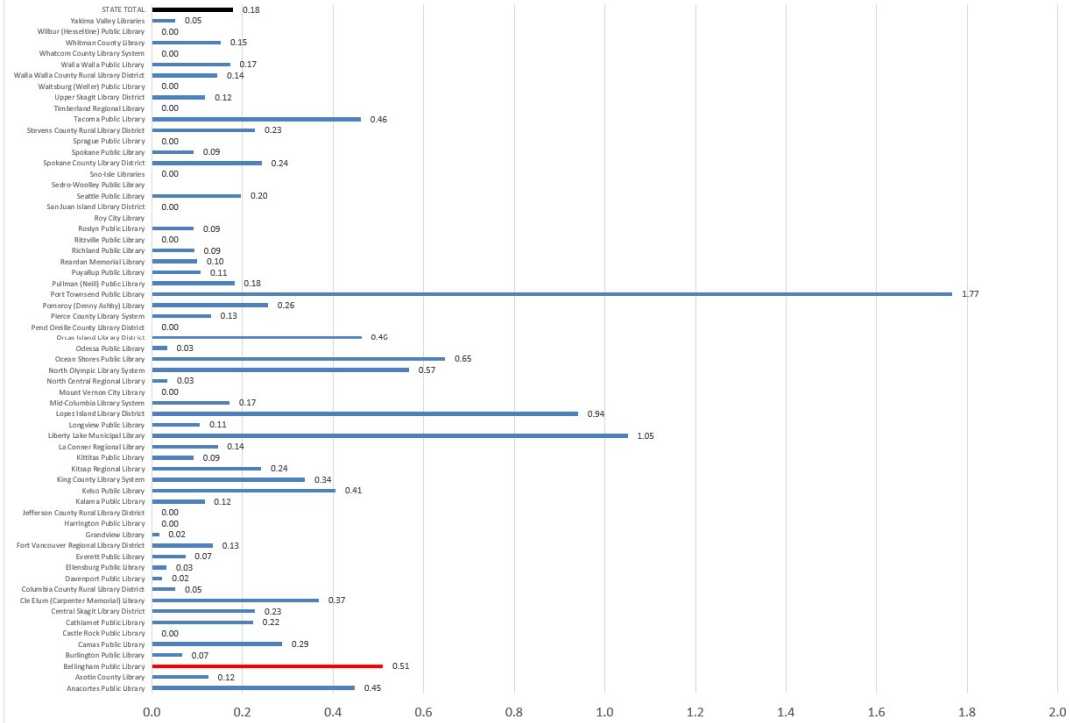
There has been a slight increase in the number of hours we're open to the public. This dropped dramatically for BPL, by 78% in 2020, but is recovering.



Circulation per Borrower is a less-common comparison. WCLS’s cardholders had been borrowing at a higher rate than BPL’s cardholders, both well above the State average, but the pandemic pretty much evened us up for 2020 & ‘21. BPL’s recovery continued in 2022, nearly back on-trend pre-pandemic.

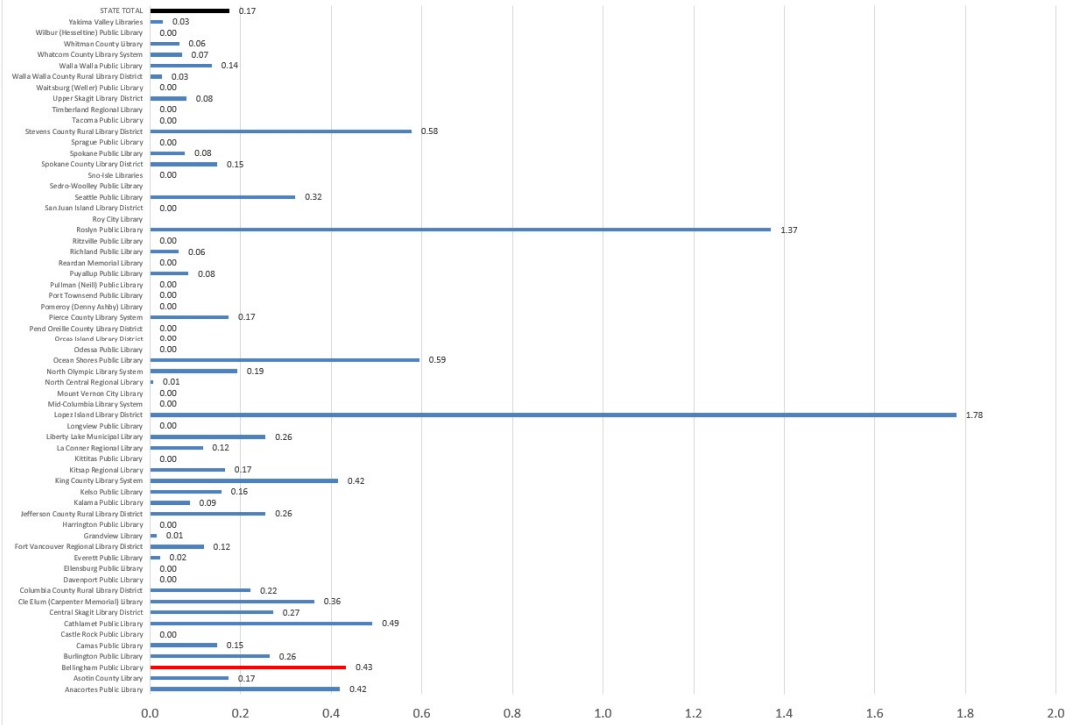
The pandemic had little to no immediate impact on our number of cardholders, hence the drop in this metric as circulation took a hit.

Curbside Visits per Capita (LSA), 2020

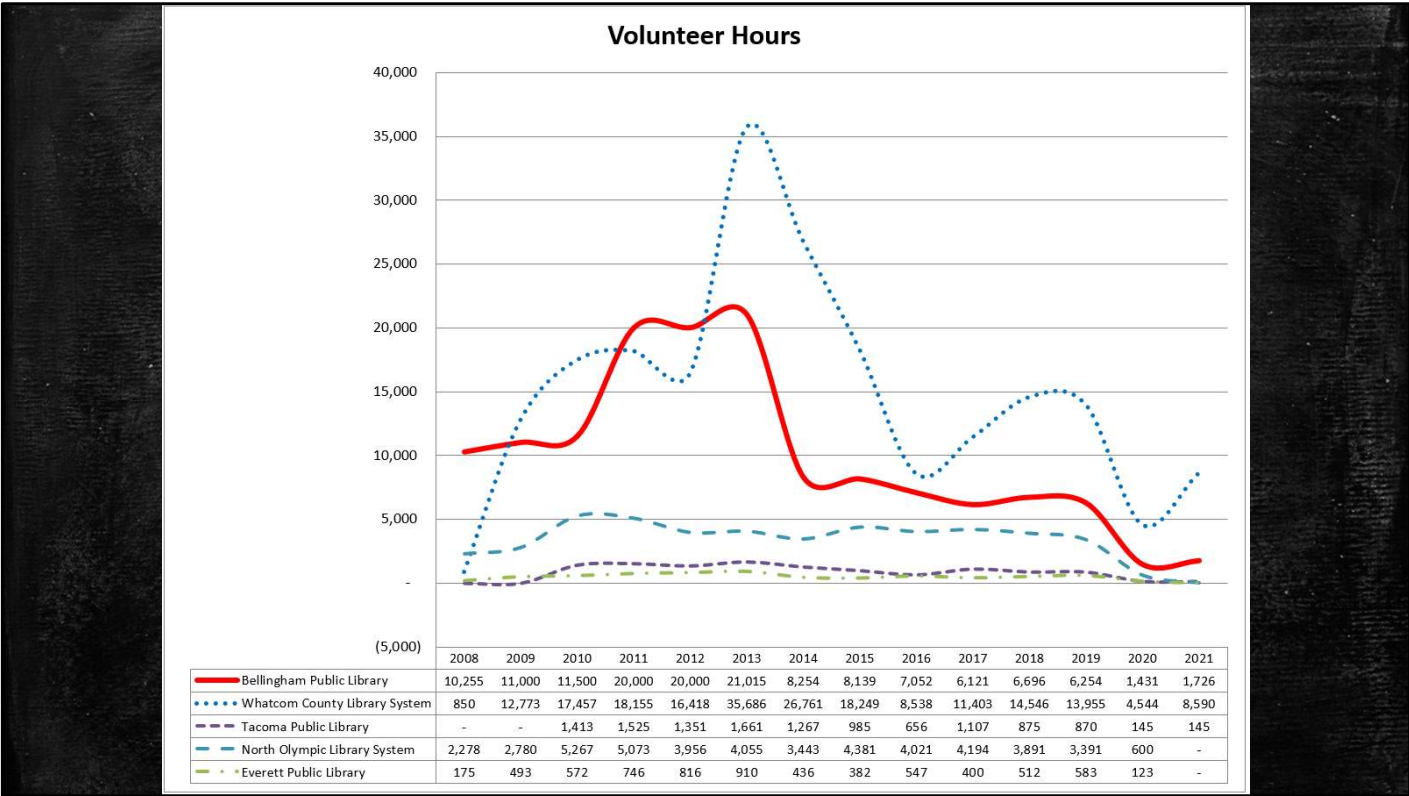


The pandemic has led to changes in what data the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the State Libraries are asking libraries to report. Added for 2020 were over a dozen new questions specifically related to service during the pandemic. Offering 'curbside' service was a common option for libraries, and we were asked to report on whether or not we offered curbside service, and if so, how many hours of curbside services were offered, and how many patron visits we had. So here we have all 60 WA public libraries and a calculation of how many Curbside Visits per Capita each offered. BPL was in the top 10% (6th). WCLS did not report a count of curbside visits.

Curbside Visits per Capita (LSA), 2021



In 2021 BPL was 6th again, but out of 37 instead of 47, as some libraries apparently dropped curbside in 2021, or at least stopped reporting it.

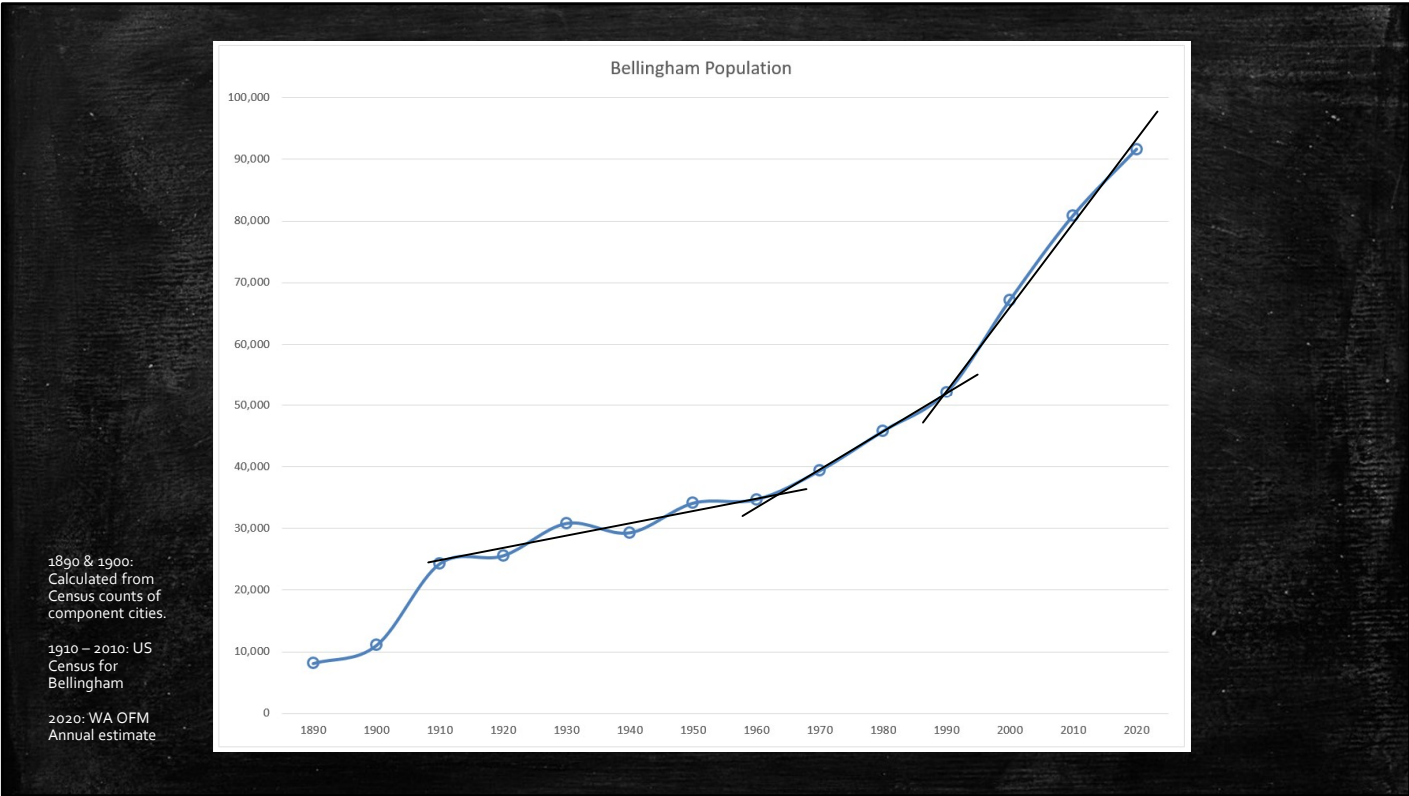


One more metric that had a substantial impact from the pandemic was reported Volunteer Hours. Our building was closed for a long time, and there were hurdles to getting volunteers back in the building. Some libraries have rebounded more strongly than we have, while some others were less.

Moving on from COVID impacts ...

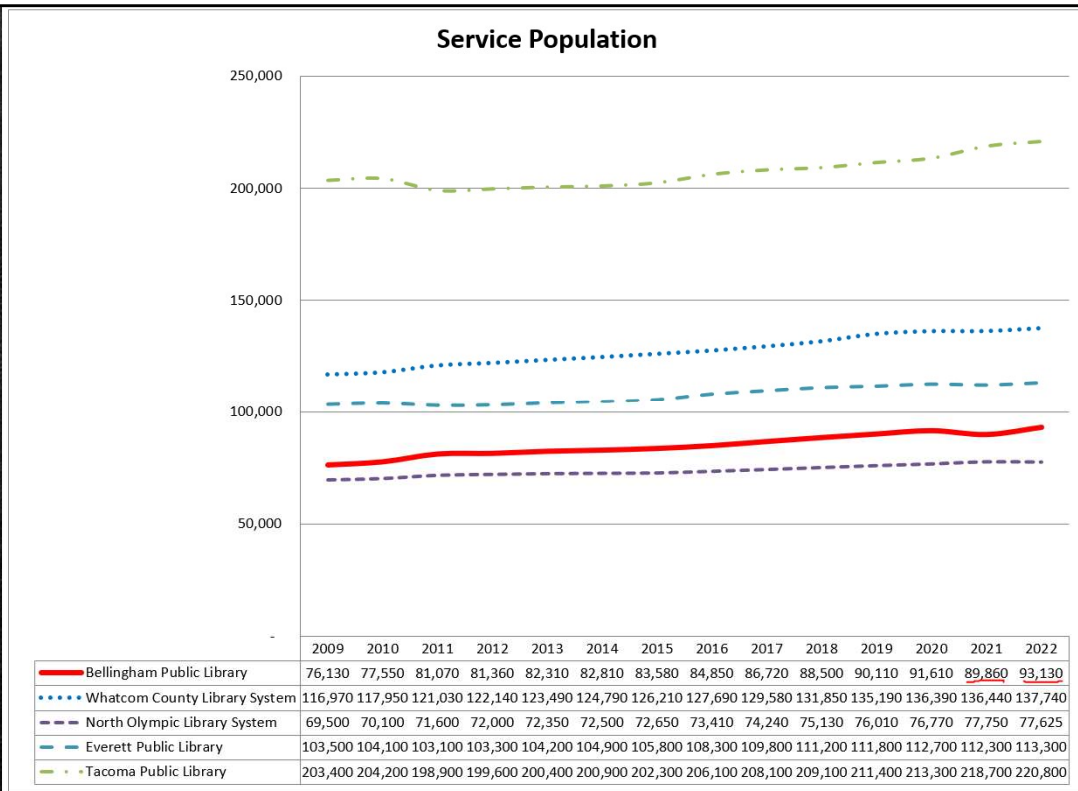
Long-Term Trends

- Population growth
- Library programming growth
- Shift from physical to digital
- Changes in computer & internet use



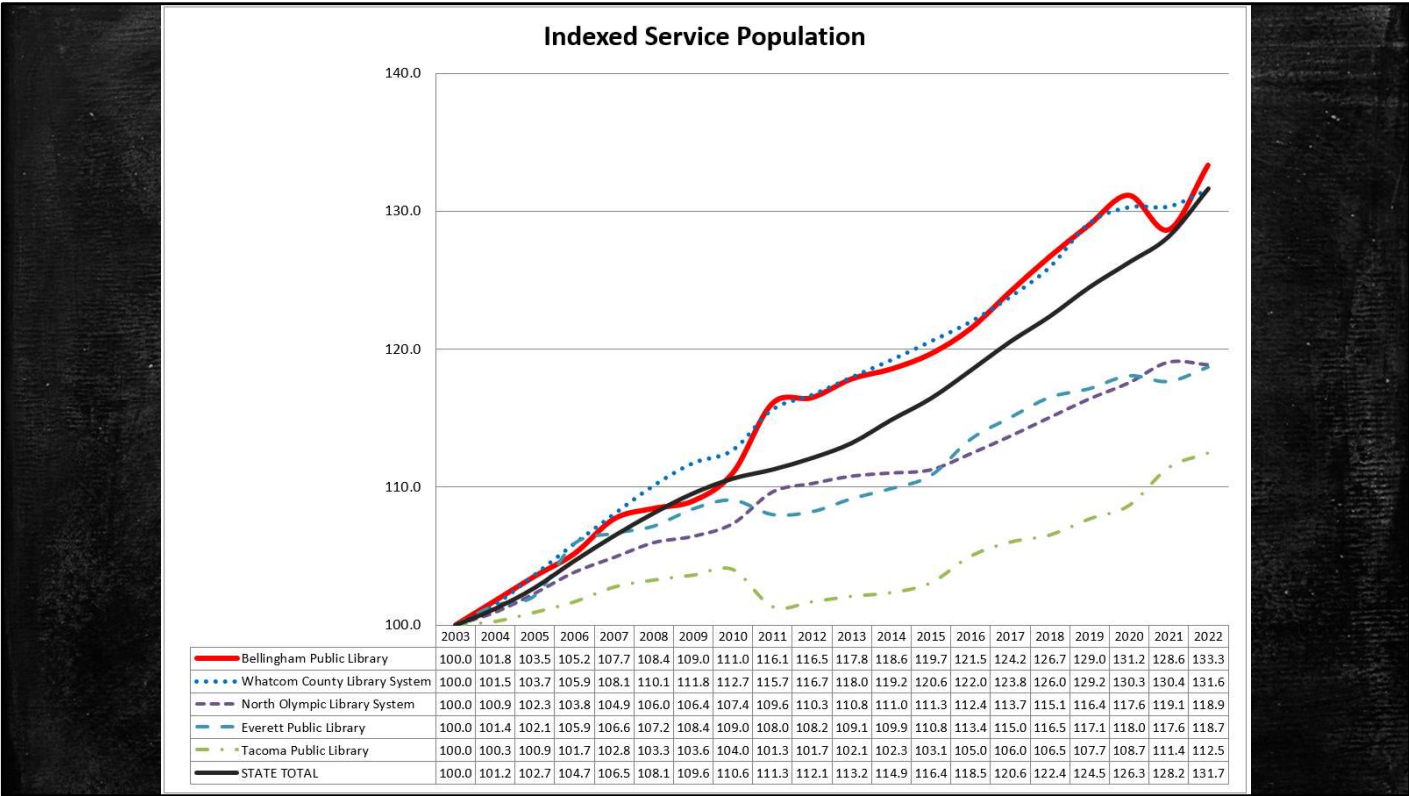
One long-term trend is continued population increase.

I used this chart last year and haven't updated it. First, some data that doesn't come from the State Library. This chart shows the Legal Service Population for Bellingham (starting in 1903...). This shows that over the past 110 years Bellingham has had three phases of growth: (first line) 1910 – 1960 was slow. (second line) 1960 to 1990 sped up a bit. (third line) 1990 to 2010 growth really took off. The 2020 value is the OFM estimate, which turns out to have been a little high.



Here we are zoomed in to just the latest 14 years.

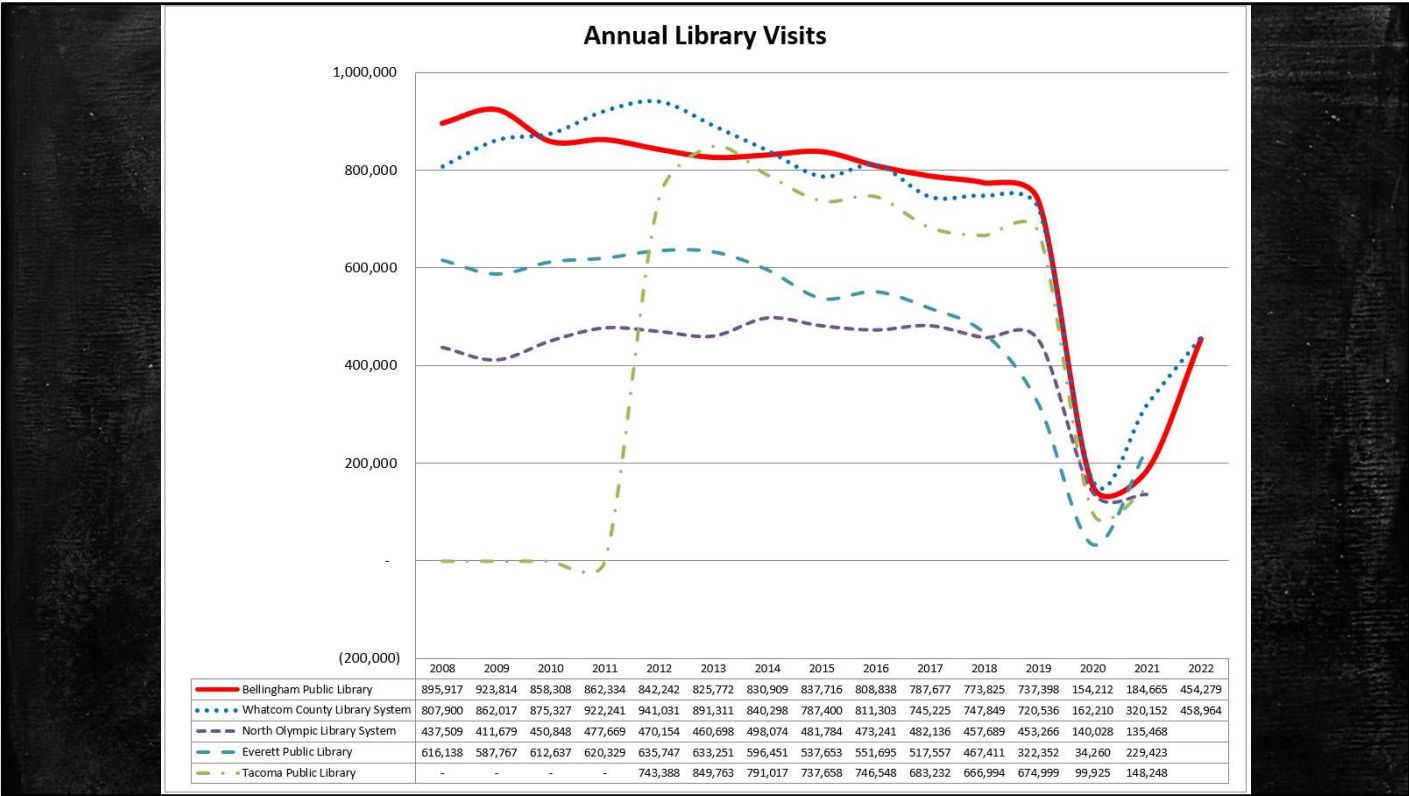
A new estimate of population is generated yearly by the Washington Office of Financial Management. Last year we noted how the 2021 value for Bellingham was down due to taking the 2020 Census into account. Well, in 2022 we're back up! OFM's 2022 April 1 estimate has us back on nearly the same growth rate as before the 2020 Census data came out.



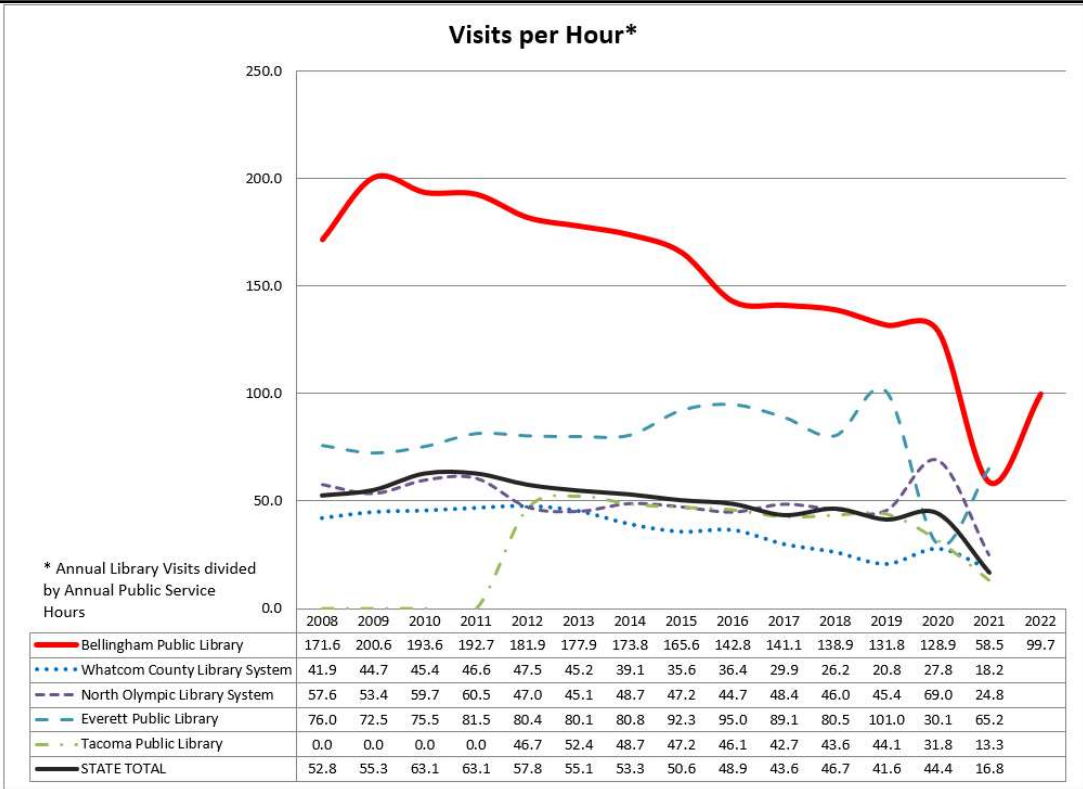
This is easier to see when looking at the rate of change.

A different way to look at the LSA Population numbers is to show the rate of change relative to a start point – here we have 20 years of data with 2003 as the starting point. The WA OFM had an estimated rate of growth for Bellingham during the oughts that was proven by the 2010 Census to be too low – hence the bump up for 2011. At that point our growth diverged from the State overall growth rate estimate. Everett and Tacoma’s both went down. In 2021 we dropped from 2020, meaning that OFM’s growth estimate was too high during the ‘teens. But for 2022, OFM has pushed us back up!

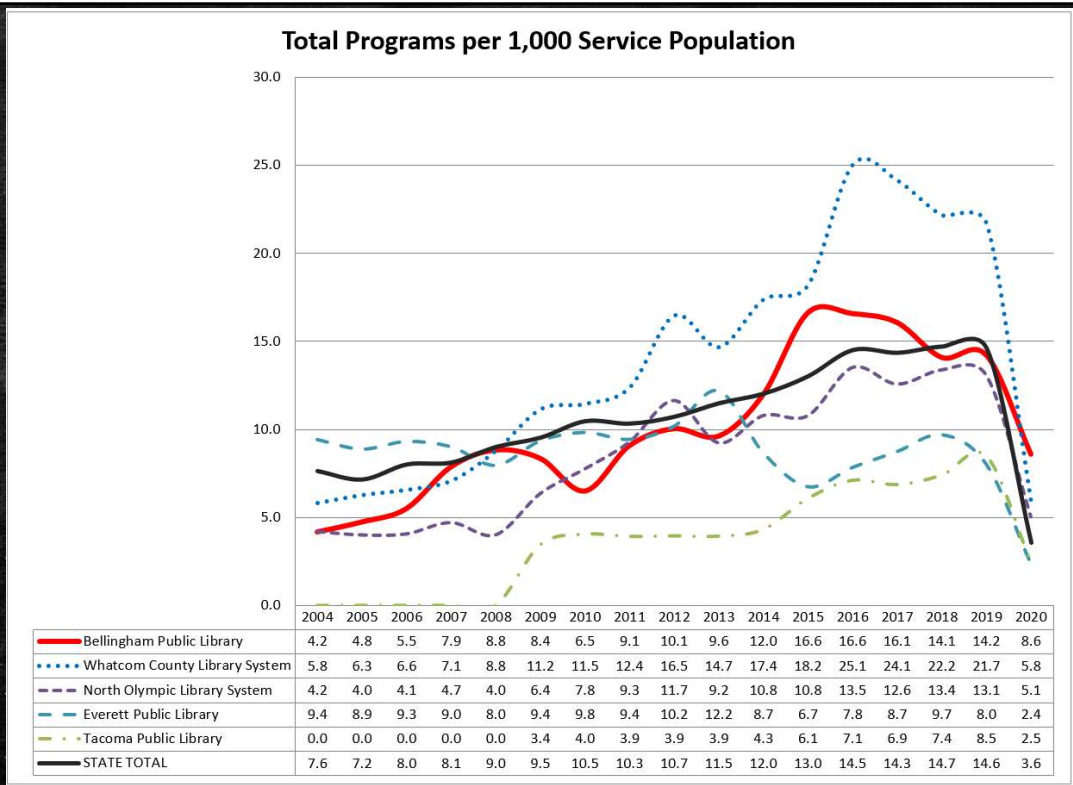
What kinds of impacts do we need to plan for when we see continued population growth?



Coming back to Annual Visits, our long-term trend is down – we’re seeing fewer people come in the doors despite having more people in the community. But we’re not alone – all of these peer libraries are seeing the same trend.



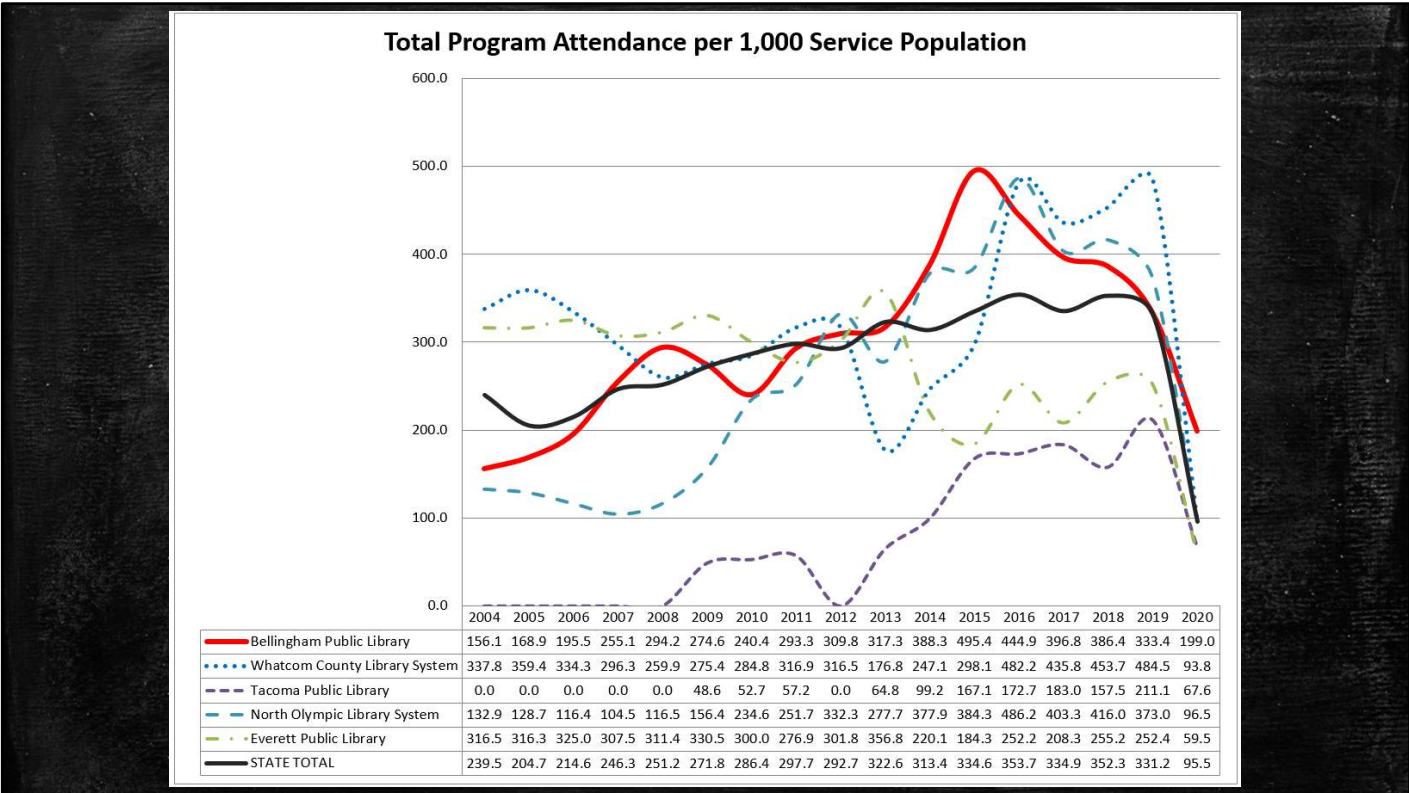
Visits per Hour are also dropping (as are Visits per Capita, as we saw previously). In 2022 we recovered a substantial part of the way back to our previous trend. But the trend is still down. Why are we seeing fewer visits per open hour? Is it a trend we need to reverse? If so, how?



Another trend seen in the data is that the number of programs offered by public libraries are increasing relative to our population.

During the first year of the pandemic BPL's number of programs dropped off substantially less than some other libraries and the State average.

2021 saw a major change in reporting about programs, and I haven't figured out how to compare the old metrics to the new ones, so this slide is not updated with the 2021 data.



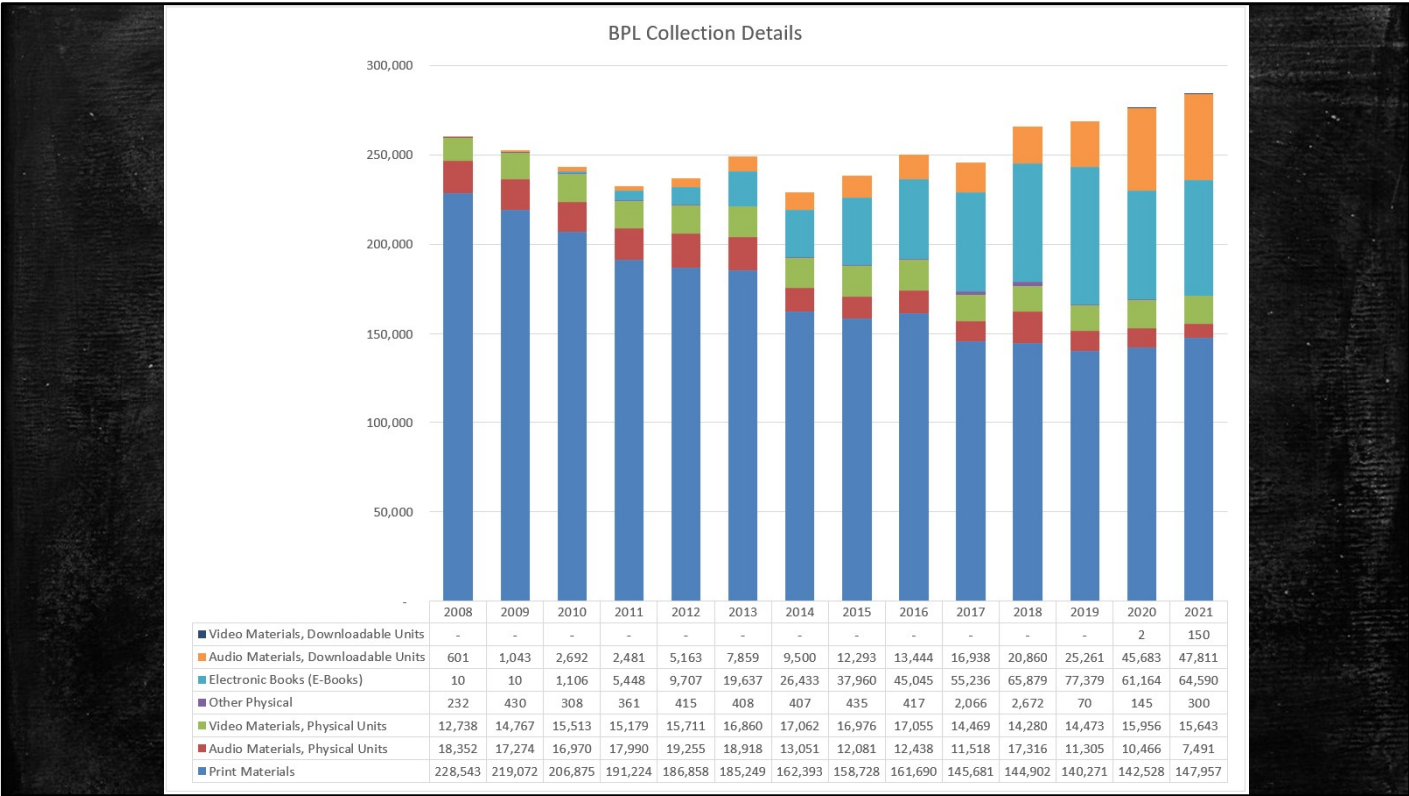
Part of the same trend, attendance at programs generally increased over the past 15+ years.

BPL did report a decline from 2015 to 2019, but that just put us back in alignment with the state average.

We're generally right around the State average, per capita, but dropped off less than others during the first year of the pandemic.

There has clearly been a shift in the library world to having more programs, and that has driven an increase in attendance despite the countervailing trend of fewer visits to library buildings. In part this is driven by library staff getting out in the community to hold programs outside of library spaces. Remote programs are now a thing, too (though, again, I haven't worked that data into this analysis).

Moving along, the next trend is the shift from analog to digital.



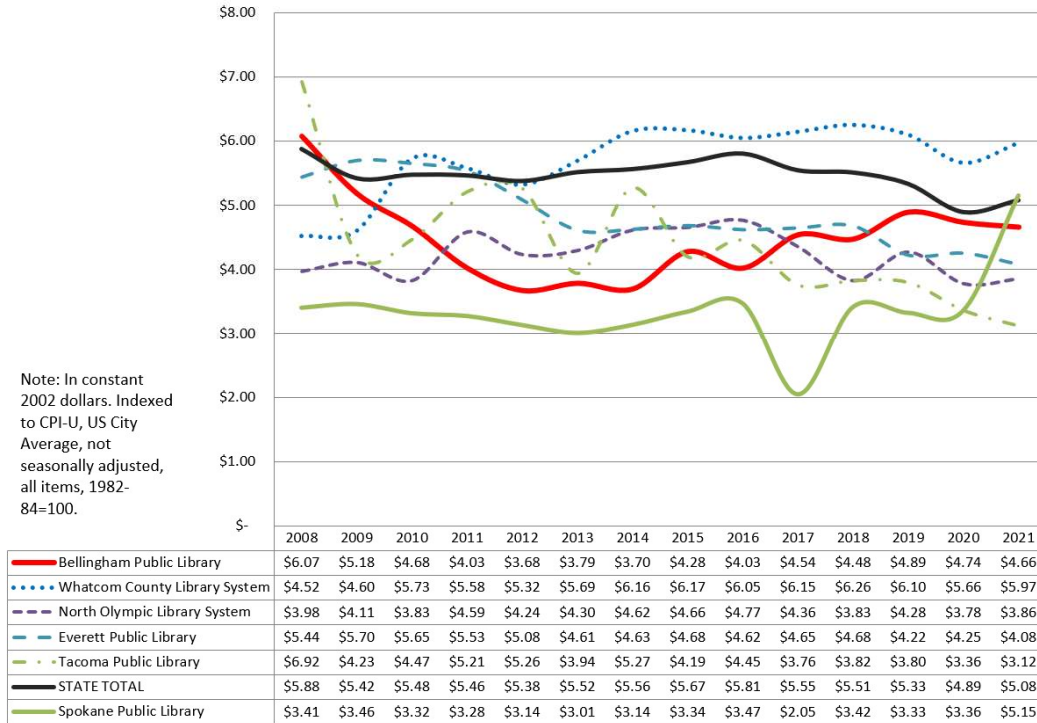
One long-term trend in libraries and in society in general is a shift toward digital media containers from analog media containers. From print books to ebooks; from audio recordings on records/cassettes/CDs to downloadable or streaming audio (both music and spoken word and books); from video on film, VHS tapes, DVDs, & Blu-Ray discs to streaming video.

BPL has been taking part in this transition, too. Our collection has been decreasing the number of physical items we own, and increasing the number of licensed or cloud-based digital titles we make available to patrons. In the long-run this gives us the potential to increase our collection size past what could have ever been housed in our physical spaces. It also changes the ownership model from purchasing to licensing (against our will).

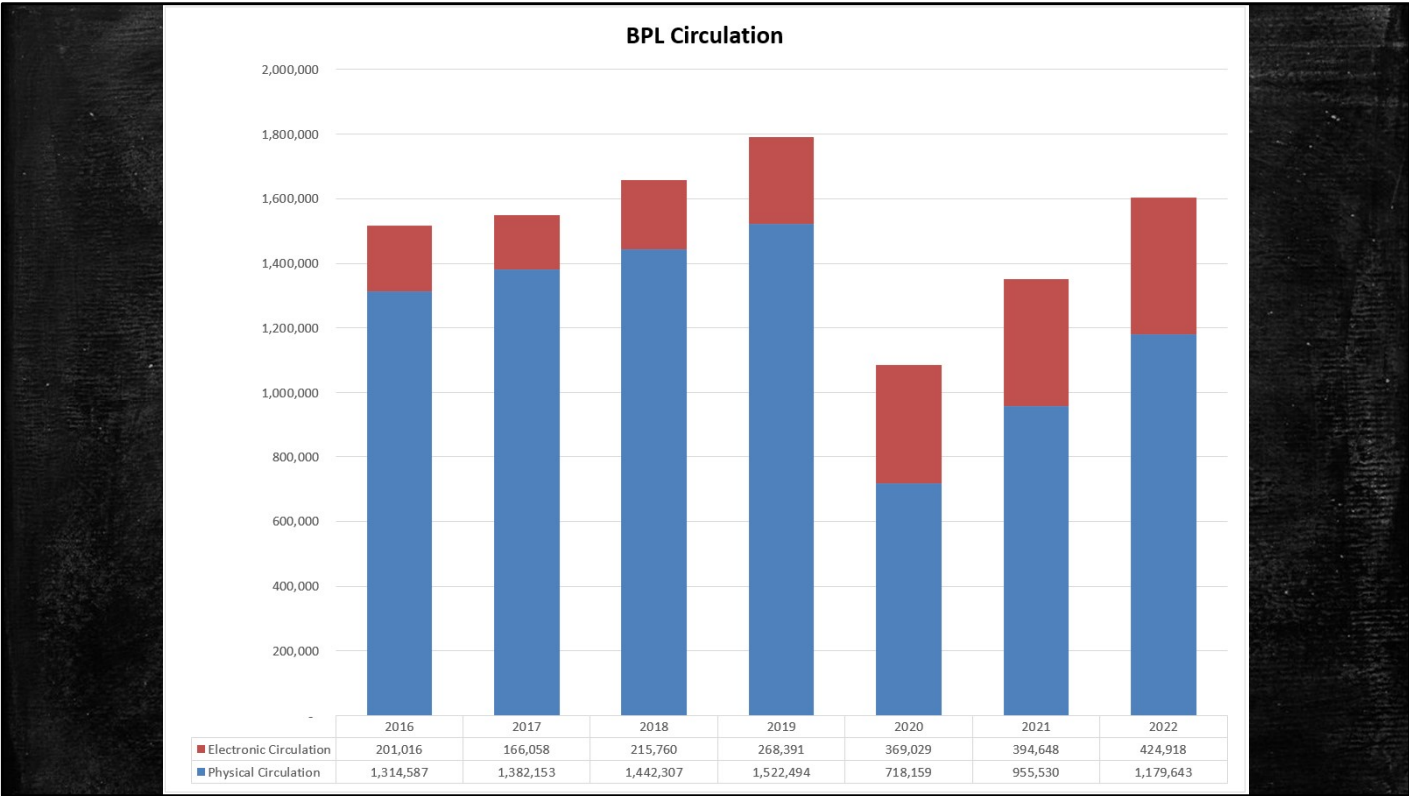
The Video Materials, Downloadable Units metric does NOT include the 30,500 titles available in the Kanopy streaming video platform. There are pain points in this transition to digital as the stats-holders try to come up with cleanly-comparable stats for different types of media. Because it is a package of titles rather than individual purchase decisions, we don't get to count them as part of our collection. Patron use of them does, however, count as an Electronic circulation.

Per Capita Expenditure on Materials, adjusted for inflation

Note: In constant 2002 dollars. Indexed to CPI-U, US City Average, not seasonally adjusted, all items, 1982-84=100.



Long-term there isn't a discernable trend in expenditure per capita for materials when viewed in inflation-adjusted dollars. Good to see something that's fairly stable!

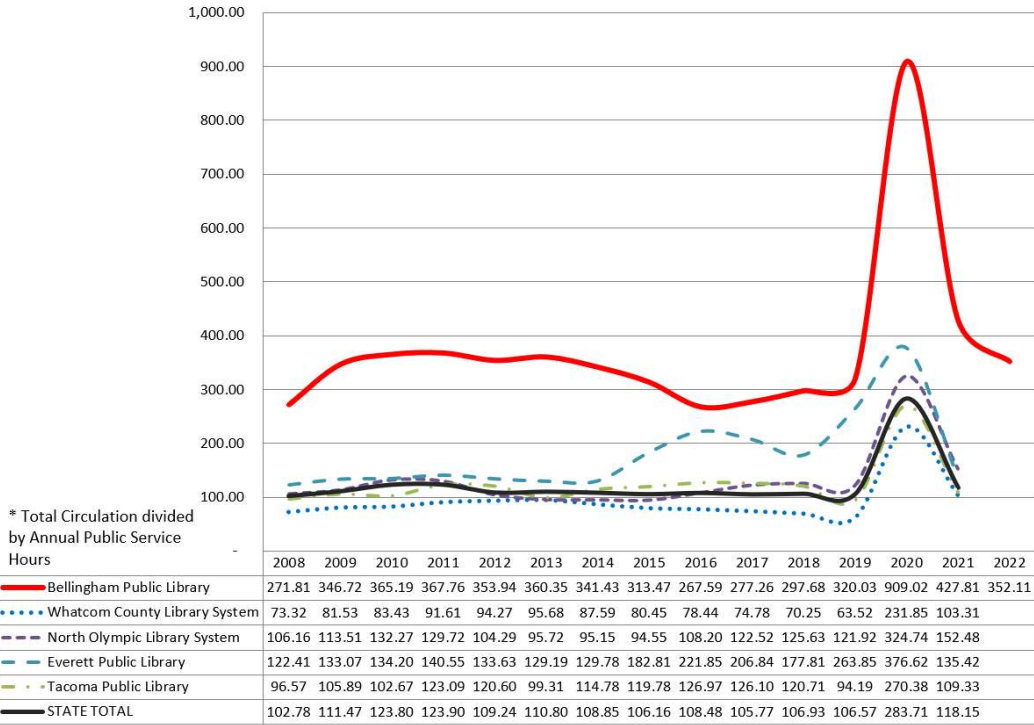


Our circulation split between physical and digital is changing, though, with the COVID pandemic giving a big boost to Electronic Circulation.

Note that our physical circulation benefits from automatic renewals, while digital things don't. There were more renewals of physical circs. than there were digital circs (nearly 500,000). But we don't know how many digital circs were from patrons checking out the same item to finish it.

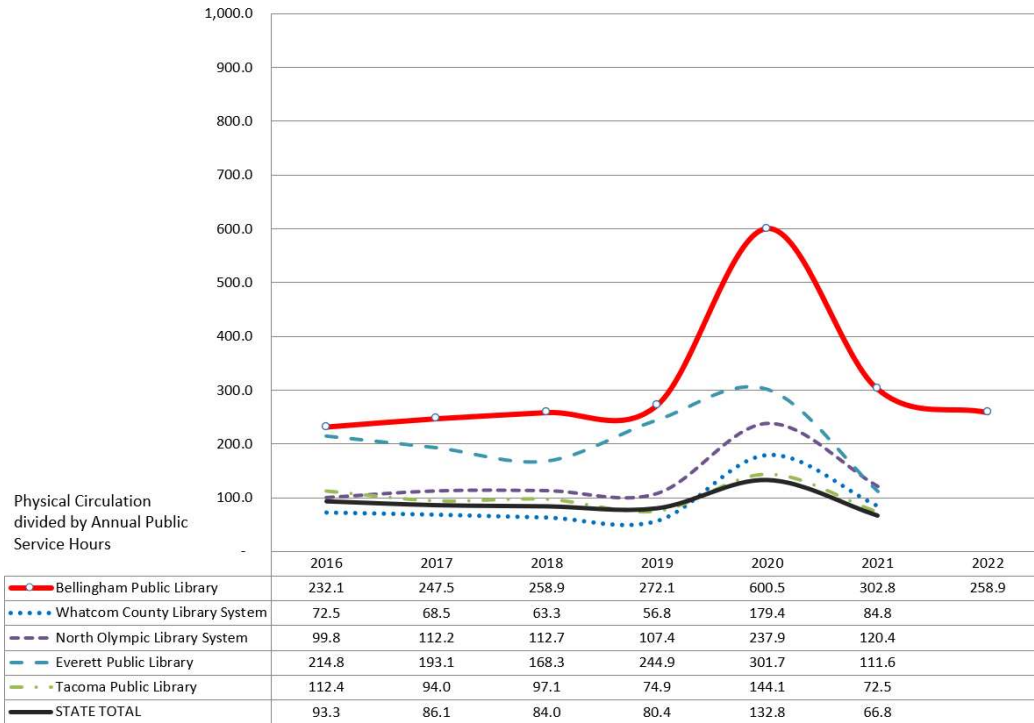
2016 is the first year the stats included this split between physical and electronic circulation, so we don't have comparable numbers any further back.

Circulation per Hour*



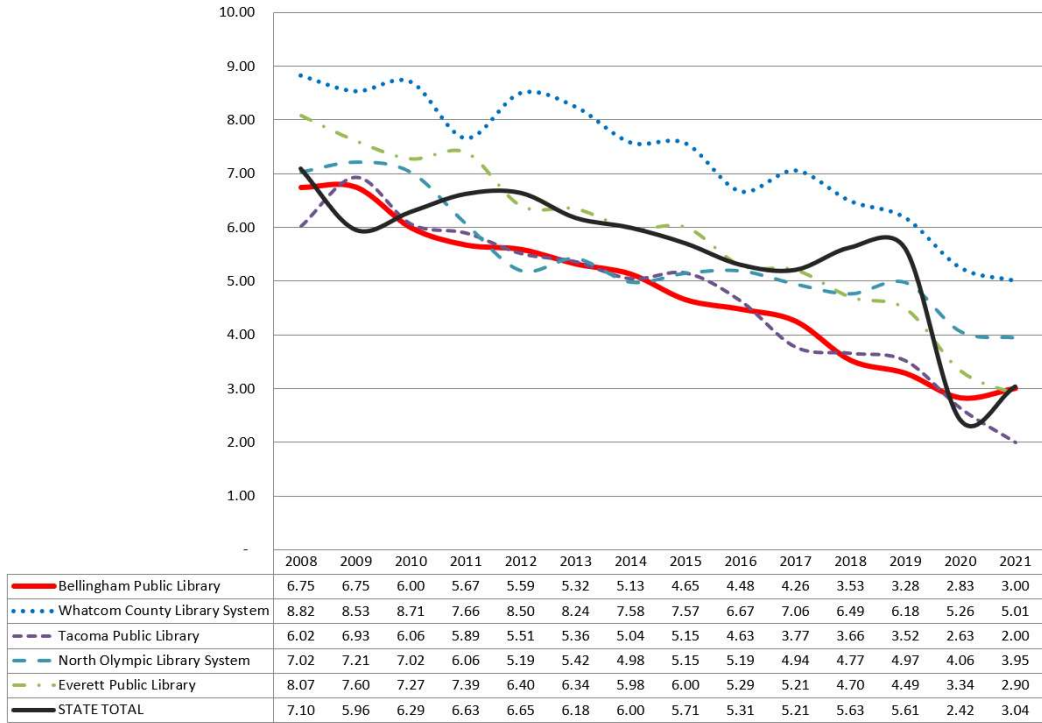
But remember this slide? How does the shift in circulation from physical to digital impact how we understand this? Patrons can access digital materials 24/7 so open hours have less and less importance to this metric as the Electronic Circulation makes up a more substantial percentage of overall circulation.

Physical Circulation per Hour

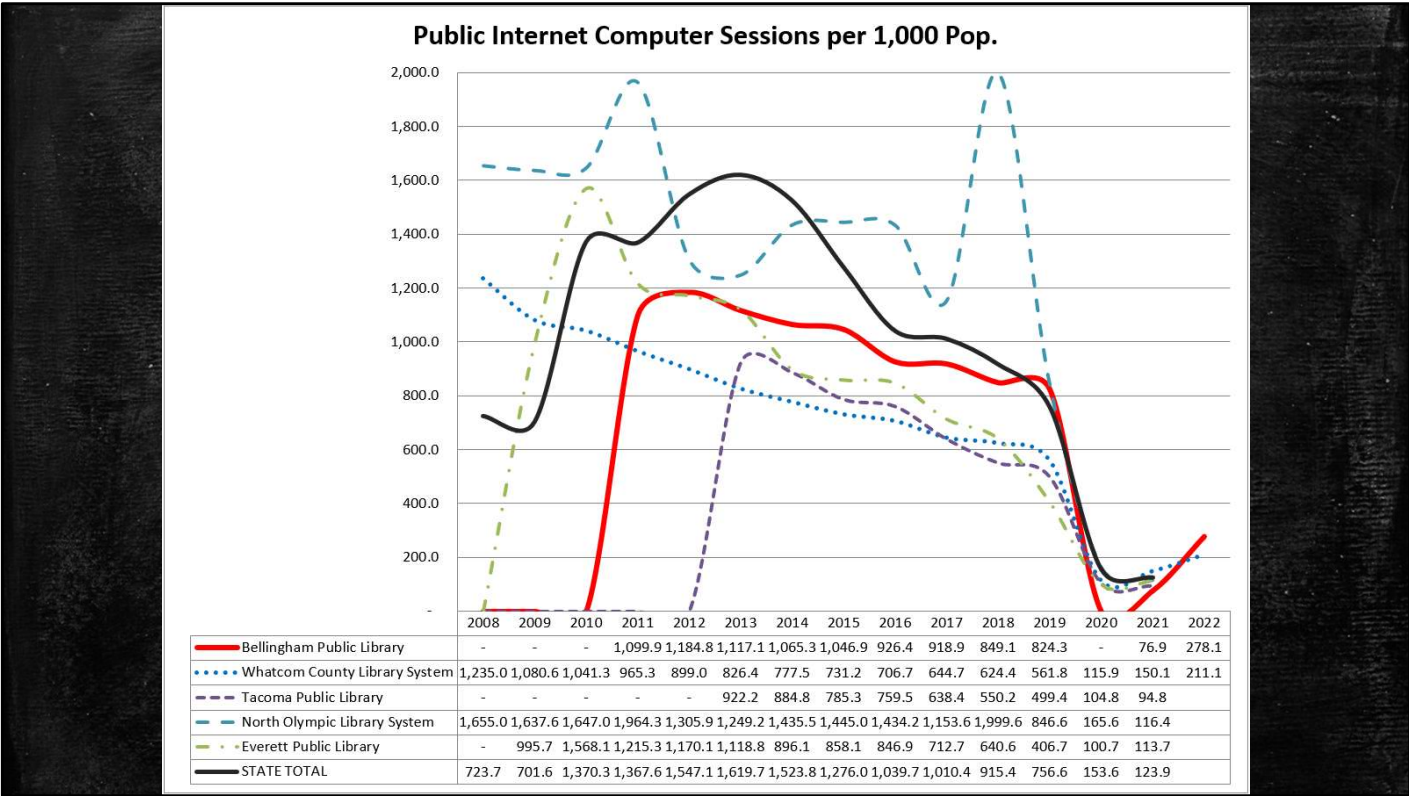


So let's look at only physical circulation against open hours. 2016 was when we hit bottom for circ. per hour; it's also the low-point for Physical Circ per open hour. The pandemic dropped our hours way more than it dropped physical circ., so this metric soared. With 2022 we're back on-trend with the same value as 2018.

Print Serial Subscriptions per 1,000 Population



One component of the shift from analog to digital is major upheaval in the print serials market, both newspapers and magazines. We are having more and more trouble finding print magazines to subscribe to, and those that we do are nearly all in a process of decreasing their page-counts, their publication frequency, or either going digital-only or just ceasing publication entirely.

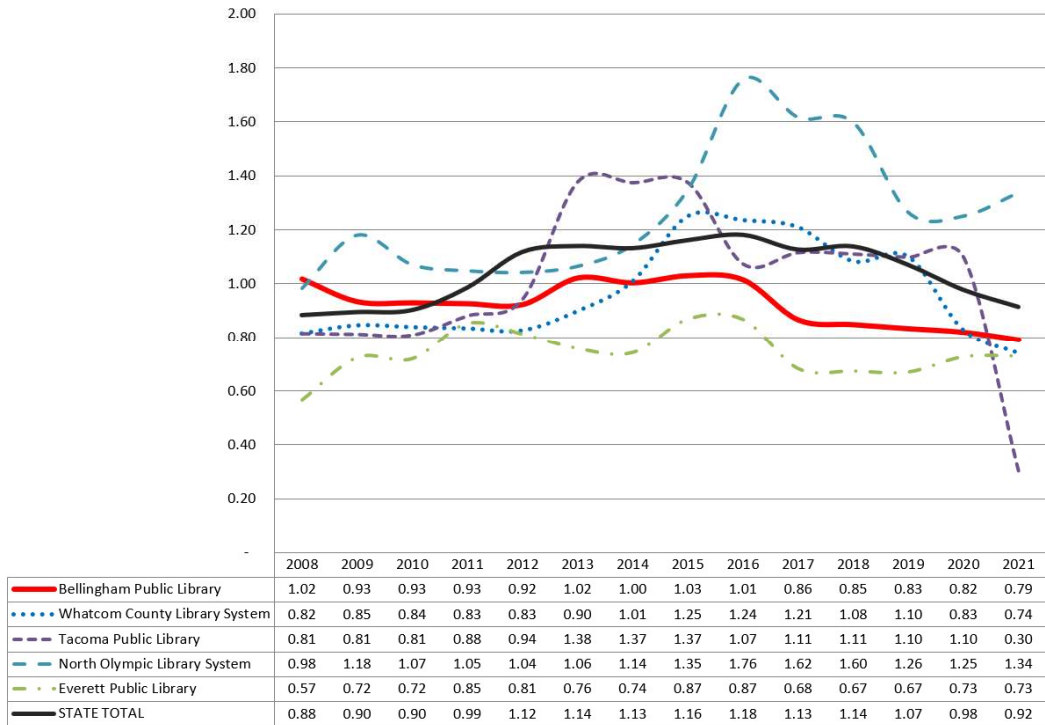


Finally, I want to touch on one last trend – the increasing ubiquity of computing devices & internet access in everyone’s lives.

Inexpensive smartphones and laptops have brought personal computing device ownership to more and more of the population, which is reducing the need for third parties like libraries to be the primary source of computing access. According to the metric of Public Internet Computer Sessions per 1,000 Population, BPL has been steadily declining in importance as a computing place since 2012. This is generally on-trend with other libraries in the state. The pandemic shut the public out from our computers, and numbers so far don’t look like use is going to come back to anywhere near where the trend was pre-pandemic.

There are geopolitical risks that could negatively impact the affordability of personal computing devices, so we can’t be certain that the downward trend will continue. But we should plan on it doing so all the same.

Total Public Computers per 1,000 Population

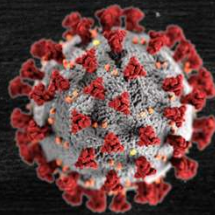


It's not that libraries were reducing the number of computers available to the public throughout this time. Availability was basically flat over much of the teens.

What Else...?

400+ columns of data to play with!

<https://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/wplsr-merged>



So, there are some things to think about, like:

How far will we bounce-back from the COVID disruptions? What is 'normal' now?

What do we need to change if the population keeps increasing? Or, what if it stops increasing, or starts to decline?

How far will the shift from print to digital collections and circulation go, and what does that mean for our operations?

Where will print serials bottom out? Seems unlikely they'll disappear completely, but there isn't an obvious stopping point.

What if the geopolitical conditions leading to cheaper computing devices changes, and instead they get more expensive?

Engage Young Minds!

Library Giving Day
Tuesday, April 4th

Help the Library Board of Trustees raise funds to create a hands-on early learning center for young children at the new Bellis Fair Branch

DONATE



2023 © burgeon group llc

**Bellingham Public Library
Performance & Activity Measures, 2023**

Library Board
April 18, 2023
Consent Agenda

	March		Year to Date			YTD comparison 2023 with 2019
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2019	
Holdings - Number of materials in the library's collection						
Physical copies added to the collection	2,814	2,111	7,642	6,518	7,549	1.23%
Electronic copies purchased by BPL	117	96	286	290	207	38.16%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	(761)	(359)	(1,998)	(1,090)	(1,800)	11.00%
Total physical holdings			178,828	174,139	183,359	-2.47%
Total electronic holdings available to BPL			137,719	119,957	89,695	53.54%
Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)			316,547	294,096	273,054	15.93%
Circulation - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity						
Central Library						
Adult	44,261	49,874	129,260	134,303	169,003	-23.52%
Youth	45,092	45,938	129,586	116,114	133,905	-3.23%
Sub-Total Central	89,353	95,812	258,846	250,417	302,908	-14.55%
Fairhaven Branch						
Adult	4,949	1,117	14,187	2,680	21,211	-33.11%
Youth	2,448	826	6,635	2,094	7,274	-8.78%
Sub-Total Fairhaven	7,397	1,943	20,822	4,774	28,485	-26.90%
Barkley Branch						
Adult	5,111	1,430	13,664	3,230	15,117	-9.61%
Youth	4,415	1,377	12,051	2,949	9,624	25.22%
Sub-Total Barkley	9,526	2,807	25,715	6,179	24,741	3.94%
Bellingham Technical College						
Adult	20	0	75	0	185	-59.46%
Youth	4	0	15	0	35	-57.14%
Sub-Total BTC	24	0	90	0	220	-59.09%
Whatcom Community College						
Adult	144	0	482	0	976	-50.61%
Youth	58	0	224	0	260	-13.85%
Sub-Total WCC	202	0	706	0	1,236	-42.88%
Western Washington University						
Adult	174	0	496	0	1,504	-67.02%
Youth	23	0	127	0	792	-83.96%
Sub-Total WWU	197	0	623	0	2,296	-72.87%
Sub-Total Physical	106,699	100,562	306,802	261,370	359,886	-14.75%
Online Services						
Kanopy	1,702	1,789	5,123	5,634	0	
NW Anytime Library Overdrive	36,749	29,988	107,502	90,671	62,579	71.79%
eMagazines	1,842	2,325	5,821	6,880	7,326	-20.54%
Sub-Total Online	40,293	34,102	118,446	103,185	69,905	69.44%
Total Circulation	146,992	134,664	425,248	364,555	429,791	-1.06%
Holds Activity						
Items pulled to fill holds	52,602	53,943	155,836	163,213	129,556	20.28%
Services						
Persons Visiting - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries						
Central Library - Curbside	38	94	120	7,264	0	
Adult	34,473	25,881	95,625	47,394	115,641	-17.31%
Youth	7,780	5,250	21,695	9,734	30,918	-29.83%
Fairhaven Branch	4,890	4,521	14,030	9,018	19,889	-29.46%
Barkley Branch	3,934	2,900	11,250	6,225	13,234	-14.99%
Total Persons Visiting	51,115	38,646	142,720	79,635	179,682	-20.57%
Website Visits	41,211	36,415	122,189	114,096	129,967	-5.98%
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org						
Bibliocommons Visits	15,338	13,599	46,795	37,134	35,295	32.58%
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons						
Total Website Visits	56,549	50,014	168,984	151,230	165,262	2.25%
Computer Usage - Number of sessions						
Central Library						
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)	3,205	1,765	9,023	3,070	15,482	-41.72%
Childrens (3 terminals)	24	8	119	21	440	-72.95%
Fairhaven Branch (7 terminals)	171	128	530	276	1,431	-62.96%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	140	94	406	170	815	-50.18%
Total Computer Usage	3,540	1,995	10,078	3,537	18,168	-44.53%
New Borrowers Registered						
Central Library	518	511	1,675	1,307	1,261	32.83%
Fairhaven Branch	24	36	92	50	134	-31.34%
Barkley Branch	23	10	98	24	67	46.27%
Total New Borrowers Registered	565	557	1,865	1,381	1,462	27.56%
Programs - Library sponsored or co-sponsored educational, recreational, or cultural programs						
Programs	128	88	340	128	352	-3.41%
Attendees	2,414	289	6,576	696	7,772	-15.39%
Volunteer Hours	358	281	1,044	605	1,646	-36.56%

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Library Trustees

MARCH 2023 CLAIMS

LIST OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	VENDOR	AMOUNT
Materials, Equipment and Supplies		
Books; DVDs; supplies; masks; Bellis Fair setup	Amazon.com	3,726.93
Exterior book drop	American Securities	6,335.42
Books	Baker & Taylor	25,392.17
Office chairs	Blackburn Office Equipment	1,102.58
Periodicals	Cascadia Daily	288.00
Books	Center Point Large Print	103.01
Coffee maker	Costco	152.31
Periodicals	Ebsco Subscription Services	(227.12)
Watchguard firebox	eSecurity Solutions	1,061.13
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	3,884.98
Office supplies	ODP Business Solutions	290.91
Vehicle fuel	Reisner Distributor	208.83
Patron supplies	Smart Food Service	40.50
Bellis Fair desks	Uplift Desk	1,832.19
Tape measure	Walmart	7.04
Copier paper & receipt tape	WCP Solutions	2,117.25
Videophone table	Workpointe	512.96
	Materials, Equipment & Supplies Sub Total	\$46,829.09
Services and Interfund Charges		
Barkley Branch cleaning	Action Cleaning	769.50
Creative Cloud subscriptions	Adobe Inc	783.10
Signage	Applied Digital Imaging	25.95
Hotspot service	AT&T Mobility	18.24
Preprocessing	Baker & Taylor	6,709.25
Networking breakfast	Chamber of Commerce	25.00
Banking & credit card fees	City of Bellingham Interfund	18.68
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	15,807.43
Facilities Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	53,771.81
Fleet Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	820.00
Qualified Energy Conservation Bond sinking fund	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,517.00
Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,225.33
Technology replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,182.02
Telecom Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	2,492.71
MyLibro	ConverSight.AI Inc	4,960.00
Printing	Copy Source	231.34
Water cooler rental	Crystal Springs	25.00
Graphic Design	Katrina Lyon Design	1,520.00

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Library Trustees

MARCH 2023 CLAIMS

Preprocessing	Midwest Tape	492.56
ILL & tech services	OCLC	2,293.90
eBooks, eAudiobooks	Overdrive Inc	12,406.01
Security	Risk solutions	4,964.95
Security software subscription	Secure by Design	20.00
Barkley Branch operating costs	Talbot Services LLC	533.33
Microfische machine lease	Technology Unlimited	339.46
Borrower notices	Unique Management	193.00
Interlibrary Loan mailing	USPS	8.26
Hotspot service	Verizon Wireless	1,520.38
Driving abstracts	WSDO Licensing	35.10

Services and Interfund Charges Sub Total \$125,709.31

Gift Fund

Books	AbeBooks	105.48
ALA Conference registration	American Library Association	385.00
Books	Baker & Taylor	251.30
Community Voice Kits	Barnes & Noble	127.10
Warehouse - program supplies	City of Bellingham Interfund	360.49
ALA Conference	Delta Air	519.80
Summer Reading graphic design	Katrina Lyon Design	720.00
Government 2 Government training	Swinomish Tribe	280.00
Humanities WA Prime Time Reading	Village Books	1,861.10
Teen programming	Walmart	112.38

GIFT FUND OUTLAYS Sub Total \$4,722.65

TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS \$172,538.40

TOTAL CLAIMS \$177,261.05

Library - Budget to Actual - General Fund

March 2023 25% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Revenues				
Grants	0	0		
Print and Copy Fees	2,777	15,000	12,223	19%
Lost, Damage & Non-resident Borrower Fees	1,917	16,100	14,183	12%
Fairhaven Auditorium Rental Fees	450	5,000	4,550	9%
Miscellaneous Revenues	226	0	(226)	
Total Revenue	5,370	36,100	30,730	15%
Expenses				
Salaries and Wages	763,088	3,233,746	2,470,658	24%
Personnel Benefits	345,143	1,590,178	1,245,035	22%
Physical Materials, Equipment and Supplies	67,035	665,162	598,127	10%
Services, Digital Materials and Interfund	632,679	2,157,074	1,524,395	29%
Total Expenditure	1,807,945	7,646,160	5,838,215	24%

Library - Budget to Actual - Gift Fund

March 2023 25% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Revenues				
Donations	22,478	150,000	127,522	15%
Total Revenue	22,478	150,000	127,522	15%
Expenses				
Gift Fund expenses	5,706	50,000	44,294	11%
Total Expenditure	5,706	50,000	44,294	11%



DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR April 18, 2023



National Library Week begins Sunday, April 23 and runs through Saturday, April 29. The 2023 theme is "There's More to the Story" which celebrates the myriad of ways libraries serve their communities. This year, of course, we have an especially notable National Library Week with the opening of the Bellis Fair Branch on Wednesday, April 26. We'll also be celebrating Library Snapshot Day with photos of library staff and activities taken throughout the week (we couldn't pick just one day!). On Tuesday, April 25 we'll be honoring our staff on National Library Workers Day with treats from our wonderful Friends of the Library. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

WELCOME & INCLUDE

Welcoming a New Children's Specialist: Lesley Norman begins as Children's Specialist on Monday, April 17. Lesley's role will be focusing on supporting both Children's and Teen services, specifically working with upper elementary through middle school students. Welcome to Lesley! (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

Public Services and Operations Staffing Update: We recently posted two 35-hour Security & Information Attendant positions (one of which was recently approved by City Council on 4/10) and will be accepting applications until May 5, 2023. Two new Library Assistants will be starting on May 5, 2023. These candidates are from the qualified pool we created in December. We expect to run another process soon to fill the remaining vacancies. We were happy to welcome three new Public Services Clerks to our team in March: Siena C., Jo B. and James J. (all moved from our Library Assistant team). Our last Public Services Clerk position will be filled starting May 1 by Soleil B. (who is currently one of our Security & Information attendants). (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

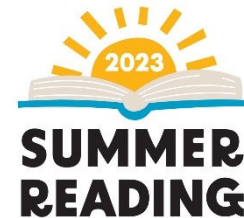
ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Whatcom County Digital Equity Plan: Gina Stark, Economic Development Project Manager for the Port of Bellingham, is coordinating the formation of a county-wide Broadband Action Team. The Team's first order of business will be to prepare a Whatcom County Digital Equity Plan. BPL recently attended a meeting about the Plan and responded to a request to complete a Digital Equity Asset Inventory. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

READ & LEARN

Prime Time Family Reading Program: Beginning April 12, Children's Services is conducting a six-week family engagement program entitled Prime Time Family Reading. This program, made possible by a grant from Humanities WA, is a family engagement program centered around reading and talking about books. Children's Librarian Bernice Chang is project coordinator and has partnered with Reading Specialist Danielle Hunter at Cordata Elementary to invite sixteen families to participate. Each program is 1.5 hours long and begins with a shared meal, followed by the reading of a story by Children's Librarian Ali Kubeny and conversation about the stories facilitated by WWU professor Jessica Herreras-Stone. The book reading and discussion is done bilingually, in both Spanish and English. Children's Specialist Mande Palmer conducts preschool enrichment for younger siblings of the elementary-aged participants during the story discussion. The first session was held at Cordata Elementary, with the remaining sessions at the Central Library. After the first night, we can report that new friendships were forged among Cordata parents and kids, and many families were newly introduced to the public library. We are excited for the next five weeks! (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

Summer Reading: Summer Reading Activity Cards have been printed for 2023 and are at the Library. BPL has separate versions for Early Learners, Kids, Teens and Adults. Each of the cards is also being translated into Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian. BPL also has a fun new Summer Reading logo for a variety of uses including the Library's website, social media, digital screens and newsletter. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)



New Position in Community Relations: The new Library Events Coordinator position is on track to post on April 28. The successful candidate in this full-time position will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing high-profile special events in support of the Library's Strategic Plan and evolving community needs. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

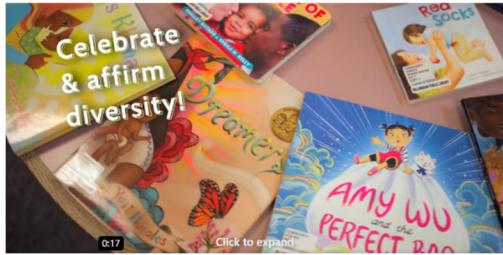
INFORM & INVOLVE



Bellis Fair Branch: KAFE Radio interviewed Library Director Rebecca Judd 3/28 regarding the new Bellis Fair Branch. Invitations to the April 26 public ribbon cutting and grand opening are being circulated widely via email, social media and print flyers. Students and faculty of Whatcom Intergenerational High School (WIHS), located at Bellis Fair Mall, spent time with Library staff brainstorming ideas for the

Teen section at the new Bellis Fair Branch and creating posters to announce the grand opening. Entry signage is scheduled to be installed at the new Branch on 4/14. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Recent News Stories: The *Bellingham Herald* published an article on 3/28 titled: "Man trespassed from Bellingham Library after 'twirling' hatchet inside," based on a police report. The *Bellingham Herald* interviewed Rebecca and published an article on 4/2 titled: "Here's why Bellingham Library adds staff to information and security desk". (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)



Community Voices Kits Video: A new [BTV video](#) introduces the Library's Community Voices Book Kits and features local families as well as Children's Librarians Bernice and Ali. The video is being aired on BTV, as well as on the BTV Youtube channel. It has also circulated on the Library's website, Facebook page and newsletter. This will be a helpful tool in communicating the availability of the new kits to local families. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Meeting with Bellingham School Board: On April 11, Children's Services Librarian Bernice Chang was invited by Cordata Elementary School's Leadership Team to meet with Bellingham Public School Board members and share how the library has partnered on family and community engagement with the Cordata Elementary community. At this meeting, Bernice talked about the library's programming with the Villa Santa Fe housing community and how the library supported many of Cordata's family events: Bedtime with Books (Children's Specialist Mandee read stories and shared library resources), Bedtime with Books at Villa Santa Fe (Children's Librarians Ali and Bernice read stories in English and Spanish and gave away free books) and the Social Emotional Learning Event (the library provided booklists for adults and children on the topics of social emotional learning). Bernice also shared about the upcoming six-week Prime Time Family Reading Program being held in collaboration with Cordata Elementary. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

THRIVE & GROW

Washington Library Association Conference: Jenni J., Community Relations specialist, Maggie A., Public Services Clerk, and Liz H. Public Services Librarian attended the Washington Library Association conference in Wenatchee March 31-April 2. A sampling of session topics included: *Let's Get LOUD for Libraries*, on successful advocacy; *This IS Library Work: Outreach for People Experiencing Housing Insecurity*; *Hitting Your Limit: Trauma and Library Workers*; and *The Right to Read: Conversations on Censorship*. We are looking forward to taking this learning back to our teams. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)



Bellis Fair Branch Preparation 1: Contracted work has wrapped up at the mall. This work included: removing fitting rooms (painting that area and installing new carpet), painting the storefront, as well as wiring and cabling of the space. The outdoor book return has been installed. Internet service was installed and connections to the City networks is complete. The City key card system was installed, and the custodial service contract was completed. The carpets were recently cleaned, and things are starting to move over to the new space. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

Bellis Fair Branch Preparation 2: Boxes of items for the new branch started arriving in Collection Services, and temporary procedures have been developed to address the unique situation of having a collection for a branch that isn't ready for the public. Plans have been made for where to store the items, for special transport to the branch, and for how to make everything go live at the appropriate time. ITSD staff have also been involved with branch preparations. They oversaw the installation of power and data cabling, installed networking equipment, and configured the WiFi for staff and public access. They're getting the computers for both staff and the public ready to deploy, as well as the staff phone. The public phone number for the branch will be enabled the morning of the 26th. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Other Facilities Projects: The freight elevator modernization project started on Apr 10 and is expected to take up to 6 weeks. Staff and the Friends of the Library will be using the main public elevator to transport materials between floors for the duration of the project. Public Works is working with a vendor to remedy the problematic locking mechanisms on the main floor public restrooms. We expect to see some recommendations soon and hope to be able to provide an update next month. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

Database Stats: This month's report introduces a new table of metrics that will be included quarterly. 'Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources' collects a use metric for each of our subscription databases. These are the same metrics reported annually to the State Library as 'Successful Retrievals of Electronic Information'. Wherever possible we're reporting how many times patrons actively get to information, such as 'Requests', 'Views', or 'Retrievals', though some vendors only provide 'Sessions', which are less granular. We track this information, and other metrics, to help us make renewal decisions. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Judd

Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources

Vendor	Database	Metric	2023			Q1
			Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Candid	Foundation Directory Online#	Profile Views	131	158	124	413
Data Axle	Reference Solutions*	Detail Records Viewed, Downloaded, and Printed	15	2	9	26
EBSCO	Auto Repair Source	Sessions	36	17	21	74
EBSCO	Consumer Reports	Page Views	3,389	2,378	2,771	8,538
EBSCO	Novelist Plus	Requests	10	62	160	232
EBSCO	Novelist K-8 Plus	Requests	22	107	20	149
Gale	Gale databases	Item Requests	1,567	854	488	2,909
Grey House	Weiss Financial Ratings	Page Views	698	424	485	1,607
Library Ideas	Freegal	Songs Streamed or Downloaded	7,067	9,925	8,268	25,260
LinkedIn	LinkedIn Learning	Video Views	1,418	869	1,082	3,369
Mango	Mango	Sessions	337	276	256	869
NewsBank	NewsBank^	Documents Viewed	3,523	2,897	3,313	9,733
ProQuest	Ancestry Library Edition#	Document Views	503	414	881	1,798
ProQuest	CultureGrams	Pages Viewed	348	110	9,065	9,523
ProQuest	HeritageQuest	Records Viewed	137	271	578	986
ProQuest	US Newsstream & US Dailies	Retrievals	40	44	37	121
ProQuest	Newspapers.com - West	Retrievals	208	465	179	852
		TOTAL	19,449	19,273	27,737	66,459

No remote access

* In-Library stats only. Remote access counted to WCLS

^ In-Library and some remote stats. Other remote access counted to WCLS

2023 Annual Action Plan: Quarter 1 update, January - March 2023**WELCOME & INCLUDE: We offer welcoming, safe places and experiences, where connections and understanding flourish.**

- Research best practices and software for community meeting spaces at Central and Fairhaven
- Safety and Ease: Seek learning opportunities and activities that help staff identify and respond to behaviors in our libraries that may pose a safety risk
- Safety and Ease: Research options to improve flow of communication during an incident, including between floors and work groups

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY: We connect people with opportunities and resources to solve problems and help them achieve their aspirations.

- Invite social service organizations to share information and provide services on-site
- Identify new locations for Community Drop Boxes; purchase, wrap, and install Boxes
- Increase accessibility for all patrons, with a focus on recruiting bilingual staff, improving translation services, and improving access for patrons with visual and hearing impairments
- Safety and Ease: Research options for whether we can serve the needs of clients who need to make emergency phone calls

READ & LEARN: We inspire a lifetime of reading, learning, curiosity, and discovery.

- Redesign Summer Reading materials to best meet needs of BPL patrons

INFORM & INVOLVE: We provide information and activities to stay abreast of community issues and events, fostering informed, active participation in civic life.

- With WCLS, migrate to new platform for email and text notifications

THRIVE & GROW: We are a valued community partner and trusted city service, playing a central role in Bellingham life.

- Design and open Bellis Fair Mall branch library pilot
- With Public Works, hire architect and complete design work for Central Library renovation
- Develop Planned Giving program for the Library



You're Invited!

Library Board
April 18, 2023
Item #7
Facilities Committee
Bellis Fair Branch update

Open House for the
Bellingham Public Library, Bellis Fair Branch

Wednesday, April 26 • 10-10:45 am



All staff who work at Bellis Fair Mall are invited to preview the Library's new Bellis Fair Branch on Wednesday, April 26, from 10 – 10:45 am.

The new branch will be located inside Bellis Fair Mall, suite 616.

Bellingham Public Library
BELLIS FAIR BRANCH



Bellis Fair Branch Hours

(Opening April 26)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 2 – 6 pm

Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday, 1 – 5 pm



You're Invited!

Library Board
April 18, 2023
Item #7
Facilities Committee
Bellis Fair Branch update

Grand Opening of the
Bellingham Public Library, Bellis Fair Branch

Wednesday, April 26 • 2 pm



Celebrate National Library Week with a ribbon cutting and public grand opening of our new Bellis Fair Branch on Wednesday, April 26, at 2:00 pm. The branch will be located inside **Bellis Fair Mall, suite 616**.

The Bellis Fair branch will offer space for browsing print collections, including fiction, nonfiction, teen and children's books, as well as movies, holds pick-up, access to computers, free wifi, and room for interactive children's activities.

Two returns bins for Library materials will also be located at the Bellis Fair Branch. An indoor returns bin will be accessible during the Mall's regular hours. An outdoor returns bin will be accessible 24 hours/day.

Bellingham Public Library
BELLIS FAIR BRANCH



Bellis Fair Branch Hours

(Opening April 26)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 2 – 6 pm

Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday, 1 – 5 pm



QUARTERLY DONATION REPORT for LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2023 - 1st Quarter Donations to Library Gift Fund

Library Board
 April 18, 2023
 Item #8
 Fundraising Committee

Date	Received from:	Amount	Purpose:
1/5/2023	Anonymous	\$100.00	Unrestricted
1/10/2023	Whatcom Community Foundation	\$250.00	Unrestricted
1/31/2023	January misc donations	\$7.61	Unrestricted
2/2/2023	Community Food Co-op (staff volunteer match)	\$50.00	Unrestricted
2/7/2023	Whatcom Community Foundation	\$7,299.23	Annual designated grants
2/9/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$7,000.00	Staff development
2/9/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$1,000.00	Community Outreach
2/28/2023	February misc donations	\$15.67	Unrestricted
3/16/2023	Individual	\$200.00	Unrestricted
3/23/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$3,500.00	Summer Reading
3/23/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$3,000.00	Book club kits
3/30/2023	Individual	\$50.00	Unrestricted
3/31/2023	March misc donations	\$5.65	Unrestricted
TOTAL		\$22,478.16	

2023 - 1st Quarter Donations to Library Funds at Whatcom Community Foundation

Date	Received from:	Amount	Fund
1/13/2023	Anonymous	\$10.00	Unrestricted
1/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
2/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
2/10/2023	Individual	\$500.00	Fairhaven Branch Materials
3/6/2023	Individual	\$20.00	Unrestricted
3/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
3/14/2023	Individual	\$500.00	Materials
TOTAL		\$1,045.00	