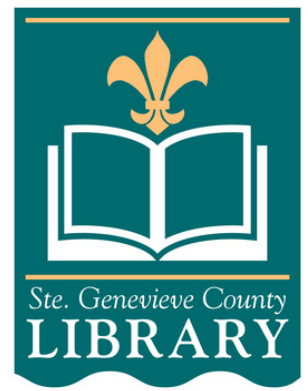


2024 ANNUAL REPORT

STE. GENEVIEVE
COUNTY LIBRARY



DATE :
23 February 2025

573-883-3358
www.sgclib.org

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Letter from the Director

By all accounts, 2024 has felt like the fastest year since I began writing these Annual Reports. Each one marks another year of growth and change for our library, and creating them is no small task. They take months of effort—gathering data, analyzing digital and physical checkouts, and compiling every detail into a document that may or may not land on your reading list.

But this year feels different. There's an energy in the air, a sense that we're standing on the brink of something truly transformative for our little library. In December 2023, we took a bold step forward by hiring Aaron Cohen & Associates to guide us in developing our Strategic Plan. After years of trying to tackle this process on our own, our board decided it was time to bring in expert help. To say we were excited and inspired is an understatement.

We started 2024 with an online survey that received an incredible 180 responses from community members, sharing their hopes and dreams for the library. The year ended with a comprehensive 90-page strategic plan—a roadmap for our future that our board has studied intently since its completion in November.

This plan was created with one vision in mind: the future. What will it look like? How do we get there? Part of my role this year was to delve into our history to better understand how far we've come. In 2023, we explored the roots of our library system, discovering that our services predate the state library system itself. That legacy continued when my grandparents voted in 1960 to ensure the library's future—a future they could only dream of, and one we now have the privilege of shaping. With this new strategic plan in hand, we're not just looking ahead to the next few years; we're building a foundation to ensure the library remains vibrant and relevant for generations to come. It's my hope that as you read this report, you'll see what I see: a library that is well-loved and well-used by the community it serves. Together, in ways big and small, we are writing the next chapter in its history.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn Long
Library Director

Leadership

Mission

The Ste. Genevieve County Library is guided by the past and focused on the future. Its mission is to enrich the lives of the community by empowering its citizen's personal, educational and professional growth. The library is committed to advancing literacy and nurturing life-long learning.

Board of Trustees

Jean Johnson
Board President

Melissa Otto
Vice President

Robin Reynolds
Treasurer

Robert Bach
Secretary

Cindy Nugent
Member-at-Large

As President of the Library Board, I am proud to reflect on a year of growth and progress for Ste. Genevieve County Library. In 2024, we took bold steps toward securing a vibrant future, most notably by partnering with Aaron Cohen & Associates to develop a Strategic Plan. Guided by input from the community and staff, this plan serves as a thoughtful roadmap for meeting the evolving needs of our patrons while staying true to the library's mission. It reflects the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved and sets the stage for an exciting path forward.

This year also reminded us of the library's deep roots in Ste. Genevieve's history. From its beginnings, even before the state library system, to today, generations have invested in its success. This Annual Report celebrates not only the milestones of 2024 but also the legacy that continues to inspire us. Together, we are building a library that will serve as a cornerstone of this community for years to come.



Meet Our Board

The Ste. Genevieve County Library Board plays a vital role in guiding our mission and ensuring the library meets the needs of our community. Comprised of dedicated individuals, our board provides oversight, strategic planning, and advocacy for library services, programs, and future growth. Their leadership helps us expand access to resources, enhance technology, and adapt to the evolving needs of our patrons.

We invite you to connect with our board at meetings, share your ideas, and be part of the conversation about the library's future. Thank you to our board members for their commitment to making our library a cornerstone of the community!



Jean Johnson
Board President



Melissa Otto
*Board Vice
President*



Robin Reynolds
Treasurer



Bob Bach
Secretary



Cindy Nugent
Member-At-Large

We Love Our Friends!!



The reduction in sales taxes has greatly affected our budget, making the Friends of the Library even more critical. For 2025 we were asked to reduce our budget as much as possible

Friends of SGCLIB

Elizabeth Rudloff

Board President

Richard Fieg

Treasurer

Jennifer Cox

Secretary

Rebecca Long

Historian

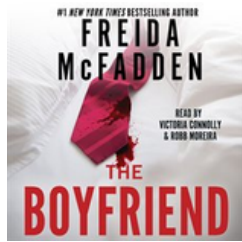
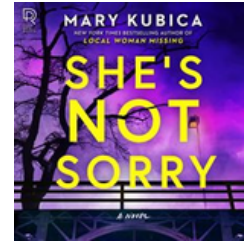
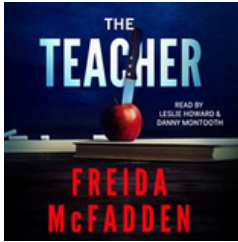
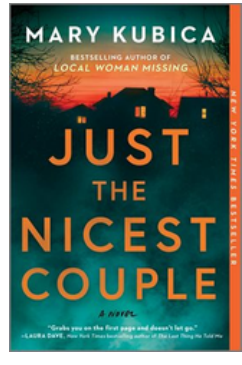
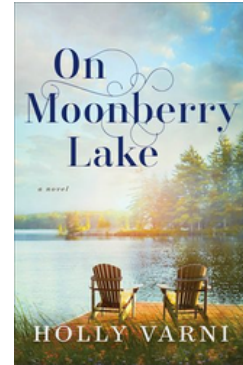
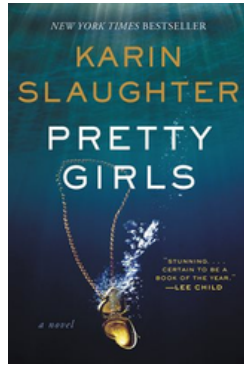
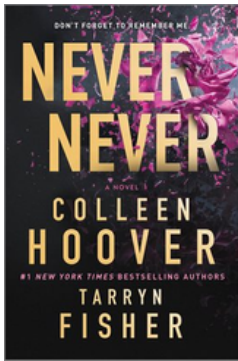
As I reflect on the evolution of the Friends since I joined in 2018, I am truly amazed by the impact our organization has had on Ste. Genevieve County Library. Over the past seven years, we have grown and adapted to meet the library's ever-changing needs. In our early days, we helped run Story Times and raised a few hundred dollars. Today, we organize events like our highly successful Rock & Roll Bingo, which raised nearly \$5,000 last year.

These funds have made a meaningful difference, allowing us to send our Director to the Missouri Library Association conference, purchase essential equipment for library programs, and provide giveaways for the Summer Reading program, among other initiatives.

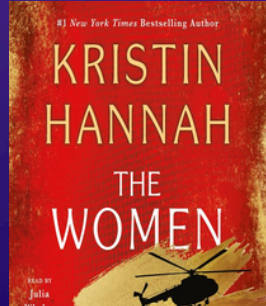
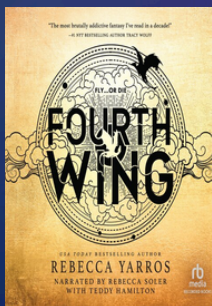
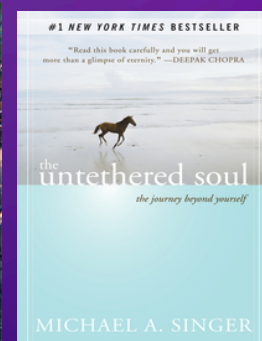
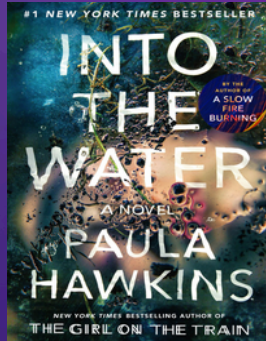
Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our fundraising efforts to support the library's Strategic Plan and help bring its vision to life. Our goal is to ensure that future generations have access to high-quality library services that meet their needs.

We invite everyone to join us—no special skills required, just a passion for your local library!

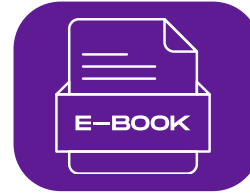
Top 5 Digital Checkouts by Platform



Libby



Digital Usage



DVD/TV/Music

E-Audio

E-Books

Users

Libby Adult Titles		2,921	2,601	672
Libby YA & J Titles		465	399	
Hoopla Adult	291	3,790	1,290	678
Hoopla YA & J Titles	93	316	136	
Totals	384	7,492	4,426	1,350

Total digital checkouts for 2024 are 12,302 a 13% increase from 2023!

A 23 % increase in patrons using digital services from 2023.



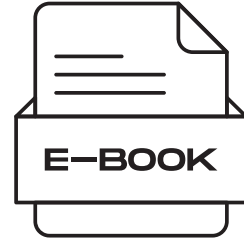
Digital Collection Review



6,386
checkouts



7,492



4,426



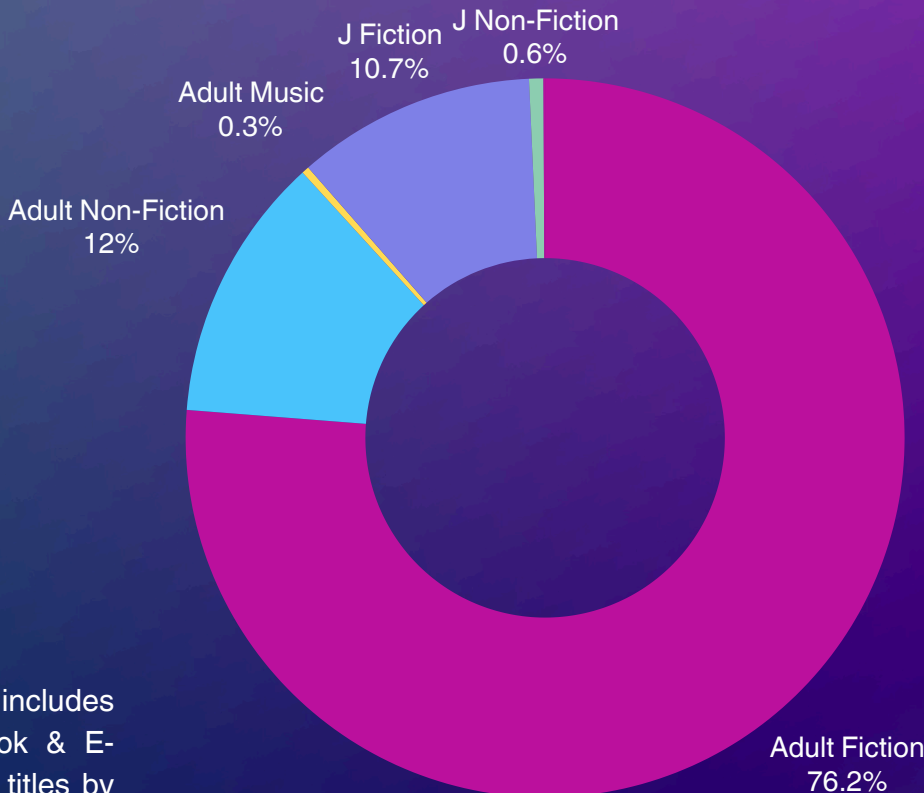
384



5,916
checkouts

**12,302 Total
Digital Checkouts**

What our Patrons are Reading Digitally



This total includes both E-Book & E-Audiobook titles by category.

Library Card Renewals & New Cards



For the first time in 5 years we have not exceeded the previous years library card signups. However, when compared to the amount of Library Card Renewals we have seen, we are blown away!

More people are renewing their cards more than ever because of the value they receive from their library!

A library card is your key to knowledge, connection, and opportunity. With it, you gain access to books, e-resources, technology, and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community. Whether you're borrowing a bestseller, exploring digital learning tools, or using library services, your card opens the door to endless possibilities—all for free.

If you don't have a library card yet, now is the perfect time to sign up and discover everything your library has to offer!

Physical Checkouts



DVD/TV/Music



Audio



Books



Other Items

Adult

3,026

70

9,396

1,907

Young Adult

4

430

WonderBook

Juvenile

1,041

48

4,059

33

Children

4,067

122

4,714

288

Totals

4,067

122

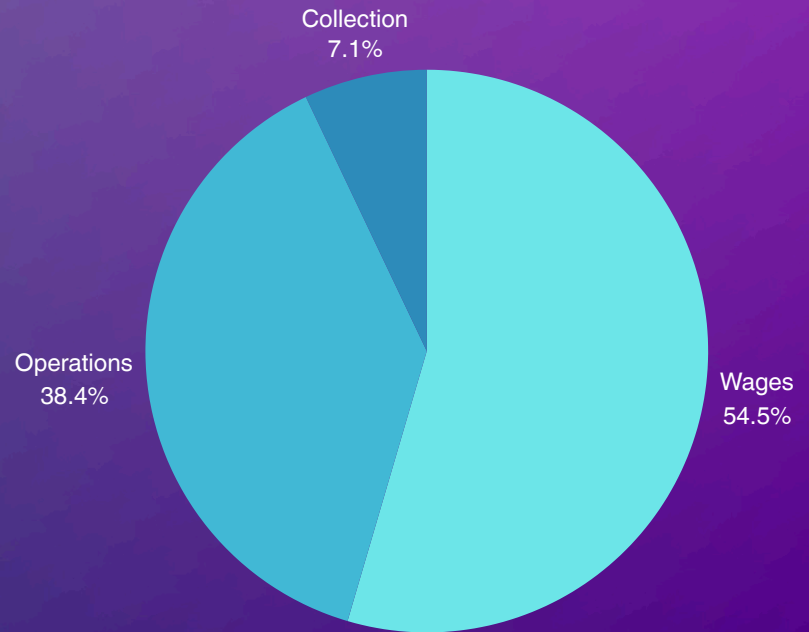
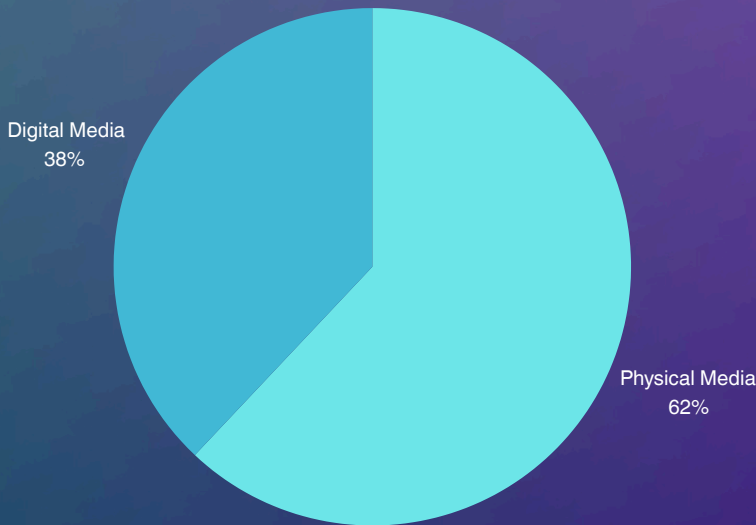
18,599

2,228

Total Physical
checkouts for
2024 are
25,016 that is a
13% increase
from 2023!



Fiscal Year 2024



Average libraries allot 57% of its budget to staff wages & benefits.

Revenue

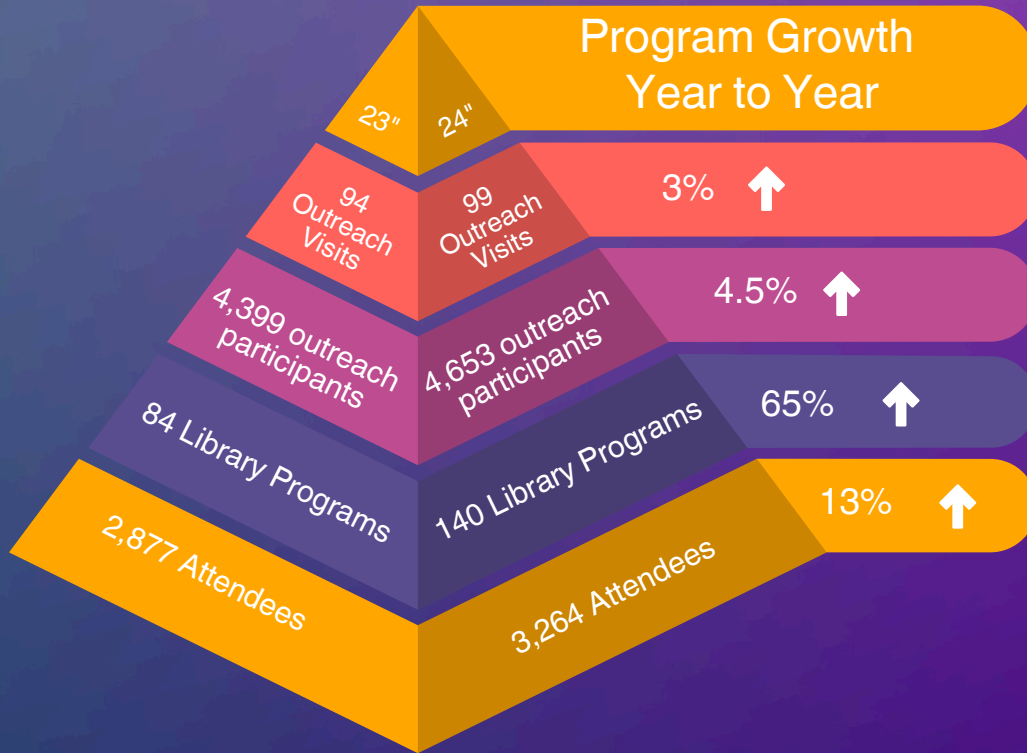
Cash Available December 31, 2023	\$183,307.30
Property Tax	\$314,203.93
Patron Services	\$5,594.61
Grants	\$550.08
Gifts and Contributions	\$8,776.71
Interest & Investment	\$10,435.89
Surtax District	\$8,544.10
Transfer from Community Center	\$94,341.65
Financial Inst	\$3.31
Misc Income	\$870.01
Total Revenue	\$626,627.91

Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$247,724.64
Library Operations	\$174,500.46
Library Materials	\$30,509.19
Total Expenditures:	\$452,734.29
Cash Available	\$173,893.62
December 31st, 2024	592,545.00

Core Services

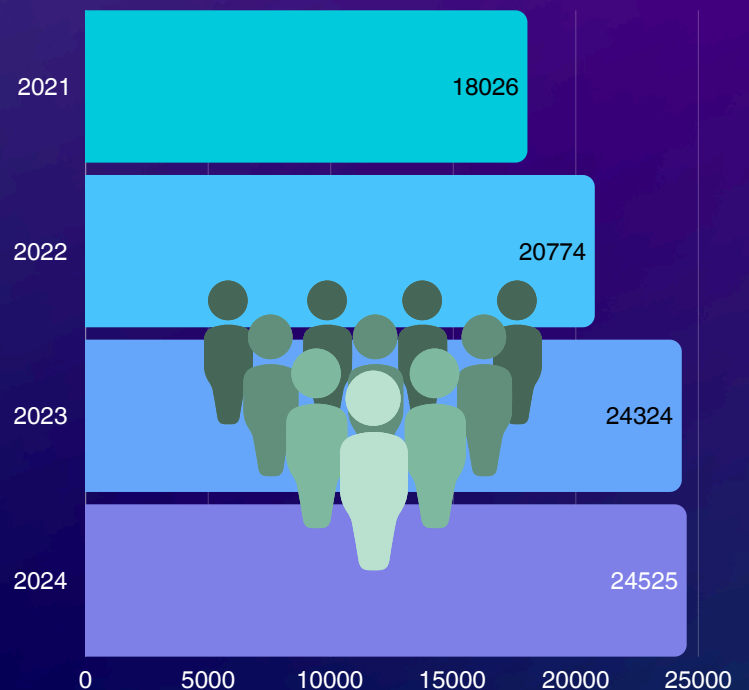
Visitors & Outreach



2024 Outreach Highlights

- SGCMH Women’s Health Fair
- Valle Schools
- St. Agnes School
- St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care
- Eclipse Day Program with NPS & Felix Valle State Historic Site
- Honey Festival
- Zell School
- Ste. Genevieve Elementary
- Bloomsdale Elementary
- Jour De Fete

Visitor Totals



Core Services

Library Programs



Summer Reading

- 376 Participants
- 5,591 Books Read
- 246,406 Minutes Read



When one envisions libraries, the first spark that ignites the imagination is the enchanting realm of storytimes. This magical experience serves to beckon young readers into the wondrous world of lifelong literacy. Our aspiration is to "adorn" the traditional narrative session, transforming it into a vibrant spectacle. By inviting children to actively participate in these storytelling adventures, we open a portal to immersive learning, deep comprehension, and a delightful sprinkling of joy.



Our enchanting programs are designed to weave joy and merriment into the fabric of community engagement, offering delightful activities brimming with storytimes, crafts, and laughter. We aspire to reimagine the library's role, crafting lasting memories and broadening the horizons of what a library can truly be.



Technology Highlights

Ste. Genevieve County Library had 10 computers for patron usage at the close of FY 2023. These computers offer internet access as well as access to our OPAC (online Public Access Catalog) Microsoft office products and Ancestry Library edition. We also offer free public access Wi-Fi for patron and guest users. Both of these services are accessed and checked out much the same way as a book.

110 Tech Assistance
Visits

324 Guest Computer
Sessions

21,663
Website Views

14,690 Website
Unique Visits



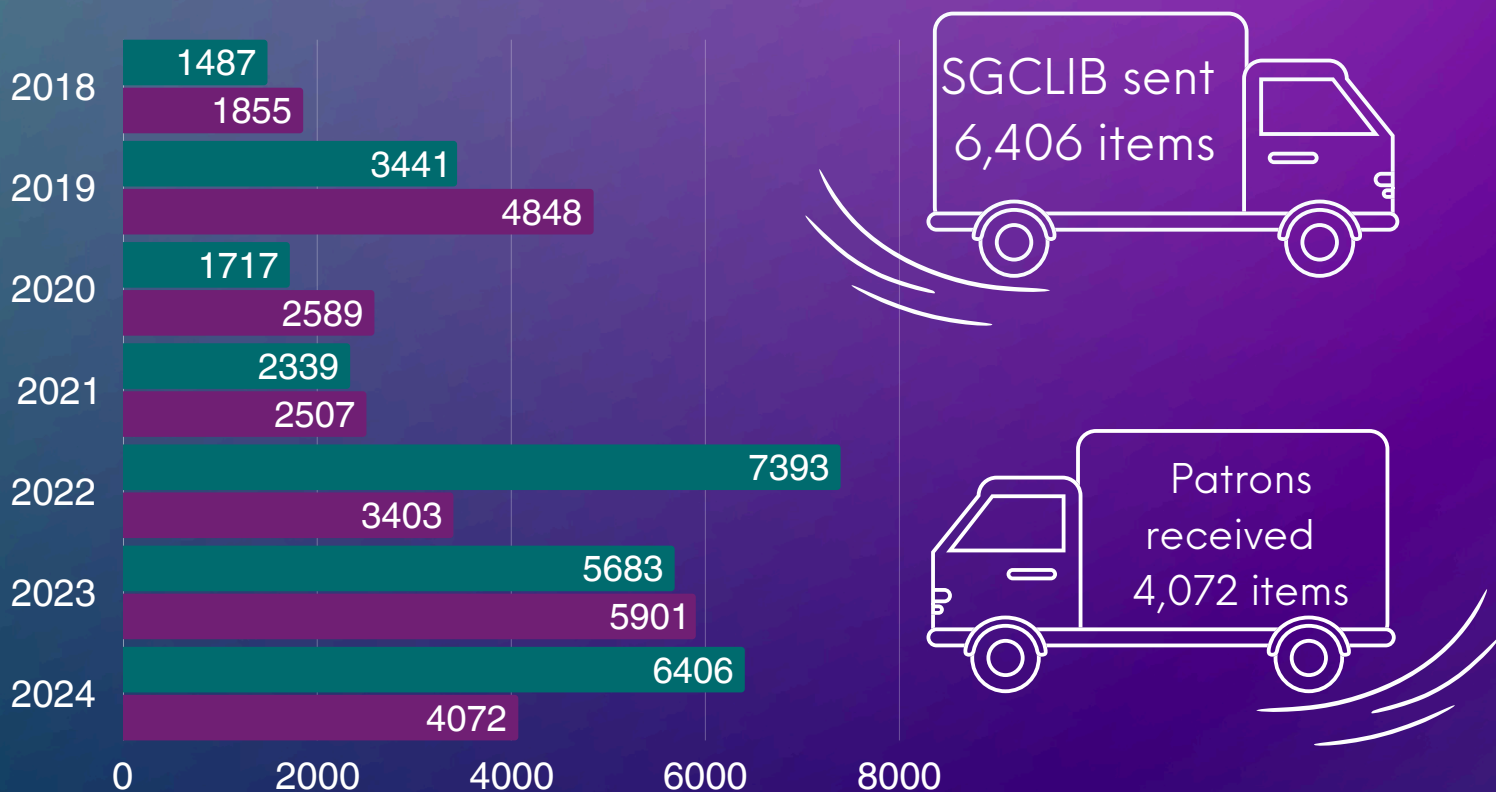
Our aging Technology is one aspect of our facility that we must address in the future. Between purchasing additional laptops to help us facilitate tech classes to improved security cameras for both patron and staff security. We are focused on securing our future to the best of our ability!



Missouri Evergreen

This year Missouri Evergreen has seen tremendous growth. 12 new member libraries joined the consortium bringing our total partner libraries to 76 libraries with 4.5 million available items.

Using Evergreen means that our collection is constantly working. If our library doesn't have a book, we can search 75 other libraries for a title. It also means that our our entire collection is available for millions of patrons rather than just our community!



The benefit of these annual reviews allows us to identify issues or concerns in our library services. By reviewing both our E-Book/E-Audiobook numbers and Evergreen request numbers going down, we feel that this is showing us that our community is utilizing our online resources before requesting books outside of our own library.

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