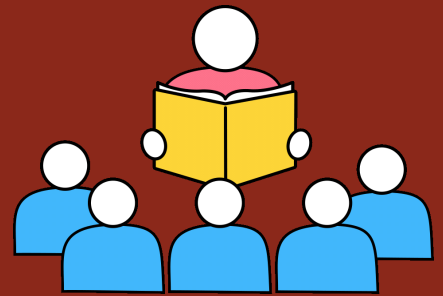


KETCHIKAN PUBLIC LIBRARY 2025



220 Outreach facilities visits

28,462 digital checkouts



10,347 public computer uses

93 non-Library meeting room uses



1,020 study room uses



7,605 Library patrons

Of the 5,327 patrons who provided their location:

- 59% City of Ketchikan
- 37% Borough outside the City
- 2% City of Saxman
- 2% seasonal



103,688 Library physical checkouts:

- 52% City of Ketchikan
- 48% Borough outside the City
- <1% City of Saxman
- <1% seasonal

57,211 Library visitors



122 Outreach home visits and deliveries



519 programs for all ages



8,185 wireless uses

Ketchikan Public Library - 2025 Annual Report

In 2025 the Ketchikan Public Library continued to improve services and visibility, enhance collections and adapt to a major change in library materials vendors.

People



Deborah Karlik became part-time Adult & Technical Services Library Assistant I in September, and with her hire the Library is fully staffed.

Milestones: Joao de Mello has been with the Library for 5 years, first as substitute staff, then Page, and now Library Assistant I in the Adult & Technical Services Division. Jason Bauer has been with the Library for 15 years as a Library Page in Adult & Technical Services.

Training: The Children's Services Division staff attended the American Library Association training on children's programming in November, and the Outreach and Adult & Technical Services staff attended the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition's Mental Health First Aid Training. Pat Tully attended the DirLead Leadership Seminar of Alaska public library directors in Anchorage; the topic was state budget processes.

Programs and Services

The Library conducted 519 programs in 2025, up from 379 programs in 2024:

All ages:

- Weekly drop-in Chess Club, with lessons for new players led by Cruin MacGriogair.
- Chess Tournaments for youth and adults
- Three Jigsaw Puzzle Tournaments

- Celebrating Community & You event with information on and activities by 15+ local non-profit organizations
- Board Game Day

Adult Services



July 30: Japanese drummer Takumi Kato and his family perform.

- Weekly Chair Yoga with Hilary Koch
- Weekly Mindfulness Yoga with Charley Murray-Young
- Bi-weekly Free Style Book Club with June Dahl
- Advance Care Directives preparation with Courageous Conversations
- Online DIY With Gayle on Facebook and YouTube (series ended in the summer)
- Adult Winter Reading Challenge
- Monthly Craft & Connect adult craft programs with Gayle Brooks (began in summer)
- Weekly Sunday gardening programs in February and March with Ketchikan Community Gardens
- Blind Date With a Book
- April Yin & Yang Yoga sessions with Charlie Murray-Young
- S.T.E.A.M. classes for homeschooling families, with Charley Murray-Young
- Author talks by Ray Troll, Marc Cameron, and Larry Johansen
- *Island Music* series with visiting performers
- Performance by Japanese Peace Drummer Takumi Kato and his family
- Winter and Spring High School Finals Party with refreshments and games
- Next Steps, a monthly program for high school juniors and seniors, began in August

- Textiles and Texts program with Adult Services Librarian Lisa Pearson and Rainy Day Quilters
- Filipino Heritage Month participation in the Fil-Am Festival
- Disaster Preparedness Week with programs on Emergency Planning and To Go Bag Preparation and Save It! Salvaging Family Heirlooms
- The Christmas Kindness Challenge yielded a record 383 cards and creations for residents of the Pioneer Home, Long-Term Care, and Saxman Senior Center
- The November Adult Craft Supply Exchange drew over 100 participants

Youth Services

- 2025 Winter Reading Program with 175 participants
- 2025 Children's Summer Program with 351 participants who logged 217,080 reading minutes, and Teen Summer Program with 109 participants who logged 78,480 reading minutes.
- In May Youth Services staff visited classes in all public schools to encourage students to participate in Summer Reading and to talk about Library accounts



Elsa decorated the Children's nook for summer

- Teen Advisory Group (T.A.G.) monthly meetings
- Twice-monthly teen to-go bags
- Monthly Tween crafts & activities for children aged 10-12
- S.T.E.A.M. classes for homeschooling families, with Charley Murray-Young
- Weekly Babytime and Storytime
- Two monthly HeadStart Storytimes
- Talk by Brooke Hartman, picture book author
- Twice-monthly Stop, Drop and Craft programs for youth; later Craftivity
- Starting in the fall, monthly Booktivity story/craft programs for younger elementary school students
- Weekly online Song & Rhyme Time with Ann Marie Meiresonne on Facebook and YouTube
- Themed programs included: Sensory Playtimes; PJ Storytime; Wonderland Art; Jellyfish Art; Cat Party; Ice Cream Poetry; Dia De Los Muertos crafting, Halloween Storytime and Babytime; Book 'n' Treat; Craft 'n' Snack, Summer Reading kick-off event with free books courtesy of IBEW; and Christmas Snacks and Stories
- Ketchikan Theatre Ballet Mini-Nutcracker Suite

- LEGO Building sessions
- Mad Hatter Tea Party with First City Players
- June Pride Month activities: Proud to be ME craft, and a month-long Pride Bingo program.
- Book giveaway at the Pet and Doll Parade
- Twice-annual vision and hearing screenings for young children with Community Connections Early Learning Program
- Astronomy Lab with Resi Baucco monthly program series
- Teen/Tween Bingo in August to introduce tweens to the Teen Advisory Group (T.A.G.)
- Craft event at the Museum during the Dec. 5 Art Walk
- Amie Toepfer was a judge for Battle of the Books, and helped answer Letters to Santa with KPU Telecommunications
- Children's Book Council Favorites location for children to vote on favorite new books
- Youth Wearable Art costume display

Charter School: In the fall, Amie Toepfer worked with three Charter School teachers to provide library programs for their students, since the Charter School library was eliminated over the summer. This led to an increase in the number of students in these classes who returned to the Library with their families. However, due to the time it takes to prepare for class visits and conduct the programs, it is not possible to expand this service to more than a few classes each semester.

Outreach Services:

- Programming and deliveries to residents of the Pioneer Home, Seaview Terrace, New Horizons Long-Term Care, Ketchikan Indian Community, and Rendezvous Senior Day Services
- Four Senior Tech Time programs with KPU Telecommunications staff
- Monthly library information tables at KIC's Elder Cafe
- Delivery of books, DVDs and magazines to homebound patrons and residents of the PATH Temporary Home, Ketchikan Correctional Center, Women in Safe Homes and Regional Youth Center
- Weekly worm feedings in the Children's Community Garden with families during the summer



SAIL helped tend the Sensory Garden

- Maintenance of Book Shares throughout the island
- Home Health and Hospice Services talk with New Horizons
- Presentation by Veteran Services Officer Jan Trojan from Prince of Wales Island to veterans in November
- Ketchikan Police Department's Senior Safety Series with two programs: Senior Drug Take-Back (with Ben Watson from Mobile Integrated Health Unit) and Senior Cyber Crime
- Series of read-aloud programs for Rec Center summer campers
- Food and TP drive for Park Avenue Temporary Home in November
- *Fire & Life Safety* program in October with the Ketchikan Fire Department
- Featured 12 local readers in "What's on Your Shelf," a monthly column in the Ketchikan Daily News. The column won the Alaska Press Club Suzan Nightingale Award in May 2025
- Planted and maintained the sensory garden boxes (Sweetly Scented, Soft, Swishy and Squirmy)

Increase in Outreach visits: Rebecca Brown's visits to homebound patrons and facilities increased from 240 visits in 2024 to 342 visits in 2025, a 42.5% increase.

Community partnerships

In 2025 the Library partnered with the following individuals and organizations:

- Alaska Cooperative Extension Service
- Alaska State Defense Force
- Resi Bauccho
- Rebecca Bowlen; Judy Christiansen; Natasha O'Brien (Next Steps program)
- Marc Cameron
- Children's Book Council
- Community Connections Early Learning Program
- Courageous Conversations
- Crossett Fund
- June Dahl
- Discovery Center
- Marzette Ellis
- First City Players
- Friends of the Ketchikan Public Library
- Brooke Hartman
- HeadStart
- IBEW

- Island Music
- Joe's Screenprinting
- Larry Johansen
- Ketchikan Arts & Humanities Council
- Ketchikan Community Gardens
- Ketchikan Correctional Center
- Ketchikan Fire Department
- Ketchikan Garden Club
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District
- Ketchikan High School (Kayhi)
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- Ketchikan Kanayama
- Ketchikan Kapamilya
- Ketchikan Police Department
- Ketchikan Public Utilities – Telecommunications
- Ketchikan Recreational Center
- Ketchikan Theatre Ballet
- Ketchikan Wellness Coalition
- Hilary Koch
- Cruin MacGriogair
- Janai Meyer
- Charley Murray-Young
- New Horizons Long-Term Care
- Parnassus Books
- PATH Shelter
- Heather Phelps
- Pioneer Home
- Rainy Day Quilters
- Rendezvous Senior Day Services
- RYC
- SAIL
- Saxman Senior Center
- Seaview Terrace
- Simply Bella
- Tongass Historical Museum
- Jan Trojan, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Ray Troll
- UAF Extension Service
- UAS - Ketchikan Campus Library
- WISH (Women In Safe Homes)

Materials



Outreach and Children's Services expanded their popular jigsaw puzzle collections

In 2025 Library patrons checked out physical materials (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.) 103,688 times, up 5% from 2024. The Library conducted its annual inventory of physical collections in February. Of the 60,000 items in the Library's physical collections, 53 items could not be located, half the number missing in 2024.

Online resources: Checkouts of electronic materials (e-books, e-comics and streaming video and audio) increased by 21% in 2025, to 28,462 checkouts.

The Library subscribed to the Hoopla streaming platform offering audio- and ebooks, films, music and TV shows. The Library now has access to Newsbank, an electronic resource with over 4000 news sources, thanks to a group license negotiated by the Alaska Library Network and paid for by a grant from the Atwood Foundation.

Facilities

The Friends of the Library purchased and had installed a water bottle filler in the Library lobby.

The Library participated in the City's 125th anniversary celebration with programs and a display of the signatures on the back of the 2001 Centennial Quilt, which hangs just outside the Craft Room.

The Ketchikan Garden Club decorated the lobby holiday tree with handmade ornaments and seed packets.

The woodshop class at Kayhi created two new garden boxes for the Library porch.



City Building Maintenance refinished the Larry Jackson bench

Other things

- In response to concerns expressed by the City Council, the KPL and School District library staff created and distributed an informational pamphlet for families on Library policies and charges.
- The Friends of the Library held their annual Book Sale at the Plaza the first weekend in October, children's book sales in February and October, and a collectibles sale in December.
- The Library hosted a meeting by the Crossett Family Fund for local nonprofits.
- In the fall, the Library acquired a vehicle that was transferred from the Ketchikan Police Department, for use by Library staff conducting business around the island.
- 1,705 inactive patron accounts were removed from the First City Libraries online system.
- Library staff helped collect and judge entries for the Ketchikan Police Department Christmas Card Contest in December.

End of an era: The Library's major book vendor, Baker & Taylor, ceased operations in the fall of 2025 after 197 years in business. Library selectors and the Library's Operations Manager worked closely with Ingram and Follett, two library book suppliers, to shift orders and adapt to new acquisitions processes. There were some delays in the delivery of new books during the transition, and Library staff are processing most new books with labels, stamps, covers and security devices. In the past, Baker & Taylor provided cataloging records and physical processing. Follett, a children's book vendor, provides physical processing; Ingram provides cataloging records and book covers, but no other physical processing.

Conclusion

In 2026 the Library will be undertaking several projects:

- The Library's 2026 budget includes funding for new security gates and new security cameras, to replace the Library's older, failing systems.
- The Council also approved the City's portion of the funding for a migration to a new online library system for the First City Libraries (FCL) Consortium. If the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District approves their portion of the funding In their 2026-27 budget, a Request For Proposals will be distributed in July with a target date for the migration of late 2026.
- Repairs will be done to building gutters and new snow stops will be installed on the south side of the Library.

- The First City Rotary Club will install outdoor musical instruments in the Children's Community Garden.

Pat Tully, the Library's Director, will retire in early 2027; in 2026 Library Division Heads will be working with Pat to temporarily redistribute her tasks among them until a new Director is hired.



Edna Perkins miniatures are on display