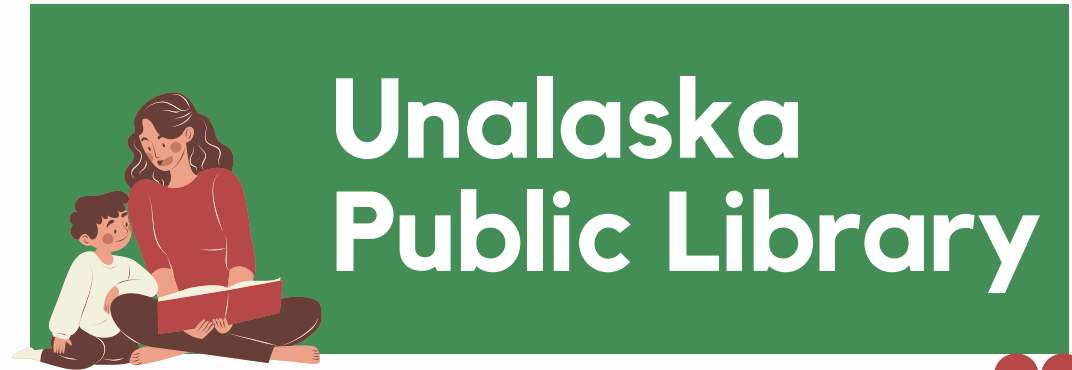


2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



22,028
ITEMS CHECKED OUT



An average of 5.4 checkouts
in 2023 for every person
living in Unalaska*

15,689
VISITS



An average of 46
visitors per day

17,879
COMPUTER & WIFI SESSIONS

More than 50
users per day



2,496
ACTIVE CARDS

Over 60% of
Unalaskans have an
active library card*

Unalaska Public Library

“The Unalaska Public Library is a gift in so many ways. Its welcoming and comfortable environment provides a place for all ages to love reading. I, especially, appreciate the support of the library staff and the availability of the wonderful conference rooms to have groups gather in a collaborative way as we work towards learning and improvement as a school community.”

-UCSD Superintendent

“There are so many new people to meet and everyone is so nice! There are always a lot of new books to see, and I feel like [the library] supports all ages.”

-Eagle's View Elementary Student

*Calculated based on Unalaska population of 4,093 in 2023, from Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development

“The new Community Room is such a nice, versatile space. From the spaciousness, the ease of the furniture, the long counter and sink area, and beautiful window seat, to the clear technology instructions for the large projector screen, television, and microphone options available for audiovisual needs...the room is warm, functional, and inviting for any number of uses by the community. We are fortunate to have such a great space available in addition to the many other lovely areas in the library.”

-Community Room User



“The new library expansion is wonderful. The redesign of the children’s room has made for better storytimes with more space, and... includes furniture which makes reading to your child enjoyable and fun. We are grateful for the cozy, beautiful space when the weather is stormy, and for a dedicated children’s space that is open after 8-5 work hours and on weekends. On an island with limited resources for parents with young children, the library and children’s room are priceless.”

-Unalaska Parent



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Unalaska, AK

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Unalaska Mayor and City Council Members
 From: M. Lynn Crane, Chair, Unalaska Public Library Advisory Committee
 Date: February 27, 2024
 Re: Library Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Mayor and Council, 2023

The Unalaska Public Library had an exciting year, as we saw the completion of a major expansion and renovation nearly a decade in the making. We started 2023 under construction, with the library providing basic services in a temporary location in Burma Road Chapel, and we ended the year in a beautiful, state-of-the-art library that draws positive comments from visitors, newcomers, and longtime residents alike. In our renovated space, the Unalaska Public Library provides improved services and resources to the community. I am pleased to submit this report on Unalaska Public Library and Library Advisory Committee activities to the Mayor and Council. It covers the calendar year from January – December of 2023.

In 2023, library staff worked hard to accomplish the library’s mission to **educate, enrich, and inspire community members by connecting them to the world and each other**. Throughout the year, library staff continued to offer core library services such as story time, passport application processing, document notarization, internet access, circulating books and media. After the expanded and renovated library reopened in April, the community enjoyed improved programming and resources, such as larger program capacity, a larger and more functional community meeting room, a new teen room, new study rooms, an expanded and welcoming seating area, and a large, bright children’s room that sparks curiosity and imagination.

The following statistics provide a snapshot of core library services and usage.

	2023	2023 Daily Average ¹	2022	2021
Users through the door	15,689	46	14,513	12,173
Total items checked out	22,028	65	34,852	38,730
Books & Magazines checked out	11,461	34	10,910	14,210
Computer & Wifi Sessions	17,879	52	27,956	25,199
eBook Downloads	1,561	4	739	2,148
Active Registered Users ²	2,496	-		

1. Closed 24 days, including holidays, April 17-29 for packing and moving, and 2/13/23 & 12/23/23 for weather
2. Card used to check out in the past 60 months

Library & Community Trends

With the introduction of high-speed internet access to Unalaska, the expansion of the library, and a decline in population and school enrollment, our community has seen many changes over the past year. The library sees more visitors coming to use the meeting spaces and study rooms and fewer visitors coming solely for wireless internet use. We have also seen patrons move towards using their own devices in our facility rather than logging on to library computers. The layout of our expanded library reflects this shift, with increased seating, meeting spaces, and quiet study rooms, and fewer sit-down computer stations.

The number of DVD checkouts has drastically declined over the past year, likely due to newly available high-speed internet for streaming services, but in contrast, book and magazine checkout has increased. While DVDs are still popular, the library's highest circulating collections are currently children's books and board games. In the future, we will consider the layout of the DVD collection to potentially make room for new popular materials as that format phases out.

Starting in July 2023, the library entered a new contract for high-speed internet and now provides vastly improved internet access for library patrons.

The library constantly adjusts collections, services, and programs to reflect the needs and priorities of a changing community. The Library Advisory Committee plays an important role in periods of transition, providing input and guidance from a library user perspective.

Expansion and Renovation of the Library Facility

The library's expansion and renovation, completed in April 2023, added a large community room, plus a new teen room and expanded children's room, two quiet study rooms, and a renovation and refresh of furniture and fixtures in the remaining public areas. The expansion increased the building's footprint by approximately 35%. While some minor punch list items remain, the building reopened in April, with a celebration attended by over 200 people.

Since the grand reopening, library staff have received many positive comments about the newly expanded and renovated space. Patrons especially appreciate the children's room, the fireplace, and the study and meeting spaces. The City of Unalaska initiated the project because the community expressed a need for improvements in children's and teen spaces, meeting and study spaces, community event and learning spaces, and more room for seating and library materials. Since reopening, the expanded library has been meeting those project goals set by the community.

The Advisory Committee played an active part in the planning and public input portion of the Library Building Improvement Project, meeting multiple times with the project architects and providing input on topics like furniture and finishes, public art, and self-checkout, as well as giving general input on the direction and scale of the project. The Advisory Committee also appointed an Art Committee to solicit, evaluate, and select art installations for the project and a Fundraising Committee to sell donor plaques in order to receive a \$400,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation.

The Committee thanks the Mayor and Council for recognizing the need for an expanded and renovated library facility and setting this project in motion nearly ten years ago.

Committee Work

In 2023, the Committee met six times. The Committee received information and gave advice to the City Librarian and the Director of Parks, Culture, and Recreation on the following discussion topics in 2023:

- Library Building Improvement Project
- Rasmuson Foundation Grant for Library Expansion – Fundraising Committee
- Shelving Layout in Expanded Library
- Library Business Plan
- Public Art Proposal Process
- Banned Books Week
- Summer Reading Program
- Library Policies Review & Input: Library Rules of Conduct, Circulation of Library Materials

Library Advisory Committee Members

Term Expires:

M. Lynn Crane, Chair	02/2024
Karen Macke, Vice Chair	02/2024
Debbie Hanson-Zueger	02/2026
Virginia Hatfield	02/2025
Cat Hazen	02/2024
Estkarlen Magdaong	02/2025
Ellis Berry	02/2025

In summary, members of the Public Library Advisory Committee report that the library has had an exciting and dynamic year, and the community is using and enjoying our expanded and renovated library. We look forward to discussing this report and answering any questions from Council members or City Administration on February 27, 2024.