

# **ALLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**

## **MISSION AND VALUES**

### **2026**

Mission Statement - Allerton Public Library serves, connects, and enriches our community by providing resources and programs that inspire curiosity and promote lifelong learning.

Values:

Service

Connection

Lifelong learning

Value statements:

We love to serve our community.

We are a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

We believe that everyone has the right to read.

We believe that everyone should have access to resources.

(Board approved Mission, Values and Value Statements at the Board Meeting on January 11, 2026, Strategic Plan approved February 11, 2026).

# ALLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2029

## OUR COMMUNITY

The Allerton Public Library District (APLD) serves Monticello Township as well as non-residents in Sangamon Township. According to the 2020 Census, the population of Monticello Township is 6,132 and the population of Sangamon Township is approximately 2,500.

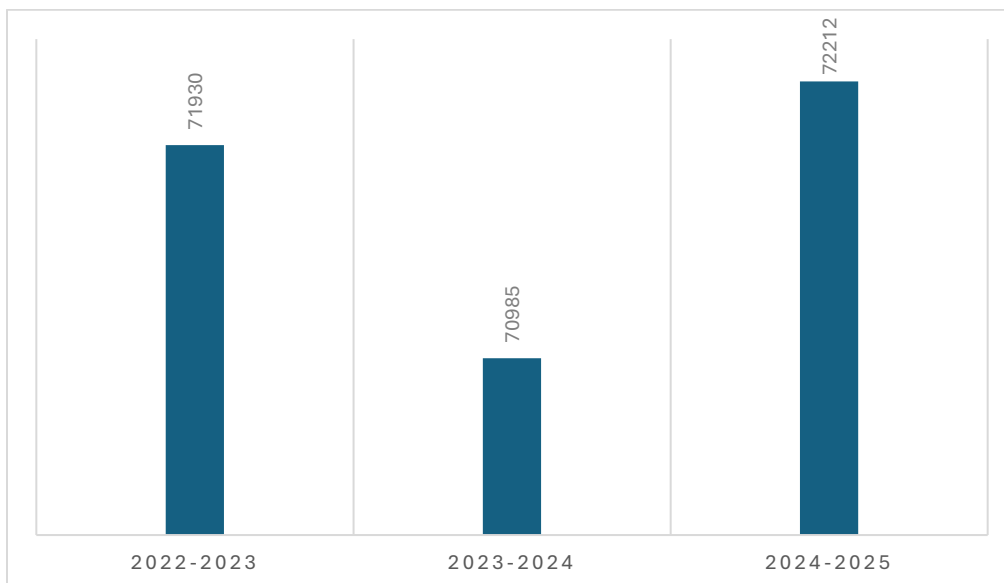
The current mission of APLD and purpose listed in the policy manual are at least ten years old if not more. Since that time, the library has moved into a new location away from downtown Monticello. The new building is much larger and provides more space for resources, programming and offices. Additionally, a new MLIS-degreed Director was hired in 2021, and staff changes have included the addition of two MLIS-degreed professionals: a Youth Services Librarian and a Circulation and Technical Services Librarian.

## STATISTICS

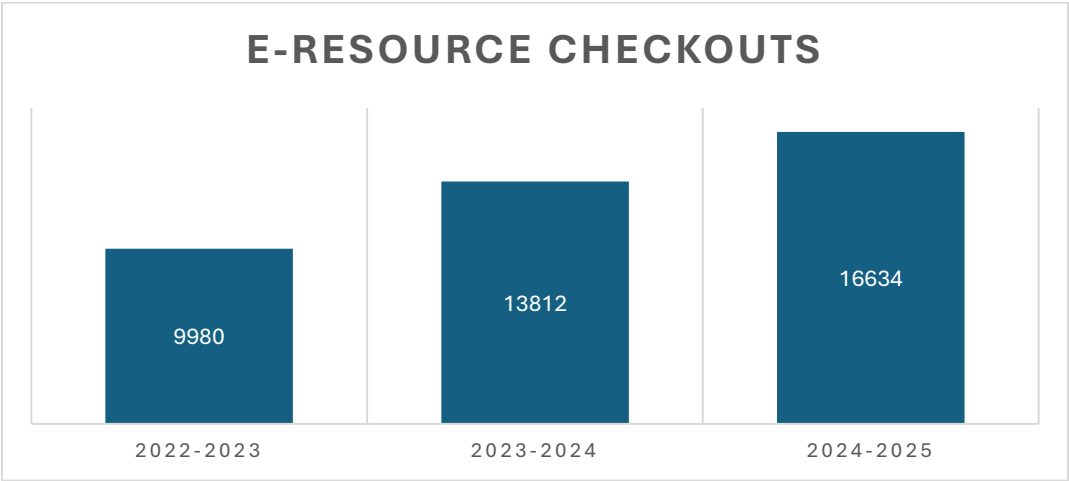
During the past few years, Allerton Public Library (APLD) has experienced growth in not only physical and digital circulation, but also in the number of programs offered and attended. Patrons recognize the library as a place for reading, education, and entertainment.

During the last fiscal year of 2024-2025, the library added 279 patrons for a total of 2,467 card holders, had 32,956 visitors, checked out 16,634 electronic resources, and organized 343 programs for which 5,102 people attended. The physical collection size in the library is 37,687 of which 2,843 were added during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

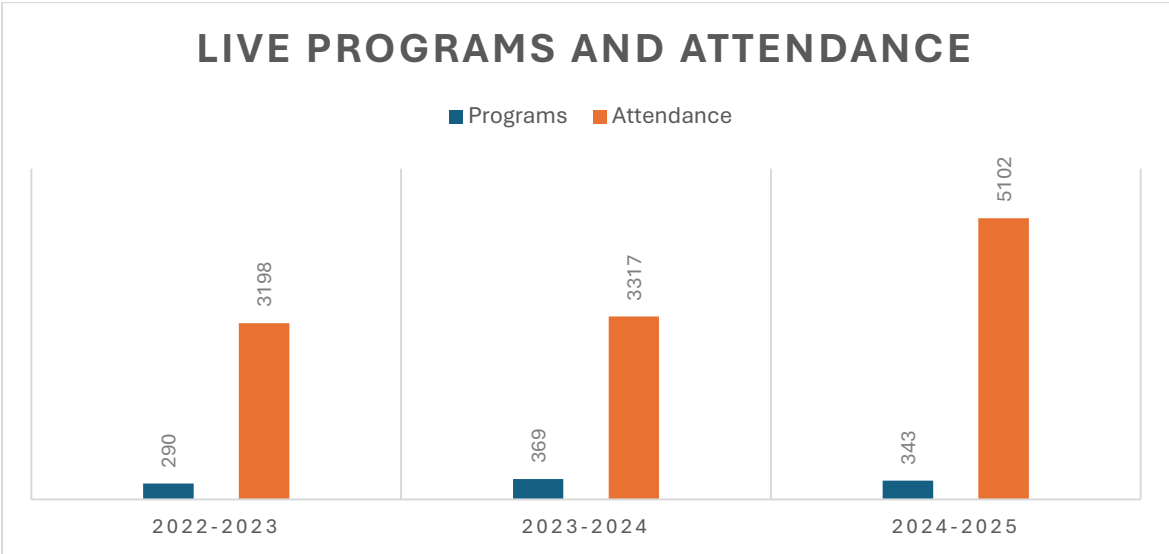
Physical collection checkouts over the past three fiscal years



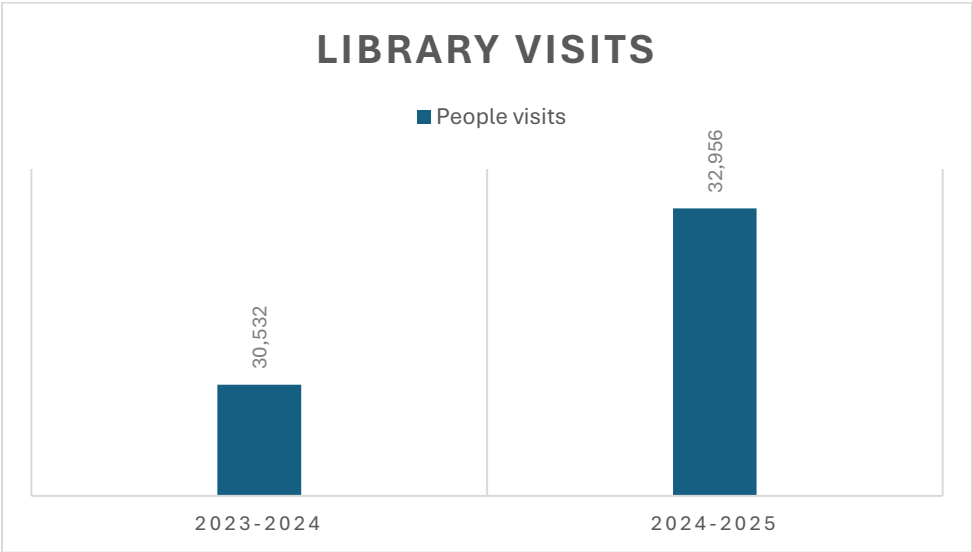
E-resource checkouts for the past three fiscal years show increasing checkouts. This includes Libby, CloudLibrary and Hoopla.



Program offerings and attendance continue to grow. While the number of live programs decreased slightly in 2024-2025, attendance was over 5,000.



Library visitors – the library started recording visits in January of 2023, hence only 2 full fiscal years of data.



## STRATEGIC GOALS/ACTIONS

The library staff and trustees value service, connection, and lifelong learning which provide the foundation for the 2026-2029 strategic goals.

### SERVICE

***Desired outcome - Staff provide exceptional service to the community.***

#### **1) Goal – Staff Training**

Staff that are well trained and equipped to perform their jobs contribute to the mission of the library.

##### **Action:**

- \* Provide regular and pertinent staff training in areas such as technology, emergency preparedness, information services, and readers' advisory.
- \* Continue to promote and encourage specific training sessions for staff. Require staff to complete at least three professional development courses a year, beyond what is provided during bi-monthly staff meetings.

#### **2) Goal – Expand service to library patrons and remove any barriers.**

To stay relevant, the library must continue to expand resources and offer services that attract and retain patrons.

##### **Action:**

- \* Offer Live chat and/or automatic renewals
- \* Do more book and item promotions on social media and in newsletters.
- \* Extend resident card renewals to three years (currently two years).
- \* Explore with hopes of implementing a home delivery service for APLD patrons.

#### **3) Goal – Maintain an environment safe for staff and patrons**

Having a safe environment ensures that patrons and staff feel safe and protected while in the library. Staff who are trained can act quickly and with confidence.

##### **Action:**

- \* Create safety and emergency training protocols for new staff.
- \* Revamp emergency procedures/protocols and train staff as necessary for various scenarios.
- \* Post emergency exit plan for patrons and staff.
- \* Create and post patron expectation behavior sign.

### CONNECTION

***Desired outcome – Community is aware of all that the library offers. The library provides a space that encourages connection, which will lead to increased cardholders and overall library usage.***

#### **1) Goal – Community Engagement**

The library seeks to continue building relationships with patrons and local partners, providing creative opportunities for lifelong learning through services and collections, and communicating the library's value to the community.

##### **Action:**

\* Develop new avenues for people to contribute to the library in meaningful ways such as a volunteer program and purposeful donations.

- Establish a volunteer program

\* Strengthen partnerships with community organizations and businesses. (i.e. Pool passes through Kirby)

\* Provide space for organizations to meet with clients/consumers at the library.

\* Continue outreach opportunities such as the Farmer's Market and develop/participate in other community events

\* Plan a celebration for the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library in 2027.

- Gather a committee with representatives from the staff, Board of Trustees and the community.

## **2) Goal – Building Use**

The library building serves as the hub for connections and services to the community maximizing the use of indoor space and exploring the option of expanding outdoor space for patron and library use.

### **Action:**

\* Promote use of library space including Program Room during non-program usage. Allow non-library card members to reserve space.

\* Expand outdoor space to draw people to the library. i.e. Create a path from recreational fields to the library.

\* Explore additional landscaping to provide access to shade, including planting trees along the north property line.

\* Keep library technology up to date and provide access that is barrier free. Upgrade phone system to VOIP (voice over internet protocol)

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

***Desired outcome - The library will be seen as a preferred place and space for information and a place to engage in literacy/learning.***

### **1) Goal – Expand Resources**

Expand and continue to offer all avenues of resources seeking to fulfill patron interest needs. Utilize Library IQ to identify patron reading interests.

### **Action:**

\* Expand the Library of Things by purchasing more items.

- Research the offering of board games, sewing machines, instruments, etc. for checkout.

\* Increase digital offerings including e-books, e-audiobooks, and magazines. (from survey esp. new releases, romance, kids)

\* Secure a MLIS practicum student to assess needs/issues in the history room and to create a system for ongoing enhancement of historical information offerings.

## **2) Goal – Programming**

**Offer programming to patrons of all ages to meet educational and entertainment needs.**

### **Action:**

- \* Encourage the viewing of virtual programming by offering on-site virtual programs in a group format.
- \* Identify organizations to partner with to help reduce program costs and increase visibility.
- \* Investigate the enhancement of programming for those under age 5 with programs such as Mommy and Me music and/or art classes or inviting guest storytellers.
- \* More adult hands-on learning, i.e. Quilting or sewing.
- \* Plan and offer programs tailored to homeschool families.
- \* Plan innovative programming for teens, collaborating with other libraries or local organizations.

## **3) Goal – Encourage early literacy**

Literacy skills are vital for a successful life. Early literacy skills provide a foundation for school readiness.

### **Action:**

- \* Continue offering lap time and story time.
- \* Expand participation in 1000 Books before Kindergarten.
- \* Continue Kids Read for pre-K and K students of Monticello CUSD and private preschools.
- \* Purchase kits and other early literacy items such as decodable books and hi-low books.