



Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: March 12, 2026 Wescott Library 5:30 pm

Call to Order

Public Comments

- a. All meetings of the Library Advisory Committee are open to anyone who may wish to observe the proceedings. Individuals who wish to address the Committee on an issue pertaining to the library will be given the opportunity during the public comment period.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the January meeting minutes
- b. Statistical Reports

Wescott Library

- a. Report from Branch Manager Amanda Feist

Request to Review Exclusion

- a. Heather Stephenson

Impact of Digital Book Pricing

- a. Jennifer Reichert Simpson & Russ Cogar

Directors Report

- a. Jennifer Reichert Simpson

Update from Committee Members

Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 14th 2026
Wentworth Library 5:30pm
West St. Paul



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 01/08/2026
Time: 5:30pm
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington
Location: Robert Trail Library

Attendance:

- Mary Janice Alongi District 1
- Ann Matthew Baussan District 2
- Robin Cerio District 3
- Kari Cahn District 4
- Lee Knutson District 5
- Lynette Cargill District 6
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson Deputy Director
- Heather Stephenson Assistant Library Director
- Chrissy Harrington Sr Library Administration
- Lil Letham Principal Planner
- Terry Rumpza Robert Trail Branch Manager
- Megan Autaubo Circulation Supervisor
- Patricia Schoenecker Member of the Public

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Robin Cerio at 5:30p

Public Comment:

- No public comment was made

Consent Agenda:

- Robin Cerio asked the committee to approve the November Meeting Minutes and Statistical Report
- Lynette Cargill moved to approve the November 13, 2025 Consent Agenda and Mary Janice Alongi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Art Blueprint Project Overview and Initial Community Input: Lil Letham

- Lil Letham the Principal Planner for Dakota County came to talk to the Committee members about the development of a county wide Public Art Blueprint
- The Public Art Advisory Committee was established in 2006 to make recommendations to the county board on pieces of art to be placed in county public buildings using criteria and a process approved by the county board
- Lil explained that Public Art can take on many forms and gave the committee members examples of the different kind of Public Art that is displayed around Dakota County
- Lil also explained the Vision, Mission and Goals of why Dakota County uses Public Art and it benefits
- Community engagement has taken place. Approximately 500 people participated at 11 pop-up events, 285 participated in the on-line questionnaire and 3 stakeholder roundtables have been given to include artists, arts organizations and staff

Robert Trail Library: Terry Rumpza

- The Robert Trail Library has hired a Circulation Supervisor this past year
- The in-person patron visits to the library have seen an increase this year due to population growth of Rosemount
- Working with the Rosemount Area Arts Council and local schools, youth art is displayed at the library
- Teen Programs has also seen increase of attendees at the events that is held at the library
- Meet the Author Program has also seen an increase of patrons that have attended these events
- The Solar Car Port has been up for about a year now and has made a wonderful addition to the building

Nominations and Vote on Chair and Vice Chair:

- Robin Cerio served as the Chair of the Library Advisory Committee for the last 2 years the maximum term for a chair

- The Committee members thanked Robin for her service
- Mary Janice Alongi motion for the nominee of the Chair to be Kari Cahn and for Vice Chair Ann Matthews-Baussan Lynette Cargill second the motion
- The committee unanimously voted in favor of Kari Cahn as the Chair and Ann Matthews-Baussan as the Vice Chair

Director Report: Jennifer Reichert Simpson

- Dakota County issued guidance on the immigration enforcement activities and community response
- The library stopped taking requests for Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks on Dec. 17, 2025 and ended access to Hoopla on Dec. 30, 2025. These changes are being made as part of cost-saving efforts and will save Dakota County around \$400,000 a year. In addition, the library is cutting \$100,000 from the substitute staffing budget. Dakota County's budget reflects state and federal funding cuts and cost shifts, unfunded mandates, growing operating costs and a need to shore up county's diminishing reserve funds.
- Winter Reads is the adult reading program that runs Jan. 12-Feb 28, 2026. Participants can register at any library locations or fill out a form online. Registrations, book bingo, and book reviews enter participants for prize drawings, like a book bundle. The program encourages reading and event attendance.
- The 2025 Library Staff Day was a huge success the library staff got to hear from Dr Heidi Walsh the County Manager and partake in different activities throughout the day
- Starting Jan. 26, 2026 the library will implement a new public printing solution that makes it easier for customers to independently print from library computers and customers devices using the library's Wi-Fi. The current printing solution is complex and frequently requires staff assistance limiting its effectiveness as self-service system.
- The Wentworth Library renovation is going well it looks like the opening date has not yet been set
- The Burnsville Library will be closed on March 23, 2026 and will be closed for about a year for renovation
- The new Burnsville Library location will be in the Burnsville Center mall and will be open on April 1, 2026

Updates from Committee Members:

- No updates from the Committee Members

Adjournment:

- Meeting ended at 6:35pm

Adjournment/Next Meeting

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Wescott Library- Eagan

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Number of People Entering Library

Year	Metrics	Total (In)												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2026	BLC - Sensource	17,963												17,963
	ELC - Sensource	19,084												19,084
	FLC - Sensource	7,208												7,208
	GLC - Sensource	22,125												22,125
	HLC - Sensource	7,892												7,892
	ILC - Sensource	10,812												10,812
	LLC - Sensource	11,268												11,268
	RLC - Sensource	12,148												12,148
	SLC - Sensource	9,993												9,993
	WLC - Sensource	0												0
	Total	118,493												
2025	BLC - Sensource	18,471	18,250	19,684	21,991	19,182	20,861	23,269	20,954	20,382	22,113	18,605	15,748	239,510
	ELC - Sensource	18,214	17,364	21,396	21,187	19,685	24,927	25,753	23,642	20,781	23,501	20,564	15,732	252,746
	FLC - Sensource	7,478	6,282	8,178	7,151	7,229	10,464	8,478	8,429	7,158	8,406	7,021	5,725	91,999
	GLC - Sensource	21,766	21,161	25,512	24,436	22,980	25,470	27,591	24,150	25,260	28,281	22,138	18,521	287,266
	HLC - Sensource	7,016	6,560	8,080	8,463	7,194	8,726	9,306	8,509	7,672	8,838	7,857	5,907	94,128
	ILC - Sensource	8,713	8,021	9,824	12,509	9,940	11,193	11,379	11,769	10,338	12,916	11,328	8,438	126,368
	LLC - Sensource	12,513	11,516	8,178	14,056	12,638	15,403	16,040	14,619	14,205	13,939	11,681	10,423	155,211
	RLC - Sensource	11,724	11,280	13,795	12,921	12,445	14,116	14,941	11,857	12,471	13,413	11,367	9,503	149,833
	SLC - Sensource	8,413	8,593	9,098	11,853	11,852	10,722	8,944	8,360	10,816	12,732	9,484	8,019	118,886
	WLC - Sensource	13,860	12,683	15,325	2,875	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,743
	Total	128,168	121,710	139,070	137,442	123,145	141,882	145,701	145,701	132,289	129,083	144,139	120,045	98,016

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Physical Circulation Current Year

Year	Metrics	Physical Circulation	
	Library	1	2
2026	A	51,666	45,721
	B	39,685	32,538
	E	65,994	53,065
	F	20,140	17,199
	H	19,569	16,496
	I	19,108	15,408
	ILL	389	400
	L	34,114	29,745
	ONLINE	3	
	R	35,047	29,844
	SSP	18,664	15,298
	W	2,002	1,440
Total		306,381	257,154

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Physical Circulation Previous Year

Year	Metrics	Physical Circulation (Symphony)												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	A	56,059	53,227	62,172	57,312	54,258	66,205	71,490	66,129	56,091	57,315	52,408	47,556	700,222
	B	44,295	40,735	46,392	45,088	41,743	48,694	52,407	49,134	43,968	45,514	41,611	38,049	537,630
	E	62,977	57,887	66,494	64,260	65,941	79,196	83,112	80,594	69,185	68,120	65,478	60,003	823,247
	F	20,265	18,845	21,210	21,016	19,250	22,572	22,985	23,069	21,377	21,053	19,774	18,463	249,879
	H	19,358	18,610	21,279	20,784	18,972	23,286	25,037	23,183	21,013	21,938	19,612	17,698	250,770
	I	16,008	15,129	18,074	18,117	17,898	21,834	22,596	21,831	20,385	19,334	18,889	18,164	228,259
	ILL	627	459	496	412	416	409	504	447	486	417	319	400	5,392
	L	36,102	33,444	39,787	37,086	35,103	43,749	44,245	42,981	38,106	37,203	35,132	32,665	455,603
	ONLINE		7		1	2	2	1	2		1	2	2	20
	R	35,364	33,197	39,539	36,283	35,035	42,664	43,419	39,928	35,297	38,726	34,704	31,966	446,122
	SSP	10,429	10,993	13,002	16,062	19,117	20,205	21,555	21,173	19,697	20,000	18,586	16,398	207,217
	W	31,725	28,722	33,693	15,333	5,429	2,489	2,744	2,369	2,648	3,123	1,965	1,911	132,151
	ZTC	371	492	409	448	374	450	688	385	379	395	7		4,398
	Total	333,580	311,747	362,547	332,202	313,538	371,755	390,783	371,225	328,632	333,139	308,487	283,275	4,040,910

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Total eContent Circulation

Metrics	Total eContent Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2026	158,468												158,468
2025	151,130	140,264	154,567	148,823	151,297	145,987	150,689	150,501	150,860	156,922	154,293	161,595	1,816,928
Total	309,598	140,264	154,567	148,823	151,297	145,987	150,689	150,501	150,860	156,922	154,293	161,595	1,975,396

OverDrive Circulation

Metrics	OverDrive Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2026	158,468												158,468
2025	137,233	126,720	139,728	134,943	137,384	132,665	135,892	135,898	136,707	142,706	137,844	142,680	1,640,400
Total	295,701	126,720	139,728	134,943	137,384	132,665	135,892	135,898	136,707	142,706	137,844	142,680	1,798,868

Hoopla Circulation

Metrics	Hoopla Circulation												
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2025	13,897	13,544	14,839	13,880	13,913	13,322	14,797	14,603	14,153	14,216	16,449	18,915	176,528
Total	13,897	13,544	14,839	13,880	13,913	13,322	14,797	14,603	14,153	14,216	16,449	18,915	176,528

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Program Count														
Stat Year	Metrics													Events
	Audiences	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
2026	Adults	110												110
	Youth	134												134
	Total	244												244
2025	Adults	77	82	81	87	111	112	106	84	95	117	82	80	1,114
	Youth	185	170	182	183	102	125	165	92	125	185	114	85	1,713
	Total	262	252	263	270	213	237	271	176	220	302	196	165	2,827

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Program Attendance														
Stat Year	Metrics													Attendance
	Audiences	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
2026	Adults	1,158												1,158
	Youth	4,165												4,165
	Total	5,323												5,323
2025	Adults	788	979	845	730	497	705	799	540	813	950	662	472	8,780
	Youth	5,410	5,176	6,544	8,711	3,327	8,436	7,981	5,470	4,162	8,316	3,653	2,732	69,918
	Total	6,198	6,155	7,389	9,441	3,824	9,141	8,780	6,010	4,975	9,266	4,315	3,204	78,698

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Self Service Hours Registered Users	
Library	Users
Apple Valley (Galaxie)	1,269
Burnsville (Burnhaven)	973
Eagan (Wescott)	1,651
Farmington	750
Hastings (Pleasant Hill)	387
Inver Grove Heights (Inver Glen)	784
Lakeville (Heritage)	602
Rosemount (Robert Trail)	890
Kaposia (South St. Paul)	462
Temporary Wentworth Library	597
Total	8,365

Library Codes			
Library Code	Building Code	Library Name	City
A	GLC	Galaxie Library	Apple Valley
B	BLC	Burnhaven Library	Burnsville
E	ELC	Wescott Library	Eagan
E-Res		E Resource only	
F	FLC	Farmington Library	Farmington
H	HLC	Pleasant Hill Library	Hastings
I	ILC	Inver Glen Library	Inver Grove Heights
L	LLC	Heritage Library	Lakeville
ONLINE		Placeholder for pickup libraries used in error	
R	RLC	Robert Trail Library	Rosemount
SSP	SLC	Kaposia Library	South St. Paul
W	WLC	Wentworth Library	West St. Paul
ZTC		Telecirc Stats Only	

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Self Service Hours Traffic

Year	Metrics													Traffic
	Library	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
2026	A	1,349												1,349
	B	1,332												1,332
	E	1,253												1,253
	F	1,127												1,127
	H	497												497
	I	1,699												1,699
	L	758												758
	R	775												775
	SSP	1,374												1,374
	Total	10,164												
2025	A	823	882	1,026	1,161	1,315	1,089	1,042	1,074	1,555	1,647	1,817	1,402	14,833
	B	1,325	1,555	990	1,587	1,448	1,275	1,821	1,836	1,704	1,714	1,907	1,443	18,605
	E	1,115	984	1,584	1,236	1,513	1,594	1,228	1,229	1,448	1,349	1,513	949	15,742
	F	1,324	1,134	1,203	1,183	1,179	1,619	1,496	1,323	1,097	1,243	1,304	987	15,092
	H	336	418	369	323	369	376	380	430	434	426	404	353	4,618
	I	1,379	1,373	1,667	2,036	1,957	1,718	1,943	1,986	1,832	2,173	2,439	1,728	22,231
	L	517	532	716	622	605	504	676	646	660	789	834	703	7,804
	R	425	577	712	592	578	553	563	577	651	534	594	451	6,807
	SSP	530	476	662	1,053	1,225	1,146	1,157	1,150	1,195	1,360	1,052	766	11,772
	W	685	917	1,067	244									2,913
	Total	8,459	8,848	9,996	10,037	10,189	9,874	10,306	10,251	10,576	11,235	11,864	8,782	120,417
Total		18,623	8,848	9,996	10,037	10,189	9,874	10,306	10,251	10,576	11,235	11,864	8,782	130,581

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Self Service Hours Checkouts

Year	Metrics	Checkouts													
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	
2026	A	860	708											1,568	
	B	796	544											1,340	
	E	1,345	1,015											2,360	
	F	1,320	1,385											2,705	
	H	325	334											659	
	I	987	834											1,821	
	L	480	384											864	
	R	957	718											1,675	
	SSP	1,286	1,262												2,548
	Total	8,356	7,184												15,540
2025	A	826	475	795	513	719	737	724	797	729	799	1,026	560	8,700	
	B	459	713	701	660	833	726	951	912	592	846	646	612	8,651	
	E	1,071	948	1,289	1,262	1,622	1,588	1,532	1,392	1,296	1,475	1,448	1,260	16,183	
	F	1,482	1,240	1,507	1,246	1,509	1,538	1,845	1,325	1,434	1,466	1,703	1,368	17,663	
	H	172	269	311	155	257	377	329	304	316	401	439	336	3,666	
	I	813	826	668	753	712	1,160	1,028	1,097	884	931	1,124	938	10,934	
	L	350	413	525	512	503	704	688	525	482	531	735	455	6,423	
	R	851	758	1,123	1,040	957	903	801	864	922	894	886	693	10,692	
	SSP	500	383	510	856	769	888	879	1,154	1,312	1,365	1,260	798	10,674	
	W	438	263	400	96									1,197	
Total	6,962	6,288	7,829	7,093	7,881	8,621	8,777	8,370	7,967	8,708	9,267	7,020	94,783		
Total		15,318	13,472	7,829	7,093	7,881	8,621	8,777	8,370	7,967	8,708	9,267	7,020	110,323	

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Public Internet Sessions

Year	Metrics	Number of Sessions												
	Branch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2026	BLC	2042												2042
	ELC	2398												2398
	FLC	347												347
	GLC	2561												2561
	HLC	534												534
	ILC	552												552
	LLC	551												551
	RLC	816												816
	SLC	1392												1392
	WLC	222												222
	Total	11415												11415
2025	BLC	1997	2091	2552	2487	2237	2337	2556	2608	2520	2534	2073	1798	27790
	ELC	1513	1555	1774	2001	1951	1935	2021	2073	2085	2153	1623	1549	22233
	FLC	493	462	592	623	576	676	631	595	574	522	471	374	6589
	GLC	2254	2123	2683	2630	2352	2264	2571	2696	2942	3462	2758	2589	31324
	HLC	645	632	718	725	676	678	690	796	791	858	681	634	8524
	ILC	542	566	698	863	722	769	897	905	791	1002	791	640	9186
	LLC	776	783	880	948	951	933	1013	980	811	884	741	621	10321
	RLC	1012	905	1172	1086	1094	1145	1308	1162	1076	1217	1082	919	13178
	SLC	476	467	551	953	987	930	912	937	926	1173	856	832	10000
	WLC	2733	2612	2940	757	227	215	245	528	250	275	179	201	11162
	Total	12441	12196	14560	13073	11773	11882	12844	13280	12766	14080	11255	10157	150307

Dakota County Library - Library Advisory Committee Monthly Statistics

Public Wi-Fi Sessions														
Year	Metrics	Number of Sessions												
	Library	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2026	BLC	132,063												132,063
	ELC	23,568												23,568
	FLC	22,717												22,717
	GLC	156,409												156,409
	HLC	37,587												37,587
	ILC	9,481												9,481
	LLC	38,891												38,891
	RLC	39,200												39,200
	SLC	89,588												89,588
	WLC	14,043												14,043
	Total	563,547												
2025	BLC	115,028	107,510	114,841	118,282	108,150	99,186	105,918	112,131	104,106	116,657	123,950	132,830	1,358,589
	ELC	26,009	23,524	23,857	24,633	22,539	21,252	22,956	23,971	22,320	24,754	26,431	22,704	284,950
	FLC	25,783	23,176	22,494	20,984	18,572	21,171	18,353	17,458	19,169	20,177	19,201	24,473	251,011
	GLC	153,535	143,772	154,114	154,061	143,527	132,941	129,846	133,529	137,375	160,176	156,759	165,727	1,765,362
	HLC	30,535	26,641	26,208	27,337	24,394	17,183	20,168	20,442	21,777	25,370	28,101	36,977	305,133
	ILC	10,294	7,510	6,819	8,381	7,988	5,718	5,483	4,900	5,984	8,332	8,114	8,774	88,297
	LLC	39,433	35,741	31,678	34,708	28,408	26,056	26,237	25,971	27,523	31,916	31,650	38,350	377,671
	RLC	42,799	43,959	38,934	39,595	33,467	21,720	22,858	22,204	26,948	31,136	32,046	35,153	390,819
	SLC	89,257	83,692	79,583	88,319	83,889	62,378	53,514	56,501	74,122	76,770	76,546	83,942	908,513
	WLC	75,786	65,956	65,851	29,996	17,137	13,699	14,185	13,558	13,497	14,699	11,507	13,297	349,168
	Total	608,459	561,481	564,379	546,296	488,071	421,304	419,518	430,665	452,821	509,987	514,305	562,227	6,079,513
Total	1,172,006	561,481	564,379	546,296	488,071	421,304	419,518	430,665	452,821	509,987	514,305	562,227	6,643,060	



October 16, 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On several days during week of October 12, 2025, you harassed the cleaning staff at the Kaposia Library. You yelled at the cleaning crew, threw paper towels at them, and attempted to make a cleaner leave the restroom as cleaning was taking place. You also put soap all over sinks after they were recently cleaned.

This behavior is in violation of the library's Public Conduct Policy. Accordingly, your library privileges are revoked effective immediately for six months. Your privileges will automatically be reinstated on April 12, 2026 and you are welcome to return to the library at that time. However, if there are further violations, your suspension will be extended.

This suspension applies to the Kaposia Library and all locations of the Dakota County Library. You will be considered trespassing if you enter a Dakota County Library facility or grounds during the suspension period without prior authorization from me.

You may appeal this suspension by submitting a written statement to:

Dakota County Library Advisory Committee
1340 Wescott Road
Eagan, Minnesota 55123

If the suspension is challenged, the Library Advisory Committee will review the matter at the next regularly scheduled meeting and respond to you and indicate the final decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Reichert Simpson".

Jennifer Reichert Simpson
Deputy Director, Dakota County Library



February 11, 2026

Attention Dakota County Library Administrative staff

I am writing this to appeal the decision to suspend myself [REDACTED] from the Dakota County library until April 8th 2026.

There was a miscommunication between the library cleaner as she doesn't speak English and communication in instances were not very good. When I was in the library preparing for very important jobs and cases I believe she overheard me looking through festive music for Halloween that I could play without swear words and interpreted that when I was looking for 'clean lyrics' it was directed at her.

I am not fluent in conversation in Spanish and she struggles with English so I believe this was the problem. I currently can translate a limited amount of Spanish and was NOT directing anything at the librarian(s) and or cleaning staff at Dakota County Library.

It is inconvenient and borderline exploitive of Dakota County Library system to request that while I am a low-income resident in crisis to go to libraries outside of my traveling cost. It is also unrealistic to expect that I or other library patrons adjust and accommodate our language to specifically meet the needs of one employee demographic within the library system.

Please allow me to end my library suspension with this appeal as I will make every effort going forward not to let my differences in culture, ethnicity or language barrier be a problem with any behavior while using the Dakota County Library services going forward.

Thank You,

[REDACTED]

Impact of Library Digital Book Pricing



Public Libraries face challenges funding e-books, digital audiobooks and digital media. Offering these resources is essential for their role in providing access and accessibility with digital technology integrated into daily life.

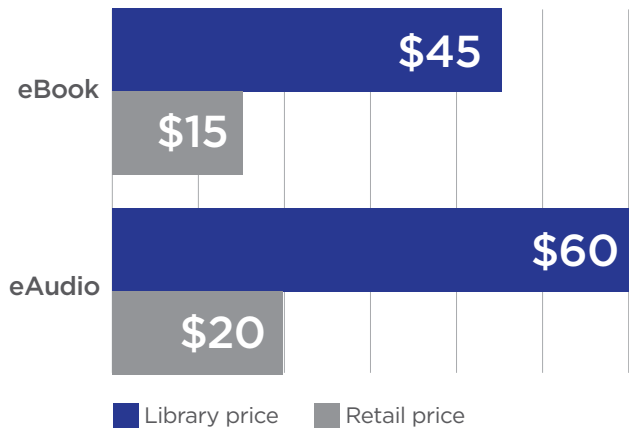
- Public Libraries typically lease e-books and digital audiobooks through an aggregator, such as Overdrive that provides the Libby app.
- Licenses usually expire after two years or after 26 check-outs. Once one of these conditions is fulfilled, the title is removed.
- When an option to buy a digital book is available, it's often 2-3 times the cost of leasing the book.
- Libraries pay three to four times what a consumer pays for the same e-book or digital audiobook.

With five major publishers controlling the most in-demand titles, libraries and their professional organizations are looking to engage in discussions with local government leaders and publishers to create sustainable strategies.

Digital Books at Dakota County Library

- 31% of the library's over 5.8 million checkouts are e-books or digital audiobooks in 2025.
- Libby checkouts increased by 13% and unique users of Libby increased by 12% from 2024 to 2025.
- 33% of the books and materials budget is allocated to digital books.
- Individuals wait 48 days to get a digital book vs. 16 days for a print title.

Estimated 2025 average cost per title



Consumer vs. Library Cost

Title: The Women - by Kristin Hannah

