

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 13, 2019

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
610 Main Street, Fitchburg MA

Trustees present were: Chair Jim Walsh, Matthew Bruun, Robert Favini, Mary Rice Hurley, Joanne Huse, and Jacalyn Kremer. Also present were Director Sharon Bernard and Assistant Director Jean Tenander.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of February 13, 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved after amending them to change the dates 1925 and 1925 to 2025 and 2026.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Director Bernard said she was collecting information from other libraries about setting up a foundation.

Chair Walsh said he was sending a letter to the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority (FRA), which owns the plot of land directly behind the youth library which we are currently using as our parking lot. The letter is a request to meet with the FRA board about acquiring that lot for the library. If the lot becomes city property, the architect for the library renovation/addition would have more flexibility in the design.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Bernard said she had received a letter from a Literacy Volunteers student thanking the Library for hosting the Literacy Volunteers.

Director Bernard said the Director's Roundtable would meet at the Library this Friday. There will be a workshop about prediabetes on March 27. On April 11 there will be a program called "Mom's WWII Letters," presented by Corinne Smith who will discuss her efforts, after finding a cache of her mother's letters, to find the families of the soldiers with whom her mother had corresponded during the war.

On April 4 there will be a screening of a documentary called "Beyond the Wall."

Director Bernard attended a meeting of public procurement officers at the recently renovated Stoughton Public Library. She said many librarians were there and it had been very interesting. Among topics discussed were: how to get your community to support the project, how to get rid of surplus material, and how to operate and maintain a new library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee-The monthly statements reporting on the Trust Funds were distributed.

Legislative Affairs-Director Bernard, Nicole Irvin, and Robert Favini attended the Legislative Day at the State House last week. There was a lot of interest in the commissioned books. Bernard and Favini visited with Senator Dean Tran's Chief of Staff along with several other libraries in his district, and then met with Representative Stephan Hay. The Director said it was very useful to attend this kind of an event.

Policy Committee-There was no business.

NEW BUSINESS

The Conflict of Interest/ Ethics Training for Trustees was discussed and trustees were reminded to bring in their certificate.

Jacalyn Kremer told everyone about a Community Read program coming on April 1. Julia Cox, the screenwriter for Celeste Ng's novel "Everything I Never Told You," will be at Fitchburg State University to discuss the process of adaptation. This will be followed by book and film trivia. Several trustees volunteered to be on the FPL Team.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jean Tenander for Mary Rice Hurley

March 14, 2019

Tom Donnelly
Board of Directors Chair
Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority
180 Boulder Drive, Suite #114
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

The Board of Trustees at the Fitchburg Public Library would like to speak with you and your board regarding the 11,333 square foot parcel directly behind the Fitchburg Public Library Youth Library on the corner of Newton Place and Boulder Drive. As you may be aware, the library is 13th on the wait list for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant. When this is awarded to us we will be embarking on a major renovation/new addition of the library. Enclosed you will see a map showing the 2 parcels of land (#50 and #52) that comprise the property owned by the city upon which sits the library and a small staff parking lot as well as the parcel #53 owned by the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority (FRA).

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) requires parking as part of the MPLCP. The Library Board would like to acquire parcel #53 for the City of Fitchburg in order to have it be available for the final design of the library and associated parking when the grant is awarded. The addition of this parcel to the existing land would allow for a better design of both the building and the parking. We understand that there has been some concern over the loss of this lot because of the need for parking for Putnam Place. Parking at the library, using all three parcels for building and parking, would be for library use preference, but it would be a municipal lot and therefore available to others for short term parking.

Would it be possible for the library director, Sharon Bernard, and two or three members of the Library Board to attend an upcoming FRA Board meeting?

We look forward to speaking with you.

Best regards,

Jim Walsh
Board Chair

Nearly one-in-five Americans now listen to audiobooks

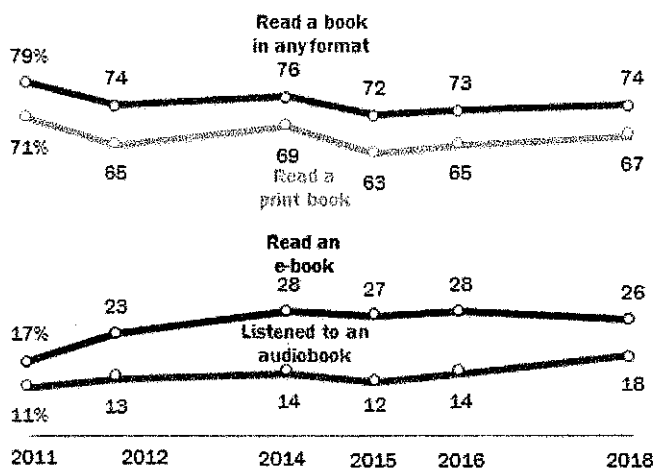
BY ANDREW PERRIN



Adrian Malone, left, helps Gerald Elston adjust the volume on his headphones as the two listen to audiobooks at school in Washington, D.C. (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post via Getty Images)

Print books continue to be more popular than e-books or audiobooks

% of U.S. adults who say they have ___ in the previous 12 months



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Americans are spreading their book consumption across several formats, and the use of audiobooks is rising.

About three-quarters (74%) of Americans have read a book in the past 12 months in any format, a figure that has remained largely unchanged since 2012, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in January. Print books remain the most popular format for reading, with 67% of Americans having read a print book in the past year.

And while shares of print and e-book readers are similar to those from a survey conducted in 2016, there has been a modest but statistically significant increase in the share of Americans who read audiobooks, from 14% to 18%.

Overall, Americans read an average (mean)

of 12 books per year, while the typical (median) American has read four books in the past 12 months. Each of these figures is largely unchanged since 2011, when the Center first began conducting the surveys of Americans' book reading habits.

Despite some growth in certain digital formats, it remains the case that relatively few Americans consume digital books (which include audiobooks and e-books) to the exclusion of print. Some 39% of Americans say they read only print books, while 29% read in these digital formats and also read print books. Just 7% of Americans say they only read books in digital formats and have not read any print books in the past 12 months. Some demographic groups are more likely than others to be digital-only book readers, but in general this behavior is relatively rare across a wide range of demographics. For example, 10% of 18- to 29-year-olds only read books in digital formats, compared with 5% of those ages 50-64 and 4% of those 65 and older.

College graduates especially likely to read books in a variety of formats

% of U.S. adults who say they have _____ in the previous 12 months

	Read a book in any format	Read a print book	Read an e-book	Listened to an audiobook
U.S. adults	74%	67%	26%	18%
Men	73	64	24	19
Women	75	70	27	18
White	78	72	27	18
Black	71	66	23	18
Hispanic	61	53	19	20
18-29	84	75	34	23
30-49	74	67	31	22
50-64	71	65	20	15
65+	67	63	15	12
Less than high school	40	35	8	10
High school grad	66	59	17	16
Some college	75	69	25	15
College+	92	85	42	27
Below \$30,000	62	54	17	16
\$30,000-\$49,999	74	66	26	18
\$50,000-\$74,999	87	82	27	20
\$75,000+	86	78	38	23
Urban	75	66	29	21
Suburban	77	71	27	17
Rural	71	66	20	17

Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Interestingly, there are no significant differences on this question related to educational attainment or annual household income. Some 7% of college graduates are digital-only book readers, compared with 5% among those who have not graduated from high school.

Demographic differences in book reading in 2018 are similar to the patterns seen in previous Pew Research Center surveys. For instance, college graduates are more likely to be book readers than those who have not attended college, and younger adults are more likely to read books than those 65 and older. At the same time, some groups have become more likely to read books in certain formats than was true in 2016. Some examples include:

Younger adults – Nearly one-quarter (23%) of 18- to 29-year-olds have listened to an audiobook in the past 12 months, compared with 16% who had done so in 2016.

College graduates – The share of college graduates who have read a print book or listened to an audiobook in the past 12 months has increased by 6 and 7 percentage points, respectively, since 2016. Notably, the share of high school graduates who have listened to an audiobook in the past 12 months has nearly doubled over that same time frame, from 9% in 2016 to 16% today.

Rural adults – Adults living in various community types are equally likely to listen to audiobooks. But 17% of those living in rural areas have listened to an audiobook in the past 12 months, up from 10% in 2016.



Andrew Perrin is a research analyst focusing on internet and technology at Pew Research Center.

Bernard, Sharon

From: Sahar Ghavimi <ghavimi84@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Bernard, Sharon
Subject: Thanks for the service

Hello Ms. Bernard,

My name is Sahar Ghavimi, and I had a language service from library.

A great volunteer teacher named Samantha DeManbey, worked with me for more than two years.

I was not able to say one correct sentence in English before, and now I am teaching in school !!! All I have is because of her and your great services in library.

I want to have the greatest gratitude for you and her.

That really means a lot and changed my life to a perfect way.

Thanks a lot,
Sahar

Fitchburg Public Library
Investment Performance
1/1/19-2/28/19

Investment Objectives **The investments comprising the Fitchburg Public Library shall be managed prudently with a primary emphasis on growth oriented securities that yield a reasonable rate of return.**

Alice & Rodney Wallace Funds **Stocks-69% Bonds-28% Money Market-3%**

Market Value 12/31/18	Market Value 2/28/19	Percent Change	Estimated Annual Income	Annual %Income
\$1,019,310	\$1,093,470	+ 7.28%	\$28,914	2.64%

Other Funds **Stocks-18% Bonds-62% Money Market-20%**

Market Value 12/31/18	Market Value 2/28/19	Percent Change	Estimated Annual Income	Annual %Income
\$ 725,692	\$ 744,096	+ 2.54%	\$21,221	2.85%

TOTAL

\$1,745,002	\$1,837,566	+ 5.30%	\$50,135	2.73%
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	12/31/2018	2/28/2019	Income Balance as of 2/28/2019
Restricted	\$327,890.29	\$336,334.88	\$ 43,213.88
Unrestricted	\$397,801.75	\$407,760.90	\$ 16,700.49
Total	\$725,692.04	\$744,095.78	\$ 59,914.37

I have hired the western Mass band Sugarloaf String Band a number of times and want to recommend them as a highly talented and audience-friendly band. They are very popular and the show is always a crowd-pleaser. They are so easy to deal with in planning shows. Here is what the band's contact person, Rebecca Lang has to say:

We love playing for library audiences and would like to spread our wings a little farther than our backyard! I think our music is uniquely different from other bands and definitely explores Americana roots music. We take a "trail ride" out west with traditional cowboy songs from the 1800 and 1900's and between the songs, we sprinkle a little history and humor.

Our website features an audio sample of "Texas Cowboy". We do school programs, but we also have a general audience program that fits beautifully into any library's summer concert series. We have played at the Three County Fair, The Conway Festival of the Hills, Whately Library summer concerts series, Tilton Library, Sunderland 300th Anniversary Celebration, and the Montague Congregational Church summer concert series on the town green to name a few.

www.sugarloafstringband.com