

Fines Report Part 2: Data & Links

Outstanding Fines & Bills from Report One

| Patrons | Total Owed in Fines | Total Owed in Bills |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Expired Accounts (as of 11/3/19) | \$260,029.57 | \$394,823.98 |
| Not Expired Accounts | \$63,372.18 | \$95,548.89 |
| Total Money Owed | \$323,401.75 | \$490,372.87 |
| | | |
| Total Fines and Bills | | \$813,774.62 |

Source: Outagamie Waupaca Library System

Annual Circulation Trends

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1,274,136 | 1,166,697 | 1,081,882 | 1,014,842 | 954,043 | 878,122 |

Source: APL Annual Report Data

Fine Collection Trends

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 63,832 | 56,478 | 59,202 | 49,213 |

Source: City of Appleton Budget Plans

Note: It is difficult to separate fines from other charges for service. These numbers may include charges other than fines.

Estimate of Staff Time Spent on Fines-Related Transactions

During the month of December 2019, service desk staff completed a brief study to try to track fines-related transactions. We looked at:

- Fines-related transactions under 5 minutes and over 5 minutes long
- Transactions escalated to a supervisor
- Cash register transactions
- PIF transactions
- Other processes, including reconciling the cash drawer, replenishing drawer for following day, deposits, TRIP, Collections, bank runs, paperwork for refunds and payments to other libraries, etc.

From the data collected we estimate *40-120 hours per month are spent on fines-related transactions. If staff pay rates for clerks, library assistants, librarians, and supervisors are averaged to \$22.48/hour (based on PS team hourly rates), the estimated hours per month spent on fines-related transactions would translate to \$10,790 - \$32,371 per year.

*Why the large range of hours? Because staff tally of interactions didn't match register transactions, we believe fines-related transactions were severely underreported during our study. December was also a slower month based on the monthly deposit and observation.

Links

Library Bill of Rights

<https://tinyurl.com/ck7jybp>

Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

<https://tinyurl.com/aahahjc>

ALA Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity

<https://tinyurl.com/ycgc3pch>

The Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide for WI Public Libraries

<https://tinyurl.com/yx43d2l2>

GARE: Why Working for Racial Equity Benefits Everyone

<https://tinyurl.com/tn889kd>

Free is Key: Ensuring Your Library is Meeting its Mission (WI Trustee Training Week)

<https://tinyurl.com/uszl2jo>

A Librarian's Case Against Overdue Book Fines (TED Talk)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9jhejmn>

End Library Fines (<https://endlibraryfines.info/>)



As of 1/13/20, this site reported:

- 518 libraries are fine free (green)
- 301 are partially fine free (orange)
- 15 are in process for fine removal (red)