



Annual Report 2025

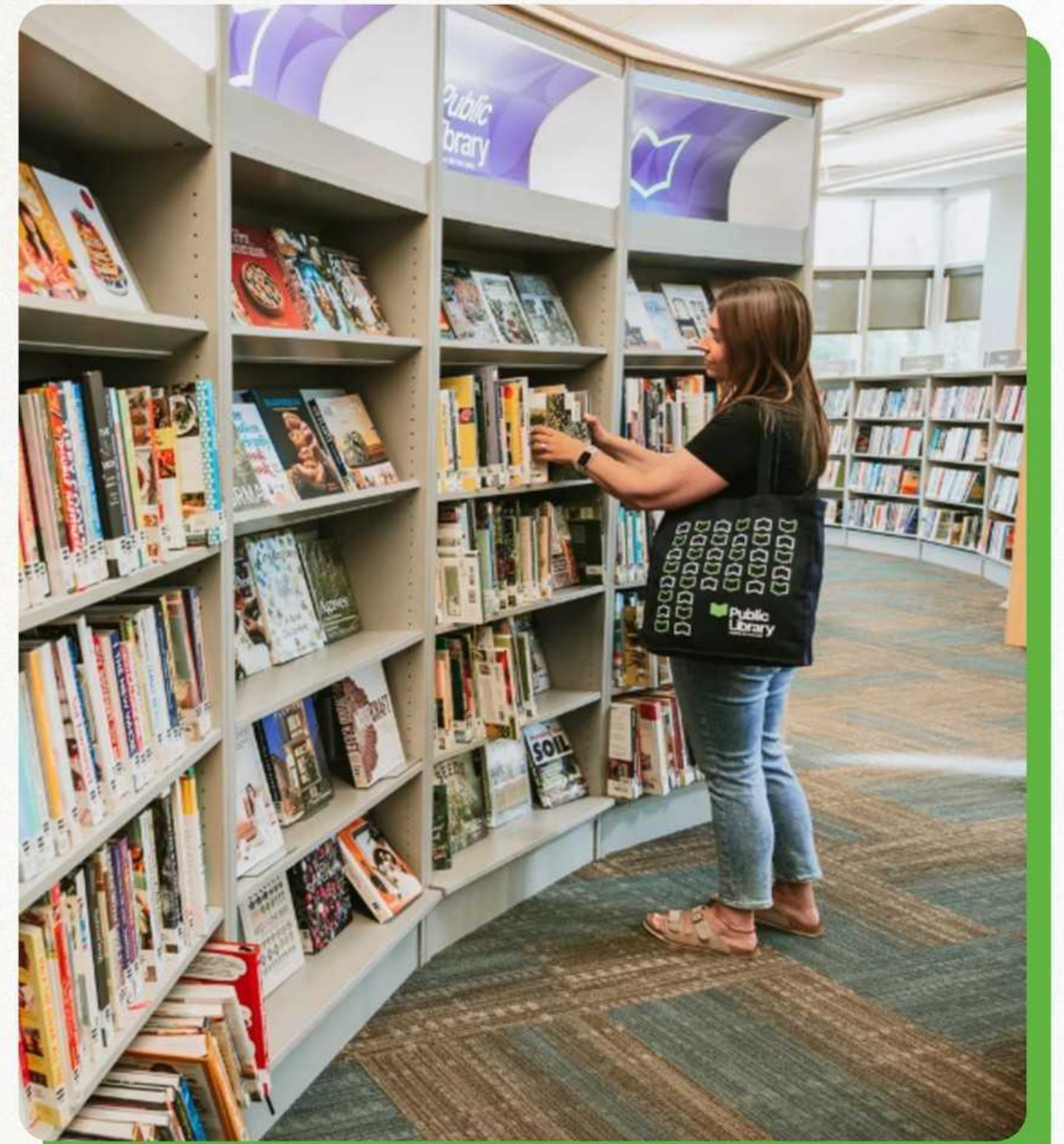
From the Chairs and CEO

In 2025, our library celebrated a year of growth and connection as we marked our 225th anniversary with expanded programs, new services, and strong community engagement. Additions like the study booth, tech toys, and the iPad Studio for Seniors, along with creative partnerships and well-attended events, helped us welcome more than 32,000 visitors and support robust borrowing and program participation. I'm grateful to our staff, Board, volunteers, donors, and partners for making this milestone year such a success, and I look forward to building on this momentum as we continue serving the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

- Laura Tait, CEO

What a year it was! 2025 was a year to remember for many reasons. It was a year to celebrate the founding of the library in 1800, when Fort George was first being built. It was a year of growing engagement with community members who came in record numbers to learn, connect, discover and create. It was a year of growing partnerships - with town staff, sharing programs and facilities, with EarlyON, serving the youngest members of our community, and with other libraries across the Niagara Region, sharing books, ideas and processes. And it was a year of profound appreciation - of our wonderful staff and volunteers, of Council for its ongoing support, and of our partners and donors who help make it all possible. Looking ahead, we see a future filled with possibilities!

- Daryl Novak & Wayne Scott, Board Co-Chairs



Year at a glance



February

2nd Annual Trivia and Silent Auction fundraiser event at the library.



April

Ocean Wise Sea Dome visit provided an innovative way for families to learn about ocean conservation.

January

Received \$12,000 grant from Wise Guys for new meeting pod.



March

James Paterson Wire Art Workshops with sponsorships from NCF and ART SPACE 106.





June

Ultimate Summer KickOff
225 Years celebration and
launch of rebrand.



August

Horticultural Society
volunteers planted pollinators,
organized by Joanne Young.

May

Linwood Barclay
Wine & Words held at
Caroline Cellars.



July

Wind phone installation
with NOTL Community
Palliative Care.





October

New website launch and Lake Report special feature highlighting 225th Anniversary.



December

Niagara Community Foundation presentation with Arlyn Levy.

September

Learn & Live presentation with David Hemmings for the 225th Anniversary Celebration.



November

iPad Studio for Seniors programming begins.



Community Grants



Study Booth

The study booth is an exciting addition, offering a quiet, flexible space for meetings, studying, and remote work, with added privacy. This addition helps us meet the growing demand for flexible workspaces.



Summer KickOff & 225th Anniversary

The grant from BCM Insurance allowed the library to make its Summer KickOff bigger than ever as we celebrated our 225th Anniversary in style with additional event activities like a photo booth, balloon making, and much more.



Touch2Play Interactive Table

The table has already been a big hit with our young patrons, who are enjoying a wide selection of games with friends right here in the library!

NCF Curiosity Lab Grant

Through this grant, the library was able to expand its offerings of tech toys for children, such as Dash robots, Snap Circuits, and new tablets.



James Paterson Wire Art Workshop

Over the March Break, James Paterson led interactive storytelling workshops for children and adults, helping them explore their creativity in new, innovative ways.



iPad Studio for Seniors

With support from the Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program, we hosted a 4-week workshop where seniors used technology to get creative and create unique keepsakes.



In Memory of Ilze Andzans

Written by Wayne Scott, Board Co-Chair.

We, her friends and colleagues on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Board, are deeply saddened by Ilze's recent passing. During our time together, we came to know her not only as a thoughtful and dedicated board member but as a passionate advocate for the library and its place in the heart of our community.

Ilze believed deeply in the power of libraries to connect people, spark curiosity, and foster lifelong learning. She brought warmth, insight, and determination to every conversation. As an avid reader, she always had a book to recommend. She was also a regular participant in library activities, especially our fundraising events, often with her daughter, Olivia. Her contributions helped shape the direction of our work, always with an eye toward inclusion, accessibility, and community impact.

She also had a wonderful way of combining her love of photography and road travel with her appreciation for libraries, visiting branches across eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, always in search of new ideas and possibilities. That spirit of exploration and optimism was inspiring.

More than anything, Ilze was a friend. Thoughtful, curious, and full of quiet strength, she made our time on the board richer and more meaningful. Her legacy lives on in the work she helped shape and in the hearts of those who had the privilege to serve alongside her.

In honour of Ilze, the Board has launched a Read it Forward initiative to celebrate her passion for learning and discovery. Donations made in her memory are helping to grow the Library's photography section – one of her favourite areas – so that future readers can find inspiration just as she did. We hope her story encourages others to share the joy of reading with the community, whether by contributing to Read it Forward or simply passing along a great book.

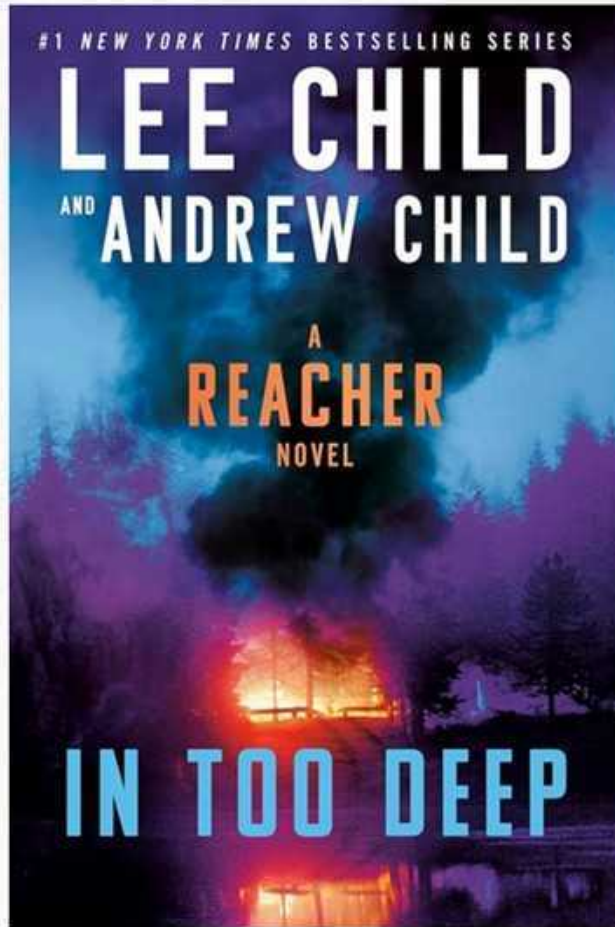
Ilze will be missed, but never forgotten. Her spirit lives on in every book shared and every reader inspired.



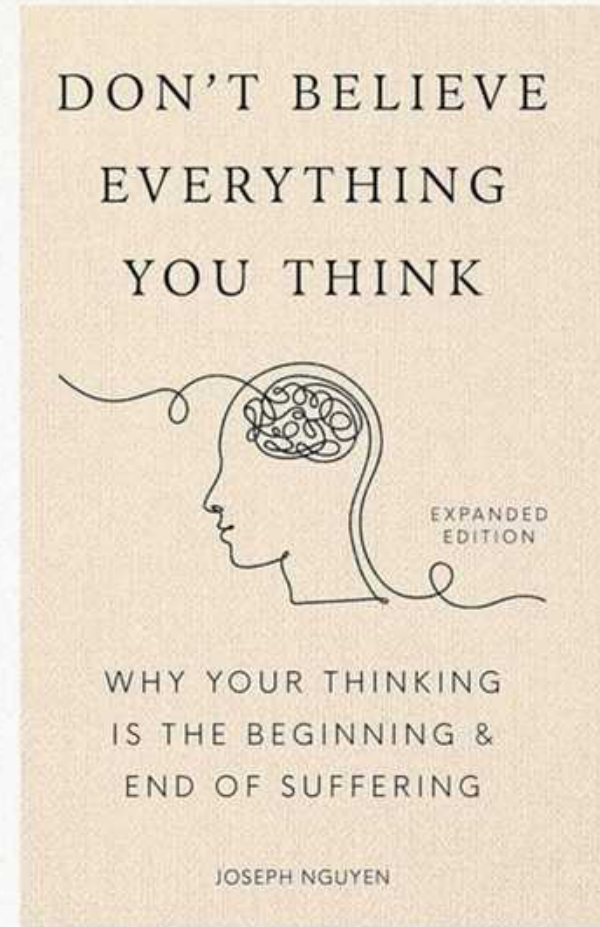
Ilze Andzans served on the NOTLPL Board of Directors since 2023.

Titles Our Patrons Loved

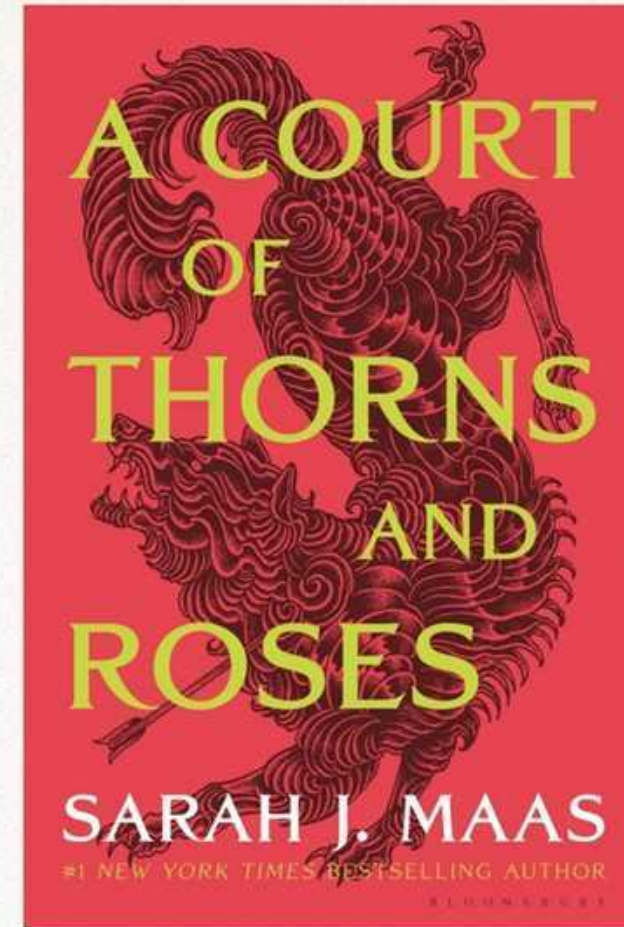
The following titles were the top circulated item by NOTLPL patrons in each category.



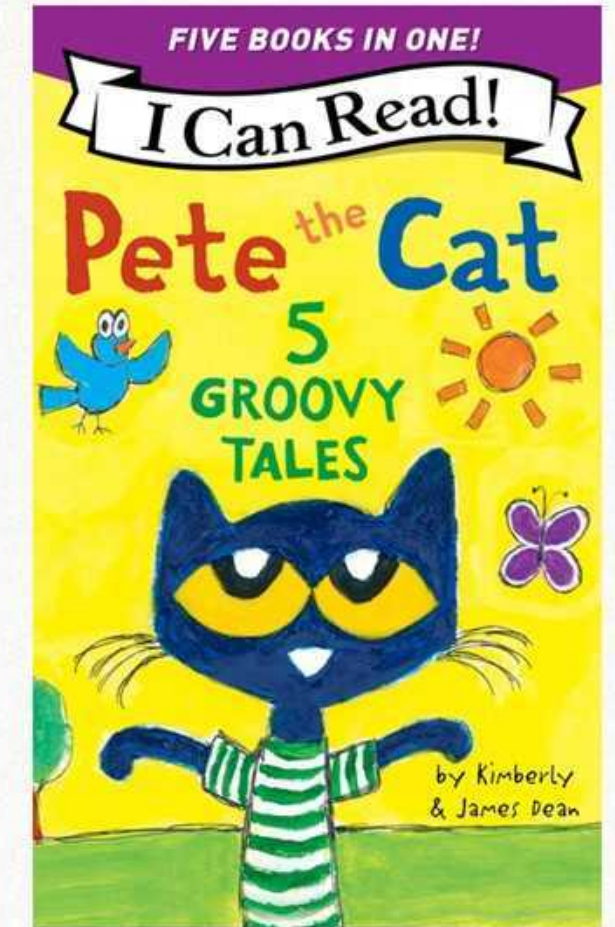
Adult Fiction



Adult Non-Fiction



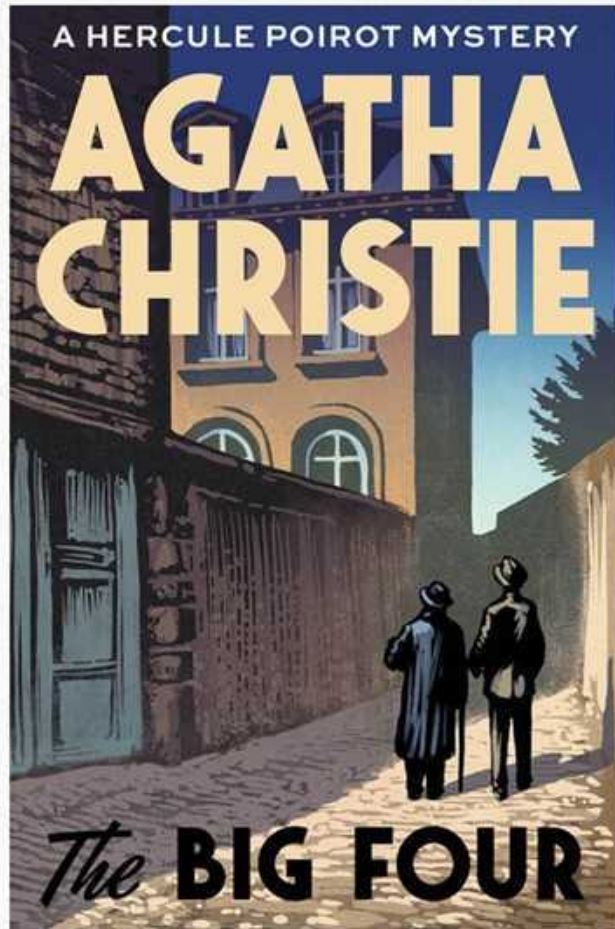
Young Adult



Children's Fiction

Titles Our Patrons Loved

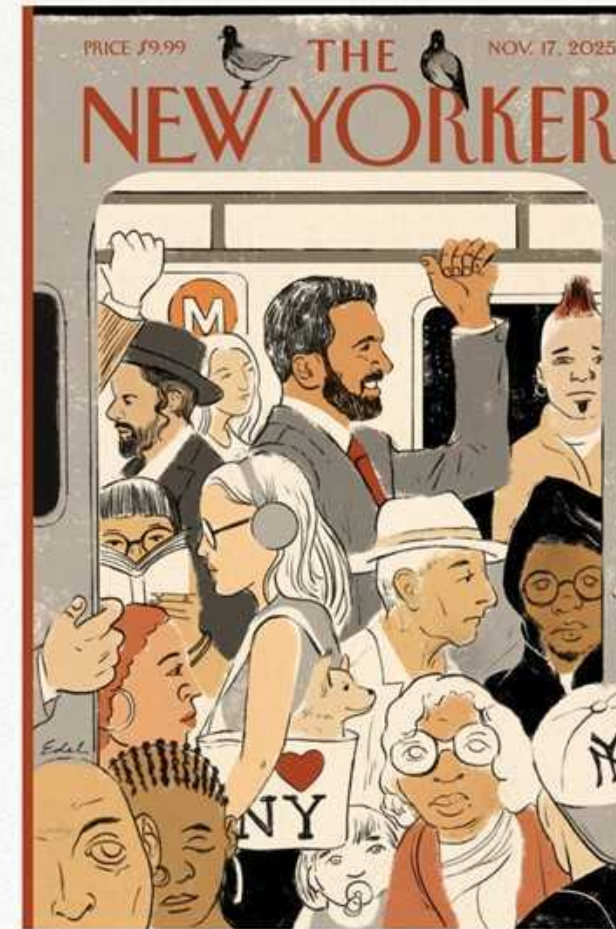
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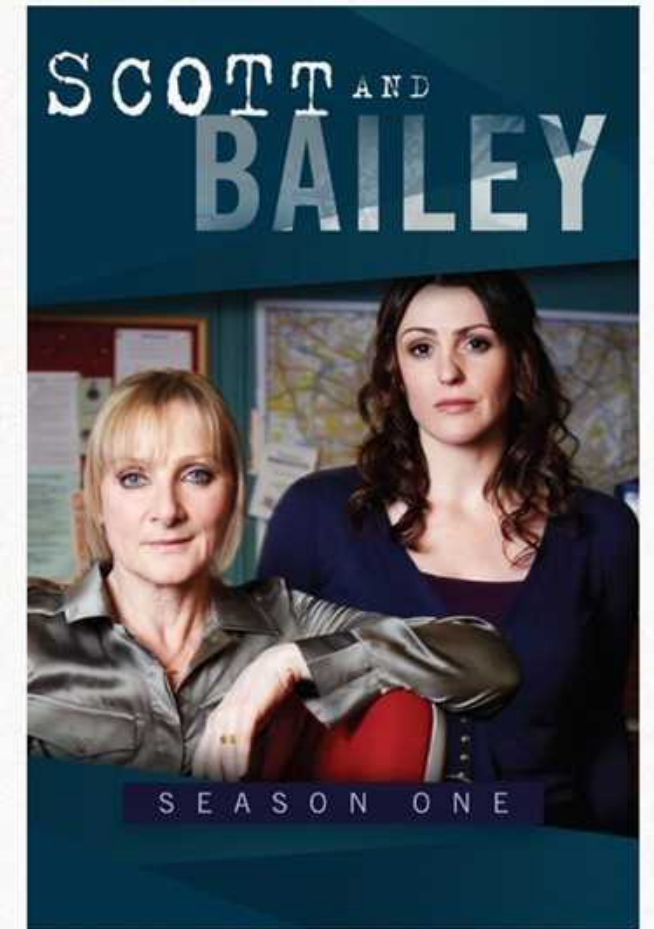
Audiobook



E-Book



Digital Magazine



Video Streaming



2025 in Review

Usage



32,759

Visits to Library



77,388

Physical Items Borrowed



12,773

Digital Items Borrowed

Membership



4,980

Active Users



698

New Library Users

Programs



670

Program Sessions Run



6,537

Program Attendees



40

Book Club Meetings