

# Books and Libraries

Prepared for City of Scottsdale  
February 14, 2024

## Scottsdale Citizens Engagement Platform

A plan and purpose for the future!



# PLEASE NOTE

Please Note: The findings from the report on Books and Libraries are the ideas, opinions, and suggestions gathered from the members of the Speak up Scottsdale community and are not necessarily a reflection of all citizens of Scottsdale. This report may refer to Speak Up Scottsdale community members as respondents, community members, participants, and/or SUS members.

# BOOKS AND LIBRARIES



# OVERVIEW

On December 9, 2023, Speak Up Scottsdale launch a questionnaire asking Community members share their thoughts on *"Libraries and Books"*.

73 community members answered 5 questions.

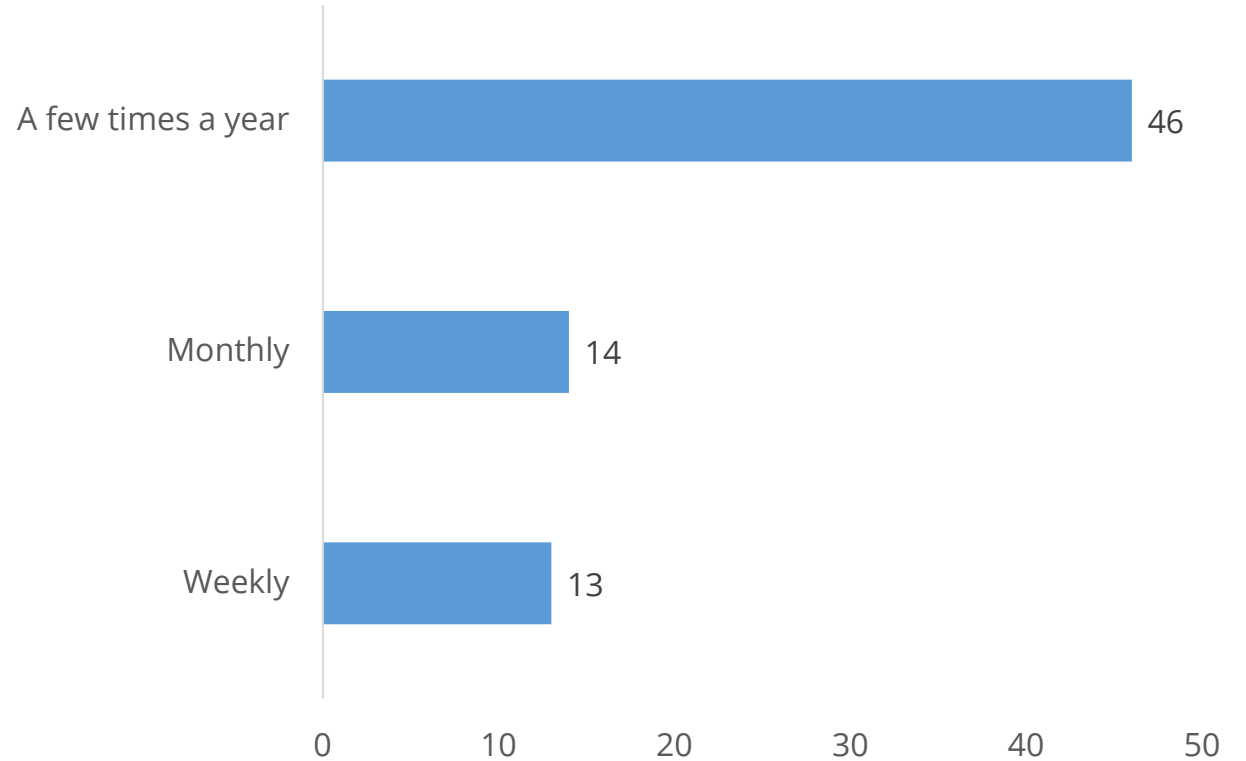
The questionnaire closed on December 31, 2023.



# FREQUENCY OF LIBRARY(S) VISITS

Slightly less than half (46) of the 73 SUS members prefer to go to the library a few times a year.

Of the remaining 27 respondents: 14 members will go to the library monthly, and 13 will go weekly.



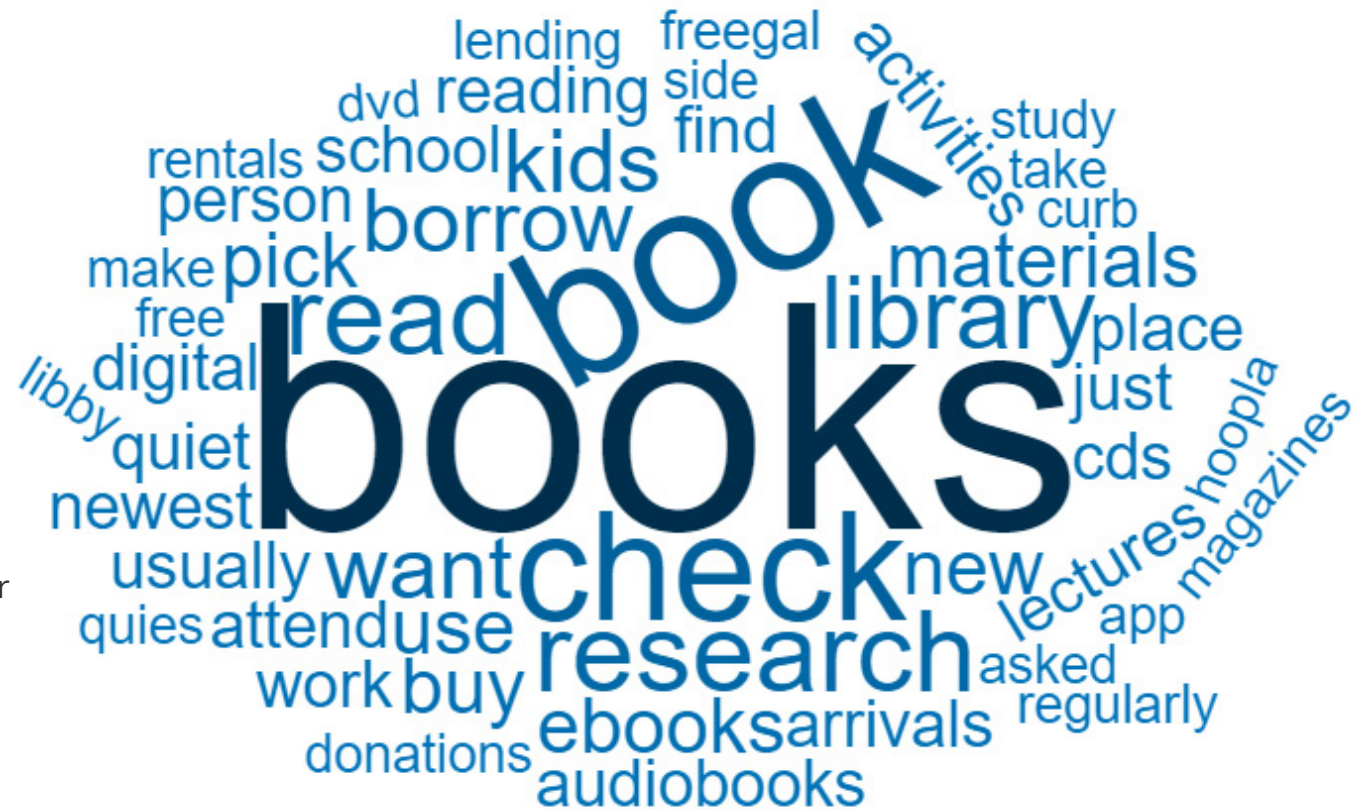
Q1

# REASONS FOR GOING TO THE LIBRARY

The majority of responses reveal that borrowing and reading books, both physically and digitally, remain the core use of libraries. This shows that, despite increasing digitalization, physical books are still popular.

However, digital materials and e-learning are also gaining traction, resonating with the trend of digital transformation in every sector. Simultaneously, libraries are valued as places of learning, research, and community engagement, offering lectures, events, and spaces for study.

A small percentage of responses revealed non-utilization, suggesting that some people may not see the value in library services, or have found alternatives that suit their needs better.



Q2

# REASONS FOR GOING TO THE LIBRARY

Nine categories were revealed. Please note that some of the members provided responses that supported more than one category.

## The most frequently mentioned response was:

### Borrowing, Reading Books, Material (41)

- Most of the responses fall within this category, indicating that the traditional use of libraries as a resource for borrowing books and reading materials remains strong, whether it's borrowing physical books or accessing them digitally.

## Other frequently mentioned responses included:

### Events, Lectures, Exhibits (11)

- Some responses show that people use the library's facilities to attend various events, revealing the role of libraries as community centers.

### Digital Materials and E-Learning (10)

- This category houses activities related to digital borrowing, such as e-books, online newspapers, and audiobooks. This is a sign of libraries transitioning to the digital age.

### Learning and Research (7)

- Patrons also see libraries as resources for learning, research, and studying. The activities range from lectures to researching materials for their children's school projects.

### Social, Hangout, Meeting Place (5)

- Members like to use libraries as a place to hangout or have a business meeting.

### Avoid Purchasing Books (5)

- Some members felt it is better to go to the library to borrow a materials rather than purchase.

### Non-Use (5)

- A minor group of responses speak to those who do not use the library at all, or only rarely.

### Volunteer | Make Donations 2

- Two member felt that libraries are for giving time or money.

### Bookshop 1

- One enthusiastic patron declared *the bookshop is awesome*.

Q2

# MOST ENJOYED BOOK GENRE

SUS members were asked to identify their book preference genre. The 73 members have diverse book genre tastes, of which:

- 17 members prefer non-fiction
- 13 members prefer autobiographies/biographies
- 10 Mystery
- 8 Action/Suspense
- 2 Crime Stories
- 2 Romance
- 1 Science Fiction

20 Other, grouped into these categories:

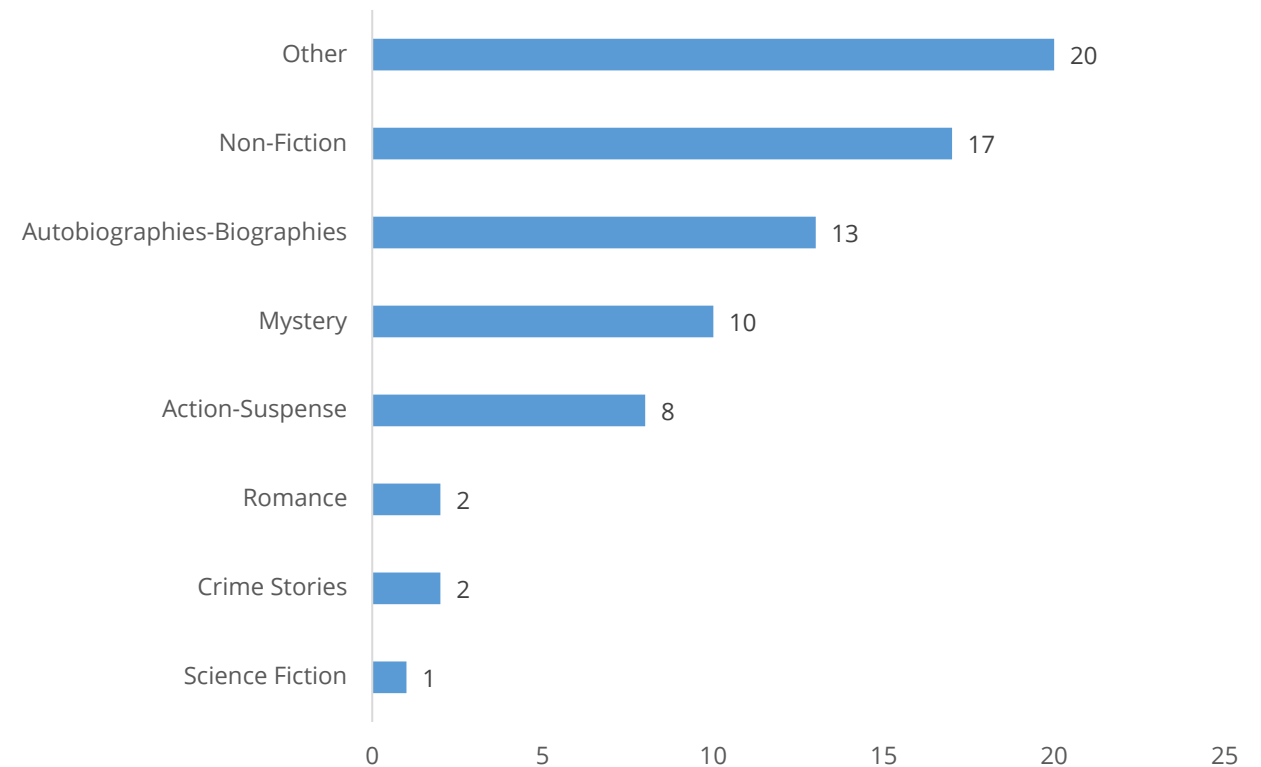
- Adventure 1
- Fiction 2
- Fluff murder mysteries 1
- Historical fiction 2
- History 1
- Kids 1
- Science | Research books 2
- Self Help 1
- Travel 1

More than one genre, all of the choices 4

Do not read that much (books), usually online, none 4

Q3

Book Genre Most Enjoyed



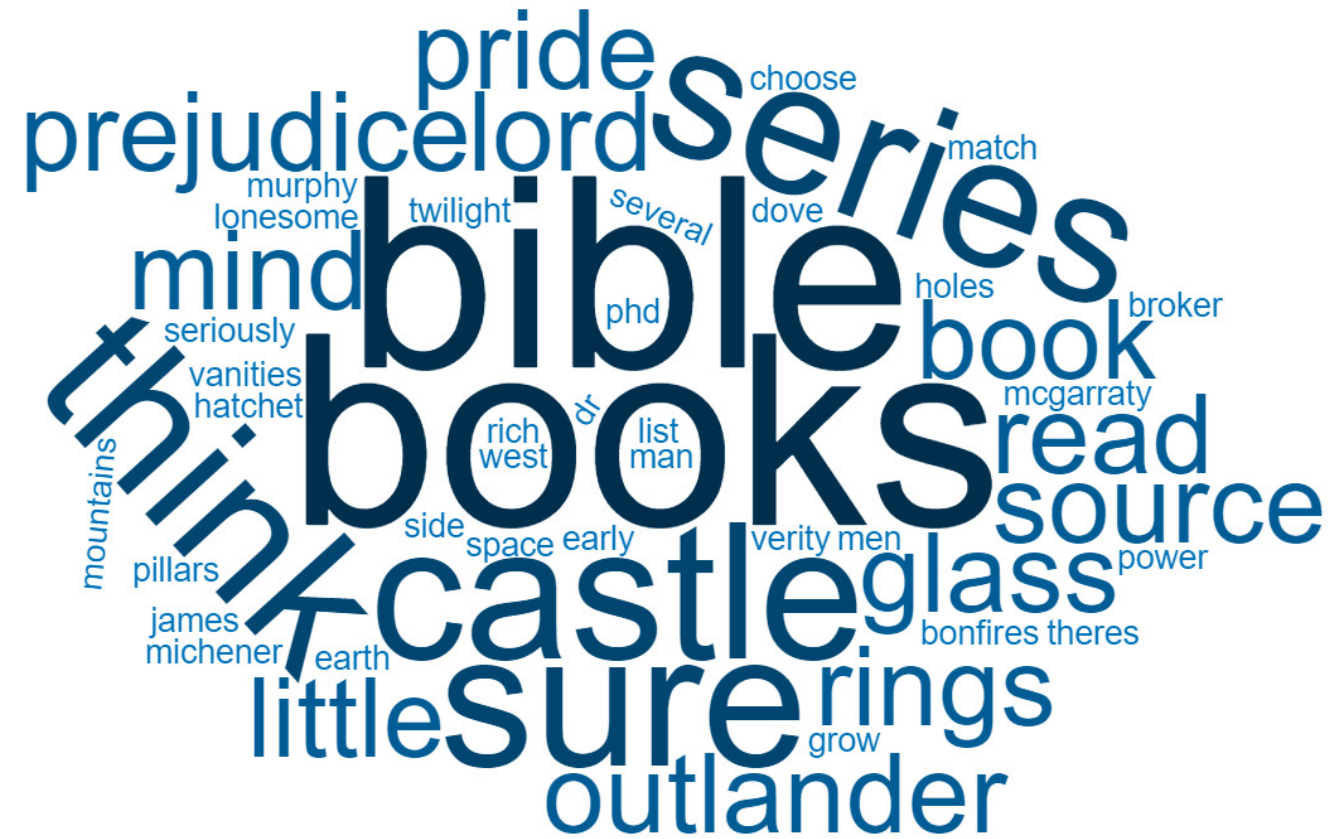


# BOOKS WANTING TO READ MORE THAN ONCE

53 members provided a wide varieties of books (46 categories) that they would read more than once.

5 declared with **enthusiasm** that there are too many books to list.

Only 20 members would not read a book more than once, not many or not sure what book to read more than once.



Q4

# BOOKS WANTING TO READ MORE THAN ONCE

A reference book like David Allen's Getting Things Done

Any Bill O'Reilly book

Anything by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Anything by Hemingway

Anything by Thomas Hardy

Bible

Bonfires of the Vanities

Children books

Childrens' Bible

Confessions of St Augustine

Do Androids Dream of Electronic Sheep

Educated by Tara Westover

For Whom The Bells Toll

Gone With The Wind

Hatchet and Holes

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Jayne Castle books

Little Women

Lonesome Dove

Bridges of Madison County

Love in the time of cholera

Mad Honey

Men to match my mountains

My Antonia

Outlander Series

Pride & Prejudice

Self-help

Several by McGarrity, about the early west life, beautifully crafted.

Side Man

Steve Jobs

Stranger from a Strange land

The Alchemist

The Glass Castle

The Little Prince

The Lord of the Rings trilogy

The Mark of the Lion Series

The Pillars of the Earth

The Power Broker

The Source by James Michener

the Twilight series

Think and grow rich Dr. J. Murphy PhD

Trust by Hernan Diaz

Verity

Walden

Too many to list, non-fiction, classics

Not many, Not sure, None



# BOOKS THAT SHOULD BE MADE INTO FILMS

A Confederacy of Dunces

Anathem - Neal Stephenson

Animal Farm

Any book by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Any Jayne Castle books

Any of the Scottish Bookshop series

Axioms End

Birds of Prey, Wilbur Smith

Carnival

Classics

Eastbound

Educated by Tara Westover

Good bad girl by Alice Feeney

Green Earth by Frederick Manfred (1977)

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

Horse

Humor books

It's One of Us

Jack Daniels

Live Not By Lies

Marcus Aurelius Life and Meditations

Matt Goldman's Nils Shapiro detective novels,  
starting with Gone To Dust.

Midnight Library

My Antonia

Necessary Trouble

Side Man

The Coldest Winter

The maid

The Mark of the Lion Series

The Mayor of Casterbridge

The Power Broker

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow

Trust

Verity

Virgil Flowers series

Wine and War

Women are from Venus, men from Mars

# SUMMARY

The overarching behavior among respondents is an appreciation of libraries as a source of free or low-cost access to educational materials, whether in print or digital form.

Libraries serve as cherished spaces for learning, education, reading for pleasure, and engaging with the community.

The convenience of digital services mirrors the wider societal shift towards online resources.

Meanwhile, a small portion of the population remains disconnected from library services for various reasons, outlining an opportunity for libraries to address this gap and explore ways to attract and serve these potential patrons.



# Thank you!

Let's us know if you have any questions!

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## ATOM

