

## At the library

Last week's article highlighted some numbers from the Calhoun Memorial Library's annual report, which all Wisconsin libraries must file to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division of Libraries and Technology.

Detailed in the report was the Calhoun Memorial Library's collection, which as of December 2023 had 13,255 books in print, 1,287 audio books and 1,852 DVDs. But what happens when the Chetek library doesn't have an item a patron wants? This is where interlibrary loans come into play.

ILLs are those materials a library supplies to, or requests from another library. When a patron comes into the Chetek library seeking an item and that cannot be found here, a search is made using the online catalog ([more.lib.wi.us](http://more.lib.wi.us)) to see if the item is owned by a member library in the IFLS system, of which the Chetek library is a member. If that fails, staff then hunt through the WISCAT catalog. This catalog has a large database and searches the collections of public libraries, universities, technical colleges and K-12 schools throughout Wisconsin and parts of Minnesota. If the item is still not found a blank request is made and the search is picked up by ILL staff in Eau Claire, where the IFLS system is headquartered. Astoundingly, the Chetek library has received materials from all over the country, including Colorado, Texas, Utah, Florida, Illinois and Arizona. On one very, very, very rare occasion even the Library of Congress had sent one of their books for a Chetek library patron.

How crazy is that?

That said, for 2023, the Chetek library, in system and out, lent 6,215 of its materials to other libraries and borrowed 10,580 items through the ILL system. So, while the Chetek library is in itself small, it has access to the collections belonging to libraries all across the United States. In other words, if the Chetek library doesn't have what you are looking for never hesitate to ask if it may be found elsewhere. Staff are more than happy to conduct a search for a little-known film or book.

For those looking to maintain or improve brain health the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Barron and Rusk Counties next Wit Works for Brain Health program is this Friday at the Calhoun Memorial Library.

The monthly sessions include games and puzzles, as well as tips to improve brain health through day-to-day activities. The program is free and starts at 1:30 p.m.

If interested in giving your brain a "workout", RSVP at [www.adrconnections.org/registrations](http://www.adrconnections.org/registrations) or calling 715-537-6225 or by emailing [trisha.witham@co.barron.wi.us](mailto:trisha.witham@co.barron.wi.us).

For more information about the library or its programs, visit [calhounmemoriallibrary.org](http://calhounmemoriallibrary.org) or check out our Facebook page.