

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

On Monday May 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM

All LAC Meetings are held in-person and open to the public. Members of the public may also view the meeting via the alternative method provided below as a courtesy. Please note that if the teleconference connection malfunctions for any reason, and no Commission Members are attending via teleconference, the meeting will continue in-person without remote access.

Public Viewing:

The meeting will be broadcast through the Santa Cruz Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL> which you can access through the Santa Cruz Libraries website by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the YouTube icon. The meetings will be recorded and posted for viewing after the meetings on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website.

Public Participation:

Members of the public may provide public comments to the Commission in-person during the meeting for any item on the agenda or within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Any public comment for a specific item on the agenda must be received prior to the close of the public comment period for that item.

Any person who is not able to attend in-person may submit a written comment as indicated below. Please be aware that the Commission will not read aloud written comments during the meeting.

➤ How to comment on agenda items via email before the meeting begins:

- Members of the public may provide public comment prior to the meeting by sending an email to the Library Board Clerk at clerk@santacruzpl.org.
- Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email.
- Emailed comments should be a maximum of 500 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.

Submitted written public comments will be included as part of the record of the meeting, either in Written Correspondence or in the Minutes, depending on when received by staff. All written comments received prior to 12:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding a LAC Meeting will be distributed to Board members to review prior to the meeting with the published Agenda packet. Written comments submitted after the Agenda and packet have been published will be distributed as Additional Materials at the commencement of the meeting.

Meeting Accommodations:

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment please call the Library Administration Office at (831) 427-7706 at least five days in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance, or email library_admin@santacruzpl.org.



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM

SCOTTS VALLEY BRANCH

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioners Rena Dubin, Charlotte Khandelwal, Timothy Lydgate, Vivian Rogers, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, and Tricia Wynne

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Any member of the community may address the Board during this Public Comment period on any "Consent Calendar" item on today's agenda or on any topic not on today's agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Please note, however, that for non-agendized items, the Board is not able to undertake extended discussion or take any action today without notice. Such items may be referred to staff for appropriate action, such as individual follow-up or placement on a future agenda. If you intend to address a subject or item that is on the Agenda, please hold your comments until that item is before the Board so that we may properly address all comments on that subject at the same time. In general, 3 minutes will be permitted per speaker during Public Comment; A MAXIMUM of 30 MINUTES is set aside for Public Comment at this time.

4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A. Library Director's Report (P3-4)

5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A. Friends of SCPL – Report (P5-6)

6. MEMBER REPORTS

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed in the “Consent Calendar” will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the action unless members of the public or the Board request specific items to be discussed for separate review. Items pulled for separate discussion will be considered following General Business.

- A. Minutes of April 20, 2026
Staff Recommendation: Approve Minutes (P7-8)
- B. FY 26 3rd Qtr. Patron Count Data by Branch
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File (P9-15)
- C. 3rd Quarter FY26 Community Impact Measures
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File (P16-20)
- D. FY 26 3rd Qtr. SCPL Incident Report
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File (P21-23)
- E. The State of America’s Libraries Report
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File (P24-44)

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business items are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure is followed for each Business item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Board questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Board deliberation; 5) Decision.

- A. FY 27 Draft Library Operating Budget Proposal
Staff Recommendation: Accept the proposed Draft FY 27 Library Operating Budget and recommend approval to the JPA (P45-77)

9. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Location	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
August 17, 2026	Capitola Branch	•

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Capitola Branch Library.

May 18, 2026

Director's Report to the Library Advisory Commission

Introduction and General Updates:

Since our meeting last month, the Library has been working hard to prepare for the Summer Reading launch in June, planning next steps for the Strategic Plan implementation after the LJPA approved it in May, and refining our Budget proposal for F27 which you will see on today's General Agenda as the main discussion topic.

Capitola Library provided a standing room only 'rain venue' for the Crispin Mansion Park ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 21st. Additionally, that afternoon I participated in a media day event for Santa Cruz County's Elections Office to highlight the importance of our partnership with them as ballot drop box locations and polling places at select branches.

In the meantime, we held our annual staff in-service day on April 23rd. Included were trainings from the County Sheriff, City of Santa Cruz safety officer, and the Conflict Resolution Center on 'Building Resilience Through Balanced Empathy.'

The Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries have presented a donation of \$105,000 to support FY27 literacy programming including Summer Reading, READ Tutoring, and more systemwide. We are grateful for this generous amount that allows us to better plan for programs, partners, supplies, and marketing for these crucial programs across all age groups.

Our new Library App has passed testing for both Apple and Android devices and will launch to the public today, May 18th.

As an important local organization that provides creative programming, SCPL has been invited to co-sponsor a Santa Cruz mayoral candidates forum on Tourism and the Creative Economy with the Arts Council, Visit Santa Cruz, and All About Theater. The forum will be held on Tuesday, May 26th, 6.30-8 pm at the Colligan Theater.

Select Facilities Updates:

APTOS: Sponsored by the Aptos Friends, a new children's program mural has been added on the patio wall adjacent to the recently installed 'activity walk'.

BOULDER CREEK: The County has identified the funding to install the generator we are relocating from Downtown and a project manager has been assigned. This plan has been in the works some time and will bring much needed back up to the facility.

BRANCIFORTE: We recently replaced a window that had been smashed with a river stone from our landscaping. As this has happened before we have removed the river stone and replaced with chips.

CAPITOLA: We are exploring options for restoring the landscaping and are purchasing electric shades to address glare issues from the very tops of the reading room windows.

DOWNTOWN: With the successful test of the generator install at HDQ, we are planning the next phase of relocating our servers from DTN to the HDQ building, which will free up the generator for install at Boulder Creek as originally planned.

FELTON: The County is coordinating proposals for solar installation. We are purchasing a proper sun shade for the patio area.

LA SELVA BEACH: We are exploring options for installing a proper roof on the patio pergola structure to make it more program-friendly and as well replacing the circulation desk with a more ergonomic solution.

SCOTTS VALLEY: We are coordinating with the vendor for a maintenance servicing of the original circular lighting fixtures throughout the building.

Friends Report from Sarah Beck, Executive Director

Literacy Fund

The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries are pleased to present a check for this year's Library Literacy Fund for \$105,300.

The Friends are so proud to fund our Library system's high-quality literacy-centered programs that focus on literacy and school readiness, provide library services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth and adults, Summer Reading, and Bookmobile outreach.

In view of the almost complete decade-long capital fundraising effort, the Friends organization will soon pivot towards a program support fundraising focus. This will mean an exciting effort in the coming months to identify and prototype new fundraising models.

Downtown Library Capital Campaign

This dream will soon be made a reality thanks to generous donations from more than 350 individuals, families, foundations, and businesses including a (now complete) \$400,000 match grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation.

The Friends have now raised \$2,764,908 million toward our \$3 million goal to support construction of the new Downtown Library. We aren't finished yet!

A new grant from a generous private foundation will match every gift up to \$150,000

The campaign will run through September, with a focus on local businesses and community members and families who have an opportunity to be named on the donor wall for gifts starting at \$1,000. A few larger naming opportunities are still available.

Phase 2, which the Friends are currently raising funds to support, includes interior structures and systems, construction and build out of the Downtown Library interiors.

Restated Core Documents & First Annual Call for Volunteers

On February 17 the Friends Board of Directors passed a resolution to accept newly restated articles of incorporation and on March 16 the Board passed a resolution to accept newly restated bylaws.

In a few short months the Friends Board spent significant hours in concert with our legal counsel, reviewing proposed edits, making careful governance decisions, and achieving consensus through a thoughtful and detailed process.

These changes are overwhelmingly positive, providing tools that will help strengthen our organization and ensure a long, healthy future. Some of the most consequential decisions determine how the board is composed of representatives, many from Branch Committees (formerly Chapters). The reconstitution of committees at all branches creates opportunities to expand and grow the Friends' volunteer corps. A current Call for Volunteers is running now until May 20 in an effort to deliver the full slate of Friends members to the Annual Meeting of the Board in June.



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Charlotte Khandelwal, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, Tricia Wynne

ABSENT: Rena Dubin, Timothy Lydgate, Vivian Rogers

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED THE AGENDA
MOVER:	Tricia Wynne
SECONDER:	Charlotte Khandelwal
AYES:	Khandelwal, Termini, Woll, Wynne
ABSENT:	Rena Dubin, Timothy Lydgate, Vivian Rogers

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Director, Christopher Platt, provided a written report

5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Sarah Beck, Executive Director of the Friends, was absent

6. MEMBER REPORTS

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR Items A - B
	A. Approved Minutes of January 12, 2026
	B. Accepted and filed recent articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries
MOVER:	Tricia Wynne
SECONDER:	Charlotte Khandelwal
AYES:	Khandelwal, Termini, Woll, Wynne
ABSENT:	Rena Dubin, Timothy Lydgate, Vivian Rogers

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Summer Reading Program Presentation by Jessica Goodman & Heather Norquist
- B. Strategic Plan FY 2027 - 2029 Presentation
- C. Library Workplace Safety Actions Update

9. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Location	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
May 18, 2026	Scotts Valley Branch	•

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:00pm to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Scotts Valley Branch.

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2026
 TO: Library Advisory Commission
 FROM: Christopher Platt, Library Director
 RE: FY 26 3rd Qtr. Patron Count Data by Branch

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and file the FY 26 3rd Qtr. patron count data by branch.

DISCUSSION

This report provides patron count data by branch extracted from the SenSource People Counting System. The first quarter report quantifies the time period between January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026. This report does reflect the change in hours that were effective February 1, 2026.

Definition of Branches and Information on Sensors

Branch with less than 5,000 square feet of space (hereinafter “Small-Sized Branches”), are between 5001 – 10,000 square feet of space (hereinafter “Medium-Sized Branches”), and over 10,001 square feet of space (hereinafter “Large-Sized Branches”) were analyzed.

The following information pertains to the location of the sensors at each branch location. There is a total of 13 sensors for the system.

Sensor Name	Size Definition	Commissioned
Aptos Main	Large-Sized Branch	2/4/24
Boulder Creek Door 1	Small-Sized Branch	8/3/22
Branciforte Door 1	Medium-Sized Branch	1/12/23
Capitola Door 1	Large-Sized Branch	9/20/22
Capitola Door 2		8/2/22
Downtown Door 1	Large-Sized Branch	8/2/22
Downtown Door 2		8/2/22
Felton Door 1	Medium-Sized Branch	8/3/22
Garfield Park Door 1	Small-Sized Branch	9/13/22
Garfield Park Door 2		9/13/22
La Selva Door 1	Small-Sized Branch	3/8/23
La Selva Door 2		3/8/23
Live Oak Door 1	Medium-Sized Branch	9/13/22
Scotts Valley Main	Large-Sized Branch	9/13/22

During the 2nd quarter period, library staff welcomed approximately 227K patrons at its ten locations resulting in a 11% increase from last year during this same time period. The following describes noteworthy trends:

Small-Sized Branches

- Boulder Creek saw a 4% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Garfield Park saw a 4% increase in patron visits from the same time last year.
- La Selva Beach saw a 6% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.

Medium-Sized Branches

- Branciforte saw a 8% increase in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Felton saw a 11% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Live Oak saw a 23% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.

Large-Sized Branches

- Aptos saw a 11% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Capitola saw a 11% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Downtown saw a 10% decrease in patron visits from the same time last year.
- Scotts Valley saw a 3% increase in patron visits from the same time last year.

Day and Hour Heatmap

Heatmapping is available through the patron count system. Heatmaps can illustrate patron visits by day and hour.

The branch open hours effective February 1, 2026 are listed below:

BRANCH	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	TOTAL # OF HRS
Aptos	closed	10-7	10-7	10-7	10-7	11-5	10-5	49
Boulder Creek	closed	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	45
Branciforte	closed	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	45
Capitola	1-5	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	49
Downtown	1-5	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	49
Felton	1-5	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	49
Garfield Park	closed	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	45
La Selva Beach	closed	closed	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	37
Live Oak	closed	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	11-5	10-5	45
Scotts Valley	closed	10-7	10-7	10-7	10-7	11-5	10-5	49

Large-Sized Branches

Aptos	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p*
Sunday									
Monday	67	50	53	46	55	53	44	23	11
Tuesday	89	72	62	55	61	92	88	32	15
Wednesday	64	60	57	57	67	83	61	49	10
Thursday	69	51	52	59	55	61	52	30	12
Friday		81	79	61	64	56	38		
Saturday	54	59	56	55	62	56	49		

	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p
Sunday				47	33	26	21	
Monday	57	43	39	39	39	46	43	26
Tuesday	64	46	45	46	47	61	51	34
Wednesday	89	58	49	48	53	67	56	30
Thursday	48	40	43	38	39	59	48	25
Friday		54	49	50	41	46	35	
Saturday	59	54	55	54	54	47	35	

	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p
Sunday				174	114	108	74	
Monday	112	73	74	87	73	93	77	46
Tuesday	117	94	100	112	99	102	89	57
Wednesday	94	80	101	131	122	123	105	61
Thursday	132	93	85	93	91	74	70	47
Friday		135	103	116	95	80	75	
Saturday	101	88	93	108	110	100	69	

	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p*
Sunday									
Monday	41	34	31	35	50	61	47	31	6
Tuesday	64	42	35	39	65	79	66	32	7
Wednesday	51	32	36	39	61	81	62	34	7
Thursday	31	29	53	119	98	73	58	29	7
Friday		72	39	40	51	68	49		
Saturday	54	46	48	53	46	46	34		

*Indicates the additional hour the branches were open as of February 1, 2026 which does not capture the entire 3rd quarter.

Medium-Sized Branches

Branciforte- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor								
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p
Sunday								
Monday	36	24	26	24	28	29	25	19
Tuesday	51	30	36	34	36	37	31	23
Wednesday	37	30	31	39	38	38	34	19
Thursday	28	27	30	30	32	35	30	21
Friday		36	28	62	35	36	24	
Saturday	49	32	36	32	26	26	22	

Felton- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor								
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p
Sunday				28	18	15	13	
Monday	29	27	31	31	28	32	28	18
Tuesday	44	30	31	33	46	44	32	19
Wednesday	34	29	32	39	37	47	35	25
Thursday	46	45	28	28	37	42	33	21
Friday		39	33	33	30	40	30	
Saturday	42	39	41	36	29	30	24	

Live Oak- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor								
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p
Sunday								
Monday	23	25	22	23	25	28	20	13
Tuesday	40	43	31	28	34	32	29	15
Wednesday	49	25	32	27	33	33	27	15
Thursday	30	26	25	23	27	24	22	14
Friday		38	28	29	34	34	24	
Saturday	19	24	27	31	31	23	19	

Small-Sized Branches

Boulder Creek- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor									
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	
Sunday									
Monday		11	12	10	9	17	19	14	7
Tuesday		17	11	13	15	15	21	14	6
Wednesday		28	18	11	31	20	23	15	8
Thursday		15	9	10	12	13	24	17	9
Friday			24	13	10	17	21	10	
Saturday		20	16	16	17	15	12	6	

Garfield Park- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor									
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	
Sunday									
Monday		16	17	17	17	20	27	24	14
Tuesday		22	17	20	23	26	29	28	19
Wednesday		42	26	23	23	24	29	26	18
Thursday		15	15	19	18	20	27	24	15
Friday			22	17	21	22	26	23	
Saturday		16	19	20	19	23	23	22	

La Selva Beach- 3rd Qtr. Heatmap by Average Visitor									
	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	
Sunday									
Monday									
Tuesday		20	17	20	16	17	19	13	11
Wednesday		28	30	14	13	16	19	14	10
Thursday		17	17	14	12	12	14	18	12
Friday			23	20	14	16	18	12	
Saturday		13	20	19	19	16	14	12	

Key			
	≥1		≥50
	≥10		≥60
	≥20		≥70
	≥30		≥80
	≥40		≥90

Attachment: FY 26 3rd Qtr. Patron Data County Comparison Report

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Approved by: Christopher Platt, Library Director



Visitor Count By Branch
Data Provided by SenSource

FY 26
3rd
Qtr. Report

	1st Qtr.			2nd Qtr.			3rd Qtr.			4th Qtr.			YTD		
	FY 25	FY 26	% Change	FY 25	FY 26	% Change	FY 25	FY 26	% Change	FY 25	FY 26	% Change	FY 25	FY 26	% Change
Aptos	31,994	34,051	6%	29,572	34,317	16%	34,022	30,261	-11%	33,497		-100%	129,085		-100%
Boulder Creek	6,550	7,481	14%	6,782	8,051	19%	7,692	7,394	-4%	7,636		-100%	28,660		-100%
Branciforte	14,280	17,093	20%	13,535	17,300	28%	14,939	16,093	8%	15,302		-100%	58,056		-100%
Capitola	31,603	28,484	-10%	27,393	25,916	-5%	28,231	25,224	-11%	28,681		-100%	115,908		-100%
Downtown	62,807	60,881	-3%	54,061	58,058	7%	57,361	51,692	-10%	53,893		-100%	228,122		-100%
Felton	19,681	21,045	7%	18,084	19,269	7%	19,855	17,634	-11%	19,461		-100%	77,081		-100%
Garfield Park	10,788	12,515	16%	10,448	12,381	19%	11,196	11,690	4%	11,623		-100%	44,055		-100%
La Selva Beach	8,583	9,822	14%	7,721	8,753	13%	8,303	7,783	-6%	8,828		-100%	33,435		-100%
Live Oak	14,216	15,016	6%	14,325	14,006	-2%	17,245	13,314	-23%	16,971		-100%	62,757		-100%
Scotts Valley	22,217	27,666	25%	21,782	28,605	31%	24,512	25,215	3%	23,925		-100%	92,436		-100%
TOTAL	222,719	234,054	5%	203,703	226,656	11%	223,356	206,300	-8%	219,817	0	-100%	869,595	0	-100%

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Christopher Platt, Library Director
RE: 3rd Quarter FY26 Community Impact Measures

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Community Impact Measures for 3rd Qtr. FY26.

DISCUSSION

This 3rd quarter report covers the time period of January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026 and compares this data to the previous year.

- Total circulation system-wide increased by 3%.
- The total number of SCPL App circulation increased by 140%.
- Total hours of public internet computer use system-wide increased by 6%.
- Total sessions of public internet use increased by 2%.
- Total number of new registrations decreased by 2%.
- Total hours of meeting room use increased by <1%.
- The total number of programs held system-wide increased by 8%.
- The total number of program attendance system-wide increased by 2%.

Attachment: 3rd Quarter Community Impact Measures FY26

Report Prepared by: Devin Schwarz, Administrative Assistant II
Christine Campbell, Library Assistant III

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Christopher Platt, Library Director

Community Impact Measures Report- FY 2026

Circulation By Branch

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	28,196	27,598	-2%	24,951	25,839	4%	27,282	25,921	-5%	27,031			107,460	
Boulder Creek	6,055	6,408	6%	5,571	5,883	6%	6,314	6,278	-1%	5,892			23,832	
Branciforte	11,987	13,571	13%	11,203	12,431	11%	12,494	13,347	7%	12,209			47,893	
Capitola	29,159	25,988	-11%	24,916	22,356	-10%	25,722	22,583	-12%	24,805			104,602	
Downtown	29,488	27,410	-7%	28,410	24,934	-12%	28,561	25,733	-10%	27,629			114,088	
Felton	17,900	16,476	-8%	15,009	15,279	2%	16,515	15,188	-8%	15,309			64,733	
Garfield Park	10,163	10,572	4%	9,397	9,722	3%	10,749	10,332	-4%	10,216			40,525	
La Selva Beach	4,328	4,431	2%	3,866	3,972	3%	4,036	3,452	-14%	4,194			16,424	
Live Oak	15,553	14,998	-4%	15,266	13,309	-13%	16,081	12,749	-21%	15,653			62,553	
Live Oak Annex	0	338	NA	33	321	873%	187	345	84%	327			547	
Scotts Valley	27,536	28,170	2%	23,872	24,367	2%	26,542	25,449	-4%	27,268			105,218	
Outreach	5,843	1,887	-68%	5,809	2,926	-50%	5,391	2,171	-60%	4,520			21,563	
TOTAL	186,208	177,847	-4%	168,303	161,339	-4%	179,874	163,548	-9%	175,053	0		709,438	0
Digital Branch	148,926	179,851	21%	158,862	189,056	19%	166,673	193,876	16%	170,407			644,868	
TOTAL + DIGITAL	335,134	357,698	7%	327,165	350,395	7%	346,547	357,424	3%	345,460	0		1,354,306	0

SCPL App Circulation

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	1,170	3,036	159%	1,506	2,561	70%	1,246	2,408	93%	2,184			6,106	
Boulder Creek	152	578	280%	172	468	172%	180	550	206%	367			871	
Branciforte	346	1,116	223%	553	1,438	160%	416	1,375	231%	741			2,056	
Capitola	1,104	2,080	88%	1,042	2,076	99%	1,143	2,448	114%	1,464			4,753	
CMS	157	749	377%	127	694	446%	120	787	556%	550			954	
Downtown	1,215	2,551	110%	1,315	2,220	69%	1,183	2,278	93%	2,091			5,804	
Felton	358	1,144	220%	469	1,350	188%	445	1,463	229%	878			2,064	
Garfield Park	311	631	103%	383	546	43%	306	794	159%	532			1,472	
La Selva Beach	341	416	22%	323	512	59%	308	399	30%	370			1,342	
Live Oak	402	968	141%	435	803	85%	465	910	96%	629			1,931	
Live Oak Annex	0	41	NA	0	122	NA	12	192	1500%	51			63	
Outreach	110	226	105%	165	264	60%	106	287	171%	221			602	
Scotts Valley	1,073	2,504	133%	1,200	2,769	131%	1,057	2,852	170%	1,175			4,505	
TOTAL	6,739	16,040	138%	7,690	15,823	106%	6,987	16,743	140%	11,253	0		32,523	0

Community Impact Measures Report- FY 2026

Hours of Public Internet Computer Use

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	1,330	1,614	21%	1,265	1,587	25%	1,489	1,501	1%	1,643			5,727	
Boulder Creek	630	636	1%	509	683	34%	690	738	7%	610			2,439	
Branciforte	926	1,199	29%	946	1,105	17%	1,078	1,103	2%	1,028			3,978	
Capitola	1,800	1,769	-2%	1,456	1,910	31%	1,755	2,197	25%	1,737			6,748	
Downtown	9,923	9,206	-7%	7,318	9,024	23%	7,980	8,325	4%	8,597			33,818	
Felton	947	1,107	17%	1,033	884	-14%	908	989	9%	899			3,787	
Garfield Park	462	868	88%	814	742	-9%	547	755	38%	557			2,380	
La Selva Beach	50	113	126%	64	52	-19%	114	77	-32%	112			340	
Live Oak	1,336	1,153	-14%	1,209	1,446	20%	1,768	1,439	-19%	1,832			6,145	
Scotts Valley	1,385	1,716	24%	1,379	1,753	27%	1,616	1,871	16%	1,672			6,052	
TOTAL HOURS	18,789	19,381	3%	15,993	19,186	20%	17,945	18,995	6%	18,687	0		71,414	0

Sessions of Public Internet Use

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	2,073	2,683	29%	1,997	2,702	35%	2,538	2,647	4%	2,681			9,289	
Boulder Creek	858	791	-8%	656	801	22%	968	883	-9%	855			3,337	
Branciforte	1,572	1,745	11%	1,460	1,649	13%	1,716	1700	-1%	1,615			6,363	
Capitola	2,503	2,356	-6%	2,031	2,316	14%	2,326	2,572	11%	2,293			9,153	
Downtown	8,604	7,673	-11%	8,353	7,376	-12%	7,480	7,404	-1%	7,475			31,912	
Felton	1,356	1,422	5%	1,408	1,334	-5%	1,385	1,445	4%	1,397			5,546	
Garfield Park	702	944	34%	699	796	14%	851	516	-39%	816			3,068	
La Selva Beach	117	163	39%	126	115	-9%	200	171	-15%	186			629	
Live Oak	1,716	1,730	1%	1,585	1,640	3%	1,892	1,993	5%	2,015			7,208	
Scotts Valley	2,168	2,513	16%	2,026	2,506	24%	2,229	2,606	17%	2,323			8,746	
TOTAL	21,669	22,020	2%	20,341	21,235	4%	21,585	21,937	2%	21,656	0		85,251	0

Community Impact Measures Report- FY 2026

New Registrations

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	636	633	0%	491	563	15%	568	503	-11%	523			2,218	
Boulder Creek	114	104	-9%	101	124	23%	115	143	24%	161			491	
Branciforte	223	242	9%	186	239	28%	186	215	16%	185			780	
Capitola	501	441	-12%	359	364	1%	463	462	0%	431			1,754	
Downtown	1,037	1,209	17%	853	1,059	24%	1,082	1,110	3%	1,079			4,051	
Felton	215	220	2%	155	188	21%	197	211	7%	170			737	
Garfield Park	118	171	45%	90	117	30%	125	121	-3%	152			485	
La Selva Beach	75	72	-4%	67	49	-27%	57	59	4%	57			256	
Live Oak	325	266	-18%	214	209	-2%	312	224	-28%	261			1,112	
Live Oak Annex	0	1	NA	0	1	NA	3	1	-67%	1			4	
Scotts Valley	376	407	8%	312	96	-69%	383	365	-5%	123			1,194	
Outreach	120	117	-3%	126	333	164%	118	129	9%	332			696	
TOTAL	3,740	3,883	4%	2,954	3,342	13%	3,609	3,543	-2%	3,475	0		13,778	0

Hours of Meeting Room Use

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	1,380	1,304	-6%	1,391	1,291	-7%	1,467	1,352	-8%	1,395			5,633	
Boulder Creek	124	181	46%	166	181	9%	218	200	-8%	258			766	
Branciforte	347	440	27%	378	472	25%	344	509	48%	339			1,408	
Capitola	1,190	1,024	-14%	1,160	1,008	-13%	1,104	1,180	7%	1,085			4,539	
Downtown	375	461	23%	444	453	2%	569	476	-16%	526			1,914	
Felton	499	491	-2%	479	530	11%	479	419	-13%	477			1,934	
Garfield Park	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0			0	
La Selva Beach	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0			0	
Live Oak Annex	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0			0	
Scotts Valley	946	846	-11%	1,084	1,091	1%	895	952	6%	832			3,757	
TOTAL HOURS	4,861	4,747	-2%	5,102	5,026	-1%	5,076	5,088	0%	4,912	0		19,951	0

Community Impact Measures Report- FY 2026

Number of Programs

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	131	136	4%	157	173	10%	192	175	-9%	189			669	
Boulder Creek	52	76	46%	83	94	13%	83	97	17%	90			308	
Branciforte	58	70	21%	53	96	81%	26	116	346%	38			175	
Capitola	74	90	22%	93	77	-17%	88	103	17%	101			356	
Downtown	118	192	63%	172	182	6%	214	212	-1%	210			714	
Felton	112	99	-12%	125	121	-3%	134	132	-1%	106			477	
Garfield Park	43	59	37%	57	64	12%	65	68	5%	60			225	
La Selva Beach	42	78	86%	40	90	125%	65	99	52%	77			224	
Live Oak	88	62	-30%	112	77	-31%	112	75	-33%	72			384	
Live Oak Annex	0	29	NA	0	44	NA	0	36	NA	51			51	
Scotts Valley	71	81	14%	96	103	7%	98	130	33%	95			360	
Outreach	131	79	-40%	115	52	-55%	117	47	-60%	119			482	
Virtual	22	24	9%	23	24	4%	25	25	0%	22			92	
TOTAL	942	1,075	14%	1,126	1,197	6%	1,219	1,315	8%	1,230	0		4,517	0

Program Attendance

Branch	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			YTD Totals	
	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26
Aptos	1,858	1,667	-10%	1,924	2,703	40%	2,192	3,178	45%	2,964			8,938	
Boulder Creek	585	929	59%	959	1,089	14%	995	1,026	3%	1,203			3,742	
Branciforte	290	1,116	285%	214	1,384	547%	175	1,249	614%	574			1,253	
Capitola	843	1,094	30%	1,299	1,134	-13%	1,924	1,558	-19%	2,256			6,322	
Downtown	1,162	1,556	34%	2,251	2,645	18%	2,345	2,518	7%	1,990			7,748	
Felton	1,431	901	-37%	1,258	1,501	19%	1,952	1,693	-13%	1,219			5,860	
Garfield Park	474	669	41%	412	536	30%	532	624	17%	717			2,135	
La Selva Beach	563	831	48%	513	1,184	131%	646	881	36%	896			2,618	
Live Oak	995	798	-20%	1,500	1,473	-2%	1,445	941	-35%	856			4,796	
Live Oak Annex	0	204	NA	0	426	NA	0	268	NA	471			471	
Scotts Valley	1,430	1,408	-2%	2,210	1,576	-29%	2,029	1,625	-20%	2,001			7,670	
Outreach	2,962	2,469	-17%	4,300	772	-82%	2,583	1,464	-43%	3,160			13,005	
Virtual	208	371	78%	248	410	65%	455	604	33%	380			1,291	
TOTAL	12,801	14,013	9%	17,088	16,833	-1%	17,273	17,629	2%	18,687	0		65,849	0

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2025
TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Christopher Platt, Library Director
RE: FY 26 3rd Qtr. SCPL Incident Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File FY 26 3rd Qtr. Incident Report.

DISCUSSION

The attached report shows the number of incidents that have occurred system-wide by branch, and the number of suspensions issued by branch. The report also compares this information to the prior year.

Attachment: Incident Report for FY 26 3rd Quarter

Prepared by: Gabe Reyes, Administrative Assistant II
Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and forwarded by: Christopher Platt, Library Director

SCPL Incident Report by Branch - FY 26															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change
Aptos	14	9	-36%	3	10	233%	12	8	-33%	4			33	27	-18%
Boulder Creek	3	11	267%	5	4	-20%	4	3	-25%	12			24	18	-25%
Branciforte	5	16	220%	12	7	-42%	15	5	-67%	9			41	28	-32%
Capitola	25	16	-36%	16	3	-81%	12	7	-42%	11			64	26	-59%
Downtown	64	44	-31%	68	51	-25%	60	28	-53%	39			231	123	-47%
Felton	3	1	-67%	7	4	-43%	8	3	-63%	4			22	8	-64%
Garfield Park	1	2	100%	2	2	0%	1	2	100%	3			7	6	-14%
La Selva Beach	0	0		1	1	0%	1	0	-100%	0			2	1	-50%
Live Oak	4	2	-50%	4	3	-25%	9	5	-44%	8			25	10	-60%
Scotts Valley	4	4	0%	3	6	100%	2	13	550%	2			11	23	109%
TOTAL	123	105	-15%	121	91	-25%	124	74	-40%	92			460	270	-41%

Suspensions by Branch - FY 26															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change	FY25	FY 26	% Change
Aptos	0	0		0	0	0%	0	1		0			0	1	0%
Boulder Creek	0	2		0	1		0	3		4			4	6	50%
Branciforte	1	6	500%	4	6	50%	5	1	-80%	3			13	13	0%
Capitola	3	3	0%	3	1	-67%	2	3	50%	5			13	7	-46%
Downtown	33	34	3%	37	34	-8%	32	20	-38%	22			124	88	-29%
Felton	1	0	-100%	0	2		1	0	-100%	1			3	2	-33%
Garfield Park	0	0		1	1	0%	0	0		3			4	1	-75%
La Selva Beach	0	0		0	0	0%	0	0		0			0	0	0%
Live Oak	1	1	0%	2	2	0%	3	1	-67%	0			6	4	-33%
Scotts Valley	0	0		0	2		2	4	100%	0			2	6	200%
TOTAL	39	46	18%	47	49	4%	45	33	-27%	38			169	128	-24%

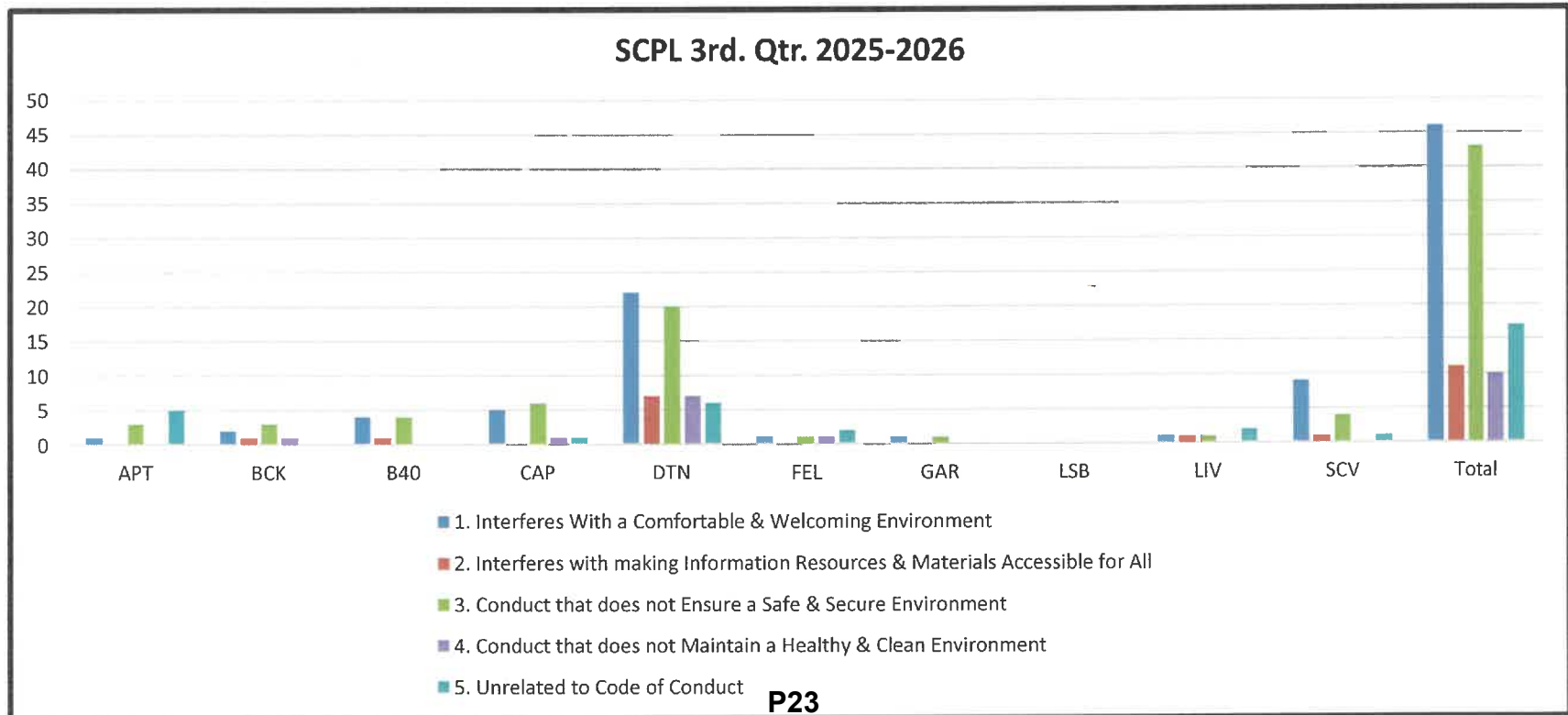
SCPL Summary of Incident Infraction Categories - FY 25/26

The Library's Patron Code of Conduct is comprised of five categories. Within each category, there are multiple types of infractions (four to thirteen), that may occur. A single incident might begin with the violation of one infraction and then escalate to violation of several different infractions, potentially resulting in an ejection for the day or a suspension.

3rd. Qtr. Infraction Category Summary

Of the five Infraction Categories, the highest number occurred within Category 1: Interferes With a Comfortable & Welcoming Environment with 46 infractons, down from 56 in previous quarter and Category 3: Conduct that does not Ensure a Safe & Secure Environment at 43, down from 61 in the previous quarter.

Infraction Categories	APT	BCK	B40	CAP	DTN	FEL	GAR	LSB	LIV	SCV	Total
1. Interferes With a Comfortable & Welcoming Environment	1	2	4	5	22	1	1	0	1	9	46
2. Interferes with making Information Resources & Materials Accessible for All	0	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	11
3. Conduct that does not Ensure a Safe & Secure Environment	3	3	4	6	20	1	1	0	1	4	43
4. Conduct that does not Maintain a Healthy & Clean Environment	0	1	0	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	10
5. Unrelated to Code of Conduct	5	0	0	1	6	2	0	0	2	1	17
											127





SANTA CRUZ
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries
RE: The State of America's Libraries Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and file.

The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

a Snapshot of 2025

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF READERS.
FOR THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.
FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR ALL.
FOR THE FREEDOM TO READ.
FOR THE PEOPLE WHO POWER POSSIBILITY.
FOR THE FUTURE OF LEARNING.

FOR OUR LIBRARIES.

ALA150
American Library Association

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 19–25, 2026

“There are so many library kids and library grown-ups who have yet to fully embrace their library joy, and I am so excited for them! When they enter the world of libraries and stories, I am confident they will find not only their library joy but their courage to believe in their own story and maybe even share it with others.”

MYCHAL THREETS
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK HONORARY CHAIR



Photography courtesy of Association Studios

Visit your library or [ilovelibraries.org](https://www.ilovelibraries.org) to celebrate!

The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

a Snapshot of 2025 Produced April 2026

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ALA's Celebrate National Library Week poster.

INTRODUCTION

A Clarion Call

by DAN MONTGOMERY



It's a true joy to introduce this year's State of America's Libraries report. Since I started in November, I have been amazed at the incredible work ALA and its member libraries and library workers do each day. When I was a high school English teacher, I used to say that the entire world comes into the high school, and I feel the same way about our libraries. This report on the state of America's libraries is in a very real way a report on the state of our nation. Unsurprisingly, then, there is much to be deeply concerned about in these pages, and much to bring hope. Ultimately, this report can serve as a clarion call to those who love libraries and our republic.

ALA was successful in defending our libraries and our free speech rights on a number of fronts: in the courts, as we won back funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in state houses around the country. In several states, we fought back against pernicious legislation and won protections for free speech. We held advocacy trainings for hundreds of library workers and worked with many free speech partners in defense of academic and intellectual freedom. Wasn't it Frederick Douglass who said that "power concedes nothing without a fight?" Well, this report certainly elucidates the fight for freedom we must keep waging.

The work of libraries in 2025 is not to be ignored. Library professionals continued to lead the way in their communities, and libraries continued to be the bedrock of our democracy.

Here are some major trends from the year.

Censorship

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom recorded attempts to censor more than 4,200 unique titles in 2025, nearly 2,000 more titles than 2024 and only five fewer than 2023's record. We also found that most of these challenges come from large politically-driven entities working across jurisdictions. Approximately 91.7% of the titles challenged in 2025 were targeted by pressure groups and government decision makers. By comparison, only 2.7% of challenges came from parents, and 1.4% came from individual library users.

Despite these challenges, we also saw states working to protect libraries and people showing up for our libraries.

Serving Incarcerated People

As Jeannie Austin notes in this report, we are at a pivotal moment for library services for people who are incarcerated or in reentry, with libraries across the U.S. building from recently developed resources to develop new services. Austin, jail and reentry services librarian with the San Francisco Public Library, details the work being done in collaboration with ALA as part of the Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People grant project.

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the project identifies existing library services for incarcerated people and builds networks and resources to solidify those services for people who are or have been incarcerated.

Community Literacy Hubs

Libraries are serving as community literacy hubs, viewing literacy from a high-level that helps adults get the support they need and younger generations to continue learning amid a rotating array of disruptions, from budget cuts and technology shifts to learning loss brought on by the pandemic.

To help foster this work, ALA partnered with World Education in 2025 to support libraries as place-based literacy mainstays. In this report, Rachel Riggs from World Education outlines three strategies that libraries use in their roles as literacy hubs.

This report reflects the world we are in today: momentous and whirlwind changes, political and budget pressures unlike those we have seen in a long time, roiling attacks on free speech, and, in the midst, inspiring work of those defending democracy and building stronger, more equitable communities. Our libraries and their workers are in the center of it all. And ALA is positioned to thrive for another 150 years in support of those libraries and workers, and, indeed, in support of our foundational democratic values of freedom. ●

Dan Montgomery is executive director of the American Library Association.

The Architecture of Democracy: Choosing the Future of America's Libraries

by SAM HELMICK



For two and a half centuries, the story of America has been inextricably linked to the story of its libraries. As we approach the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, we are reminded that the American experiment relies on a singular, powerful concept: that an informed

citizenry is the surest guardian of liberty. From the early subscription libraries that fueled the debates of our Founders to the public institutions that welcomed waves of immigrants, and now the digital community hubs of today, libraries have served as the intellectual infrastructure of our nation. They are the places where the American story is both housed and written.

However, as we review the landscape of the past year, it is evident that we have arrived at a pivotal moment. The events of 2025 are marked by intensified debates over access to information and shifting fiscal priorities which have forced a reckoning. We the People are now tasked with answering a fundamental question that will define our trajectory for the next century: Are libraries merely a civic "nicety?" Are they a pleasant, nostalgic amenity to be maintained only when budgets are flush and times are quiet? Or are libraries a true American value, essential to the health and survival of our republic?

If we decide they are the former, we accept the slow erosion of free public thinking, endless attainability of learning, and easily accessible assembly. But if we affirm that libraries are indeed a core American value, then we must move beyond slogans or sentimentality with shoestring budgeting. Valuing libraries requires tangible, vigorous commitment in three critical areas: use, resourcing, and supportive policy.

First, we must champion use. A value is only real if it is practiced. In the last year, we saw communities turn to libraries for books, telemedicine, workforce development, and safe harbor during crises. We must continue to demonstrate that libraries are not museums of the past, but active, vital workshops for the future where every person can access the tools of the digital age.

Second, we must secure resourcing. Values must be funded. Treating libraries as optional leaves them vulnerable to the first cut of the red pen. Treating them as a value means ensuring they have the sustainable, robust funding necessary to maintain modern infrastructure, retain skilled staff, and keep the doors open to all, regardless of economic status.

We must continue to demonstrate that libraries are not museums of the past, but active, vital workshops for the future where every person can access the tools of the digital age.

Finally, libraries require supportive policies. We need legislative frameworks that protect the freedom to read and the professional autonomy of library workers. Library workers must have a seat at the table to protect the privacy, consumer, and algorithmic rights of their patrons. Policy is the shield that ensures our institutions remain nonpartisan sanctuaries of information, free from the shifting winds of political ideology or economic enticements to detour from American rights and justice.

As we look toward the next 250 years, the choice is ours. We can let our libraries fade, viewed as charming relics of a bygone era. Or, we can choose to invest in them as the bedrock of our future. Let us decide, right now, that libraries are not optional. They are the very breath of a free society and they are worth fighting for. ●

Sam Helmick is 2025-2026 President of the American Library Association.

Standing Together for the Freedom to Read

by SARAH LAMDAN



Threats to intellectual freedom continued in 2025. Yet, even in the face of unrelenting efforts to censor library materials, library workers and communities across the United States demonstrated their commitment to protecting the freedom to read. While the scale of attempted censorship remained significant, 2025 yielded something equally powerful: a widespread and determined defense of intellectual freedom.

The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom recorded attempts to censor 4,235 unique titles, nearly 2,000 more titles than 2024 and only five fewer than 2023's record. These numbers stand far from the baseline of 273, which was the average annual number between 2001 and 2020. Of the 4,235 titles targeted in 2025, 1,671 represent the lived experience of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC people.

The discrimination implicit in focusing on banning certain people's perspectives is clear, and it underpins current censorship efforts in and beyond libraries. The coordinated effort to erase people's stories makes it all-the-more important that library workers, educators, advocates, and community members continue to monitor and respond to attempts to limit access to library materials. As the ugly goals of contemporary censorship come into view, communities are overwhelmingly showing up for libraries.

Library Challenges Aren't Coming From Concerned Parents

One key finding of 2025's censorship landscape was the identity of intellectual freedom challengers. Contrary to common narratives suggesting that book challenges originate primarily from concerned parents, our data shows otherwise. Approximately 91.7% of titles challenged in 2025 were targeted by pressure groups (20.8%) and government decision makers (70.9%). By comparison, only 2.7% of challenges came from parents, and 1.4% came from individual library users.

Contrary to common narratives suggesting that book challenges originate primarily from concerned parents, our data shows otherwise. Approximately 91.7% of titles challenged in 2025 were targeted by pressure groups and government decision makers.



ALA's 2026 Banned Books Week posters.

This represents a dramatic shift from previous years. In the past, pressure groups and government officials accounted for roughly 12.9% of book challenges, averaging about 46 titles per year. In 2025 alone, those same actors targeted 7,884 books. That number includes 4,235 unique titles, which means that many titles were targeted multiple times. This duplication reflects a large-scale, coordinated effort. Today's censorship campaigns are not spontaneous expressions of community concern; they are organized initiatives driven by political actors and well-funded book banning movements.

Censorship Campaigns Target Materials That Tell Our Stories

Another thing that's clear is that 2025's censorship campaigns weren't about protecting children—they were about erasing realities. A tiny cohort of people are trying to remove people's lived experiences from library shelves. In 2025, these people used terms like “harmful” and “inappropriate” to describe stories reflecting LGBTQIA+ identities or themes related to equity and inclusion. Having families that look different than theirs is not obscene, regardless of their well-funded efforts to convince us otherwise.

Government officials in states like Kansas and Tennessee sent letters ordering school and public libraries to review their collections and limit access to LGBTQIA+ inclusive materials. A judge ordered the Department of Defense libraries that serve students in military families to return nearly 600 books related to gender and racial equality to library shelves after they were removed in response to an Executive Order. The most consistent factor in all of these censorship efforts was political or religious disagreement with the perspectives represented in the library materials.

Protecting children isn't done by censoring library materials. It is done by creating safe learning spaces where children can explore a range of ideas and concepts. Libraries exist to provide access to a wide array of stories and thoughts, not just those that align with a single worldview.

Overwhelming Support for Intellectual Freedom

It turns out that people don't like the government telling them what they can and can't read based on the preferences of religious and ideological activists. In 2025, library workers and freedom-to-read advocates showed remarkable resilience and dedication. The small-but-coordinated push for censorship was met with widespread and passionate opposition. 2025 saw a growing public awareness and resistance to state and federal attempts to limit the freedom to read in our nation's libraries. People see libraries as places where they can reach for their favorite books, explore new perspectives, and access reliable information. The broad coalition defending libraries—spanning political affiliations, professions, and generations—demonstrates that support for intellectual freedom remains



A still from the documentary, “The Librarians.”

PHOTO: AMY BENCH

2025 was also a year of coalition-building. Grassroots activists, advocacy organizations, writers, authors, publishers, teachers, parents, and library workers came together to celebrate libraries and the joy of reading.

strong. The story of library censorship in 2025 is therefore not only about the challenges libraries faced, but also about the resilience of the people who stood up for them.

Legal victories and new state-level protections emerged in several regions, reinforcing longstanding principles of intellectual freedom and reaffirming libraries' role as institutions that serve all members of their communities. Coalitions of library workers, authors, educators, and community members successfully advocated for right to read laws in Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island that protect intellectual freedom, libraries, and library workers. Courts across the nation held that censorship legislation was unconstitutional. Judges declared that laws including Florida's HB 1069 and Iowa's SF 496, which provide for the removal of books containing certain viewpoints, were unconstitutionally vague and overbroad. Courts also affirmed the First Amendment right to read in libraries. Voters in states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas rejected censorship-focused school and library board candidates, electing board members who promised to protect people's right to read and learn.

2025 was also a year of coalition-building. Grassroots activists, advocacy organizations, writers, authors, publishers, teachers, parents, and library workers came together to celebrate libraries and the joy of reading. They joined together to support freedom to read protections and policies. They hosted rallies, read-ins, and showings of *The Librarians*, an award-winning documentary following the experiences of librarians including Martha Hickson, Carolyn Foote, Becky Calzada, Julie Miller, Audrey Wilson-Youngblood, Amanda Jones, and Suzette Baker. Thousands of people pushed back on the political operatives who threatened intellectual freedom.

Censorship Pushers Lost in Some Jurisdictions, but the Fight Continues

Despite the efforts of library workers, communities, advocates, and educators across the nation, the politically and ideologically motivated attacks on intellectual freedom have succeeded in creating a patchwork of laws that disrupt the freedom to read in some parts of the U.S.

In May 2025, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion in the *Little v. Llano County* case that contradicted well-established law affirming a First Amendment right to read in public libraries. In December, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, leaving public library users in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas with fewer First Amendment rights than library users in the rest of the nation.

In 2025, some states implemented laws allowing, or even requiring, the removal of certain viewpoints from library collections, leading to thousands of books being eliminated from school libraries in states like Florida, South Carolina, and Utah. The lists of books selected for removal are large and include classic literature and scientific texts about psychology and physiology. As a result of these coordinated efforts, even long-established works—such as Anthony Burgess's 1962 novel *A Clockwork Orange*—appear on our top ten most censored book list for the first time.

We are also seeing the spread of censorship beyond school and public libraries and into academic libraries. Academic and intellectual freedom are both under attack from government operatives hoping to wipe out certain schools of thought from colleges and universities. University employees, including library workers, are facing limits on what they are permitted to teach, write, and speak about.

The challenges facing libraries today are significant, but so is the resolve of those who believe that access to ideas is a cornerstone of a healthy society. ALA will continue to document censorship efforts, support libraries and library workers on the front lines, and advocate for policies that defend intellectual freedom. Most importantly, we will continue to affirm that libraries are places where the full range of human experiences can be explored—not restricted—and where every reader has the opportunity to encounter stories that reflect the diversity and complexity of our shared world. ●

Sarah Lamdan is executive director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

TOP 11 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2025

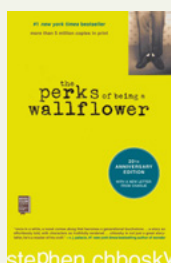
The American Library Association documented **487 attempts to censor** books at libraries, schools, and universities in 2025. The reasons most commonly cited for censorship were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; covering topics of race, racism, social justice, and diversity; and presenting political or religious views with which the challengers disagreed. Of the **4,235 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2025, here are the top 11 most frequently targeted.

1



SOLD
by Patricia McCormick
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/soldBR

2



THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
by Stephen Chbosky
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/wallflowerBR

3



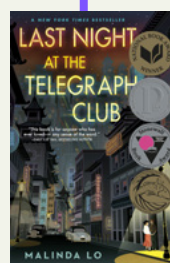
GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR
by Maia Kobabe
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/genderBR

4

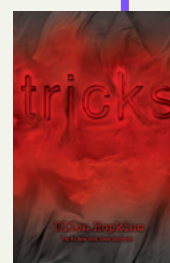


EMPIRE OF STORMS
by Sarah J. Maas
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/empireofstormsBR

5
(TIE)

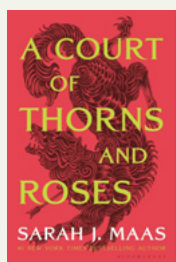


LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB
by Malinda Lo
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/telegraphclubBR



TRICKS
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/tricksBR

7

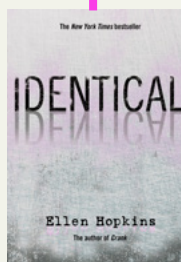


A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES
by Sarah J. Maas
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/thornsBR

8
(TIE)



A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
by Anthony Burgess
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/clockworkorangeBR



IDENTICAL
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/identicalBR



LOOKING FOR ALASKA
by John Green
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/alaskaBR



STORM AND FURY
by Jennifer L. Armentrout
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/stormBR

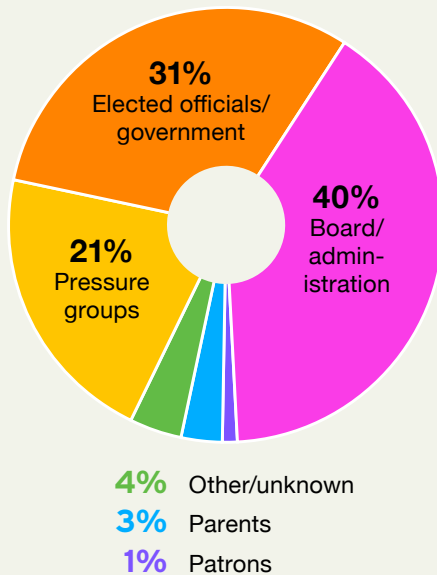
CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025, the American Library Association documented the second highest level of book censorship attempts ever and the continuation of an organized effort to systematically suppress voices and ideas that began in 2021. Last year, **4,235 unique titles** were challenged, only five titles short of the highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 unique titles over the period from 2001–2020.

LEARN MORE AT [ALA.ORG/BBOOKS](https://www.ala.org/bbooks)

WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS

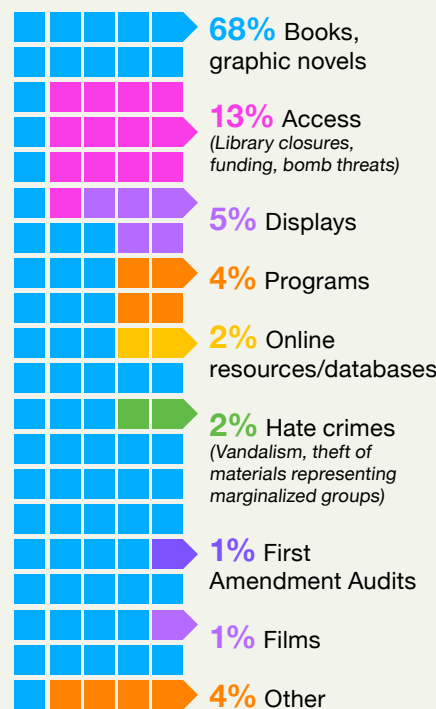
Nearly **92% of censorship attempts** in 2025 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers swayed by them. This marks a 20-point increase over 2024.



Statistics based on 8,596 total titles targeted for censorship.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **713 distinct censorship incidents** in 2025. Here's the breakdown:



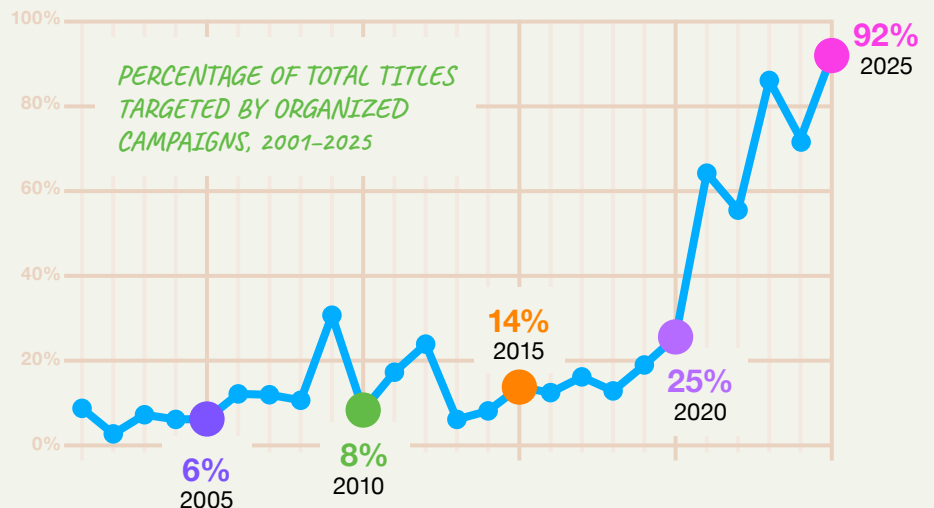
WHERE CHALLENGES HAPPEN



Statistics based on 696 incidents with known locations and include challenges to all materials and services. About 1% of censorship attempts took place in other locations.

CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The majority of library censorship remains tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the decision makers they influenced targeted **7,884 total titles** in 2025. From 2001–2020, this constituency tried to remove an average of 46 titles per year. From 2021–2025, they targeted an average of 5,238 total titles annually.



CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Libraries as Enduring and Evolving Literacy Hubs

by RACHEL RIGGS



Beyond learning to read and write, today's society demands new kinds of literacy for learners of all ages. Public libraries have used their roles as enduring, high-trust, low-barrier institutions to provide critical infrastructure for adult and family literacy. Operating at the

intersection of formal education and essential social services, modern libraries approach literacy in a community-driven, responsive way to meet today's rapidly evolving and growing literacy needs. Libraries are:

- **Fostering family literacy.** Using two-generation and whole-family literacy frameworks, libraries are simultaneously supporting children and the adults in their lives to dismantle intergenerational cycles of low literacy. They're also supporting schools and aligning with shifting K–12 legislation by rapidly integrating the evidence-based Science of Reading into their collections and programs.
- **Addressing digital inclusion.** From teaching digital literacy classes to providing shoulder-to-shoulder digital navigation to acting as local digital access hubs by loaning devices and laptops, libraries are keeping communities connected to critical services and valuable opportunities. This is crucial given the abrupt cancellation of the federal Digital Equity Act grant programs in May 2025, which forced states and municipalities to scramble to sustain local inclusion plans.

As community literacy hubs, libraries are poised to maintain a birds'-eye view of literacy across the lifespan, so that adults get the support they need today and the next generation maintains quality learning amid disruptions such as pandemic learning loss, policy shifts, and digital transformation.

Libraries as Literacy Hubs

The 2025–2026 operational period tested the financial architecture of the library ecosystem, demanding intense resilience from the sector. The Institute of Museum and Library Services faced serious budget challenges and emerged with

Public libraries have used their roles as enduring, high-trust, low-barrier institutions to provide critical infrastructure for adult and family literacy.

\$291.8 million for Fiscal Year 2026, affirming the vital necessity of museums and libraries. As federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding pivots toward stricter employer-aligned outcomes, libraries are actively formalizing alignments with local Workforce Development Boards and adult education programs to ensure adult learners can access broader cross-agency support streams. As mentioned earlier, alignment with the Science of Reading requirements and loss of funding from the Digital Equity Act have also caused uncertainty.

The American Library Association has partnered with World Education to support libraries in their endeavors as place-based literacy mainstays. In a recent landscape scan, we outlined three strategies that libraries use in their roles as literacy hubs.

Strategy	Description	Key Services
Conveners	Acting as the connective tissue of the local social safety net, libraries align decentralized literacy efforts and establish bidirectional referral networks to connect patrons with specialized external agencies.	Needs assessments, warm handoffs to embedded social workers, coordinated community outreach matrices.
Venues of Instruction	Libraries leverage their trusted physical infrastructure to offer safe, central, and accessible spaces for external educational partners to deliver formal academic programming.	English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, GED preparation, High School Equivalency testing.
Direct Service Providers	Library staff delivers end-to-end instructional services directly, typically focusing on "just-in-time" learning, individualized support, and technology access.	Digital literacy and navigation, basic troubleshooting, and foundational tech classes.

These three strategies are mixed and matched in libraries as they address adult and family literacy needs. For example, in our landscape scan, we found that libraries typically act as direct service providers for digital literacy, whereas they tend to be venues of instruction for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adults. There is no one-size-fits-all blend of strategies for a given library. Rather, it's most important that libraries assess local needs and available resources and adapt their strategy to fit that landscape.

Redefining the Return on Investment

While economic impact studies consistently validate library funding—demonstrating massive return on investments (ROI) in business revenue and educational outcomes—the most hopeful shift in the sector is a move toward a learner-centered valuation.

When adult learners evaluate their own goals, their motivations transcend mere employment. In a [recent study on ROI for adult literacy](#), a survey revealed that 48.3% of learners seek literacy support to build personal confidence, and 46.7% engage in adult education to directly support their children's learning. Following program participation, learners

As community literacy hubs, libraries are poised to maintain a birds'-eye view of literacy across the lifespan, so that adults get the support they need today and the next generation maintains quality learning amid disruptions such as pandemic learning loss, policy shifts, and digital transformation.

cite performing everyday tasks more easily (44.6%) and feeling more satisfied in life (42.5%) as their primary benefits.

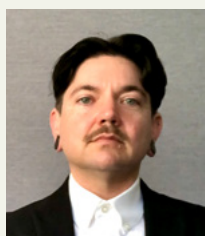
By capturing these social, psychological, and intergenerational triumphs, we highlight the value of libraries. They are an active, indispensable part of the infrastructure for American civic resilience and human dignity. ●

Rachel Riggs is a technical adviser at World Education.



Libraries Increase Services for Incarcerated People

BY JEANIE AUSTIN



We are at a pivotal moment for library services for people who are incarcerated or in reentry, with libraries across the U.S. building from recently developed resources to develop new services. The American Library Association’s (ALA) recent “[Investing in Prison Libraries](#)” report makes clear that it is critical to support funding for the libraries that do this work.

Foundational Resources Provide Guidance

The [Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People](#) grant project, based at San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) and funded by the Mellon Foundation, has developed foundational materials that support new or increased services in this area. The grant work involves identifying existing library services for incarcerated people and building professional networks and resources with the goal of solidifying library services for people who are or have been incarcerated as a focused area of professional concern.

Since 2022, SFPL has created:

- [virtual training materials on topics across library specializations](#),
- [an interactive tool that positions information about academic, legal, and public library services in the area alongside state-by-state statistics about incarceration](#), and
- [reports on trends and concerns related to library services and incarceration](#) and the [limitations and opportunities that technologies present for librarians doing this work](#).

The grant has supported a robust professional community of hundreds of practitioners, advocates, and Library and Information Science (LIS) students through virtual and in-person events.

As a collaborator on the grant work, ALA has solidified the importance of library services for people who are incarcerated or in reentry through the creation of the [Standards for Library](#)

[Services for the Incarcerated and Detained](#) and [T.E.C.H. for Reentry: Digital Literacy and Public Library Programming for Formerly Incarcerated Community Members](#).

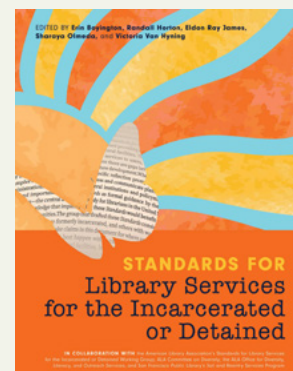
Patron-Responsive Services and Programs

Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People facilitates patron-responsive services by sharing the testimony of people who have been incarcerated. One contributor to a training video—who was once incarcerated—shares that

“...access to reading materials or information, being able to explore ideas that one is interested in or wants to learn more about, beyond what’s just provided in the facility or given guidance on where to look for something or what to read to start to better understand themselves and their interests is quintessential to the growth of an individual while they’re currently incarcerated.

“I think we can start doing this by allowing access to librarians or those out in the community, like librarians and libraries out in the community that can engage in either conversation or access to individuals who are currently incarcerated. I think it allows one’s mind to expand beyond the walls that the body is currently confined to. And it will translate to better outcomes for individuals upon their release.”

Even as more library services for people who are incarcerated or in reentry are established, the circumstances remain dire. The training video contributor also stated that “[d]uring my four



Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained (ALA Editions, 2024 Revised Edition)

years incarcerated, I was able to access the (prison) library four times.” Most of the two million people incarcerated in the United States face similar limitations to accessing information and libraries. This has negative ripple effects for their families and communities.

Materials developed through the grant project support libraries as they respond to the impact incarceration has on their communities. Libraries across the country have done this through programs large and small, ranging from library programs and art exhibits featuring formerly incarcerated creators and authors (such as the [PRISM: Seeing Beyond Mass Incarceration](#) project at Cleveland Public Library) to programs where libraries facilitate family virtual visitation and reading programs for people who are incarcerated and their children (such as The New York Public Library’s “Let’s Read Together” program, which has provided almost 330 books to more than 300 children during family reading programs over the last five years).

The Desire Is There

Library and information professionals want to create meaningful services for incarcerated people and people in the process of reentry. Respondents to the [2020 Library Services and Incarceration Survey](#), which explored how library workers respond to incarceration in their communities, were enthusiastic about these services. One respondent stated, “I want to leverage the resources at the library to help people more. It feels like I’m sitting on a pile of gold that nobody will let me give away.”

LIS students and early-career professionals are engaged in this area of librarianship, and LIS instructors are increasingly incorporating information about library services and incarceration into their classrooms. The grant has directly provided professional development in this area through the Expanding Services Together learning cohorts, where professionals develop proposals for library services and initiatives. Cohorts have been limited in size; hundreds of librarians and information workers expressed interest in being part of the cohorts in 2025 and 2026.

Digital Literacy

ALA’s “[T.E.C.H. for Reentry: Digital Literacy and Public Library Programming for Formerly Incarcerated Community Members](#)” acts as a guide for librarians who are interested in addressing the vast digital divide that is created by incarceration.

“T.E.C.H. for Reentry” reflects a two-year project to pilot digital literacy programming for people in reentry at four public libraries in varied geographic areas in the U.S. It covers best practices for similar endeavors.

“T.E.C.H. for Reentry” illustrates that “[a]mid a network of resources and organizations that support formerly incarcerated people locally and nationally, libraries can serve as valuable hubs of information, services, and resources that support people in defining their own successful reentry.” This resource is especially prescient as higher education in prison programs increase in number and academic libraries consider how to provide students with information and digital literacy programming that accounts for and responds to a lack of access to technologies inside.

Shifting Landscape

The ability of jails, detention centers, and prison systems to censor materials continues to profoundly shape the experiences of people who are incarcerated. Censorship practices can be irrational, but they often also fall along lines of [race, gender, and sexuality](#). Notable practices have included dictionaries in languages other than English at facilities [in Michigan](#) and censorship of [materials created by incarcerated people](#).

Libraries that provide [Reference by Mail](#) services are grappling with how to navigate the professional ethic of patron privacy given the rise of jails and prisons partnering with private technology companies to digitize and retain mailed communications. Interruptions in federal funding have, at times, [threatened prison library services](#).

The [increasing detention](#) of people who read in languages other than English is exacerbating a distinct need for information and materials in the languages in which people read. The rise in anti-transgender legislation informs and shapes prison policies, escalating incarcerated transgender people’s inability to access accurate information. Librarians and advocates are trying to provide resources and recreational materials like those described above within jails, juvenile detentions, and prisons across the country. Where available, these are cherished lifelines.

Trends that limit incarcerated people’s access to libraries can be held against recent successes. Groups like [Initiate Justice](#) demonstrate the possibility of creating collaborative information-based projects that are built around the needs of people directly impacted by incarceration. Initiate Justice is changing California state practices through legislative

education and advocacy, including by introducing greater transparency around censorship practices in California prisons.

The [Prison Libraries Act](#) was introduced early in 2026. If passed, it will result in grants that can be used for “creating libraries in prisons without libraries and in prisons that otherwise would not have the means to scale library services.” ALA President Sam Helmick expressed the importance of the Act in a [press release from Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II’s office](#), writing: “Prison libraries open doors of opportunity and provide essential literacy support to address the urgent information needs of millions of incarcerated people in the United States.” Passage of this Act will result in a remarkable increase in library services for incarcerated people.

The stark need for additional funding is a reminder that many institutional libraries are maintained by incarcerated

library workers, often for very little pay. Incarcerated library workers desire opportunities for professional development and want to use the skills they’ve built in their future employment.

Librarians looking for guidance and ideas will find these in ALA’s [Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained](#). The Standards offer general guidelines and present real-world examples of successful programs alongside aspirational visions for moving ahead. Librarians across the country are drawing from the Standards to create new services, models, and resources that will broaden the field of academic, legal, prison, and public librarianship. ●

Jeanie Austin is a jail and reentry services librarian with San Francisco Public Library.

Libraries Take on a Tumultuous Washington

BY LISA VARGA



America’s libraries entered 2025 primed for inevitable challenges posed by the second term of a president who, in his first term, proposed to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency that provides dedicated funds for America’s libraries, in all four of his annual budget proposals. During his first week in office, President Trump signed dozens of executive orders assaulting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and protections for millions of Americans in historically marginalized communities. The same week, the American Library Association (ALA) launched a proactive advocacy campaign to harness the collective power of library advocates in every pocket of the U.S. to influence elected leaders and policymakers in the 119th Congress.

The [Show Up For Our Libraries](#) campaign proved prescient when, on March 14, President Trump issued an executive order to effectively dismantle IMLS. The announcement also ordered the Office of Management and Budget to reject any budget requests from IMLS other than funds needed to shut down the agency. Showing up as a united front and engaging strategically with Congress would prove to be necessary to protect libraries and library workers. The following months saw a groundswell of opposition to the president’s order, fighting on two fronts: preserving the existence of IMLS and maintaining congressional support for funding its programs.

ALA immediately [responded](#) to the order by mobilizing advocates to voice their support for IMLS. Within two weeks of ALA’s call for advocates to urge their Congressmembers to reject the president’s executive order and support continued funding for IMLS in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

budget, more than 50,000 messages were recorded and sent to Congressmembers through ALA's action center. As the annual appropriations process wound through House and Senate committees and weathered a 43-day government shutdown, advocates continued to show up for libraries by engaging legislators.

On February 3, 2026, Congress patently rejected the administration's call to shutter IMLS, instead passing a \$1.4 million increase for library programs run by IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in FY2026. Congress also provided level funding of \$30 million for the school library-focused Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. The final FY2026 budget is not perfect for libraries. While LSTA funding increased, IMLS overall saw a slight decrease, largely reflecting the reduction in staffing at the agency.

Battling in Federal Court

While securing IMLS funding called for congressional support, preserving the agency itself required legal action. On April 4, three weeks after the executive order was announced, 21 state attorneys general filed suit (*State of Rhode Island v. Trump*) to restore IMLS. Days later, ALA and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest union representing museum and library workers, asked a federal judge to halt the Trump Administration's gutting of IMLS, [filing](#) a motion for a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit and being granted a temporary restraining order preventing the mass termination of IMLS staff. Meanwhile, a preliminary injunction was granted in the Rhode Island case on May 6, and in November, the court ruled to overturn the actions of the Administration to carry out the Executive Order. Shortly thereafter, IMLS reinstated all terminated grants to libraries.

In April 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice withdrew its appeal of the Rhode Island order and reached a settlement in ALA's case. Under the settlement, the agency will continue awarding grants, conducting research, and operating IMLS programs nationwide. The agreement also confirms that previously terminated grants have been reinstated, agency staff reductions have been reversed, and the administration will not take further steps to implement the executive order targeting IMLS.

"Restoration of these grants is a massive win for libraries of all kinds in all states," ALA President Sam Helmick said, but noted that "the fight is not finished. The administration can appeal court decisions. Congress can choose to not fund

IMLS in future years. ALA calls on everyone who values libraries to remind their Congressmembers and elected officials at every level why America's libraries deserve more, not fewer resources."

Core Values Under Threat

In addition to the direct attack on IMLS, the Administration dealt blow after blow to libraries' core values of DEI: diversity in collections, equitable access to information, and inclusive spaces.

Days after Trump's inauguration, in what ALA called a "cruel and headlong effort to terminate protections from discrimination for LGBTQIA+ students and students of color," the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights dismissed 11 complaints related to book bans, eliminated the Biden-instituted position of book ban coordinator, and declared book banning "a hoax." ALA began receiving confidential reports that library workers on military installations were being forced to remove books from shelves, take down displays about Black History Month, and cancel cultural events. On February 7, the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) announced that it would remove and review "books potentially related to gender ideology or discriminatory equity ideology topics" in DoD schools, and suppress programs, activities, and holidays related to those topics. In a joint statement, ALA and the American Association of School Librarians accused the DoDEA of "engaging in censorship of legitimate views and opinions that violates the First Amendment rights of those who serve our nation and their families, thereby denying them the very freedoms they have pledged to protect with their lives."

Among the many causes for alarm at the Administration's ongoing efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education was transfer of the Office for Elementary and Secondary Education, which administers the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, to the Department of Labor. ALA



Fourteenth Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden was fired by President Trump in May 2025.

opposed this effort as it thwarts the intent of Congress. As a competitive grant promoting innovative literacy programs that support the development of literacy skills—especially through school libraries—in low-income communities, IAL is one of ALA’s top priorities in its annual advocacy campaigns. Moving day-to-day operations of IAL does not bode well for literacy, which is better served by agencies devoted to education rather than labor.

Firing the Librarian of Congress

The Administration’s attacks on libraries struck a particular nerve for many library workers when, in May, President Trump fired the fourteenth Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden.

Nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate in 2016, Dr. Hayden, a past ALA president, was the first woman and the first African American to serve as Librarian of Congress. 2024–2025 ALA President Cindy Hohl decried “the abrupt and unjust dismissal” of Dr. Hayden as “an insult to the scope and breadth of work Dr. Hayden has undertaken in her role.” Days later, Hohl again expressed dismay when Register

of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter, who reports to the Librarian of Congress, was suddenly fired.

“The Trump Administration’s unlawful removal of the Register of Copyrights follows a pattern of targeting library and information leaders in nonpartisan positions,” Hohl said. “Congress must stand up for its Library and intervene to counter this dangerous campaign to weaken institutional knowledge and professionalism.”

ALA Defends E-Rate

Because libraries faced assaults on many fronts, ALA strategically prioritized the most significant threats where library advocates might have influence and impact. With deep expertise, coalition partners and a history of engagement in telecommunications policy, ALA focused on protecting the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) E-Rate Program, which provides discounts on internet access, telecommunications services, and related costs to public libraries and K-12 schools, with the deepest discounts going to rural communities. More than half of all public libraries apply



Library advocates from ALA and allied groups rallied on Capitol Hill in March 2025 to support E-Rate, a federal program that provides discounts on internet access and telecommunication services to K-12 schools and public libraries.

for millions of dollars in E-Rate funding each year to help pay for internet connectivity. Critics of the Universal Services Fund (USF), the funding mechanism for E-Rate, had long accused the program of wasteful spending, when the conservative advocacy group Consumers Research filed lawsuits against the FCC in three federal courts in 2023, challenging the constitutionality of the USF. All three lower courts had rejected the complaint made by Consumers Research when the Supreme Court agreed to review the Fifth Circuit appeal.

In January 2025, ALA filed an [amicus brief](#) in the case affirming the constitutionality of the USF and the vital importance of E-Rate in bringing broadband connectivity to libraries and communities. Dozens of advocates rallied on Capitol Hill in support of E-Rate on March 26, the day the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case. Library advocates [celebrated](#) the court's 6-3 decision to uphold the USF when the ruling was announced on June 27.

Months after the Supreme Court rejected their arguments, on October 1, Consumers Research filed another petition in the Fifth Circuit, alleging that specific parts of the USF are unconstitutional, including the Universal Service Administrative Company, the nonprofit that administers the program. While the court's decision is not expected until late 2026, ALA and other advocates continue to push for E-Rate's long-term sustainability through policy discussions with decision makers and raising awareness of E-Rate's impact everywhere.

For an Administration bold enough to challenge established programs, pulling the plug on newer initiatives was almost a given. On May 8, President Trump announced via social media his decision to [end the Digital Equity Act](#), which he called “woke handouts based on race.” Passed by Congress in 2021 as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the \$2.75 billion program established grants to support broadband access and digital skills training for underserved communities. States and community anchor institutions around the country had already developed promising models, begun establishing resources and partners, and carefully navigated contracts. On May 9, the U.S. Department of Commerce sent letters to states, informing them that funding for the grants was terminated and any project activity costs incurred after that will not be reimbursed.

The Digital Equity Act, which ALA described as “a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a digitally equitable future for all,” was not the only loss in federal support for broadband, as the administration also reversed a new rule that would have permitted libraries and schools to use E-Rate

funding for hotspot lending programs. On September 30, 2025, the FCC voted 2-1 to pull the plug on the “Learn Without Limits” initiative adopted in 2024. Hotspot lending in libraries—sometimes targeted to specific populations such as students, jobseekers, or the homeless—had expanded during the pandemic. While not a permanent fix, E-Rate funding for hotspot lending in libraries could have ensured that students, jobseekers, veterans, and seniors had the opportunity to keep up in the digital economy.

Bright Spots Amid Challenges

While they met mixed outcomes for the unprecedented challenges to established federal programs, libraries continued to have favor of champions in Congress who recognize the value of libraries in every context. In some cases, Congressmembers introduced legislation to fund new opportunities for libraries to serve their communities. The bicameral Right to Read Act was reintroduced by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representative Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ-07).

Originally introduced in 2022 by the late Representative Raúl Grijalva, the Congresswoman's father and predecessor in AZ-07, the Right to Read Act was designed to ensure all students, including low-income and minority students, children with disabilities, and English language learners, have access to an effective school library staffed by a certified school librarian. The bill would authorize \$500 million in Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants and double the authorization for the [Innovative Approaches to Literacy](#) program to \$100 million to provide critical literacy resources in communities with significant need.

In June, ALA released “[Investing in Prison Libraries: A Cost-Effective Path to Safer Communities and Second Chances](#),” a report exploring the essential role of prison libraries in lowering recidivism by better preparing incarcerated people for their release. Having made a strong case for further investments in prison libraries, ALA welcomed the Prison Libraries Act, introduced by Representative Emanuel Cleaver II (D-MO-5). The bill would provide grants to prisons to update materials, hire qualified librarians, and support digital literacy and career readiness training.

In October 2025, the U.S. State Department began notifying public libraries organized as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that they would no longer be allowed to accept passport applications. According to the State Department, the 1920 Passport Act does not authorize non-governmental

agencies to serve as passport facilities. While only approximately 15% of all public libraries are non-governmental, according to IMLS, they helped tens of thousands of Americans apply for passports in 2024. Despite some nonprofit libraries having offered passport services for decades, dozens were forced to stop in February 2026.

Federal legislators in both parties rallied to introduce bicameral and bipartisan legislation that would allow nonprofit public libraries to continue providing passport services. The Community Passport Services Act, introduced in January 2026 by Representative John Joyce (R-PA 13) and with companion legislation introduced by Senators John Fetterman and David McCormick of Pennsylvania, would amend the Passport Act of 1920 to authorize certain public libraries to collect and retain a fee for the execution of a passport application.

Libraries, like many public services and cultural institutions, may have lost ground in the Executive branch in 2025, but libraries fared better in Congress and the courts. Further challenges, known and unknown, lay ahead, but federal support for libraries would not be possible were it not for the perseverance of library advocates. Just as they prevailed during all four budget cycles in the first Trump Administration, libraries garnered increases in the first budget cycle of the president's second term. While libraries can't expect support from the White House, Congress has signaled that library funding is a national priority. It's up to library supporters to keep that signal strong. ●

Lisa Varga is associate executive director of ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office.

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About ALA

The American Library Association is the largest non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to America's libraries. The ALA mission is to empower and advocate for all libraries and library workers to ensure equitable access to information for all. For 150 years, ALA has provided resources for information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services.

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How to Cite This Report

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BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES

as a member of the American Library Association

JOIN TODAY

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Christopher Platt, Library Director
RE: FY 27 Draft Library Operating Budget Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the proposed Draft FY 27 Library Operating Budget and recommend approval to the JPA.

DISCUSSION

The proposed draft budget reflects planned growth in personnel costs and contracted expenses. There are no personnel changes being proposed with this budget cycle. The Library's capital outlay and computer equipment budget line items have been reassigned to maintenance accounts per the City of Finance instructions on purchases being made with these funds. The Library is also creating 2 new activities—Collections Management and Library Information Technology—to better track expenditures in these areas of library operations.

The Library seeks to fund one-time investments totaling \$880,704. These one-time expenditures include:

- Books and Materials Increase: \$433,747
- Consultant for Operational Model & Social Worker Consultant: \$95,000
- New Downtown Facility Security System: \$175,000
- Financial (ERP) System Costs to Finish Migration: \$126,957
- Print Management Software: \$50,000

With the new JPA MOE Agreement in place that increases member contributions, the FY 27 proposed draft budget represents a 6.1% increase over the adopted budget from FY 26.

Inclusive of the above \$880,704 and a further \$1,286,589 drawn from the available fund balance to balance the operating budget, the proposed total use of the fund balance for FY 27 is \$2,167,293.

The 20% Reserve is held at \$4,355,505, leaving \$3,683,690 in available fund balance, itself a \$2,167,293 reduction in the same category from the previous year, indicating the strategic trajectory to reduce this amount.

Attachments: FY 27 Draft Library Operating Budget

Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Christopher Platt, Library Director

FY 2027

Santa Cruz Public Libraries Budget



Santa Cruz Public Libraries

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May 7, 2026

Santa Cruz Public Libraries
Joint Powers Authority Board
117 Union Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to present the 2026-2027 proposed budget for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. This proposal reflects the mission, vision and values that fuel the goals outlined in our new strategic plan. Indeed the workplan and KPIs in this proposal are organized in alignment with our mission of Access, Information, Connection and Inclusion, as well as the flourishing team culture necessary to support those goals. With an eye toward maintaining a stable and sustainable foundation of services, programs and collections, our workplan reflects a trajectory that is evolutionary in nature, building on and innovating within work that in many cases has already begun.

Accomplishments

In addition to our new strategic plan, Santa Cruz Public Libraries accomplished numerous initiatives in the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

- We expanded library hours at Aptos, Capitola, Felton and Scotts Valley libraries in February. Expanding hours was the single most popular request from our community needs surveying during the strategic planning process.
- We also expanded Outreach efforts to include bilingual library services at Via Del Paraiso and Schapiro Knolls, two affordable housing communities designed to support farmworker families. Outreach also provides bilingual book collections to three affordable early childhood education centers operated by Community Bridges and delivers books and resources to the Beach Flats neighborhood using Gonzo the Book bike.
- We continued planning and preparation for the new Downtown Santa Cruz Library, the final of the major Measure S facilities projects and supported the Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries in their capital campaign for the project.
- The new generator has been installed at the headquarters building shared with the City of Santa Cruz' Water Department. This allows us to relocate the remainder of central server hardware from the current Downtown Library into Headquarters. This also allows us initiate the remaining generator move from Downtown to Boulder Creek Library, giving that facility a power backup system for the first time.
- The local Friends of Capitola Library raised funds to install rooftop solar with battery backup on that location including a public information kiosk inside the branch that shows real time energy usage.
- A team of local volunteers have been systematically reviewing and scanning materials from historic files at the Downtown Library into an online database, helping uncover previously forgotten treasures while making them accessible to users online.

- Our flagship Summer Reading Program in 2025 reached 4,105 participants, up 9% from the previous year.
- We finalized an MOU with the County’s Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience to allow for the Boulder Creek, Felton, Scotts Valley and Aptos facilities to be opened as resiliency centers during extreme weather or other related situations.
- We updated protocols and training to increase the sense of safety for our staff, particularly in the Downtown Library. In the first few calendar months of 2026, the number of incidents and suspensions systemwide are down over 50% compared to the same period in 2025.
- We launched a website migration project that has allowed us to migrate our program calendar and allow for remote booking of library meeting and study rooms.
- We hired 7 new library staff.

For the next fiscal year, we look forward to investing time and resources to launch the new strategic projects under the goals listed in the Workplan portion of this document. For some of the projects, such as program and collections evaluations or outreach expansion, the groundwork has already begun. Because we strive to provide a diversity of services and programs, it is important that we are mindful to align our work with community needs and invest in what we can best accomplish as a library or what we can accomplish in partnership with other organizations. Some of these projects have already begun including:

- Continued migration of the website to launch the new public facing app and website design.
- Upgrading our Wi-Fi infrastructure to better accommodate increased internet traffic.
- Install solar and power backup to our Felton Library.
- Design the program for the new Teen Center at the upcoming Downtown Library.
- Establish sustained relationships with Spanish speaking community members and partner organizations to deepen Library engagement and better shape services.
- Build on work begun with our Life Literacies Center to deepen engagement with constituents who need assistance navigating and connecting with social safety net resources, including finding resources and creating a plan for partnering with a social service agency to provide onsite social worker services.
- Reviewing our organizational structure to best position ourselves to be successful in achieving our strategic goals over the next three years.
- Implement a systemwide print management solution to better manage our printing and copy service and cost recovery.
- Assess outfitting space at the Live Oak Library to house select historical collection materials from the current Downtown Library.

To help launch the above, we are proposing the use of fund balance resources to pay one-time costs associated with the following:

- \$433,747 to bolster the books and materials fund to 10% of revenue
- \$175,000 for new Downtown Library Security System
- \$95,000 for consultants to assist with the organizational model and library social worker model
- \$50,000 to implement a systemwide print management system.
- \$126,957 as SCPL’s portion of the City of Santa Cruz’s updated HR and Finance software implementation.

We are proposing using an additional \$1,296,589 from the fund balance to cover operational costs, which continues the downward trajectory of using fund balance to close that gap.

In addition to my staff colleagues in SCPL, I am grateful to the LJPA Board, the Library Advisory Commission, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and our partner programming organizations for the support and continued opportunity to serve as Director of Libraries for this dynamic, beloved library system.

Respectfully,

Christopher Platt
Director of Libraries



Mission – Vision – Values

Mission

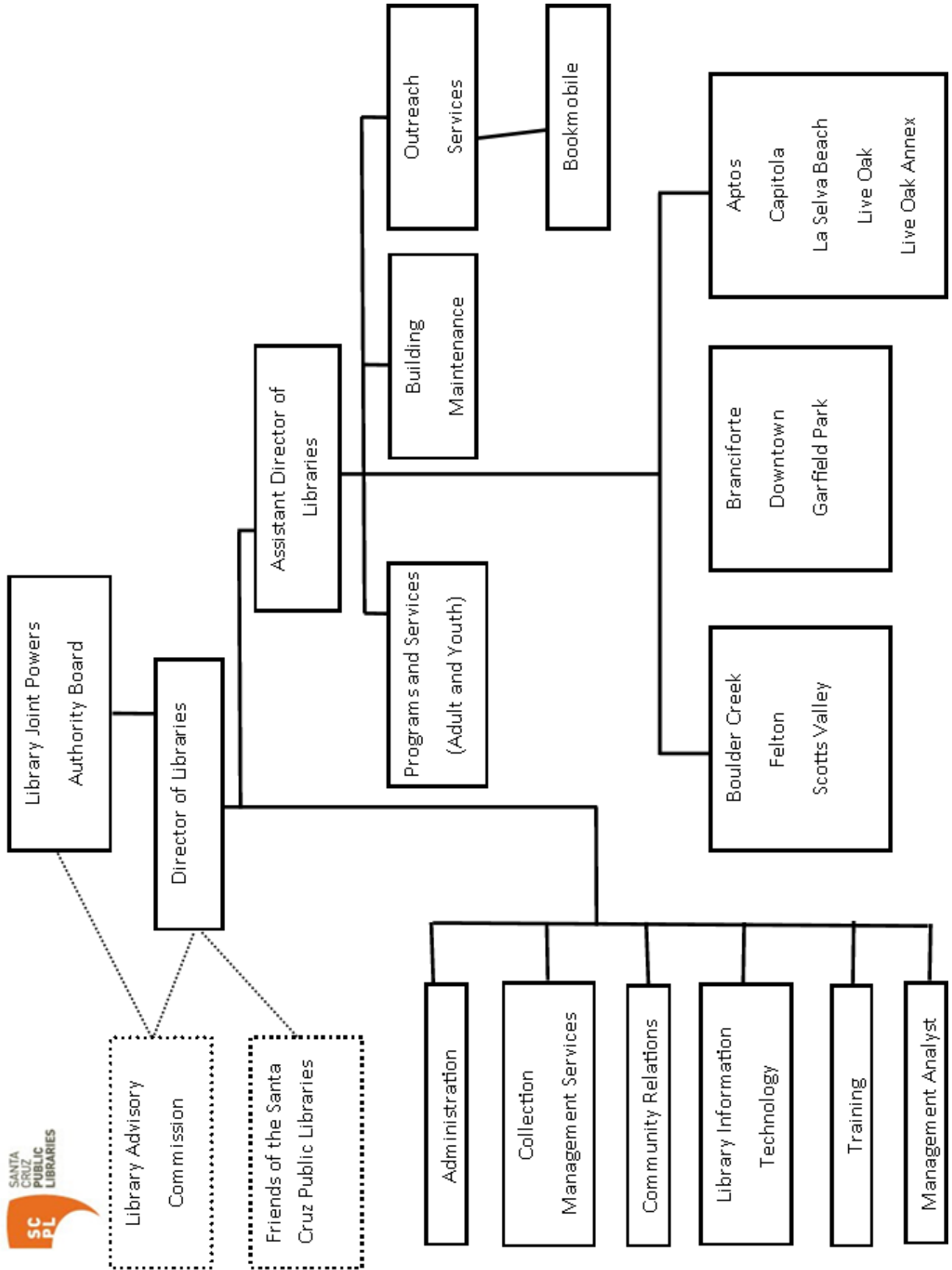
Access, Information, Connection, Inclusion

Our Vision

Transforming lives and strengthening communities

Values

Lifelong Learning
Intellectual Freedom
Public Good



Library Overview

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries provide resources and services to residents and visitors through a network of ten neighborhood branches, including Live Oak Branch's associated space, the Annex, a bookmobile, jail services and an online digital library. Branch locations include Aptos, Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Capitola, Downtown Santa Cruz, Felton, Garfield Park, La Selva Beach, Live Oak, and Scotts Valley. The Downtown Santa Cruz branch maintains the genealogical and Santa Cruz local history collections.



Core Services

Life Long Learning

Provide inclusive programs, services, and collections that nurture literacy and the love of learning.

Digital Inclusion

Ensure that all residents have access to the training, devices, and internet to participate fully in community life.

Community Connections

Connect residents to educational, economic, and health opportunities to strengthen relationships, promote civic engagement, and foster community well-being.

Transformative Spaces

Provide inclusive and inspirational spaces to support multipurpose learning zones, resiliency, and emergency response.

Organizational Capacity

Develop highly skilled staff to ensure excellent customer service and fiscal sustainability.

FY 27 Workplan & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

ACCESS

Improve and foster a welcoming environment at the Downtown Library. KPIs include:

- Downtown Library visits
- Downtown Library Social Worker Proposal Developed
- All staff trained in customer service, de-escalation, and trauma-informed care
- Decrease in Library incidents
- Patron and staff feedback

INFORMATION

Develop a robust and sustainable digital library. KPIs include:

- Digital circulation and patron holds ratios that serve patrons needs while remaining financially sustainable.
- An articulated strategy for the entire suite of digital materials, both circulating and reference.
- Resources for frontline staff to engage with the digital collections in work with patrons.

Evaluate physical collections for alignment and optimization. KPIs include:

- Physical circulation and patron holds ratios that serve patrons needs while remaining financially sustainable.

CONNECTION

Program priorities & alignment. KPIs include:

- Number of programs per librarian.
- Number and diversity of new programs for strategically important constituencies
- Participant feedback
- Reference service model review and implementation
- Create “propose a program” form on website

Program evaluation process. KPIs include:

- Define and articulate criteria for program outcomes
- Diversity of programs
- Program attendance and participant survey feedback

Partner collaboration enhancement. KPIs include:

- Number of active partnerships
- Partner program attendance and survey feedback
- Programs support strategically important constituencies

Future Downtown Teen Center plan. KPIs include:

- Articulated Teen program plan for the new Downtown Library to be implemented on opening

Newsletters tailored to individual interests. KPIs include:

- Newsletter open rate
- Email subscriptions
- Correlating program attendance

INCLUSION

Spanish first outreach service expansion. KPIs include:

- Update site service schedule
- New registrations/account updates at outreach sites
- Circulation of Spanish and Bilingual items at outreach sites
- Feedback from patrons, staff and partner organizations

Spanish speakers programming engagement. KPIs include:

- Spanish speaker program attendance
- Feedback from patrons, staff and partner organizations
- Enhanced or expanded program partnerships with relevant partner organizations

Spanish readers collection engagement. KPIs include:

- Spanish or bilingual materials circulation

Institutional engagement with Spanish speakers. KPIs include:

- Create Spanish speakers cultural advisory group to help inform programs, services and collections.
- Participate in relevant community engagement events

Life Literacies Center partnership expansion. KPIs include:

- Hire librarian to coordinate Life Literacies Center
- Increased number of participating partner organizations
- Increased number of hours of partner availability
- Coordination with vulnerable patrons' social worker
- Coordination of unhoused patron advisory group

Unhoused patron advisory group. KPIs include:

- Establishment of period focus group of unhoused individuals and/or related partner organizations to inform library programs and services.
- Attendance rate at related programs and services such as Life Literacies Center offerings.
- Feedback from participants and staff.

Vulnerable patrons' library-based social worker. KPIs include:

- Solicit recommendation from library social worker expert to outline need, feasibility and structure for re-implementing a library social worker based at the Downtown Library.
- Vulnerable patrons are better served, staff supported, and incidents mitigated.

TEAM CULTURE

Stronger communications = better outcomes. KPIs include:

- Staff communication and engagement satisfaction scores
- Implementation of training resources suite focusing on effective communication.
- Related training offerings from partner organizations.

Organizational assessment & refinement. KPIs include:

- Organizational consultant analysis for refinements to organizational structure to better achieve strategic goals
- Staff communication and engagement satisfaction scores



Governance, Funding, and Budget Overview

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) system is one of two library systems in Santa Cruz County. SCPL serves its region independently although it shares revenue sources with the Watsonville Public Library.

Governance

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries operate under a Joint Powers Agreement among the County of Santa Cruz and the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley.

Members of the Joint Powers Board are the County Administrative Officer from the County of Santa Cruz, the City Manager from the City of Capitola, the City Manager from the City of Santa Cruz, and the City Manager from the City of Scotts Valley.

The original Joint Powers Agreement was forged in 1996. In January 2026, all four jurisdictions approved the Fifth Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement which is the governing document for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. This agreement is set to expire June 30, 2032.

Library Advisory Commission

The Library Advisory Commission is intended to be a voice of the community to provide advice and feedback to the Governing Board and the Director of Libraries. The Commission reviews programs and services and makes necessary recommendations as they pertain to the provision of these programs and services.

The Commission consists of the following Commissioners who are registered voters:

- Three (3) residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz County appointed by serving at the pleasure of the County Board of Supervisors, with one each from Supervisorial Districts 1, 2 and 5.
- Two (2) Santa Cruz city residents appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Santa Cruz City Council.
- One (1) Capitola resident appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Capitola City Council.
- One (1) Scotts Valley resident appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Scotts Valley City Council.

Funding

Both the Santa Cruz Public Libraries system and the Watsonville Public Library are supported by City and County property and sales taxes and private donations. There are three sources of local public revenues:

- Measure R, a quarter cent permanent sales tax approved in 2008 designated for public library service is collected throughout the County. The Library Financing Authority divides these revenues between the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Watsonville Public Library, based on a

population formula which gives Watsonville credit for serving people who live in the unincorporated area close to that city.

- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) contributions from the County Library Fund which includes Capitola and Scotts Valley based on the MOE agreement approved in June 2022. The County Board of Supervisors is responsible for allocating any excess property taxes in the fund for the exclusive use on library improvements or services at County Library Fund Branches.
- The Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville contribute money from their general funds based on the (MOE) agreement.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries has a modest income from bequests, fine revenue, donations from the public and the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

Budget

The Budget process begins no later than March 31st of each year with the Board providing service and budgetary priorities leading to the development of the Director of Libraries' proposed operating and capital budget. A Public Hearing on the proposed budget shall be held no later than May 31st with copies of the budget made available 10 days prior to the public hearing. To adopt a budget, unanimous approval by the Board is required (Fifth Amendment to the JPA; Section 8).

Budget in Brief

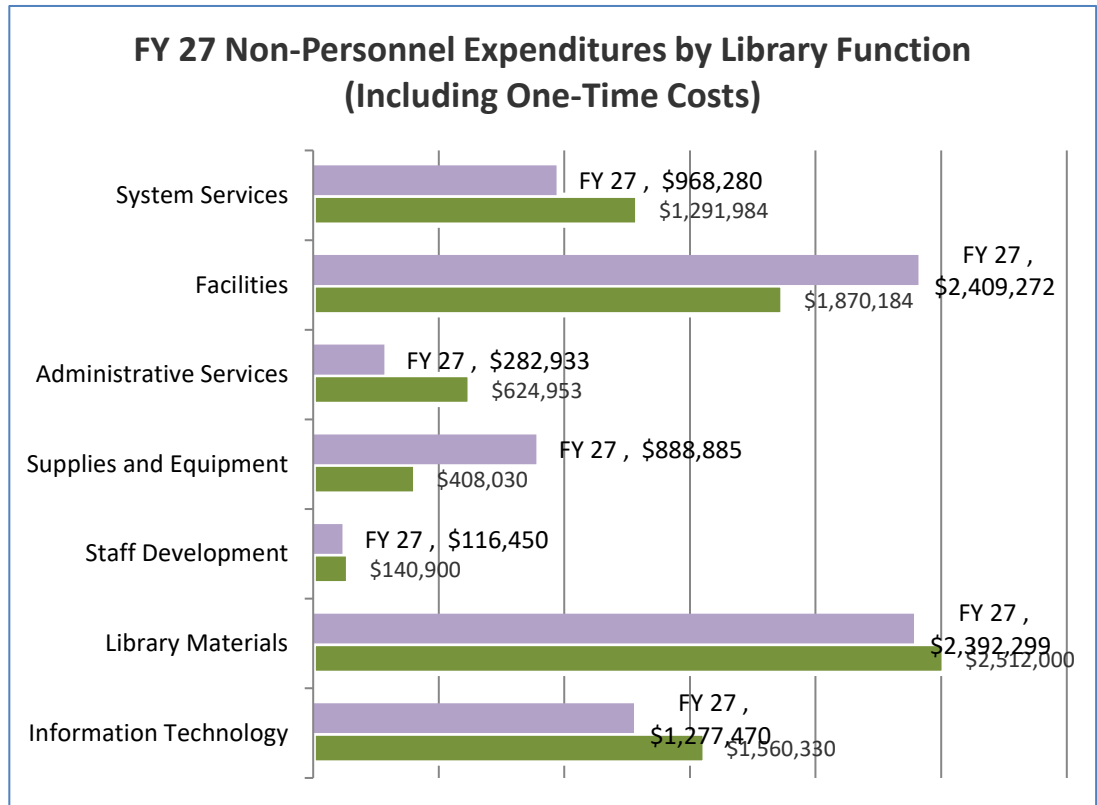
The FY 27 Library Operating Budget outlines the projected income and expenditures for the upcoming year. The Library’s primary goal is to ensure that the library remains a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable resource for the community, offering services that promote literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment.

This budget reflects the Library’s commitment to maintaining core library operations, expanding digital resources, supporting staff development, and improving outreach initiatives. Funding is sourced through a combination of sales tax and maintenance of effort support. Strategic decisions have been made to align with the Library’s mission while addressing both current needs and future opportunities.

The projected revenue for the upcoming year is estimated to increase by 6.1% compared to last year.

The revenues reflect the slight growth in sales tax collected along with increased revenues from a revised MOE Agreement.

Library non-personnel expenditures have increased by .2% compared to last year. These increases reflect increased costs to utilities and annual increases to library contracts already in place.



Personnel costs have grown by 5.3% which captures annual merit increases, increased medical costs, and ratified MOU agreements.

SCPL’s proposed FY27 Library Operating Budget is presented as a balanced budget, made possible through the strategic use of \$2,167,293 from the uncommitted fund balance. Of this amount, \$880,704 will be used to cover one-time expenses, while \$1,286,589 will support library operating costs. This allocation ensures the library can maintain essential services and initiatives while achieving a balanced budget for the fiscal year.

	2025		2026		2026		2027		Growth/Loss From Adjusted
	Actual	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Year End Estimate	Proposed Budget				
Expenditures by Activity:									
Personnel Services	\$ 13,785,147	\$ 15,020,714	\$ 15,020,714	\$ 14,680,940	\$ 15,810,609	\$ 789,895	5.3%		
Services, Supplies & Other Charges	\$ 3,778,035	\$ 4,785,669	\$ 4,885,041	\$ 5,411,336	\$ 5,537,503	\$ 652,462	13.4%		
Books & Materials	\$ 1,429,313	\$ 1,730,013	\$ 2,374,100	\$ 2,374,100	\$ 1,823,712		-23.2%		
Capital Outlay	\$ 345,812	\$ 498,000	\$ 856,400	\$ 856,400	\$ -				
Intra-entity fund transfer out	\$ 54,999	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333				
<i>Subtotal Supplies and Services</i>	\$ 5,608,159	\$ 7,037,015	\$ 8,138,874	\$ 8,665,169	\$ 7,384,548				
Total Expenditures	\$ 19,393,306	\$ 22,057,729	\$ 23,159,588	\$ 23,346,109	\$ 23,195,157	\$ 35,569	0.2%		
Activity Resources:									
Taxes	\$ 10,564,180	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,736,685		1.9%		
Member Contributions	\$ 8,937,842	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 10,741,391		11.3%		
State/Federal/Local Grants	\$ 28,602	\$ 5,500	\$ 13,330	\$ 13,330	\$ 4,435				
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 38,221	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 12,000				
Donations & Trusts	\$ 59,779	\$ 141,844	\$ 141,844	\$ 149,244	\$ 126,790				
Other Financing Sources	\$ 667,373	\$ 288,819	\$ 292,300	\$ 300,885	\$ 287,267				
Total Resources	\$ 20,295,997	\$ 20,641,847	\$ 20,653,158	\$ 20,689,643	\$ 21,908,568	\$ 1,255,410	6.1%		
Sub Total Operational Savings or (Cos)	\$ 902,691	\$ (1,415,882)	\$ (2,506,430)	\$ (2,656,466)	\$ (1,286,589)				
<i>One Time Costs:</i>									
Books and Materials Increase	\$ -	\$ 394,087	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 433,747				
Digital Resources	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Consultant for Organizational Model & Social Worker Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,000				
Consultant for Archival Collection	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
New Downtown Security System	\$ -	\$ 604,073	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000				
New ERP System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 126,957				
Print Management Software	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000				
Wireless Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
<i>Subtotal One Time Costs</i>	\$ -	\$ (1,448,160)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (880,704)				
<i>Fund Balance Applied to Operations & One Time Costs</i>	\$ -	\$ 2,864,042	\$ 2,506,430	\$ 2,656,466	\$ 2,167,293				
Total	\$ 902,691	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Committed Fund Balance (20% Reserve)	\$ 3,977,403	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,105,414	\$ 4,355,469				
Uncommitted Fund Balance	\$ 8,507,449	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,850,983	\$ 3,683,690				
Equipment Reserve	\$ 867,447	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 890,780	\$ 914,113				
Total Fund Balance	\$ 12,484,852	\$ -	\$ 10,847,177	\$ 8,953,272					
Trust Balances									
McCaskill-Local History						\$ 230,000			
Morley	Claeys \$ 18,350					\$ 15,600			
Richardson	Finkeldey \$ 9,230					\$ 337,700			
Utter	Leet-Corday \$ 105,500					\$ 278,250			

Personnel Authorization

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27 Proposed
Accounting Assistant I	1.50	1.00		
Accounting Assistant II		1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Assistant II	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90
Assistant Director of Libraries	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Bookmobile Library Assistant II	2.80	3.30	2.50	2.50
Building Maintenance Worker II	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Community Relations Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Director of Libraries	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Facilities Maintenance Supervisor			1.00	1.00
Information Tech Specialist I	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Information Tech Specialist III	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Librarian I/II	22.00	23.00	25.00	26.00
Librarian III	4.00	5.00	4.00	4.00
Library Assistant II	44.625	44.625	47.625	47.625
Library Assistant III	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Library Assistant IV	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Library Information Specialist	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00
Library IT Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Library Specialist	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Network & Systems Administrator	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Principal Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Programmer Analyst II	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Service Field Crew Leader	1.00	1.00		
Systems Coordinator	1.00			
FTE Total	112.825	115.825	117.025	117.025

FTE reported higher this year due to recruitments being conducted before position savings could be reported.

Library Revenue

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries system is supported by City and County property and sales taxes and private donations. There are three sources of local public revenues:

- The Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville contribute money from their general funds.
- Property taxes allocated for library services are collected by the County in the unincorporated areas and the Cities of Capitola and Scotts Valley.
- A quarter cent sales tax designated for public library service is collected throughout the County.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries has a modest income from bequests, fine revenue, donations from the public and the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Inc.

Budget Development Revenue Balances

Title	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Ado Budget	FY 2026 Adj Budget	FY 2026 Year End Estimate	2027 Proposed
Sales and use tax	\$ 10,564,180	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,540,417	\$ 10,736,685
Maintenance of effort contributions	\$ 8,937,842	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 9,653,267	\$ 10,741,391
State operating grants and contributions	\$ 28,602	\$ 5,500	\$ 13,330	\$ 13,330	\$ 4,435
Library fines	\$ 38,221	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 12,000
Donations - library	\$ -	\$ 13,100	\$ 13,100	\$ 20,500	\$ 13,100
Donations - library - Friends of the Lib	\$ 59,779	\$ 112,423	\$ 112,423	\$ 112,423	\$ 101,500
From Library Private Trust Fund	\$ (4,147)	\$ 16,321	\$ 16,321	\$ 16,321	\$ 12,190
Other federal revenues	\$ 93,066	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Room rentals-library JPA	\$ -	\$ 4,640	\$ 4,640	\$ -	\$ -
Pooled cash and investment interest	\$ 426,028	\$ 125,000	\$ 128,481	\$ 128,481	\$ 125,000
Interest earnings - other	\$ 68,804	\$ 64,679	\$ 64,679	\$ 64,679	\$ 65,767
Miscellaneous operating revenue	\$ 3,263	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,500
Recovery of prior year expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,225	\$ -
From Carbon Reduction Fund	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Libraries parcel tax	\$ 73,359	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 20,295,997	\$ 20,641,847	\$ 20,653,158	\$ 20,689,643	\$ 21,908,568

Library Operating Expenditures

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries system operates 10 branches, 1 annex, 1 bookmobile, and 1 headquarters facility. The library system does not own any of the facilities but leases from the governing board jurisdictions for use as public libraries. The Library operating budget supports the day to day operations of running a public library from these spaces.

As a public library, apart from personnel costs, Santa Cruz Public Libraries largest expenditure is books and materials. Books and materials represent both the physical and digital collections the library offers to its patrons. The breakdown of how these monies are spent is roughly 55% for the physical collection and 45% for the digital collection. The digital collection includes not only audio books but access to databases and other digital platforms that provide audio visual content.

The proposed FY 27 non-personnel operating expenditures are 13.4% higher than last year.

Line item increases greater than \$10K:

- **Building O& M**

The former capital outlay budget line item was moved to building O & M to align more closely to the expenditures being applied to costs associated with repairs and maintenance to library facilities. This line also represents the onetime costs for the new Downtown Library Security System.

Increased Line Item: \$539,625

- **Software Maintenance**

SCPL's ILS 5-year contract price increased costs from the previous contract. The Library also plans to implement print service software to help the staff manage patron print jobs at all 10 branches.

Increased Line Item: \$111,650

- **Vehicle Lease-Outside**

The Library will be retiring a few vehicles this year and their replacements will be leased vehicles offered through the City's negotiated vehicle lease contract.

Increased Line Item: \$77,000

- **Electricity**

SCPL is estimating increased electricity costs to run the 10 branches, 1 annex, and 1 headquarter facility. This estimate includes the increased open hours approved earlier this year.

Increased Line Item: \$32,680

Budget Development Expenditure Balances

Title	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Ado Budget	FY 2026 Adj Budget	FY 2026 Year End Estimate	FY 2027 Dept Request
Claims management services - outside	\$ 8,473	\$ 8,950	\$ 8,950	\$ 8,950	\$ 8,950
Financial services - outside	\$ 586,652	\$ 613,875	\$ 658,367	\$ 1,217,948	\$ 814,650
Medical services	\$ 198	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 348	\$ -
Security patrols - City Hall	\$ -	\$ 173,475	\$ 173,475	\$ 173,475	\$ 173,475
Merchant bank fees	\$ 458	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ 650
Courier services	\$ 1,719	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Other professional & technical services	\$ 175,095	\$ 265,000	\$ 311,909	\$ 311,909	\$ 167,250
Water, sewer and refuse	\$ 110,512	\$ 134,460	\$ 134,460	\$ 134,460	\$ 134,460
Hazardous materials disposal	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Janitorial services	\$ 496,394	\$ 540,180	\$ 540,180	\$ 540,180	\$ 550,180
Equip annual inventory charge - internal	\$ 5,605	\$ 5,670	\$ 5,670	\$ 3,780	\$ 7,010
Vehicle work order charges - internal	\$ 16,129	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 15,685
Vehicle fuel island charges - internal	\$ 21,193	\$ 25,366	\$ 25,366	\$ 18,916	\$ 23,935
Vehicle pool car charges - internal	\$ 438	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Office equipment operation/maint	\$ 1,676	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Vehicle maintenance costs - outside	\$ 1,411	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Other equipment operation/maintenance	\$ 38,520	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 19,118	\$ 20,400
Building and facility o & m - outside	\$ 339,304	\$ 222,971	\$ 246,785	\$ 252,600	\$ 587,596
Landscaping maintenance services	\$ 45,921	\$ 77,850	\$ 77,850	\$ 77,850	\$ 77,850
Software maintenance services	\$ 440,559	\$ 600,531	\$ 547,070	\$ 547,070	\$ 608,720
Hardware maintenance services	\$ 4,460	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Equipment, building and land rentals	\$ 240,978	\$ 282,248	\$ 240,484	\$ 282,248	\$ 235,553
Vehicle lease - outside	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,000
Equipment lease-outside	\$ 25,892	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
Travel and meetings	\$ 2,736	\$ 5,450	\$ 5,450	\$ 5,400	\$ 9,500
Training	\$ 50,193	\$ 135,450	\$ 135,450	\$ 135,450	\$ 106,950
Telecommunications service - outside	\$ 159,097	\$ 348,260	\$ 391,403	\$ 391,403	\$ 336,500
Liability insurance/surety bonds-interna	\$ -	\$ 43,170	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Liability insurance/surety bonds-outside	\$ 120,435	\$ 123,000	\$ 123,000	\$ 43,170	\$ 123,000
Advertising	\$ 11,023	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200	\$ 40,000
Dues and memberships	\$ 37,165	\$ 42,050	\$ 42,050	\$ 42,050	\$ 42,300
Printing and binding-outside	\$ 12,645	\$ 33,100	\$ 33,100	\$ 33,100	\$ 33,200
Postage charges	\$ 10,542	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500
Office supplies	\$ 14,690	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,400
Safety clothing and equipment	\$ 7,289	\$ 20,950	\$ 20,950	\$ 20,950	\$ 26,900
Copier supplies	\$ 9,942	\$ 8,530	\$ 8,530	\$ 12,730	\$ 14,000
Library functional supplies	\$ 119,251	\$ 135,900	\$ 135,900	\$ 135,900	\$ 132,840
Janitorial supplies	\$ 38,532	\$ 50,500	\$ 50,500	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,000
Software licenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,461	\$ 53,461	\$ 53,461
Electricity	\$ 344,803	\$ 398,200	\$ 393,075	\$ 399,075	\$ 430,755
Natural gas	\$ 44,439	\$ 40,750	\$ 42,875	\$ 38,075	\$ 44,353
Office furniture/equipment - non capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000
Computer equipment - non capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000
Miscellaneous supplies and services	\$ 223,532	\$ 255,750	\$ 265,750	\$ 268,740	\$ 288,430
Capital outlay expensed (periods 13/14)	\$ 944	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans and grants	\$ 8,467	\$ -	\$ 42,280	\$ 42,280	\$ -
Refunded fees and fines	\$ 725	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Subtotal: Services, Supplies and Other Charges	\$ 3,778,036	\$ 4,785,669	\$ 4,885,041	\$ 5,411,336	\$ 5,537,503
Books and periodicals	\$ 1,411,250	\$ 1,712,525	\$ 2,356,450	\$ 2,356,450	\$ 1,805,277
Books and periodicals-grants & donations	\$ 18,062	\$ 17,650	\$ 17,650	\$ 17,650	\$ 18,435
Subtotal: Books and Materials	\$ 1,429,312	\$ 1,730,175	\$ 2,374,100	\$ 2,374,100	\$ 1,823,712
Office furniture/equipment	\$ 9,942	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -
Vehicle equipment	\$ 1,104	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer equipment	\$ 83,557	\$ 180,000	\$ 380,000	\$ 380,000	\$ -
Other capital outlay	\$ 251,209	\$ 300,000	\$ 458,400	\$ 458,400	\$ -
Subtotal: Capital Outlay	\$ 345,811	\$ 498,000	\$ 856,400	\$ 856,400	\$ -
Intra-entity fund transfer out	\$ 54,999	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333
Subtotal: Supplies and Services	\$ 5,608,158	\$ 7,037,177	\$ 8,138,874	\$ 8,665,169	\$ 7,384,548
Books and Materials Increase	\$ -	\$ 394,087	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 433,747
Consultant for Organization Model & Social Worker Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,000
Digital Resources	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
N Downtown Security System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000
New ERP System	\$ -	\$ 604,073	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 126,957
Print Management Software	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Wireless Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal: One Time Costs	\$ -	\$ 1,448,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 880,704
Total	\$ 5,608,158	\$ P648,485,337	\$ 8,138,874	\$ 8,665,169	\$ 8,265,252

Library Personnel Expenditures

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries staff 10 branches, 1 bookmobile, 1 annex and 1 headquarters facility where system operations are housed. The library system is open in some capacity 7 days a week. The Library also offers programming after hours and off site.

Benefited Personnel

Full time and part time budgetary salary projection assumptions include the following:

- COLAs from ratified MOUs are incorporated
- Updated PERS rates
- Vacant positions are budgeted at an employee-only for health plans
- Medical costs have a 5.5% increase embedded

Temporary Personnel

Temporary staff are used throughout the library system in a number of key ways. They help continue branch operations when regular staff are out due to either illness, other work commitments that take them away from the branch, or personal planned absences. Temporary personnel are also needed in the capacity of an aide who helps organize and re-shelve books and materials. Temporary personnel also help to provide programs at the Library which support targeted audiences such as Spanish story time and tutoring programs. These personnel costs are recovered through financial assistance from the Friends of the Library.

The FY 27 temporary budget includes services for the following operations and programs in the library:

- \$402,533 for Library Aide hours at the branches.
- \$81,411 for Library Aide hours for system functions including outreach.
- \$124,907 for On-Call staff. These are the staff who are called when internal help cannot be found.
- \$40,500 for Spanish Storytime/Homework Help/R.E.A.D. programs

FY 27 Proposed Personnel Changes

No personnel changes are being requested.

Budget Development Personnel Balances

Title	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Ado Budget	FY 2026 Adj Budget	FY 2026 Year End Estimate	FY 2027 Dept Request
Regular full time	\$ 7,472,040	\$ 8,142,535	\$ 8,142,535	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 8,814,494
Regular part time	\$ 1,217,785	\$ 1,842,565	\$ 1,842,565	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,756,858
Overtime	\$ 2,625	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Termination pay	\$ 38,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,030	\$ 40,000
Temporary	\$ 603,037	\$ 622,966	\$ 622,966	\$ 622,966	\$ 649,351
Other pay	\$ 4,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,189	\$ -
Special vacation pay	\$ 16,807	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,958	\$ -
Special sick leave pay	\$ 808	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123	\$ -
Vehicle-phone-data allowance	\$ 1,253	\$ 3,828	\$ 3,828	\$ 3,828	\$ 1,284
Vacancy adjustment	\$ -	\$ (907,372)	\$ (907,372)	\$ -	\$ (952,604)
Retirement contribution	\$ 608,419	\$ 631,820	\$ 631,820	\$ 620,000	\$ 748,345
F.I.C.A.	\$ 29,492	\$ 56,566	\$ 56,566	\$ 35,000	\$ 64,937
PERS unfunded liability	\$ 1,707,564	\$ 1,727,883	\$ 1,727,883	\$ 1,610,000	\$ 1,601,592
PERS prepay adjustment	\$ (314,143)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PERS retirement adjustment	\$ (40,246)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Group health insurance	\$ 1,796,479	\$ 2,164,224	\$ 2,164,224	\$ 2,050,000	\$ 2,462,634
Group dental insurance	\$ 95,179	\$ 98,799	\$ 98,799	\$ 98,799	\$ 102,197
Vision insurance	\$ 16,256	\$ 17,035	\$ 17,035	\$ 17,035	\$ 18,208
Medicare insurance	\$ 134,027	\$ 136,820	\$ 136,820	\$ 136,820	\$ 151,968
Employee assistance program	\$ 4,456	\$ 4,773	\$ 4,773	\$ 4,773	\$ 4,980
Group life insurance	\$ 2,033	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,290
Disability insurance	\$ 55,736	\$ 91,546	\$ 91,546	\$ 91,546	\$ 94,376
SDI	\$ 100,311	\$ 109,647	\$ 109,647	\$ 80,000	\$ 82,644
Unemployment insurance	\$ 88,818	\$ 91,207	\$ 91,207	\$ 90,000	\$ -
Workers' compensation	\$ 144,331	\$ 178,745	\$ 178,745	\$ 178,745	\$ 162,059
Total	\$ 13,785,147	\$ 15,020,714	\$ 15,020,714	\$ 14,680,940	\$ 15,810,613

Appendix A: Authorized Personnel by Individual Position No.

Position Title	Position No.	Union	Library FTE
Accounting Assistant II	102-018	SEIU	1.000
Administrative Assistant II	106-007	SEIU	0.900
Administrative Assistant II	106-008	SEIU	1.000
Administrative Assistant II	106-009	SEIU	1.000
Assistant Director of Libraries	830-001	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Bookmobile Library Assistant II	284-002	SEIU	1.000
Bookmobile Library Assistant II	284-004	SEIU	1.000
Bookmobile Library Assistant II	284-006	SEIU	0.500
Building Maintenance Worker II	118-007	SEIU	1.000
Building Maintenance Worker II	118-011	SEIU	1.000
Community Relations Specialist	757-006	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Director of Libraries	808-001	Executive	1.000
Facilities Maintenance Supervisor	350-002	Supervisor	1.000
Information Tech Specialist I/II	145-009	SEIU	1.000
Information Tech Specialist III	232-004	SEIU	1.000
Information Tech Specialist III	232-005	SEIU	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-001	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-002	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-003	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-004	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-005	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-006	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-007	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-008	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-009	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-010	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-011	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II-Tel Info Supervisor	750-012	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-013	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-015	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-017	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-021	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-026	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-028	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-029	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-030	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-031	Mid Mgmt	1.000

Position Title	Position No.	Union	Library FTE
Librarian I/II	750-032	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-033	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-034	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-035	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II-Adult Librarian	750-036	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian III	831-001	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian III	831-003	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian III-CMS Manager	831-004	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian III-Outreach Manager	831-005	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-002	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-003	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-004	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-005	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-006	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-007	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-009	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-010	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-011	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-012	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-013	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-014	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-015	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-016	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-017	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-018	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-019	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-020	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-021	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-022	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-023	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-024	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-026	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-041	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-042	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-043	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-046	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-047	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-055	SEIU	0.500

Position Title	Position No.	Union	Library FTE
Library Assistant II	283-056	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-063	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-064	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-065	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-069	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-072	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-073	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-074	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-075	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-076	SEIU	0.625
Library Assistant II	283-077	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-082	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-084	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-085	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-086	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-087	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-088	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-089	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-090	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-091	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-078	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II	283-079	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-081	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-xxx	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-xxx	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant II	283-xxx	SEIU	0.750
Library Assistant II	283-xxx	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II (Tel Info)	283-050	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant II (Tel Info)	283-083	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant III	363-001	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-002	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-003	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-004	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-005	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-007	Supervisor	1.000

Position Title	Position No.	Union	Library FTE
Library Assistant III	363-008	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-009	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-010	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-011	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-012	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-013	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant IV	364-001	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant IV	364-003	Supervisor	1.000
Library Information Specialist	285-003	SEIU	1.000
Library Information Specialist	285-004	SEIU	1.000
Library IT Manager	832-003	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Library Specialist /Volunteer Coordinator	740-004	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Library Specialist/Training Coordinator	740-002	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Management Analyst	702-011	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Network & Systems Administrator	726-012	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Network & Systems Administrator	726-013	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Principal Management Analyst	729-018	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Service Field Crew Leader	330-011	Supervisor	
			117.025

Appendix B: Trust Fund Details

CAROLYN VIRGINIA CLAEYS CHARITY TRUST

Donor: Carolyn Virginia Claeys died in 2017 leaving the Library a bequest.

Terms: The Carolyn Virginia Claeys charity does not have any restrictions on its use.

Balance of Trust: \$18,350

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 962.

FINKELDEY TRUST

Donor: Stella A. H. Finkeldey, a teacher and principal in the Santa Cruz City School System, left her estate to the Santa Cruz Public Library in 1949.

Terms: "...the net income there from, plus the annual sum of \$100.00 from the principal, [shall] be used and expended solely for the purchase of musical literature for and to be kept in the music department of the Santa Cruz Public Library."

Balance of Trust: \$9,230

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 962. Complete record is reflected in Library budget. CMS Manager manages the funds.

DOROTHY A. HALE TRUST

Donor: Dorothy A. Hale died in 2011 leaving the Library a bequest.

Terms: The Dorothy A. Hale Trust specifies that the Library use the funds for "the Scotts Valley Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library System".

Balance of Trust: \$35,000

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 937. Facilities Manager, Laura Whaley, manages funds.

LEET-CORDAY TRUST

Donor: Robert Leet-Corday

Terms: The Leet-Corday Trust specifies that the Library use the funds for the Downtown (Central) Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library System for “providing vibrant physical and virtual public spaces”.

Balance of Trust: \$105,500

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 935. Facilities Manager manages funds.

MCCASKILL TRUST – LOCAL HISTORY

Donor: Annie McCaskill, who died in 1981, named the City of Santa Cruz as one of the two residual legatees for her estate. The other was the First Presbyterian Church. Upon the death of her sister, Francis McCaskill, the City’s share of the estate was to be divided into two equal parts: one for local history and the other for providing materials and services to people who are visually impaired. Francis McCaskill died in 1986, and the Library received its distribution during the summer.

Terms: Half the City’s share is to be used “in establishing and maintaining a department in the City of Santa Cruz Public Library System devoted to the preservation of historical documents and objects and promulgation of the local history of the City of Santa Cruz and of the State of California.” No limitations on only spending income.

Balance of Trust: \$230,000

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 931. Asst. Director manages funds.

JAMES MORLEY TRUST

Donor: James Morton Morley died on February 1, 2011, leaving the Library a bequest.

Terms: The James Morton Morley Trust specifies that the Library use the funds for “improvements or enhancements to the La Selva Beach Library Branch or the Aptos Branch if the La Selva Beach Branch has been or is scheduled to close”.

Balance of
Trust: \$15,600

Income: Interest earned is added to principal

Management: Held by the City Finance Department in Fund 936. Facilities Manger manages funds.

RICHARDSON TRUST

Donor: Dr. James B. Richardson died in 1979, leaving the Library a Testamentary Trust for book purchases. His other legatees were the Cornell University Veterinary School and a personal friend.

Terms: The Richardson Will specifies that the Library use the funds “for the purchase of nonfiction books written for the general public, and not to include textbooks, technical or statistical books, or religious or sociological studies.”

Balance of
Trust: \$337,700

Income: Distribution schedule is set for November of each year. No specific date is attached to the distribution. The Trust distributes out 5% of the market value each year and the Santa Cruz Library receives 80% of the amount.

In 1981 the Superior Court ruled that all net income be distributed annually, one-fifth to Cornell (for research on dogs) and four-fifths to the Library.

Management: Held by Comerica Bank. Check is received annually and is appropriated into the Library’s annual budget. Grantor wanted the trust to continue in perpetuity and made the trust irrevocable.

Appendix C: Library Vehicle List

Library FY 27 Vehicle Replacement Schedule							
City #	Department	Description	License Plate	Replacement Cost	Year Acquired	Year of Replacement	Savings Need/Yr to Meet Replacement Date
151	Outreach	Ford Transit Connect	1658355		2022	2032-33	
178	Outreach	Ford Escape Hybrid	1408320		2015	2024-25	
434	Courier	Ford Transit	1520583		2020	2030-31	
527	Bldg Maint	Ford Transit	1408340		2015	2024-25	
528	Bldg Maint	Ford F350 Truck	1654593		2022	2032-33	
529	Bldg Maint	Ford Transit	1520774		2019	2029-30	
531	Outreach	Freightliner	1436091	\$350,000	2016	2030-31	\$23,333
546	LIT	Ford Transit	1496547		2018	2028-29	
	Programs	Pedal Library			2016		
279	Bldg Maint	Trailer	1488912		2016		
							\$23,333
Savings Began in FY 11/12							
**The Library System has chosen to abide by the City's vehicle replacement schedule which is defined as replacing vehicles every 100,000 miles or every 10 years.							
***Beginning FY 26 the Library will lease vehicles with the exception of the Bookmobile since this is a custom vehicle. Monies remaining in this fund will be used for capital needs.							

Appendix D: Fines and Fees Schedule

Description	Current	Proposed FY 27
Overdue Item Fine	\$0	No Change
Lost/Replacement Fine	Varies Based on Item: \$1 processing fee for items that do not have a replacement charge.	No Change
Collection Agency Fee	\$20.00	No Change
Damaged Item Fine	Varies Based on Item	No Change
Flash drive Fee	\$3.00	No Change
Headphone Fee	\$3.00	No Change
Library Card Replacement Fee	\$0	No Charge
Meeting Room Fee	\$0	No Change
Missing Parts Fine	Varies Based on Item	No Change
Photocopying Fee	15¢per page	No change
Test Proctoring Fee	\$40.00	No change
Inter Library Loan	\$0	No Change

Appendix E: History of Open Hours by Branch

Weekly Open Hours					
Beginning Each Fiscal Year	FY 26	FY 25	FY 24	FY 23	FY 22
Aptos	50	46	closed	closed	closed
Boulder Creek	46	46	46	closed	closed
Branciforte	46	46	46	closed	closed
Capitola	50	46	50	47	47
Downtown	50	50	50	46	46
Felton	50	46	46	40	40
Garfield Park	46	46	46	closed	closed
La Selva Beach	38	38	38	31	31
Live Oak	46	46	46	36	36
Scotts Valley	50	46	46	closed	25
Total	472	456	414	200	225

Appendix F: History of Collection Spending

Fiscal Year	Physical Expenditures	Digital Expenditures
FY 26		
FY 25		
FY 24	56.6%	42.8%
FY 23	57.7%	42.3%
FY 22	64.7%	35.3%

Physical = books, DVDs, audio CDs, Playaways, lendable tech, telescopes, magazines

Digital= reference databases, ebooks, eaudiobooks, streaming video, digital magazines