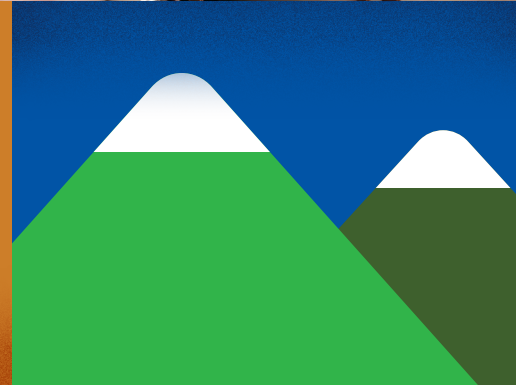


Adventure begins at the library.



Knox County Public Library
2024 Impact Report





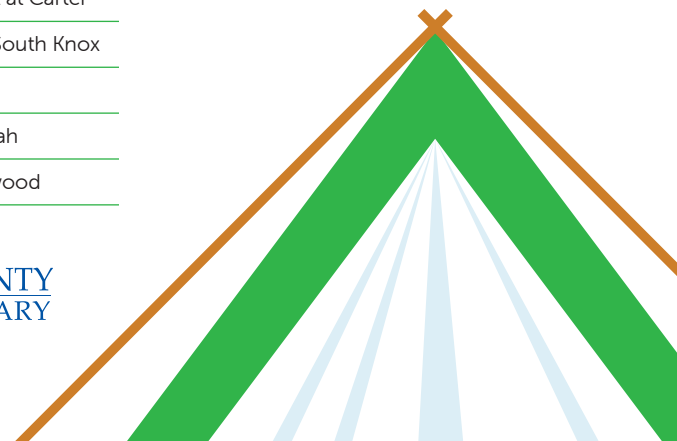
A look at where we've been, and where we're headed.

Our look back reflects that Knox County Public Library is more than a place just for books. **It's a vibrant hub where imagination thrives, knowledge grows, and connections deepen.** Together, we had an exceptional year—exploring new technologies, expanding collections, and enhancing accessibility so everyone can embark on unique adventures. From diverse resources and programs to engaging storytimes and workshops, every initiative reflected our commitment to curiosity, lifelong learning, and community enrichment.

In 2024, our Library served over a million visitors across nineteen locations. Here are a few highlights, left to right:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Making magic happen at Mascot | Kamishibai at Cedar Bluff |
| Dragons love to read at Farragut | Found treasure at Murphy |
| Teens build terrariums at Halls | Building aMUSEment at Corryton |
| Bulldozing at Burlington | Hominy Mamas creating harmony at Howard Pinkston |
| Checking out the sky at Karns | |

- Connecting at the Film Festival (p19)
- Seniors and storytime meet at Carter
- New library card holder at South Knox
- Dragon eggs at Norwood
- Creative crafting at Sequoyah
- Making a discovery at Norwood



INSIDE

TRENDS & MILESTONES..... 4-5

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GENERAL SERVICES..... 12-13

INFORMATION SERVICES 14-15

HISTORY CENTER.....16-19

RESOURCES & PARTNERS...20-23

Unless otherwise noted, estimated, or selected for illustrative purposes, figures in this report reflect the Library fiscal year 2024 (FY2024), July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Everywhere
all at once

The Library proudly serves all of Knox County’s 500,000+ residents, from Corryton to Farragut, with **182,573 cardholders**. In 2024, we welcomed over 80,000 more visitors than the previous year, reflecting our growing community engagement.



1,035,988
LIBRARY VISITORS

Up 9% from 952,259 visitors in FY2023.



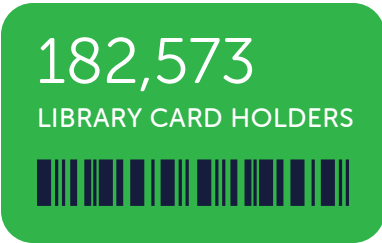
43,265
HOURS OF SERVICE

In a typical week, library locations provide 857 hours of service. In 2024, libraries were open 351 days.



SERVING
500,669
RESIDENTS*

*U.S. Census estimate, 2023



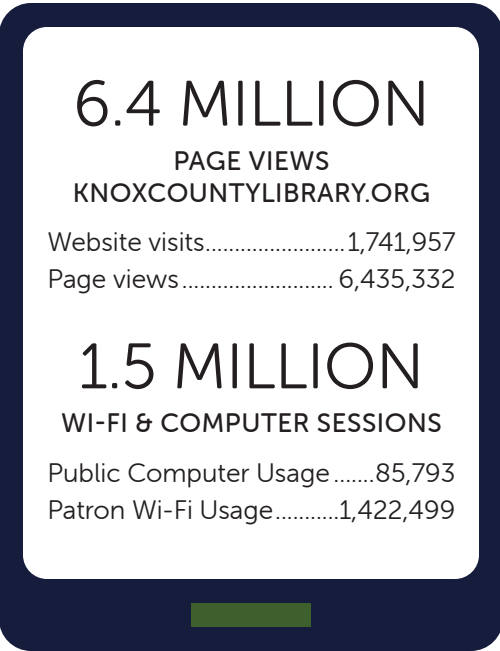
182,573
LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS



2,511
PROGRAMS
ATTENDED
BY 88,612
PATRONS

Milestones in the millions

This year, we celebrate a milestone in our library’s journey, achieving over **3 million total circulations** and surpassing 1 million circulations of electronic materials through Overdrive and its mobile app, Libby.



6.4 MILLION

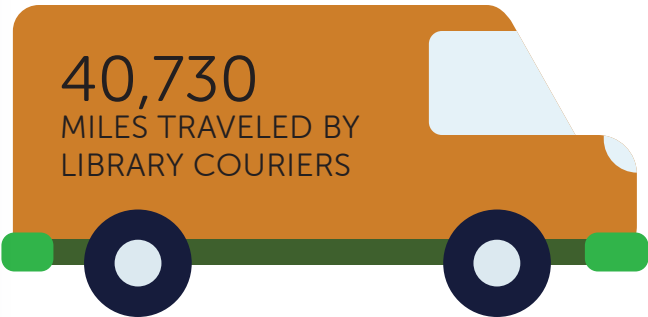
PAGE VIEWS
KNOXCOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG

Website visits.....1,741,957
Page views..... 6,435,332

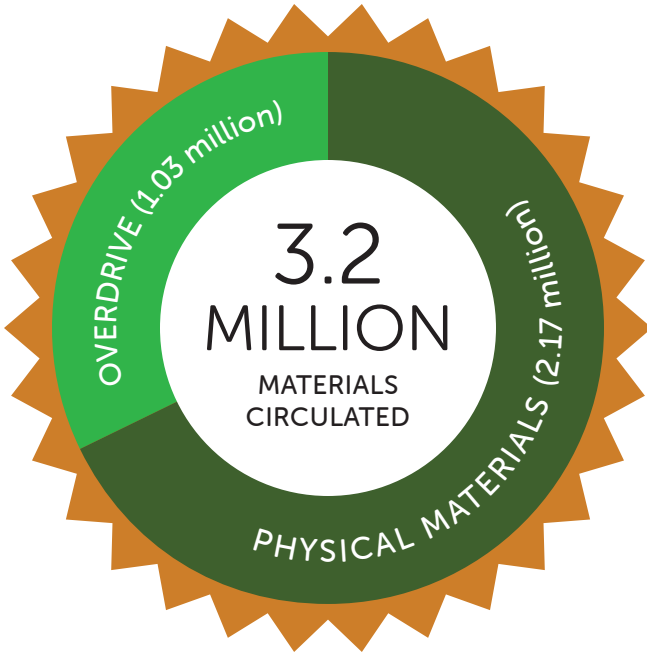
1.5 MILLION

WI-FI & COMPUTER SESSIONS

Public Computer Usage85,793
Patron Wi-Fi Usage.....1,422,499



40,730
MILES TRAVELED BY
LIBRARY COURIERS



3.2
MILLION
MATERIALS
CIRCULATED

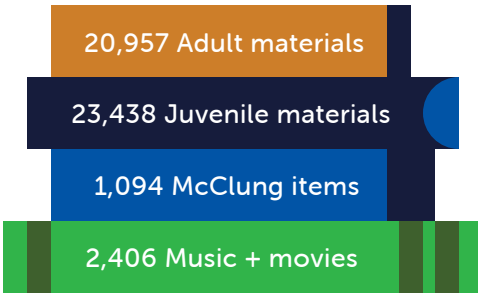
OVERDRIVE (1.03 million)

PHYSICAL MATERIALS (2.17 million)



47,985
items added
to the collection†

† Physical items; excludes emedia



20,957 Adult materials

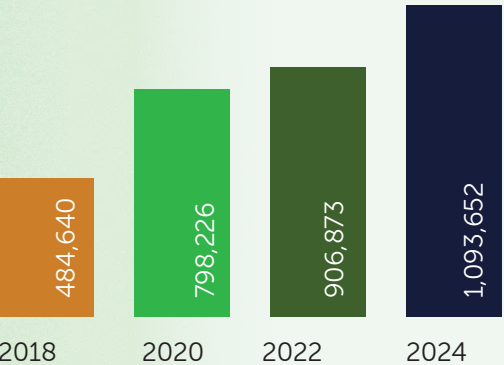
23,438 Juvenile materials

1,094 McClung items

2,406 Music + movies

Growth in emedia

In the past few years patron usage of emedia has surged significantly (more than doubling since 2018), reflecting a growing preference for digital content. **OverDrive** has been a key resource, offering downloadable audiobooks and ebooks, while **Hoopla** has gained popularity for its extensive collection of streaming music, movies, television shows, and comic books. **Flipster** provides easy digital access to magazines. Additionally, patrons have embraced **Music Online** for streaming music and **Kanopy** for quality streaming video, including films and documentaries.



EMEDIA USAGE, FY2024

Downloadable Audiobooks	481,214
Ebooks	551,793
Electronic Magazines.....	6,421
Streaming Music.....	13,313
Streaming Video	40,911
TOTAL	1,093,652

28,140

JUVENILE CARD HOLDERS

ITEMS IN THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

Children's books.....	398,303
Teen books.....	34,346
Children's Audiobooks.....	4,081
Children's DVD + Blu Ray.....	10,170
Children's Music CDs.....	1,190

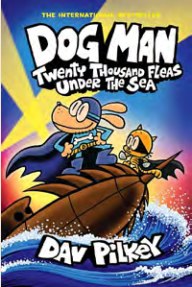
ITEM CIRCULATION, CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

Books + Media.....	1,247,889
Ebooks.....	70,314
Downloadable Audiobooks.....	46,359
Teen Books + Media.....	59,365
Teen Ebooks.....	33,750
Teen Downloadable Audiobooks.....	33,229

MOST CHECKED-OUT TITLES



Juvenile ebook
190 CHECKOUTS



Juvenile Book
252 CHECKOUTS



YOUTH SERVICES

This year, through **storytimes**, **STEM activities**, **workshops**, **family game nights**, and more, we sparked learning, creativity, and a love of reading. One highlight was the long-awaited return of Saturday Stories & Songs in October 2023, featuring storytellers, musicians, and performers at rotating library locations. The Margaret Dickson bequest supports this beloved series, bringing families together through the magic of storytelling and music.

Margaret Dickson was the former head of Children's Services at Knox County Public Library.



Award-winning artists inspire young authors and illustrators

JERRY CRAFT

On September 12, 2023, Knox County Public Library hosted a drawing workshop with award-winning cartoonist **Jerry Craft** at the East Tennessee History Center. Craft, known for his bestselling graphic novels *New Kid* and *Class Act*, taught participants how to create comics and write graphic novels. *New Kid* notably won the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature.

This event was a collaboration with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and the Friends of the Library.



JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA

On September 26, 2024 author and illustrator **Jarrett J. Krosoczka** presented an engaging program showcasing his journey from a doodling child to an award-winning graphic novelist and creator of over forty books for kids. His works include the beloved *Lunch Lady* graphic novels, select volumes of the *Star Wars™: Jedi Academy* series, and the National Book Award Finalist *Hey, Kiddo*. Participants watched him draw, asked questions, and brought their books for autographs.

This successful program was a collaboration with Webb School of Knoxville and made possible through the generous support of Friends of the Library.



Adventure awaits around every corner

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

What could be better than combining reading, movement, and nature? You can do it all on one of five accessible and interactive **Storybook Trails** across Knox County. Working with Knoxville and Knox County Parks and Recs, Legacy Parks, Ijams Nature Center, and the Knox County Health Department, these trails are a year-round favorite for readers of all ages.



EVERYONE'S A MAKER

From our enthusiastic tinkerers and sewers to those who craft and code, our librarians inspire all ages through **hands-on experiences** and access to new technologies, engaging instructors, and high-quality materials. Diverse programming like LEGO Clubs, adult crafts, STEAM workshops, and contests ignite creativity and innovation.



EXPLORING KNOXVILLE

The **Read City Explorer Pass** program promotes community engagement by offering library cardholders free or discounted access to local museums, parks, and cultural sites. This initiative encourages literacy while helping families access educational opportunities in our community.





READ CITY USA

What does it take to become the best-read city in America? A Mayor who cares about literacy, a school system that works hard to improve the approach to teaching reading, and a community that jumps in and joins the challenge. That's Read City USA. We are working together to create a culture of reading across all demographics—through the faith community, businesses, organizations, and families. The goal is not just making sure all children are reading on grade level, but that they develop a true LOVE of reading.

The year-long program features four annual reading challenges that encourage community participation through engaging themes, attainable goals and fun prizes! We kicked off the 2024 challenge with an adventure theme at the Bijou Theatre with help from the **Knoxville Children's Theatre**.

Many thanks for support from the Jane L Pettway Foundation and the Bijou Theatre.



An Adventurous Quest

Our **Summer Library Adventure** feeds a child's natural curiosity through themed events, storytimes and hands-on workshops. The "Quest for Knowledge" challenge was a little different than previous summer campaigns. This year, we changed up the quest with literary missions rather than logging reading time. Missions such as "read by flashlight" or "read out loud to a favorite pet" helped promote reading as a fun activity, and the feedback was positive. What's more important is that summer reading helps prevent learning loss as students risk losing up to 20% of their reading gains over the break.

Participation was EPIC!
We distributed

9,729
GAMEBOARDS

and we saw an 8.65% increase in online registrations. (4,013 Beanstack registrations in 2023 vs. 4,360 Beanstack registrations in 2024.)

Inspiring even the most reluctant readers with missions such as, "act out a scene from a book," we hit big goals!

Together, we completed

110,475
LITERACY MISSIONS



To help remove barriers, we set achievable level up goals. Patrons could complete as few as 5 missions to earn a loot box prize, and dip back in as often as they could.

We were thrilled to award

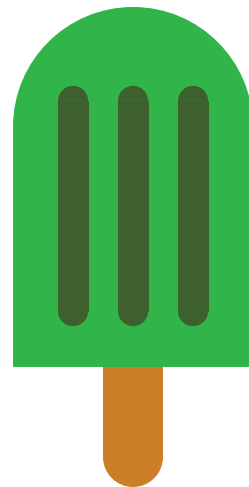
14,564
LOOT BOX PRIZES



Our community partners made an epic investment in summer reading, providing 27 Knox adventures for child and teen finishers that represent a \$396,045 in-kind investment.

We awarded

2,800
FINISHERS



Children's Festival of Reading

Every year, on the third Saturday in May, we **kick off our summer of reading** with a day dedicated to rockstar authors and illustrators, celebrity scientists, crazy crafts, and favorite storybook characters. This year was no exception, and in fact, the day was completely exceptional! We welcomed 11,000 guests for the 18th year of the epic and beloved Festival. One longtime attendee shared, "This year's was the best of the eleven we've attended!"

20
AUTHORS &
ILLUSTRATORS

Authors **Ashlyn Anstee, Alan Gratz, Gale Galligan, Deb Pilutti, Antwan Eady, and Cozbi Cabrera** captivated audiences and connected with young readers one-on-one at the Festival.

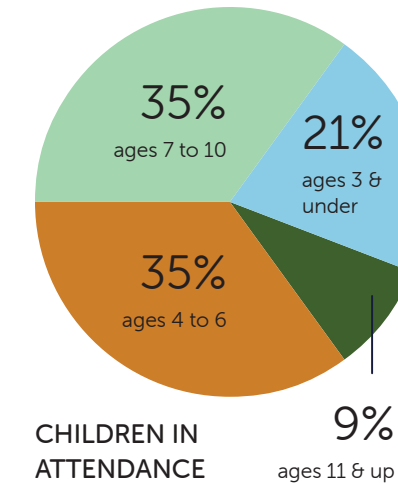
Pictured: Gale Galligan, Antwan Eady, Alan Gratz



3,000+
CRAFTS CREATED

37
PERFORMANCES

70
COMMUNITY GROUPS
& BUSINESSES



CHILDREN IN
ATTENDANCE



Ashlyn Anstee, Gale Galligan, Deb Pilutti

ONE BOOK READ CITY

Imagine a book club with 30,000 members! Once a year in May, all Knox County elementary students read the same title together for the One Book Read City initiative. This year, we welcomed Ashlyn Anstee, author and illustrator of the 2024 selection, *Shelby and Watts: Tidepool Troubles*. She became a celebrity as she visited schools and joined the Festival as one of the featured authors. She was amazed when hundreds of students lined up for hours to get their personal copy of the book signed.



A MAJOR MILESTONE

In May 2024, Knox County Imagination Library celebrated the delivery of our 4 millionth book—a milestone representing countless shared stories and sparked imaginations. As the program grows, it remains dedicated to inspiring young readers, fostering lifelong learning, and equipping every child for success. This achievement is a proud reminder of the power of books and the community's commitment to nurturing the next generation of readers.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County

Once a month, when a parent retrieves an Imagination Library book from the mailbox, all things go on hold. The book must be read. Right then. That is the power of Dolly's program. It's about more than preparing a child with a myriad of preliteracy skills—it's also about **story and imagination** and empathy. But even more critical, perhaps, is the bonding between parents and children when they snuggle in and read together. As the program's administrative host, we are thankful for our board, which helps raise \$250,000 a year to cover the costs of books and mailing.

2024 ADVISORY BOARD

Bonny Naugher <i>Board Chair</i>	Trevor Brown	Lila Honaker	Anabel Lino
Kay Hurst <i>Program Manager</i>	Mary Pom Claiborne	Renee Hauge	Valerie Somerville
	Jessica Doppelt	Dr. Lisa Herron Oros	Paige Travis
	Abby Ham	Beth Lackey	Tom Young



SEEDS OF IMAGINATION LUNCHEON

In September 2024, guests at the 6th Annual Seeds of Imagination Luncheon enjoyed a silent auction, live entertainment, and the presentation of the Literacy Impact Award. Quickly becoming a "must-attend" event, this year's luncheon featured music and storytelling by Kelle Jolly. **Denise Dean**, executive director of East Tennessee Freedom Schools, was honored for her dedication to inspiring young readers and promoting social justice. This year's event raised over \$90,000 net, making it possible to provide **704 children** with books for an entire year.

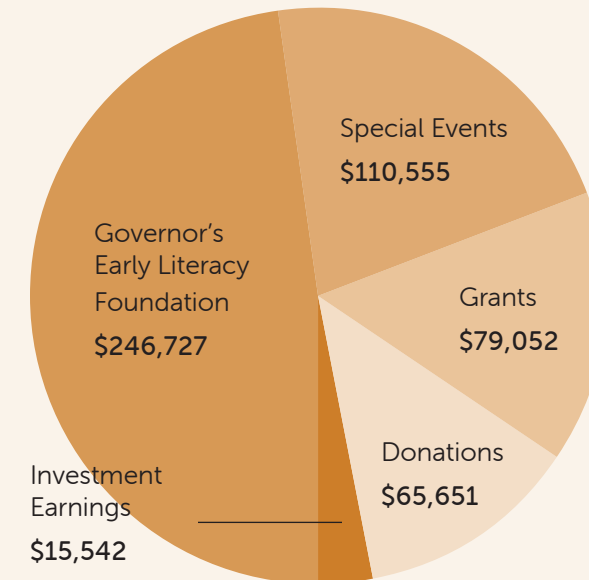


FINANCIAL REPORT

Imagination Library of Knox County thrives thanks to the generous support of our community and dedication of our Board.

REVENUES	\$517,527
Governor's Early Literacy Foundation	\$246,727
Special Events	\$110,555
Grants	\$79,052
Donations	\$65,651
Investment Earnings	\$15,542
EXPENSES	\$512,794
Books	\$493,454
Special Events	\$19,340

FUNDING SOURCES



By the numbers

5,074
new faces

Between July 2023 and June 2024, over 5,000 children were enrolled for the first time in Knox County's Imagination Library program.



74%
enrollment

Our program was one of the first urban areas to offer the program and has one of the highest per capita registrations, ranking with major metropolitan areas like Charlotte, Nashville, and Washington, D.C.



18,935*
children

Highest enrollment in 2024, encompassing 6 age groups (birth to age 5) and drawing from 28 ZIP codes of Knox County.

*Enrollment fluctuates monthly.



ITEMS IN THE GENERAL COLLECTION

Books*	530,744
Audiobooks	17,887
Downloadable Audiobooks*	39,387
Ebooks*	87,564
Video (DVD/Blu Ray)	30,685
CDs	14,886
Vinyl	1,145
TOTAL ITEMS	721,267

*Excludes non-cataloged and McClung Items.
*Includes juvenile audiobooks and ebooks, which are not reported separately.

ITEM CIRCULATION, GENERAL COLLECTION

Books	737,228
Media	130,023
Ebooks	446,600
Downloadable Audiobooks	401,626
TOTAL CIRCULATIONS	1,715,477



The highest circulating physical adult book was *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

425 CIRCULATIONS



The adult ebook with the most checkouts this year was *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry

637 CHECKOUTS



GENERAL SERVICES

This year, we embarked on a journey of exploration and discovery, inviting patrons to step beyond their comfort zones through engaging workshops and immersive cultural experiences. Whether **diving into new literary works or exploring creative pursuits**, our programs sparked curiosity and lifelong learning. As we embrace new technologies and opportunities, we remain committed to fostering a sense of belonging and providing enriching experiences for all.

1,055
MEETING
ROOM
RESERVATIONS

413
ADULT/TEEN
PROGRAMS
HELD

Expanding viewpoints

EXAMINING MEDIA TRENDS

The [Truth and Consequences Symposium](#) in April 2024 explored media integrity in the era of AI, deepfakes, and online influencers. Highlights included a screening of *A Tennessee Waltz: Ray Blanton's Last Dance*, showcasing investigative journalism's role in exposing political scandals. Brittany Tarwater (WVLT anchor and producer), Hal Hardin (former DA), and Tom Humphrey (former investigative journalist) offered expert insights. An additional panel examined AI's influence on political communication and social media's impact on free speech.

Held in collaboration with UT Information Integrity Institute and UT Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs.



BROADENING HORIZONS

In June 2024, renowned National Geographic photographer [Stephen Alvarez](#) captivated a standing-room-only audience with stories and breathtaking images from his global explorations. From the deepest caves to the highest mountains, he shared his most challenging mission yet—preserving ancient art dating back 30,000 years. His latest National Geographic article (May 2024) details his race against time to save humanity's earliest records from destruction.

Photograph copyright Stephen Alvarez



Connecting audiences with compelling stories

LISTEN

The Beat, a podcast produced by the Library, features host [Alan May](#), Reference Librarian and published poet, who introduces a different poet in each episode. The show highlights their readings and has showcased 15 poets in the past year, including Linda Parsons and Todd Davis. With over 2,166 downloads from 37 countries, *The Beat* has garnered a global audience, celebrating diverse voices in poetry.



WATCH

Daytime Docs is a new monthly film series at Lawson McGhee Library, organized by Reference Librarian [Blake Wahlert](#). It features compelling documentaries showcasing diverse narratives often overlooked. Wahlert emphasizes the value of shared viewing experiences, enriching community engagement through films like *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* and *Meet the Patels*.



FEEL

The Memory Lab helps preserve home movies, photos, and audio tapes at risk of deterioration and obsolescence. As Lab tech [Mary Ogle](#) puts it, "We're here to help you save the past for the future." Since its 2019 launch, the Lab has supported over 400 sessions. The service provides equipment and basic assistance, funded by a State of Tennessee grant.





230,553

REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

Reference librarians and other staff fielded over 200,000 inquiries in fiscal year 2024. That's an average of 657 questions a day! (Knox County Public Library was open for 351 days.)

Addressing inquiries in the Reference Department demands keen insight, as our librarians assist with a broad range of topics, including business research, market analysis, science, literature, arts, and culture.



INFORMATION SERVICES

Over the past year, reference librarians have deepened their community engagement. Programs such as On the Road with Ask A Librarian, All Over the Page book club, and Daytime Docs film series have fostered learning and meaningful connections. Participation in local events—including Kid A'Riffic, Adult Aging Resources Fairs, Back to School Bashes, and Career Days—has strengthened our ties with residents, **ensuring access to valuable resources and support.**

Our librarians are available to assist in person or by phone, chat, or email, making it simple for community members to get the information they need.

3,713

PAGES READ
IN BOOK CLUB

855

ONE-ON-ONE
CONNECTIONS
IN OUR
COMMUNITY

Books for the Homebound

If you can't get to us, we'll bring it to you. With the help of some faithful volunteers and the guidance of the program coordinator, we provide personalized book delivery services to people unable to visit the library due to a disability. Librarians select books and materials tailored to each patron's preferences so there's always a good stack of books on the bedside table.



6,685

BOOKS,
AUDIOBOOKS,
MOVIES, & MUSIC CDS
DELIVERED.

Interlibrary Loan

If we don't have it on our shelves, we can most likely find it for you. By connecting with libraries across the country, we are able to expand access to a vast range of books, articles and other resources. Of course, we return the favor. In the past year, we worked with 892 libraries to fill 6,740 borrowing and lending requests. The department has existed for over half a century and currently has on file a database of over 4,000 lending partners in public and private libraries from across the country.

3,410

ITEMS BORROWED
FROM OTHER LIBRARIES

3,330

ITEMS LOANED TO
OTHER LIBRARIES

4,474

LENDING PARTNERS
CULTIVATED

Meeting diverse learning needs

In an era where digital content is vital to our daily lives, the Library is evolving to meet community needs through diverse digital resources. This year, we introduced Gale Presents: Udemy to our interactive educational offerings tailored for personal and professional development, joining O'Reilly for Public Libraries and LinkedIn Learning. With tens of thousands of resources, including videos, courses, and books across various topics, new content is added weekly to cater to different learning goals. One patron successfully used Udemy during their commute, showcasing our commitment to flexible, on-demand learning accessible on any device. These resources are added to an already robust digital learning collection, which sees well over half a million uses.



DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION HIGHLIGHTS* (RETRIEVALS/USES)

Knoxville News Sentinel historical archive on NewsBank	149,517
O'Reilly for Public Libraries	99,294
Ancestry Library Edition	80,068
LinkedIn Learning for Library	16,925

*Partial list, FY2024. Excludes subscriptions provided by Tennessee Electronic Library.

"WE SUPPORT ALL THOSE WITH GOALS TO LEARN AND GROW PERSONALLY AND IN THE WORLD OF WORK—STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS, JOB SEEKERS, MAKERS, AND ANYONE ELSE IN PURSUIT OF A GOAL."

Library Reference Services Manager
Jamie Osborn, pictured far right



CALVIN M. MCCLUNG
HISTORICAL COLLECTION

ITEMS IN THE PHYSICAL COLLECTION

McClung Book	75,244
McClung Children Book.....	262
McClung Government Document ..	104
McClung Manuscript	890
McClung Map	564
McClung Pamphlet	11,462

ITEMS IN THE DIGITAL COLLECTION

DIGITIZED ITEMS	49,287
PAGE VIEWS	424,733

KNOX COUNTY ARCHIVES

Serving as the repository for non-current, permanent records, the Archives dates back to 1792 and houses 230 years of historical records. Researchers can explore marriage and divorce records, as well as land, tax, and court documents, all of which remain remarkably intact and accessible to the public (excluding juvenile records and those restricted by law).

Knowledgeable archivists are available to assist researchers. They can help retrieve records and offer insights into Knox County's history and genealogical research.



EAST TENNESSEE
HISTORY CENTER

Genealogical records, maps and deeds, old home movies—the History Center has it all. We are fortunate to have **one of the region's finest collections of historical materials** preserved in an iconic building. Our programming partner, the East Tennessee Historical Society, operates the world-class Museum of East Tennessee History.



Carl and Pearl Butler Exhibition

In October 2023, the museum unveiled *They Sang What They Lived: The Story of Carl and Pearl Butler*, the first retrospective honoring the iconic country duo. Celebrating their four-decade impact on the genre, the exhibition highlighted their heartfelt lyrics, signature “Knoxville sound,” and their 1962 No. 1 hit, “Don’t Let Me Cross Over.”

Key features included the Allen “Junior” Butler Family Collection, showcasing rare photos, home movies, instruments, and stage costumes. A feature film captured their authentic style, while personal stories from family and musicians— including Dolly Parton, who considered them second parents—offered intimate insights. The exhibit also explored Knoxville and Nashville’s roles in country music and the phenomenon of overlooked artists despite their success.

Guest Curator Bradley Reeves, author of *Honky Tonkitis: On the Road with Carl Butler and Pearl*.



History Hootenanny

Telling our area’s story is a real hoot. Every August, we gather our partners around to showcase our history— this time with a look toward our creative side of movie and music making.

This free open house featured live music, children’s activities, and a used local history book sale. Guests enjoyed walking tours, shuttles to Historic House Museums, and genealogy workshops.

Highlights included special screenings from the Clarence Brown Film Festival, performances by the Lawnmower Bluegrass Band, and self-guided tours of the Tennessee Theatre. Children engaged in creative activities like stop motion film-making and puppet shows, making it a memorable event for all ages.

The History Hootenanny was a collaboration between East Tennessee Historical Society, East Tennessee History Center, Tennessee Theatre, and Friends of the Library.





WALTHER BARTH FILM COLLECTION

One of the most fascinating collections at TAMIS, this unique amateur film depicts Germany and the United States between the 1920s and the 1960s. Barth was a skilled amateur filmmaker, and his German films (1928-1931) capture the hustle and bustle of cosmopolitan continental life as well as early evidence of Nazi influences on German society. Barth immigrated to the United States in 1931 and later retired to Knoxville. His American films capture the 1936 Chicago World's Fair, the Great Smoky Mountains, and vignettes of family life.

TAMIS staff have worked to preserve this 11-hour collection since 2007, culminating in a comprehensive project funded by the National Film Preservation Foundation and Friends of the Knox County Public Library.



6,832
FRAMES OF FILM
ANIMATED BY
PARTICIPANTS
(PICTURED)

Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound

The Library's historic audiovisual department was founded in 2005 to preserve East Tennessee's cultural heritage. Its unique collection **offers rare glimpses into the past** through film, video, audio, photographs, and documents. The moving image archive, dating to 1915, holds thousands of reels, including ads, documentaries, home movies, and newsreels from East Tennessee and the Southern Appalachians. The audio collection spans the 1920s to today, featuring artists like Chet Atkins and Dolly Parton, as well as rare reel-to-reel tapes, acetate discs, vintage radio programs, and oral histories.

Pictured, top: TAMIS engages new audiences and helps them understand film technology by creating their own illustrations directly on film, which are then animated by TAMIS! Scan the code to watch it in action.



2,000
DIGITIZED
HOURS OF
MOVING IMAGE

110
YEARS OF
MOVING IMAGE
HISTORY

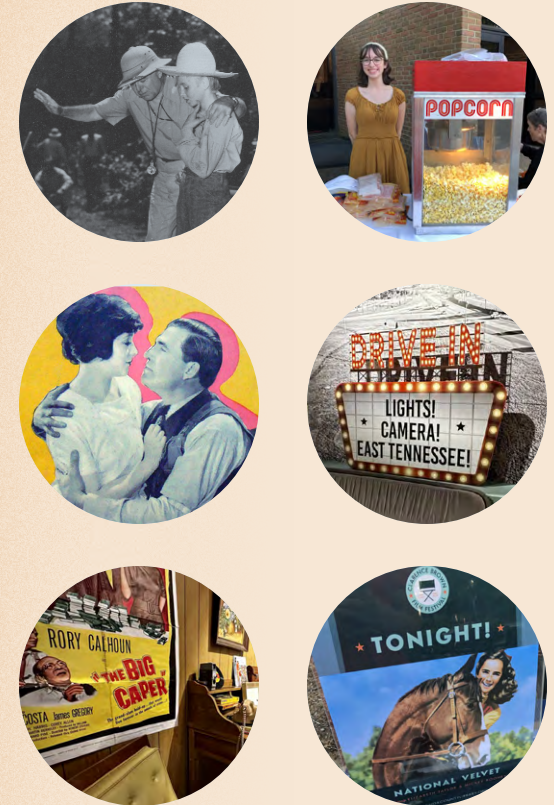
East Tennessee and the Magic of Movies

The story of Hollywood wouldn't be the same without East Tennessee. From world-class actors and directors to locations and plotlines, the people and places of this area contributed significantly to the magic of the movies. In 2023, we put the spotlight on the silver screen with an interactive exhibition and a multi-day film festival.

One man stands out for his legacy. The Clarence Brown Film Festival (August 15-20) celebrated the prominent director of the silent and classic Hollywood eras with screenings, discussions, and tours. A rare showing of *The Signal Tower* (1924), accompanied live by Roger Miller of the Anvil Orchestra was a high point. Raised in North Knoxville and a graduate of UT, Brown worked with the greats of Golden Hollywood and is still well known today for *National Velvet* and *The Yearling*, both shown at the Festival. Brown's mark on movie making cannot be underestimated. He remained devoted to the area and endowed the Clarence Brown Theatre at UT.

The event was made possible through the generous support of partner organizations, including the Clarence Brown Theatre, University of Tennessee Libraries, UT Cinema Studies, Knoxville History Project, Tennessee Theatre, Stowers Machinery, Visit Knoxville Film Office, Friends of the Library, The Jay Family Foundation, and Humanities Tennessee.

Pictured, below: Author and film studies professor Gwenda Young of University College Cork, Ireland provides the keynote address at UT's Lindsay Young Auditorium.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, EAST TENNESSEE! EXHIBITION

This exhibition took us on a journey through the first days of moving images as seen through new-fangled devices available in stores on Gay Street to early movie houses and locations for some classic and not so classic films made in these hills. We remembered stars like Polly Bergen, Patricia O'Neil, Dolly Parton, David Keith, Dale Dickey and others, who made it big.

Top row: Brown mentors Claude Jarman, Jr. on the set of The Yearling. Jarman was a guest speaker at the Festival; On the plaza at the namesake Clarence Brown Theatre

2nd row: Signal Tower still photo; exhibition

3rd row: Exhibition; festivalgoers enjoyed an outdoor screening of National Velvet.

Invaluable resource

Every day, our incredibly dedicated Library staff **shows up for our community**. They offer a warm, welcoming place to learn and reflect. They curate, preserve, and provide access to important collections. They facilitate programs, workshops, and meetings. They assist with research and job searches. They teach, guide, share, create, deliver, investigate, recommend—they serve every Knox County resident and cardholder.

205

LIBRARY EMPLOYEES



It's almost beyond words,
how much I love being a librarian.

One never knows what is going on in a stranger's life, and sometimes just giving them the information they need...can be life-changing for both parties. I love seeing the kids light up for stories and crafts at special programs and when they get their first library cards. I love seeing teenagers and young adults excited that we have the books they are looking for. I love seeing my team take pride in the work they do.

—Branch Manager Joy (right), with Catherine and patrons



I like working for the library not because I'm surrounded by books, but because I'm surrounded by what's **in** those books: Information, entertainment, knowledge. Sharing that entertainment with patrons, helping them find that information, is the best part of my day. Like Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, our motto is "Run and find out." If you're lucky enough to do that with people you like and admire, life is pretty good.

—Branch Manager Libby

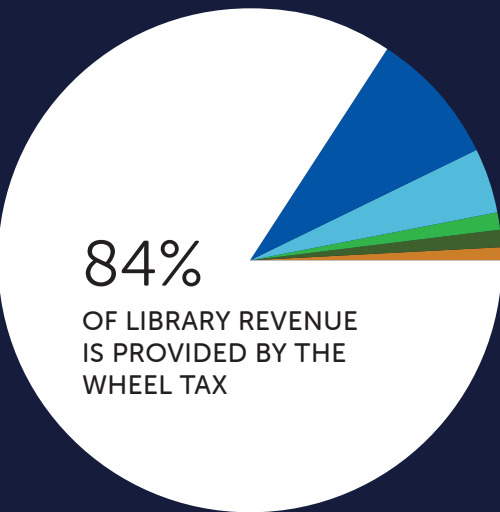


I love when someone asks a really interesting reference question and it's like a mystery for me to solve. I enjoy seeing people get excited about the free resources available through our library!

—Reference librarian Danielle (right), with Books for the Homebound Coordinator Anna Leah

Financial report

Knox County Public Library's operating budget is approximately 2% of Knox County Government's annual operating budget. (Fiscal year 2023 reported.)



REVENUES	\$15,365,296
Wheel Tax.....	\$12,981,811
Other Financing Sources.....	\$1,300,000
State of TN & Federal Govt.	\$642,235
Charges for Current Services	\$179,112
Other Local Revenues.....	\$156,434
Other Groups.....	\$105,704

EXPENSES	\$14,898,963
Personnel Services.....	\$7,989,878
Supplies and Materials.....	\$2,378,587
Employee Benefits.....	\$2,289,347
Contracted Services.....	\$1,163,249
Other Charges.....	\$917,456
Capital Outlay.....	\$160,446

Partnerships

FRIENDS OF THE KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

For over 50 years, Friends of the Library has tirelessly supported library services. They generously volunteer their time to enhance the Library and the community. These partners enable a variety of programs, including author visits, summer reading challenges, holiday events, and Imagination Library. In FY2023 their book sales raised nearly \$98,000.

PRESIDENT: CINDY GIBSON
COORDINATOR: SHERYL HULSE



GOVERNOR'S EARLY LITERACY FOUNDATION

In 2004, former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen founded the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (formerly Governor's Books from Birth) as a public-private partnership to promote reading among preschoolers by expanding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library statewide. GELF has evolved into an early literacy leader, supporting children beyond age five to foster lifelong learning in Tennessee.

PRESIDENT: JAMES POND

KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Founded to augment the Library's major capital needs, the Foundation has long supported children's programming through its Margaret Dickson Fund. It also manages Imagination Library funds.

CHAIR: JEFF JOHNSON

KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

The Library Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the County Mayor. Nine citizens across Knox County represent each Commission district.

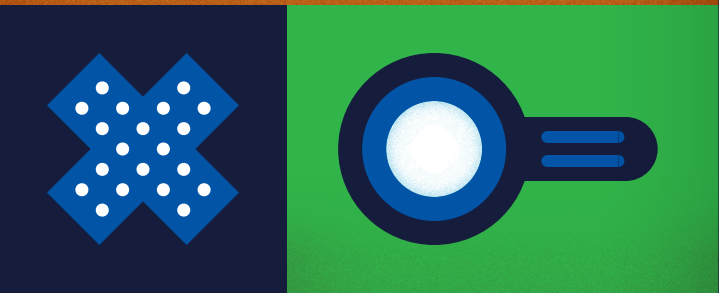
PRESIDENT: ANDREW FLORES



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The East Tennessee History Center houses one of the region's finest collections of historic materials for local history and genealogical research. While the History Center is maintained by Knox County Public Library, the Historical Society is a critical partner in its operation. The world-class Museum of East Tennessee History, operated by the Society, is the public face of the Center. The Society hosts genealogical classes and workshops, lunchtime lectures, and feature exhibitions.

PRESIDENT: WARREN DOCKTER, PH.D.



Major donors



KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 2023–October 2024

\$65,000+

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

\$40,000+

NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

\$10,000+

JANE L. PETTWAY FOUNDATION

LEGACY PARKS FOUNDATION

MARGARET DICKSON BEQUEST

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

THOMPSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

\$5,000+

COMCAST

FIRST CENTURY BANK

HUMANITIES TENNESSEE

ORNL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WANDA & JOHN SOBIESKI

STOWERS MACHINERY CORPORATION

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES

\$2,500+

DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE ALLIANCE

EAST TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL URGENT CARE

EAST TENNESSEE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

MCCARTY HOLSAPLE MCCARTY

NORA ROBERTS FOUNDATION

PILOT COMPANY

TVA

UNITED WAY OF GREATER KNOXVILLE

VISIT KNOXVILLE

GARY R. WADE

\$1,000+

D. MORTON ROSE, JR.

DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION

GOVERNOR'S EARLY LITERACY FOUNDATION

MEMBERS OF KNOXVILLE CITY COUNCIL

SAM'S CLUB #6572

SAM'S CLUB #8256

\$500+

BYWATER COMMUNITY GIVEBACK

WALMART #1318

WALMART #1319

WALMART #3959

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

January–December 2024

\$200,000+

GOVERNOR'S EARLY LITERACY FOUNDATION

\$50,000+

UNITED WAY OF GREATER KNOXVILLE

\$20,000+

DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION

\$10,000+

BOYD FOUNDATION

SUPREME EMBLEM CLUB OF THE UNITED STATES

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

\$5,000+

STEVE & ANN BAILEY

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

CLAYTON HOMES

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

HASLAM FAMILY FOUNDATION

HOME FEDERAL BANK

LANTRY FAMILY FOUNDATION

PILOT COMPANY

SOUTHEASTERN DERMATOLOGY

STOWERS MACHINERY CORPORATION

\$2,500+

THOMAS & LINDSEY BOYD

FOOD CITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

KATOM RESTAURANT SUPPLY

PADDISON FOUNDATION

REGAL FOUNDATION

\$1,000+

AXLE LOGISTICS

WHITFIELD & BRITTANY BAILEY

BRIA BOUKOVALAS

MARTY BROWN

BUCKEYE CORRUGATED, INC.

RYAN CHESNEY

COVENANT HEALTH

DOLLYWOOD COMPANY

DOMINION DEVELOPMENT

PEGGY & JERRY FAERBER

ALI FRALEY

WILL HAMMOND

HARPER AUTO

MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

KNOXVILLE PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES

PERSHING, YOAKLEY & ASSOCIATES (PYA)

PIGEONFORGE.COM

RATHER & KITTRELL CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

RICH & JANE RAY

ANN STAUP

TARA STURDIVANT

KYRI AND DOOLEY TOMBRAS

THE TRUST COMPANY

TVA

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES

YEEHAW BREWING LLC

WALLACE REAL ESTATE

ZACH WALTON



A message from Mayor Glenn Jacobs

I am a proud Knox County Public Library cardholder. As one of our community's greatest assets, our library does an excellent job of serving our residents with critical resources for lifelong learning. It is particularly inspiring to me that ours is the longest, continuously operating public library in the state. Since 1886, Knox County Public Library has served as a cornerstone of education and enrichment, offering books, technology, and programs that inspire curiosity and foster connections. Whether it's helping a child discover the joy of reading, assisting job seekers with career resources, or preserving our region's rich history, the Library plays a vital role in empowering residents of all ages.

Beyond books, our Library is a hub for innovation and engagement. From early literacy programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Read City to cultural events, historical archives, and digital resources, it ensures that everyone has access to the tools they need to succeed. As we look to the future, I encourage all Knox County residents to take full advantage of this incredible institution. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more informed, and connected community.

Knox County Public Library is a department of Knox County Government, under Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. www.knoxcountylibrary.org

