



KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CURIOSITY LEADS THE WAY

2025 IMPACT REPORT



"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."

—Albert Einstein

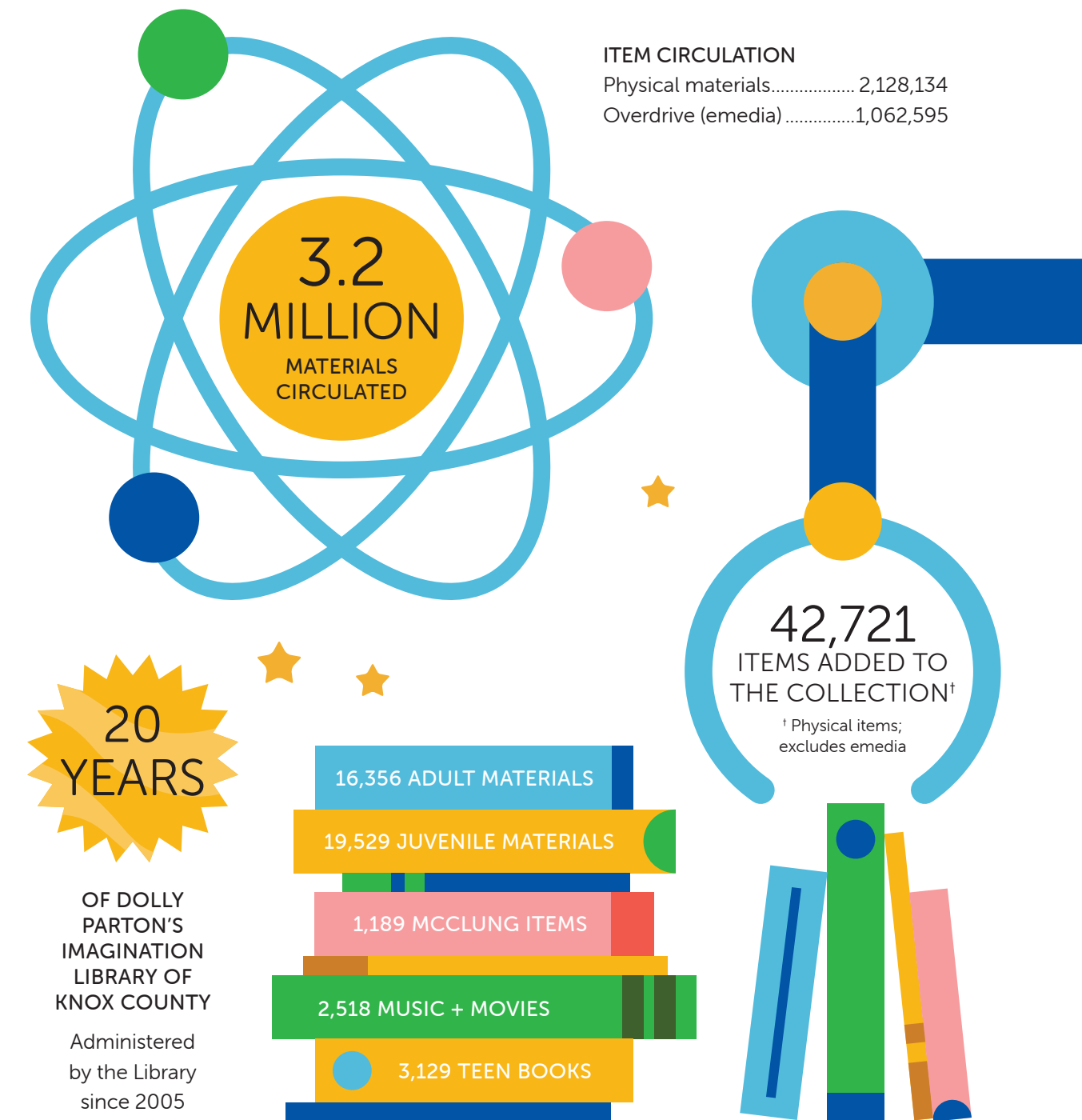
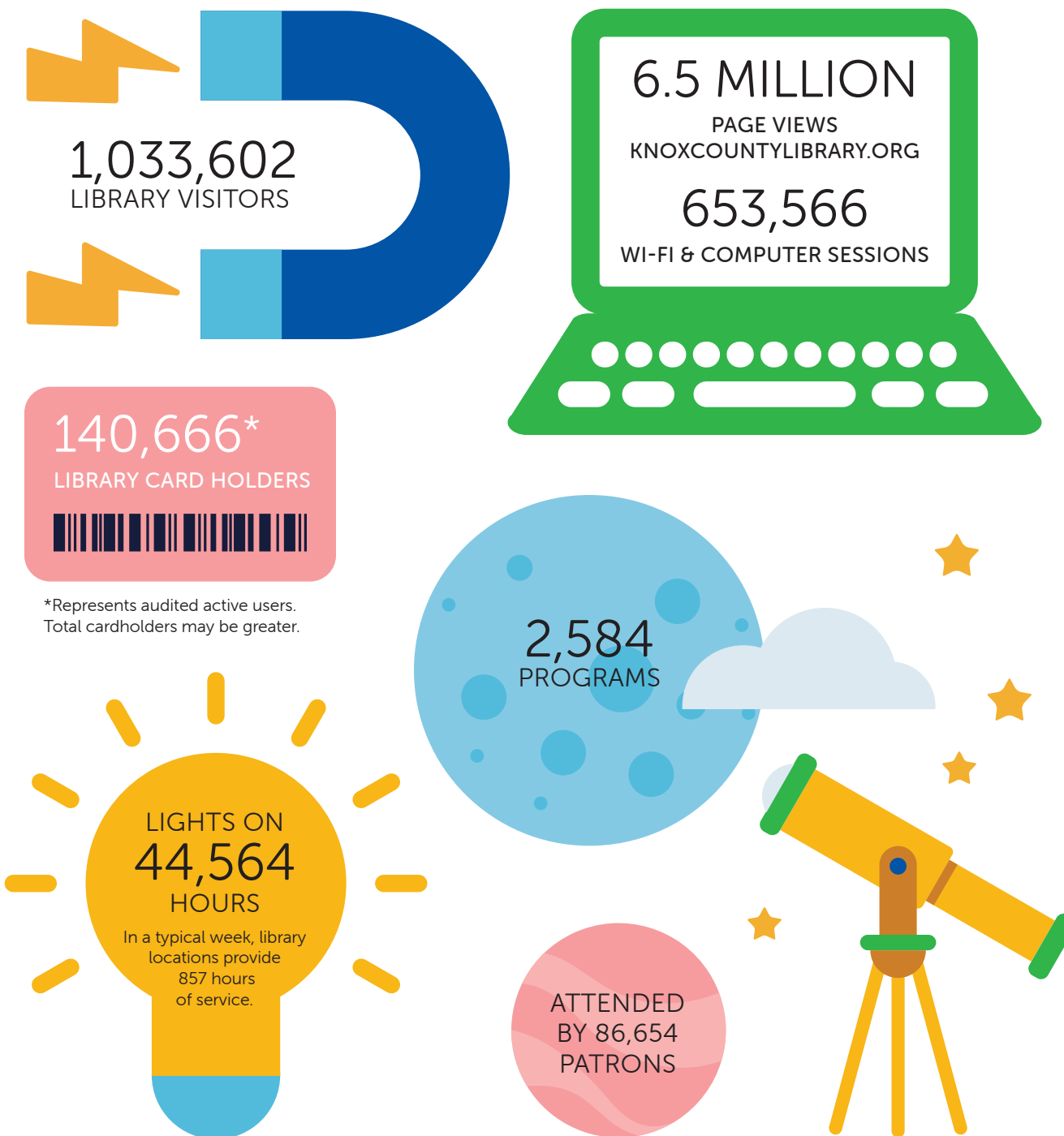
The words of Einstein—and of many brilliant scientists, thinkers, and innovators—guided us throughout the year as we embraced the theme, "Curious Minds." Together, we explored new ideas, uncovered pieces of our local history, and built skills that open doors to discovery. Join us as we look back on a year that celebrated the power of wondering, questioning, investigating, and trying!



INSIDE

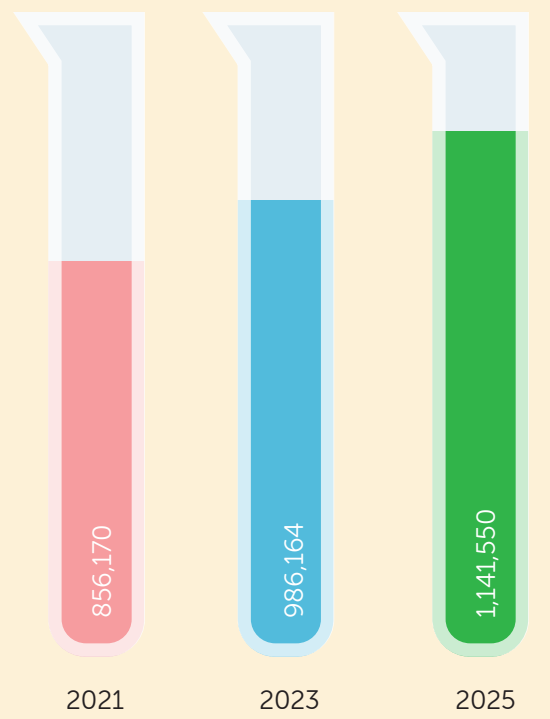
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Unless otherwise noted, estimated, or selected for illustrative purposes, figures in this report reflect the Library fiscal year 2025 (FY2025), July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.



Emedia growth

Emedia use is growing as patrons value convenient, accessible digital formats. We're expanding options for streaming, ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to meet demand.



EMEDIA USAGE, FY2025

Downloadable Audiobooks.....	521,263
Ebooks	544,630
Electronic Magazines.....	6,178
Streaming Music.....	25,462
Streaming Video.....	44,017
TOTAL.....	1,141,550

15,772
JUVENILE CARD HOLDERS



ITEMS IN THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

Children's books..... 400,085
 Teen books.....35,589
 Children's Audiobooks..... 3,865
 Children's DVD + Blu Ray.....10,108
 Children's Music + Media.....1,981

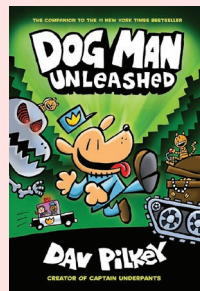
ITEM CIRCULATION, CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

Books + Media..... 1,244,572
 Ebooks.....73,070
 Downloadable Audiobooks..... 49,944
 Teen Books + Media.....56,769
 Teen Ebooks..... 28,948
 Teen Downloadable Audiobooks.... 32,891

MOST CHECKED-OUT TITLES



Juvenile ebook
119 CHECKOUTS



Juvenile Book
234 CHECKOUTS



2,159
YOUTH PROGRAMS HELD

YOUTH SERVICES

We are honored to be part of a child's "village"—the community that values children and supports their well-being and development. Through programs both big and small, we help open doors to new vocabulary, ideas, and horizons.

Families across Knox County enjoy our rich collection of books, Playaway Views, music, and movies—resources that spark curiosity and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

Beyond our walls, the Library extends into parks with Storybook Trails and into theaters, museums, and even the Zoo with the Read City Explorer Pass service.

1,982
EXPLORER PASSES RESERVED

8
ROTATING STORY TRAIL STORIES

Uniting the community.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs set out to make Knox County the best-read community in America—and it's working. The Read City challenge—launched in 2019 by Mayor Jacobs—has united families, schools, and community partners through shared literacy goals. Knox County has met the mark every year, most recently logging over 125,000 reading-related activities. From millions and millions of library checkouts and Imagination Library deliveries to rising third grade reading rates, the message is clear: reading matters here.

As captain, mad scientist and even a giraffe, Mayor Jacobs unites the community in support of literacy and Knox County Schools.



2020 | Mayor Jacobs was licensed to fly us 'Around the World' in our first year-long challenge



2021 | Jacob the Giraffe challenged Read City to our first million-hour challenge, 'Tails and Tales'



2022 | Captain Jacobs set sail with Read City on the 'Oceans of Possibilities' reading voyage!



2023 | Mayor Jacobs was the leader of the band in the 'All Together' challenge



2024 | Frontier explorer Jacobs proved that 'Adventure Begins at Your Library'



2025 | Professor Jacobs enlisted Read City to investigate and cultivate their 'Curious Minds'

LIBRARY LABORATORY

On February 1, 2025, the Library and Mayor Jacobs launched the 2025 Read City Challenge with a hands-on science fair held at Bridgewater Place. The free public event, attended by 1,200, featured experiments, demonstrations, crafts, and interactive activities designed to celebrate this year's theme: Curious Minds.

Participants explored robotics, fossils, astronomy and more in booths hosted by over a dozen organizations, including The Muse, Oak Ridge National Lab, Zoo Knoxville, University of Tennessee, and the American Museum of Science and Energy.

Library Laboratory was made possible through the generous support of the Jane L. Pettway Foundation and many community partners.



Head in the clouds!

We turned our eyes to the skies in this year's Summer Library Challenge. Thousands of kids and teens joined the mission to explore our galaxy, learn about weather systems, and imagine the enchantment of bouncing on a cloud. Astronomers and weather forecasters led programs alongside favorites like Magic with Michael Messing, Sizzling Science, and Miss Lynn's Scruffy Singalong. Every activity—and every minute spent reading—counted toward their goals in the 'Sky Above Us' Challenge, which kept kids and their families reading, learning, and engaging all summer long!

Participation was stellar!
We distributed nearly

10,000
GAMEBOARDS

We had 2,667 online participants, including over 900 new registrants in Beanstack!



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

Participants earned

10,470
LOOT BOX PRIZES



We were starstruck by the creativity on display in our annual Summer Art Show. Entrants from preschool through high school captured the theme "Sky Above Us" in amazing artworks created with any 2-D media.

216
ENTRIES



Curiosity takes flight

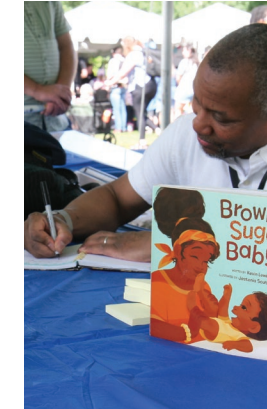
Curiosity and creativity took center stage in the award-winning Children's Festival of Reading's 19th year. Thousands of families gathered at World's Fair Park to kick off a summer of reading with beloved authors and illustrators, hands-on activities, arts and crafts, live music, and community partners. It was a joyful celebration of books and imagination. Many thanks to our amazing volunteers, sponsors, and partners who made this year possible—and to every family who joined us to share the magic of reading.

19

AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

Nationally best-selling authors Elliott Smith, Kevin Lewis, Jennifer Nielsen, Vivian Vande Velde, and Aisha Saeed, along with over a dozen local and regional authors, captivated audiences and connected with young readers one-on-one at the Festival.

Pictured: Vivian Vande Velde, Aisha Saeed, and Kevin Lewis



3,000+
CRAFTS CREATED

28
PERFORMANCES

77
COMMUNITY GROUPS & BUSINESSES



Children's Festival of Reading was the recipient of the 2025 Kaleidoscope Award for Best Children's Event in the Southeast



ONE BOOK READ CITY

Talk about a home run! Knox County elementary students rallied around *Baseball Blowup* by Elliott Smith—every student received a gift copy of the book for a shared reading experience. Several schools welcomed the author and the library hosted a community scavenger hunt. Elliott also headlined the Children's Festival of Reading—where the signing line was out of the park!

WORLD-CLASS AUTHORS

August 2, 2024 | Bestselling author and musician Eric Litwin, the original creator of the beloved Pete the Cat series, delighted families with a program blending music and stories.

September 26, 2024 | Jarrett Krosoczka, whose works include the uber-popular *Lunch Lady* graphic novels and the National Book Award Finalist *Hey, Kiddo*, presented a draw-along program showcasing his journey from doodling child to award-winning graphic novelist.

Inspiring even the most reluctant readers with missions such as a paper airplane race (which requires research, following instructions, and designing models), we hit big goals! Together, we completed

114,636
LITERACY MISSIONS





BOOKS, BIRTHDAY CAKE, AND DREAMING BIG

On January 19, 2025 at the Tennessee Theatre, Knox County Public Library hosted a celebration of Dolly Parton's birthday and **20 years of Imagination Library in Knox County**. The event, presented by Verizon, welcomed hundreds of families for an afternoon filled with joy, music, and literacy-focused fun. Children came dressed as favorite book characters to enjoy crafts, cupcakes, a dance party and parade, music by the Holston Middle School Show Choir, Dolly-themed trivia, and a screening of *9 to 5*. Beloved characters Ladybug Girl and Corduroy posed for photos, and Dolly herself appeared via video storytime.

Generous support from Verizon, the Lantry Family Foundation, and the Tennessee Theatre made the event possible.



4.1
MILLION
BOOKS
MAILED

20 Years of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County

Since launching in 2005 with 1,500 children, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County—administered by the Library—has mailed over 4.1 million books to more than 100,000 children. Today, it delivers free books each month to nearly 19,000 children under age five. At the 20 Years celebration, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs praised the program's impact on early literacy, calling it "more than just a feel-good program."

2025 ADVISORY BOARD

Bonny Naugher <i>Board Chair</i>	Mary Pom Claiborne Jessica Doppelt	Beth Lackey Anabel Lino	Dimpal Patel Anne Marie Rogers
Kay Hurst <i>Program Manager</i>	Lyle Edixon Renee Hauge	Katie Mixon Dr. Lisa Herron Oros	Valerie Somerville Alyssa Sprouse
Trevor Brown	Lucas Haun	Amanda Paletz	Paige Travis

100
THOUSAND
CHILDREN
REGISTERED

80
THOUSAND
GRADUATES

SEEDS OF IMAGINATION LUNCHEON

Thanks to the incredible work of Ann Staup and her team at Direct Mail Services, every Imagination Library book mailed across the country bears a Knoxville, TN postmark. This year, Mayor Jacobs presented the Seeds of Literacy Impact Award to Ann for her years of dedication and innovation. We celebrated Ann and the program on September 24, 2025 with a fabulous silent auction, beautiful harp music by Korenna Hodge, and Dolly trivia at Cherokee Country Club. This year's event **raised \$99,347**, making it possible to provide books to 5,519 children for an entire year.

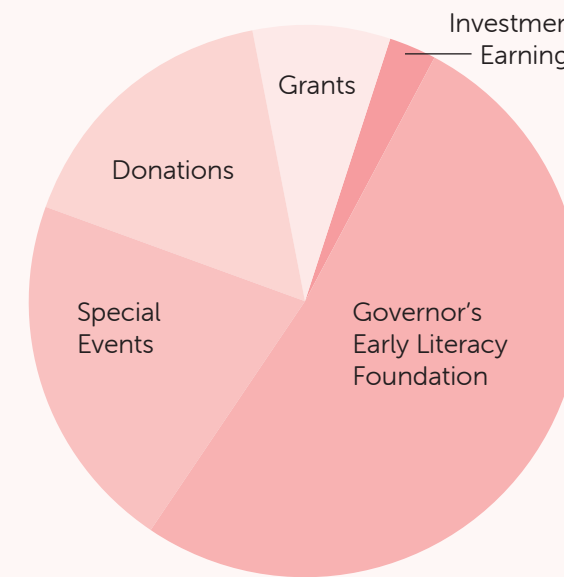


FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2025, our average cost for books and mailing increased from \$1.10 per book to \$1.30, significantly impacting our expenses.

REVENUES	\$498,526
Governor's Early Literacy Foundation	\$258,408
Special Events	\$104,476
Donations	\$82,248
Grants	\$40,477
Investment Earnings	\$12,917
EXPENSES	\$545,530
Books	\$516,816
Special Events	\$26,696
Print & Supplies	\$2,018

FUNDING SOURCES, JAN.-DEC. 2025



By the numbers

4,910
new faces

In 2025, nearly 5,000 children were enrolled for the first time in Knox County's Imagination Library program. 4,402 graduated. (Children graduate at age 5. Their final book is *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!*)



222,809
books
shipped

Postal carriers were busy delivering thousands of books each month to registered Knox County families in 2025.



19,383*
children

Highest enrollment in 2025, encompassing six age groups (birth to age 5), drawing from 28 ZIP codes, and representing 73% of eligible Knox County children.



*Enrollment fluctuates monthly.

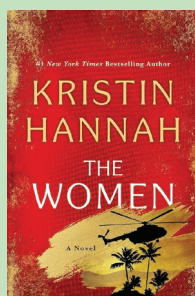
ITEMS IN THE GENERAL COLLECTION

Books*	526,743
Audiobooks	17,441
Downloadable Audiobooks+	42,916
Ebooks+	88,505
Video (DVD/Blu Ray)	30,281
CDs	15,081
Vinyl	1,517
TOTAL ITEMS	722,484

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

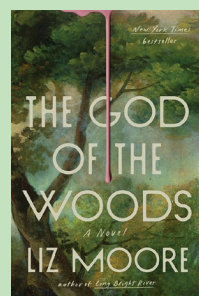
ITEM CIRCULATION, GENERAL COLLECTION

Books	705,392
Media	121,401
Ebooks	439,314
Downloadable Audiobooks	438,428
TOTAL CIRCULATIONS	1,704,535



The highest circulating physical adult book was *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

460 CIRCULATIONS **574 CHECKOUTS**



The adult ebook with the most checkouts this year was *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore



Music connect us to the past.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES WITH KNOXVILLE: THE MUSICAL

September 4, 2024 | Ahead of Clarence Brown Theatre's production of *Knoxville: The Musical*, the Library hosted an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at this original work inspired by James Agee's *A Death in the Family*. Guests also enjoyed a glimpse into the real life photos of the Agee family held in the McClung Historical Collection. Library patrons were invited to a special 'Pay What You Can' performance of the new musical, where proceeds benefitted the library.

Pictured: Historian Steve Cotham, who gave historical context about James Agee's life, with director and choreographer Josh Rhodes, and actress Hannah Elles.



GENERAL SERVICES

With the ready availability of downloadable books, streaming movies, and online learning courses, it's easier than ever to stay inside. And yet we still crave the warmth of community. Opportunities to connect with fellow library lovers have become a cherished part of many patrons' routines. We host a dozen author talks and book clubs each month, where readers may discuss a book with a community expert or share any favorite recommendation. In craft workshops, makers of all skill levels gather to stitch, paint, collage, and knit. At lectures and exhibitions, seekers gather to listen, learn, and understand. Whatever type of community you seek, we have a program for that!

971
MEETING
ROOM
RESERVATIONS

418
ADULT/TEEN
PROGRAMS
HELD

VIOLINS OF HOPE

March 9, 2025 | As part of the *Violins of Hope* exhibition and community events, Knox County Public Library hosted Dr. James Grymes, author of *Violins of Hope: Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour*. Dr. Grymes shared powerful stories of violins played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust and of the Israeli violinmaker who restored them. The free program highlighted music's power to heal, remember, and inspire.

Many thanks to John and Wanda Sobieski for their generous support of this and other Library programs.
 Pictured: Dr. Grymes in Knoxville with Motele Schlein's violin, an instrument he wrote about in *Violins of Hope*.



SIGHTS & SOUNDS

Interesting trends demonstrate that patrons are embracing both digital and "analog" formats of media. In FY25, streaming movies increased by 8% over FY24, while streaming music rose by 91%. Movie streaming remains popular, but growth is constrained by cost. The Library pays for movies on a per-use basis, making unlimited access financially unsustainable. The Library continues balancing patron demand with responsible fiscal stewardship.

While digital streaming music saw a dramatic increase, use of the Library's "analog" vinyl record collection also rose. Circulation has nearly doubled since 2023 and our collection of classic LPs grew by 32% (from 1,145 to 1,517) this year. This simultaneous growth highlights the diverse ways patrons engage with music. Together, these trends demonstrate that digital growth does not replace traditional formats.

So go ahead—take that old record off the shelf!

STREAMING MUSIC

13,313 (FY24)

UP
91%
from
FY24

25,462 (FY25)

VINYL CIRCULATION

905

UP
55%
from
FY23

2023

1,408

2025



228,226

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Reference librarians and other staff assist patrons with an average of over 600 inquiries every day! Librarians are available to assist via chat, email, a phone call, in-person support, or even in-depth one-on-one help sessions.

In addition, reference librarians maintain a database of information about library resources and services. In FY25, there were over 80,000 views of our FAQs, answering everything from how to change an account password to, "How do I sign up for a Library card?"



INFORMATION SERVICES

In an age of disinformation, deepfakes, and digital scams, trustworthy resources matter more than ever. Public libraries remain among the most trusted institutions, offering reliable information and guidance when people need it most. Our professional librarians are committed to maintaining information integrity and helping patrons navigate an increasingly complex digital world. With 56 staff members holding master's degrees in library and information science, we provide expert support for every kind of information need—whether through chat, email, phone, or in-person assistance. When accuracy matters, your library is here to help you find the truth.

80,000
FAQS
ANSWERED

600
LIVE INQUIRIES
ANSWERED EVERY
DAY (ON AVERAGE)

Books for the Homebound

For neighbors who can't leave home, this delivery service is a lifeline to the wider world. Each delivery of books, music, movies, or audiobooks represents the work of many dedicated people: librarians who personally select materials based on each patron's preferences, couriers who transport items to a nearby library location, and volunteers who arrive at a patron's door with a package and a smile. In FY25, volunteers served 402 hours.



3,632
BOOKS,
AUDIOBOOKS,
MOVIES, & MUSIC CDS
DELIVERED.

UP
12%
from
FY24

Interlibrary Loan

Interlibrary loan is a cooperative service that allows patrons to borrow books, articles, media, and other materials from partner libraries when those items aren't available locally. By expanding access far beyond a single library system's shelves, ILL helps patrons discover hard-to-find titles, supports academic and professional research, and saves both time and money by eliminating the need to purchase rarely used materials. It remains one of the most efficient ways for libraries to share resources.

4,022

ITEMS LOANED TO
OTHER LIBRARIES

3,049

ITEMS BORROWED
FROM OTHER LIBRARIES

4,657

LENDING PARTNERS
AVAILABLE

Limitless curiosity

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION HIGHLIGHTS

Whether learning new job skills, researching a cold case, locating an operating manual for a vintage car, or writing a business plan, patrons deserve more than the whims of the internet. The library invests in thousands of trustworthy resources—vetted databases, subscriptions, video courses, maps, and archives that support diverse learning needs.

TOP RESOURCE CATEGORIES

NEWSPAPERS

262,885 views

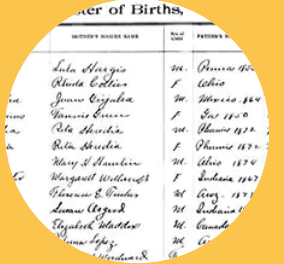
(combined) Newsbank, ProQuest, and Newspapers.com



GENEALOGY

109,979 uses

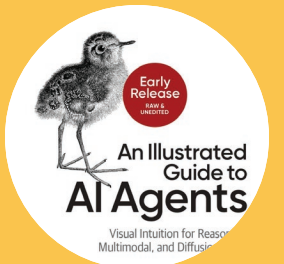
(combined) Ancestry, Fold3, MyHeritage, and in-house indexes.



JOB SKILLS

97,393 uses

(combined) O'Reilly for Public Libraries, LinkedIn Learning for Library, and Gale Presents Udemy.





THE HISTORY CENTER GETS A GLOW-UP

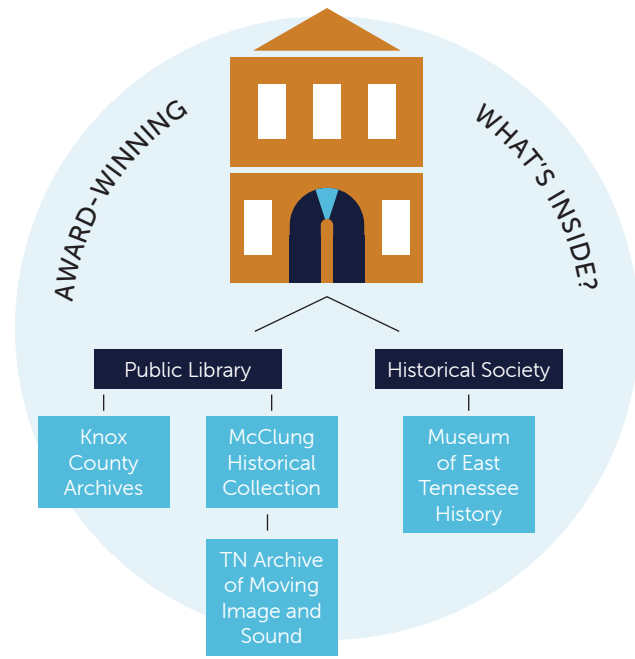
The East Tennessee History Center unveiled new exterior signage ranging from informational graphics to playful prompts, such as the enticement to “take a ride in the past lane!” These graphics not only invite passersby to “discover their story,” but they also allow history to spill out of doors. For example, the breezeway on the south side of the History Center has been transformed into the Julia Dossett Webb Outdoor Gallery. The first exhibition features stunning photographs of the Smoky Mountains, shot by Roger H. Howell and preserved in the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.

The Julia Dossett Webb Outdoor Gallery was made possible through memorial funds.



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.



Home Runs and Home Teams

March 22, 2025 to September 28, 2025

Covenant Health Park opened to great fanfare in downtown Knoxville, and the History Center celebrated by mounting *Home Runs & Home Teams*, the first exhibition to examine the roots of baseball in Tennessee. Programs and lectures augmented a city-wide celebration of the Smokies inaugural season in their new ballpark, and *Home Runs & Home Teams* continues to have an impact, as it travels to other museums across Tennessee.

The exhibition was presented by Boyd Sports with support from Denark Construction, KUB, Downtown Knoxville Alliance, Chris & Donna Kinney, and Ed & Lisa Shouse.

The History Center extends its gratitude to the committee of baseball historians from across Tennessee who provided research and content for the exhibition.



A HEAD-TURNING MYSTERY

In 2025, the History Center welcomed a historic piece of art: a life-size, albeit headless, marble sculpture of Tennessee’s first governor, General John Sevier, by East Tennessean Edgar W. Bowlin, Sr. (1919–2001). Originally on display in a Kingsport bank, the sculpture eventually made its way to Knoxville, where it was mysteriously vandalized while in storage. Now prominently on view in front of the History Center at 601 S. Gay St., the sculpture draws curiosity and connects visitors with regional art and history.

Preservation of the sculpture was made possible through support from Knox County Government, the East Tennessee Historical Society, and several local partners. Special thanks to the Bowlin, Ault, and Cortese families.



CALVIN M. MCCLUNG HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The local history and genealogy department of the Library. As a reference and research library, the Collection's materials do not circulate, but may be explored at the History Center. Materials include books, maps, newspapers, yearbooks, letters, directories, photographs, and more.

ITEMS IN THE PHYSICAL COLLECTION

McClung Audio-visual.....	156
McClung Books	76,341
McClung Children's Books	272
McClung Government Document.....	104
McClung Manuscripts	891
McClung Maps*	1,200
McClung Microfilm.....	463
McClung Microfiche	6,413
McClung Pamphlets	11,567
McClung Special Materials	10,776

*Includes 635 non-cataloged materials.

ITEMS IN THE DIGITAL COLLECTION

DIGITIZED ITEMS	50,280
PAGE VIEWS	384,536

KNOX COUNTY ARCHIVES

Repository for non-current, permanent records dating back to 1792.

REQUESTED MATERIALS*

Community Development	9,622
Court records	9,302
Marriage records	3,434
Other.....	1,329

*January–December 2025



Showcasing our collection

From January 30 to May 4, 2025, the Oglethorpe University Museum of Art near Atlanta presented *Fragile Genius: Catherine Wiley and Beauford Delaney*, an exhibition exploring the creative ties between two of Knoxville's most influential artists. A major highlight of the show was the selection of Anna Catherine Wiley paintings loaned from the McClung Historical Collection, which holds the largest institutional collection of her work. Wiley, a pioneering impressionist and one of Knoxville's most important early 20th-century artists, was introduced to new audiences through these loans, allowing her legacy to reach far beyond East Tennessee. Many Wiley pieces are on display at the History Center.

The McClung Historical Collection holds 46 paintings by Wiley and dozens of other works, including sketches and greeting cards.

Pictured, top: *Woman In Irises*. At right, from top: Colorized portrait of Wiley; *Mermaids*; *Girl with Red Bow*

History on the rooftop

On November 15, 2024, the Friends of the Library and Oliver Hospitality hosted a sold-out, behind-the-scenes, pre-restoration fundraising event at the historic Andrew Johnson Hotel. Meet Me at the AJ, presented by First Century Bank, allowed guests to explore the storied hotel, once the tallest building in East Tennessee and a symbol of Knoxville's 20th-century history. Built in the late 1920s to welcome visitors to the newly formed Great Smoky Mountains National Park, it hosted icons like Amelia Earhart, Duke Ellington, Tennessee Williams, and Hank Williams—who spent his final night there. In the ballroom, attendees enjoyed jazz and swing music from the Absinthe All Stars and vintage film clips from TAMIS. VIP guests were invited to cocktails on the rooftop and a special tour of Hank Williams's room. **Raising \$13,626** for TAMIS, it was an unforgettable evening celebrating Knoxville history, music, and preservation.

The event was made possible through the generous support of partner organizations, including First Century Bank, McCarty Holsaple McCarty, and Postmodern Spirits.



TENNESSEE ARCHIVE OF MOVING IMAGE AND SOUND (TAMIS)

Dating to 1915, this unique collection preserves East Tennessee's cultural heritage through film, video, audio, photographs, and documents. The moving image archive holds thousands of reels, including ads, documentaries, home movies, and newsreels. The audio collection features artists like Chet Atkins and Dolly Parton, as well as rare reel-to-reel tapes, acetate discs, vintage radio programs, and oral histories.

AWARDED 2024 NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION GRANT: \$29,090

with matching support from Friends of the Library

KEY CONTENT PRESERVED:

A.J. Wardrep's 1930s–1940s films documenting TVA engineering, Smoky Mountain tourism, Concord dairy farming, and WWII-era Marine Corps Officer Candidates School at Quantico.

Clarksville, TN agricultural films promoting diversified farming beyond tobacco.

PEERS IN COHORT:

New York Public Library, National Gallery of Art, multiple Smithsonian institutions.





KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

205 knowledgeable staff members serve over 500,000 residents in Knox County at 19 facilities.

Ranging from extremely rural to densely populated urban areas, location is no barrier in our library system. Even the smallest branch (1,254 sq ft) has access to our entire circulating collection thanks to a robust courier system that delivers materials to and from any location upon patron request!



OUR COMMUNITIES BUILT US

When we asked our libraries to describe, in their own words, what set their location apart, a very common theme emerged—community. Our communities aren't just where our libraries are located, they ARE our libraries, breathing into our spaces the very life, laughter, and warmth that define us. Our staff and our neighbors, our libraries and our communities, have built deep connections over decades and decades, enriching each other through conversation, information, service, and support. Many patrons have grown up—from birth—in their familiar neighborhood branch. In turn, libraries have adapted to meet their community's changing needs—providing a cozy corner for contemplating, a brisk and bustling counter for busy professionals, a crafting club or game night for connecting, a strong WiFi signal, a perfectly timed story, or a place to check the front-page news (or the news from 1925).

Although each of our 19 locations has its own distinct personality, they all share the same welcoming spirit, warmth, and sense of neighborhood.

Our library has been a beloved cornerstone of the community since 1964. It is warm, welcoming, and staff are always ready to assist with a multitude of needs. It's the place **where everybody knows your name!**

NORWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY



Our library works diligently to ensure we have something for everybody. Whether it is help compiling a new TBR, resources for a home project, or a high-energy family program, **we have something for each person in the family.**

SOUTH KNOXVILLE

Our library has a small-town friendliness and warmth. It's a welcoming place where children love playing with the stuffed animals and neighbors like to sit and talk. (You can almost hear the train whistle!)

CORRYTON BRANCH LIBRARY



We are tied to this community. Rarely does a day go by that one of us doesn't see someone we know from outside of the library.

CARTER BRANCH LIBRARY

Our library has served this community since 1929, including as a Red Cross Knitting Center during WWII, collecting over 1,000 books to send to soldiers in 1942, and hosting a monthly book club that ran from 1950 to 2013. **We are now enjoying serving the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those earlier patrons.**

FOUNTAIN CITY BRANCH LIBRARY



Our library truly has **the sweetest, friendliest patrons in the whole system.** We feel lucky every day to be where we are with the patrons we have. (Every branch may say this, but we mean it!)

HOWARD PINKSTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Our library has been serving since 1930—over 95 years! We have a mini museum with historic photographs installed on our walls. Serving in such a small community has given us the opportunity to develop outstanding patron rapport. **We have known most our patrons for years (some for life)!**

MASCOT BRANCH



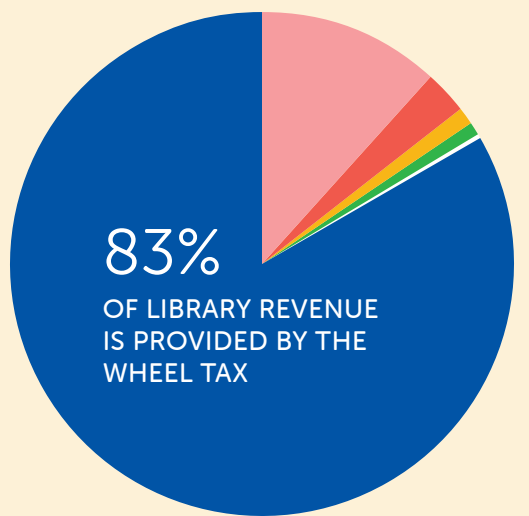
Our library is special mainly for the people we serve. Our location brings us many opportunities to meet and assist people who wouldn't normally think to come to a library for help. Combined with the number of regular patrons who work in the building and love to read, our greatest blessing is **the chance to continue building community.**

MURPHY BRANCH LIBRARY

YES, EVERY BRANCH CLAIMS THIS! ;)

Financial report

Knox County Public Library's operating budget is less than 1.5% of Knox County Government's annual operating budget.



FISCAL YEAR 2025

REVENUES	\$15,692,256
Wheel Tax.....	\$13,088,960
Other Financing Sources.....	\$1,850,000
State of TN & Federal Govt.....	\$430,500
Charges for Current Services.....	\$190,848
Other Local Revenues.....	\$96,818
Other Groups.....	\$35,130

EXPENSES	\$15,441,457
Personnel Services.....	\$8,460,184
Employee Benefits.....	\$2,404,650
Supplies and Materials.....	\$2,213,369
Contracted Services.....	\$1,222,268
Other Charges.....	\$947,773
Capital Outlay.....	\$193,213

Partnerships

FRIENDS OF THE KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

For over 50 years, Friends of the Library has tirelessly supported library services, enabling a variety of programs, including author visits, summer reading challenges, holiday events, and Imagination Library. In FY2025 the Friends raised \$178,283 through book sales, donations, fundraising, and memberships.

PRESIDENT: SCOTT MUIR
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



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.

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

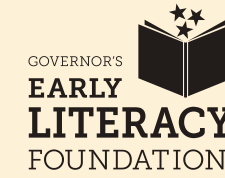
KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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



Major donors



KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 2024–June 2025

\$50,000+

FRIENDS OF THE KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$20,000+

NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

\$10,000+

JANE L. PETTWAY FOUNDATION
TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION

\$5,000+

COMCAST
FIRST CENTURY BANK
KUB
ORNL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
TVA
THOMPSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
WANDA & JOHN SOBIESKI

\$2,500+

DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE ALLIANCE
EAST TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
EAST TENNESSEE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
DOUG & JANE MCCARTY
MCCARTY HOLSAPLE MCCARTY
NORA ROBERTS FOUNDATION
UNITED WAY

\$1,000+

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
PILOT COMPANY
D. MORTON ROSE, JR.
SAM'S CLUB #6572

\$500+

WALMART #1320
WALMART #3959

\$100+

UNION AVE BOOKS



In FY2025, the library received \$157,667 in grant funding and donations, used to facilitate special programs and services such as the Children's Festival of Reading and historic film preservation.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

January–December 2025

\$250,000+

GOVERNOR'S EARLY LITERACY FOUNDATION

\$20,000+

DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION
UNITED WAY OF GREATER KNOXVILLE

\$10,000+

BOYD FOUNDATION
LANTRY FAMILY FOUNDATION
SIDDIQI FOUNDATION
VERIZON

\$5,000+

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
DOLLYWOOD COMPANY
ENRICHMENT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
FRIENDS OF KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
HASLAM FAMILY FOUNDATION
HOME FEDERAL BANK
PILOT COMPANY
STOWERS MACHINERY CORPORATION
VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

\$2,500+

BETH ANDERSON FAMILY FOUNDATION
BUCKEYE CORRUGATED, INC.
CLAYTON HOMES
DIRECT MAIL SERVICES
EAST TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
FOOD CITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
KATOM RESTAURANT SUPPLY
SAMUEL J. FURROW MANAGEMENT

\$1,500+

CASSIE ANDREWS
AXLE LOGISTICS
THE BED STORE
BRIA BOUKOVALAS
MARTY & ANN BROWN
COVENANT HEALTH
HARPER AUTO
KNOXVILLE PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES
MAYOR GLENN JACOBS
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (GA)
PERSHING, YOAKLEY & ASSOCIATES (PYA)
KEVIN & ALYSSA SPROUSE
KYRI & DOOLEY TOMBRAS
TVA
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE LIBRARIES





A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

If you visit all the facilities in the Knox County Public Library system, you'll find each one reflects the character of the community it serves. From Corryton to Farragut, our staff and librarians know their neighbors—sometimes across multiple generations. And they are just as welcoming to those who are new to our area.

We are fortunate to have a robust library system that serves everyone in our 526-square-mile county with thoughtful collections, engaging programs, and essential services. I am proud of our Library and the meaningful work our staff does every day.



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

