

A photograph of two young girls in a library. The girl on the left, with dark curly hair, is reaching up to touch a book on a high shelf. She is wearing a blue and white striped button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. The girl on the right, with blonde hair and glasses, is looking up at the same shelf. She is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and has a pink backpack strap visible. The background shows more bookshelves filled with books. The entire image has a strong magenta/pink color cast.

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY SPARKS CURIOSITY, INSPIRES CREATIVITY, AND CHAMPIONS LEARNING.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

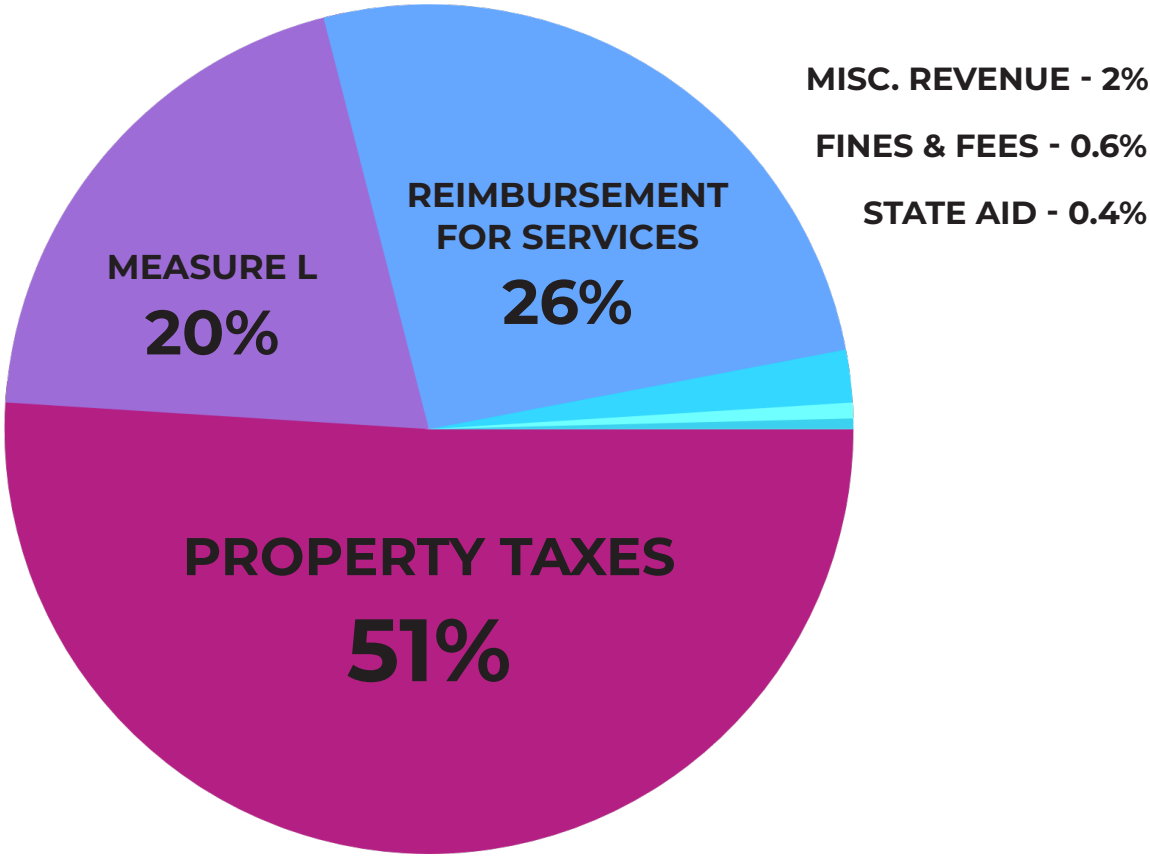
At Solano County Library, we provide everyone with access to a world of knowledge and opportunity. Our mission is to spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and champion learning, by serving the community at our nine library locations throughout Solano County, and online 24/7 via our website and digital services (solanolibrary.com).

As a true community resource, we are committed to helping every individual enrich their personal experience—whether it's finding a job, learning a skill, or discovering a poem. And like our library users, we are always learning. We actively seek input and ideas from our many constituencies to further improve our offerings. We celebrate inclusion and diversity. We employ the latest tools and technologies. And we constantly strive to create a warm, welcoming environment that fosters discovery, forges connections, and changes lives.

We encourage you to visit our libraries, sign-up for a library card, check out our books, enjoy our enriching programs, and follow us on social media. Consider joining one of our Friends of the Library groups or volunteering with us. We invite you to see what we at Solano County Library can do for you and your family. Your support makes Solano County a great place to live, learn, work, and play.

FUNDING SOURCES

The services and programs offered by the Library are supported by funding from property taxes, a 1/8 of a penny voter approved sales tax dedicated to library services (Measure L), private and public grants, awards from the California State Library, and monetary gifts and donations received from individuals, businesses, organizations, and trusts.



MEASURE L

In 1997, voters understood libraries were essential for a community's success and agreed to tax themselves 1/8 of a penny sales tax (Measure B). In return, promises were made: **more books, more hours, more programs for youth**. In 2012, the 1/8 of a penny sales tax was extended with the support of over an 80% vote (Measure L), ensuring that our libraries continue to be the centers of inspiration and learning: essential for a community's success. Solano County Library is continually responding to, reflecting, and representing our dynamic community. Since the passage of the 1/8 of a penny sales tax, the **budget for books, digital resources**, and **other materials** increased by **341%** and **programs for youth** increased by **119%**.


A YEAR IN REVIEW:

FISCAL YEAR 19-20

IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

Events & Programs: **2,687**

Program Attendance: **94,252**



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING




2020 Summer Reading Challenge Participants:
1,508 people

Minutes Spent Reading During the Summer Reading Challenge:
74,099 minutes



Facebook, Instagram, Twitter Followers: **11,300**



Virtual Storytime Views: **13,570**

Young Adult Virtual Program Views: **2,638**

Virtual Community Views: **23,242**

SERVICES



Number of Borrowers:
134,467



Questions Answered:
125,263



Curbside Pickups:
1,715

Library Visits: **1,016,124**

Visits to solanolibrary.com: **1,172,134**



Total Library Volunteer Hours: **21,568**

Adult Literacy Volunteer Hours: **13,615**



Live One-to-One tutor.com Sessions: **9,382**



Books Added in Pediatric Clinics: **18,171**

Computer Sessions: **104,538**

COLLECTIONS



Digital Downloads: **184,935**

Items Borrowed: **1,390,589**

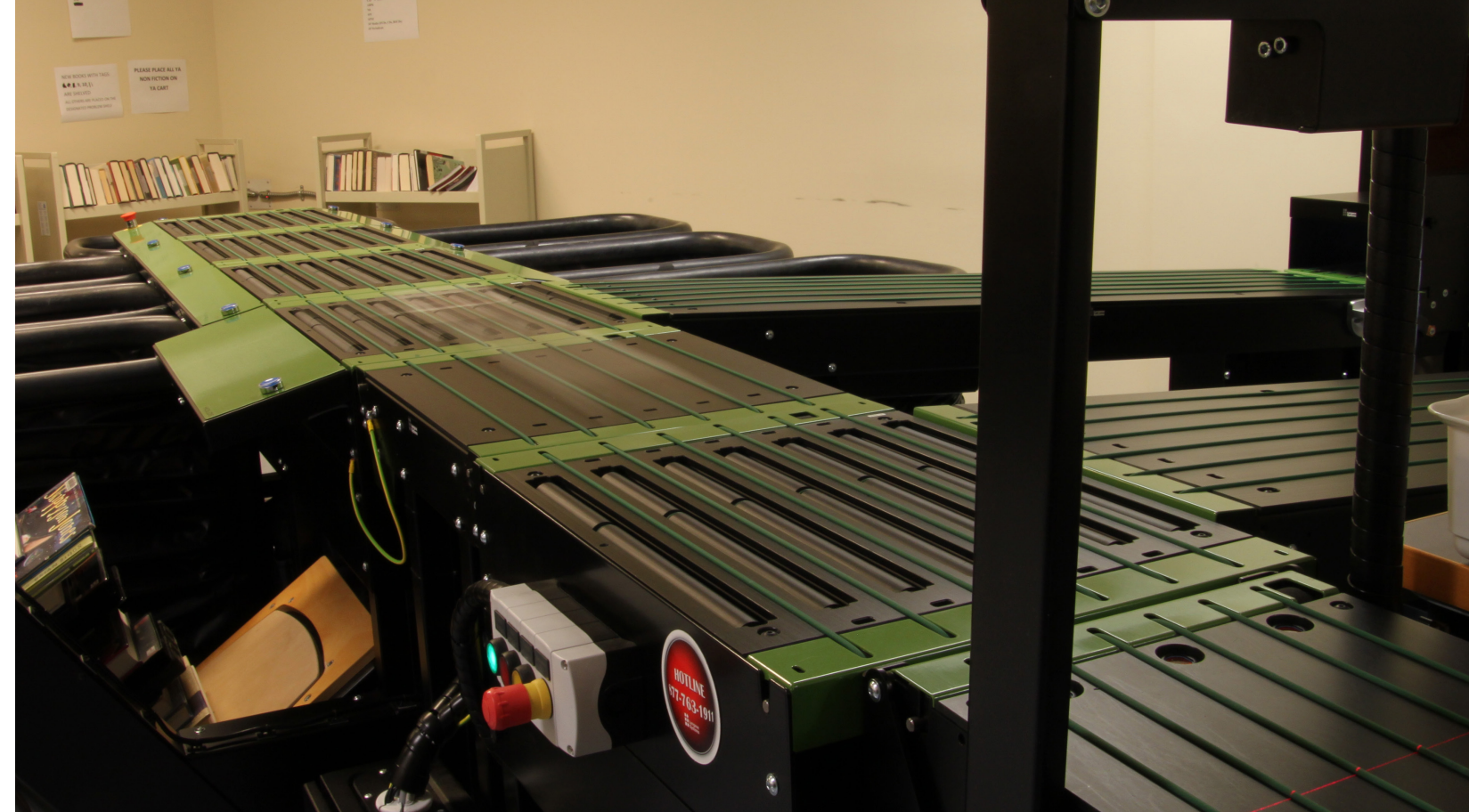


COLLECTIONS

Libraries are for everyone. Librarians strive to build a collection that not only reflects the community, but also is reflective of the global community of which we all are a part. Staff evaluated books and media through an inclusive lens that includes the experiences of LGBTQIA people, people of color, and ethnic, cultural, religious minorities, and more.

During the pandemic, Solano County Library has seen a dramatic increase in demand for **digital materials**, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and streaming movie and music services. **Library users checked out a total of 184,935 digital materials**—an impressive year-over-year increase of 16%. When ordering titles, staff ensures the Library has a diverse collection while monitoring library user holds to purchase enough copies to reduce wait times for popular items.

The Library is so much more than its **books**. Any card holder can take home **musical instruments** that range from electric guitars and keyboards to drum pads and ukuleles. The **board game** collection is housed in all branches of Solano County Library. Board games provide experiences which engage imaginations, spur critical thought, and develop problem-solving skills. Most recently, **video games** were added to the Library's special collections. Video games can support various methods of learning and the development of important skills, such as problem solving and teamwork. The collection has hundreds of titles for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox 1, and Xbox Series X.



TECHNOLOGY

The Library continued to expand its collection with **Wi-Fi hotspots** for use at home or on the go. The need for Internet connectivity was heightened due to Covid-19, and the Library was able to provide more Wi-Fi hotspot devices to support remote work and schooling.

Solano County Library integrated **Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and automated materials handling**, which checks in and sorts library materials, improves efficiency of staff time and resources, and contributes to increased accuracy of library accounts.

All branches have **high speed broadband connections**, allowing for improved Internet access for library users.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Solano County Library values **Summer Reading** as it helps children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills over the summer. The Library has **storytimes** available for families and children where staff share their love of books and reinforce early literacy skills. The variety of storytimes and other book-based programming is just the beginning. There is homework help, **afternoon “adventures”**, **book clubs**, and **special teen events** each week. Staff were able to provide unique programming made possible through grants such as **Citizen Science kits**, **yoga programs** for children and **ukulele classes** for teens. New ongoing programs were added to the mix including a graphic novel book club and role-playing games that encourage youth and adults to flex their creativity.



THE MAKERY

The Makery is a **makerspace** and so much more! The Makery empowers youth and adults alike to create, explore, discover, and learn new skills. The community space offers a variety of tools from virtual reality and drawing tablets to a 3-D printer and vinyl cutter. Early into the coronavirus pandemic, there was a shortage of personal protective equipment. While branch buildings were closed, staff came into action and utilized the makerspace sewing machines and 3-D printer to make masks and face shields for first responders in Vallejo.

“Thank you all for what you do! Being a first-time mom, your programs got me out of the house and to feel normal again. I got to socialize and my kid got to hear stories and play. I met many friends through your programs. I signed my son up for the reading programs so you gave us toys and food! Who doesn’t love that? Whenever I need help the librarians are so sweet! We love the puppet shows, the painting, the quilts, etc. You guys give us so much and don’t ask for much in return. The library is one of my son’s favorite places. He’s missing it so badly! I can go on lol but anyways thank you all so much!”

~Library User



ADAPTING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Library to temporarily close its physical locations to the public and modify services, such as offering curbside pickup of materials and **virtual programming** options for all age groups from live cooking demos, book clubs, storytimes, to craft instructions. Library users used reservation software for in-person appointments and protective equipment was installed in the libraries to ensure the safety of both staff and public. The Library added more digital content—eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines, music, and movies—to its **24/7 digital library** and the **Library's Adult Literacy Program** held tutor training online in support of life-long learning.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

The Library helps people of all ages reach their life-long learning and career goals. The Library provides free access to live, one-to-one, real-time tutoring, homework help, test prep, and career support through **Tutor.com**, spanning from grades kindergarten through college. Live one-to-one help is available daily from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. **LearningExpress Library** features nearly 1,000 online tutorials, practice tests, and eBooks to help with career preparation, high school studies, citizenship exam, college and grad school entrance test prep, and more. Both Tutor.com and Learning Express Library are available through **solanolibrary.com**. A **Citizenship Corner** was created to serve our immigrant population. Citizenship Corner helps people prepare for the citizenship test using iPads, which provides access to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services website, USA Learns Citizenship course, and test preparation applications.

LIVE WELL WITH YOUR LIBRARY

Solano County Library launched its year-long health initiative, “Live Well with Your Library.” From circulating blood pressure kits, to flu shot clinics, to yoga classes for kids, and walking book clubs, the Library focused on providing resources and programs for physical, mental, and community health.

ACCESS/OUTREACH

Through partnerships formed with school districts, the Library is working to provide barrier-free access to library resources for students in Solano County through its **Student Access Card** program. The collaboration benefits the community by increasing literacy and educational success. Students use their student ID as a public library card to access thousands of print and digital resources and online homework help. To date, over 21,500 students are part of the student access card program. The Library additionally supported student access to great books and reading through a student reading app, **SORA by Overdrive**. With SORA, students can use their school ID to gain access to age-appropriate eBooks and audiobooks from the Library’s digital collection.

GROWING OUR REACH

The **Dixon Public Library** joined Solano County Library. For Dixon residents, this means more access to electronic resources like eBooks, streaming movies, online homework help, and programs. Dixon Public Library had been a partner library of Solano County Library through the SPLASH consortia, which promotes resource sharing among Solano County Library, Benicia Public Library, and St. Helena Public Library.



SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCHES



DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY

230 N. 1st Street
Dixon, CA 95620



FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533



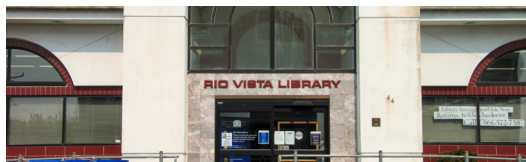
FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

5050 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534



JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590



RIO VISTA LIBRARY

44 S. 2nd Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571



SPRINGSTOWNE LIBRARY

1003 Oakwood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591



SUISUN CITY LIBRARY

601 Pintail Drive
Suisun City, CA 94585



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY - CULTURAL CENTER

1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687



VACAVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY - TOWN SQUARE

1 Town Square Place
Vacaville, CA 95688



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