

2024-2025

# Annual Report

Kingsport Public Library



Presented By:  
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## A Message from the Director

The Kingsport Public Library continues to grow and adapt in service of our vibrant community. This past year was marked by exciting transitions, increased engagement, and continued commitment to our mission of inspiring lifelong learning, fostering community connection, and providing equitable access to information and resources. The 2024–2025 fiscal year demonstrates the remarkable impact public libraries have in the lives of those they serve. We are proud to share the following highlights and accomplishments.

-Stephanie Griffin

# BY THE NUMBERS



## VISITATION & ACCESS

- 160,830 Visitors
- 10,670 Public Computer Sessions
- 18,387 Reference Questions\*



## CIRCULATION

- Physical Circulation: 167,735
- Digital Circulation: 200,559
- Library of Things/Electronics: 402
- Interlibrary Loans (ILL): 1,416



\*Missing stats for July-Sept of main circ desk

## **PROGRAMMING**

- 292 In-House Programs
- 5,930 Attendance

## **OUTREACH**

- 146 Outreach Programs
- 9,507 Attendance

## **LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP**

- New Library Cards Issued: 996
- New E-Cards Issued: 116
- Active Cardholders: 8,792

## **DATABASES**

- Ancestry: 12,032
- WorldBook: 6,180
- Newspaper Archive: 3,618
- Fold 3: 600
- Transparent Languages: 823
- Morningstar: 242
- Gale: 17
- TOTAL 23,512

## **PUBLIC COMPUTERS**

- 10,670 Sessions

## **ARCHIVES**

- 276 Visitors
- 271 Reference Questions

## **ILL**

- 3,995 Borrowed
- 2,755 Loaned

## GRANT FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

The Kingsport Public Library experienced a landmark year in grant funding, securing critical support to enhance our facilities, technology, and public access to resources.

Most notably, the Library was awarded \$2 million through the Connected Community Facilities Grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD). This transformative funding will primarily support construction costs for the renovation of our new library space, with a portion allocated to outfitting the future Makerspace with equipment and technology.

In addition, we received a \$5,000 Technology Grant from the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), which enabled the purchase of new laptops and iPads for public use. A \$5,000 TOPS grant provided funding for additional mobile hotspots, helping expand internet access to our community.

The Kingsport Archives also received a \$5,000 State Board Program Grant, which supported the digitization of 17 volumes of TEC News. These historic newsletters are now available online, providing broader public access to important local history.

These grants represent a significant investment in the future of the Kingsport Public Library and reflect our ongoing commitment to innovation, access, and community service.

## LIBRARY RENOVATION

We achieved a significant milestone in the Library's Renovation Project with the successful relocation of the Kingsport Public Library to the Fort Henry Mall. Our bid opening for the renovation phase was highly successful, attracting six competitive bids—a strong response that exceeds the typical volume for similar projects.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen awarded the contract to BurWil Construction, Inc. Following the award, we will move into the demolition phase, officially beginning construction on the future permanent home of the library.



## **Year in Review**

This year, the library delivered nearly 450 programs to more than 15,000 attendees, expanding outreach initiatives and providing educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for all ages. From storytimes and book clubs to job search support and digital literacy workshops, we have continued to build meaningful connections across Kingsport.

Our circulation continues to reflect evolving patron preferences. With over 368,000 total checkouts, digital circulation now leads in popularity, underscoring the importance of investing in flexible, on-demand access to materials.

We also welcomed nearly 9,000 active cardholders, including 1,112 new members, highlighting our ongoing relevance in the lives of residents and our ability to reach new users through both in-person and digital platforms.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the future, we remain focused on community engagement, innovative offerings, and accessibility in our new space. With the recent relocation to our expanded space in Fort Henry Mall, we are already seeing increased visitation and engagement. This new chapter positions us to meet the growing needs of our community while preserving the library's spirit of service, discovery, and connection. Thank you for your continued support.