

## Sequoyah Regional Library System



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The community's  
dynamic destination  
for discovery.



770-479-3090



[sequoyahregionallibrary.org](http://sequoyahregionallibrary.org)



116 Brown Industrial Parkway  
Canton, GA 30114



## Message from the Executive Director



Over the past year, the Sequoyah Regional Library System (SRLS) has focused on restoring services and operating hours that had been suspended or reduced due to the pandemic. Though we encountered many challenges, we were successful in achieving full restoration of hours and services. Our communities have responded enthusiastically to each phase of restoration.

Last year, SRLS staff secured a number of grants that helped us expand technology, improve broadband connections, perform building upgrades, and offer new services such as Chromebooks for checkout. We appreciate the assistance of our partners at Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS), the Georgia General Assembly, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, our local County Commissioners, and our Friends of the Library groups for supporting and aiding us in these efforts.

FY 21 also brought a renewed focus on planning for the future of our library system. We laid the foundation for several major projects that will be completed in the coming year. Architectural plans were completed for the expansion and renovation of the Pickens County Library, and the planning process began for the Hickory Flat Library expansion/renovation project. We also began planning for a new circulation system that uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, which will greatly enhance both patron convenience and staff workflows.

In May 2021, the Pickens County Library closed, and operations were relocated to a temporary space called "Pickens Grab & Go," which opened in June. This compact version of the library will provide access to books and materials for the community until the expansion/renovation of the library building is completed in 2022.





## Message from the Executive Director

Since 1958, the Sequoyah Regional Library System has served the citizens of Cherokee, Gilmer, and Pickens Counties. By sharing our resources, the communities served by the system capitalize on economies of scale, resulting in greater effectiveness, improved quality, and access to more services and materials. Our public libraries provide great value to the community and return on investment for taxpayers.

We hope that you find this report informative. Your continued support is critical to the library's success, so we invite you to contact us with any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns. This report only touches on the highlights, so we are very happy to provide more detailed data or information on any of the topics included here.

We thank you for your interest and support!

**Anita Summers**

Executive Director





## SRLS Locations



**R.T. JONES (HQ)**  
116 Brown Industrial Parkway  
Canton, GA 30114



**ROSE CREEK**  
4476 Towne Lake Parkway  
Woodstock, GA 30189



**BALL GROUND**  
435 Old Canton Road  
Ball Ground, GA 30107



**LAW LIBRARY**  
Frank C. Mills III Justice Center, Suite 250  
90 North Street Canton, GA 30114

SRLS is a three-county library system with seven branches and a law library. Gilmer and Pickens each have one branch in their county. Cherokee has five branches and a law library at the courthouse.

The Sequoyah Regional Library System is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of nine members from local County Boards. Appointments to the Regional Board include five members from the Cherokee Board, two members from Pickens Board and two members from the Gilmer Board. The County Boards oversee the operations of the local library or libraries and report to the Regional Board.

Our Pickens County Library in Jasper, located at 100 Library Lane, is currently closed to the public to prepare for an upcoming renovation and expansion. "Pickens Grab & Go" is available inside the Mountain Education Charter High School building, located at 339 West Church Street.



**WOODSTOCK**  
7735 Main Street  
Woodstock, GA 30188



**PICKENS**  
100 Library Lane  
Jasper, GA 30143



**GILMER**  
268 Calvin Jackson Drive  
Ellijay, GA 30540



**HICKORY FLAT**  
2740 East Cherokee Drive  
Canton, GA 30115

Sequoyah  
Snapshot

**810,992** TOTAL CHECK OUTS!

**168,206**  
**EBOOKS**  
**DOWNLOADED**

**2,341**  
NEW DOWNLOADABLE  
  
BORROWERS ADDED!

**372,804**  
**YOUTH MATERIALS**  
**BORROWED**

**28** DIFFERENT LIBRARY OF THINGS OFFERED IN THIS UNIQUE COLLECTION  
THESE ITEMS CIRCULATED **4,568** TIMES

**Sequoyah  
Snapshot**

**106,479**  
**COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS**  
**HAVE A LIBRARY CARD**



**185**   
**COMMUNITY  
AND COLLABORATION  
ROOM USES**

**5,029**  
PEOPLE ATTENDED **124**  
PROGRAMS  
BOTH ONLINE AND IN PERSON

 **39,051**  
**COMPUTERS ACCESSED**

 **89,808**  
**ACCESSED WIRELESS**

**LIBRARY WIFI**  
**IS OFFERED 24/7**  
AND CAN BE  
ACCESSED FROM  
THE PARKING LOT  
OF ALL LOCATIONS







Sequoyah  
Snapshot

In **July of 2020** we resumed our in-person service hours and safely restored services throughout the year.



We welcomed over **188,700** visitors through our doors. And we continued to offer **virtual services!**

## Sequoyah

# Accomplishments



**Transitioned** to Paycor HR Management Software and adjusted frequency of staff pay.

**Installed** Comprise PC Management at all locations.

**Resumed** all services suspended during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Implemented** Deep Freeze on public computers at all locations to aid the in-house IT team manage and secure computers in a more effective manner.



**Offered** Fine Forgiveness during National Library Week in April.

**Instituted** Fine Free Summer for all library users.



**Adopted** an entirely new personnel policy.

**Implemented** SimplyE, a free app that allows patrons to access titles from OverDrive and ERead Kids on one platform. Sequoyah served as a test site for this service.

**Refreshed** SRLS website, making it more accessible.

**Opened** Pickens Grab & Go temporary library.



**Completed** architectural design and awarded contract for Pickens County Library expansion/renovation project.

**Started the** design process for the Hickory Flat Library expansion/renovation project.

### **Sarah, Woodstock Public Library**

"This library system has equipped me to become a homeschool mom to my two kids during the pandemic by making it easy to place curriculum-required books on hold, and they were a safe place for my kids to enjoy books in a very tough year for everyone. Without this library system I would have spent easily over \$500.00 on books for my kids to read this past year. Thankfully, they were always open in some capacity and would fulfill my holds so fast! Having lived prior in a city that did not have a library system like this, we feel very lucky to have this system here in Woodstock!"

### **Barbara, Gilmer County Library**

"Dear Library Friends - Thank you again for having a sewing machine I could borrow for this quilting project - I've named the quilt "Praying Hands". I took a class at Vector Quilting in Ellijay to learn how to piece the top together. Now that the top is finished, I took it to Vector for them to quilt (batting and backing) for me. They will be using the design of praying hands for the quilting part, hence the name. Thank you again. I could not have completed this without Gilmer County Library."

### **Breanna, Gilmer County Library**

"[The library] helped me learn to read. My stepmom works part time and she always brings me books and it's helped so much! I came from an illiterate household to living with my dad full time a year and a half ago. When I started living [here] full time I had a 1st grade reading level. With the help of my parents (dad & stepmom) I am now almost to my grade level! I don't know if that would be possible without this library. I can read and it's like a whole building full of doorways to new places awaits me every time I come here."





## Sequoyah Stories

### **Taylor, Rose Creek Public Library**

"Having a baby in the middle of a global pandemic has been a really interesting (and difficult) experience. Until Luke was 6 months old, he had never even been inside a store before! As a new mom, I have been so anxious about Luke socializing and getting to see other people, as well as having new experiences outside of our home. When I heard that the libraries were opening back up and hosting storytimes - I was thrilled! We've been to several already and I love watching Luke watch the other kids, singing the songs, and hearing cute new stories. The events at the library have given us something to look forward to!"

### **Kaye, Gilmer County Library**

"Since moving to Ellijay, the library has been not only a place of books, knowledge, and entertainment, but a place of peace. Through 2020 when we were quarantined, it was a friend to me. I was not lonely and did not feel isolated. Books gave me such adventures and companionship. I treasure the library. I am truly grateful that you help me, as well as all the community. Thank you!"

### **Delia, Woodstock Public Library**

"At the library we had a writers group before the pandemic. This group encouraged me to finish my novel, A TOKEN OF LOVE. It is now published, and I'm not sure I would have finished it without the group encouraging me."



## Revenues and Expenditures



SRLS received numerous grants totaling in excess of **\$90,000**, including the GPLS Library Tech Grant, GPLS Chromebook Grant, GPLS Innovation Grant, GPLS Grow with Google Grant, GPLS Marketing Grant, and State Major Repair and Renovation Grant.

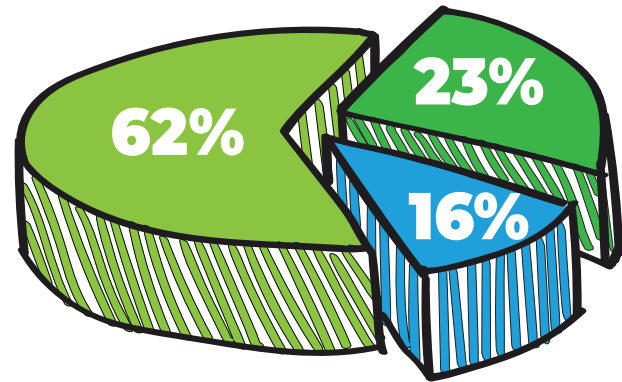
### SRLS OPERATING FUNDS

62% Local Governments

16% State Government

23% Other Sources

(fines, fees, donations, federal grants)





- Did you borrow the latest best seller?
- Check out a DVD for your kids?
- Load an eBook to your device?

**Have you ever wondered how much is saved on these services and resources?**

SRLS Community Savings last year:

- 372,804 youth materials borrowed an estimated retail value of **\$6,337,668**
- 168,206 eBooks borrowed out is an estimated retail value of **\$2,523,090**
- 34,570 DVDs borrowed is an estimated retail value of **\$138,280**

**Over time, the value of your library card adds up!**



## Revenue Sources

**We appreciate all the financial support we receive and consider it a privilege to serve the community.**

We are able to impact the community because of funding from:

Cherokee County Commissioners | Gilmer County Commissioners | Pickens County Commissioners  
City of Canton | City of Woodstock | City of Ball Ground | City of Nelson | City of Waleska | City of Holly Springs  
City of Ellijay | City of East Ellijay | City of Jasper | Town of Talking Rock | Gilmer County Board of Education

We impact the community with funding from:

Friends of Cherokee County Public Libraries, Inc.  
Friends of the Pickens Library  
Friends of the Gilmer County Library  
Ellijay-Gilmer Library Foundation, Inc.  
Private Donations





