

Sequoyah Regional Library System



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The community's
dynamic destination
for discovery.



770-479-3090



sequoyahregionallibrary.org



116 Brown Industrial Parkway
Canton, GA 30114

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 appreciate additional 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.



During FY23, our community checked out a total of 1,079,739 items!



Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on our past fiscal year, progress and growth are the key words that come to mind. How else do you describe a year in which we opened a renovated and expanded library and broke ground on a second future renovation and expansion? Both are highlights of the Sequoyah Regional Library System's progress and growth.

I am excited to share our annual report with you which reflects on our past fiscal year, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Throughout these pages I hope you see not only the reflections of the hard work and excitement of our staff in our community, but I hope you see yourself reflected too. The services utilized, the programs you attended, the items you borrowed, are all reflected in our numbers, stories, and photos collected throughout those twelve months.

The Sequoyah Regional Library System strives to be the community's dynamic destination for discovery. We exemplified this vision by focusing on our library card holders and outreach efforts. Currently, 122,980 members of our community have a Sequoyah Regional Library System card. That number has grown by almost 13% since January of 2022. Again, growth for Sequoyah and growth for our community.

There has been an intentional focus to increase outreach efforts and strengthen our community connections with organizations and increase our visibility outside of the 4 walls of our locations. We have expanded our outreach department, implemented regularly scheduled pop-up libraries, and can often be seen at local festivals and celebrations. This is all done with the goal of connecting with you, where you are.

Message from the Executive Director

Since 1958, the Sequoyah Regional Library System has served the citizens of Cherokee, Pickens, and Gilmer 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 and exciting. Your continued support is important 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.

Thank you for allowing us to be your Dynamic Destination for Discovery!

Angela Cortellino

Angela Cortellino, Executive Director
Sequoyah Regional Library System



**Sequoyah
Snapshot**

122,980
**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS**
HAVE A LIBRARY CARD



6,385 
**COMMUNITY
AND COLLABORATION
ROOM USES**

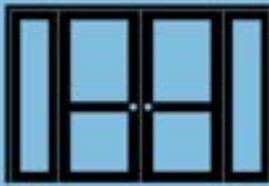
223,598
E-BOOKS AND 
AUDIOBOOKS
DOWNLOADED

 **30,506**
COMPUTERS ACCESSED

 **133,914**
ACCESSED WIRELESS

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

**Sequoyah
Snapshot**



388,575

WELCOMED THROUGH OUR DOORS

531,346
YOUTH MATERIALS
BORROWED



32,802

PEOPLE ATTENDED
968 PROGRAMS



3,985

NEW DOWNLOADABLE
BORROWERS
ADDED



31 DIFFERENT LIBRARY
OF THINGS OFFERED
IN THIS UNIQUE
COLLECTION

THESE ITEMS CIRCULATED

7,003 TIMES

Sequoyah Stories

“It’s very important to me that my son develops a love of learning and books. Having a local library has given us the opportunity for him to see books outside of our home and experience different types of books. He’s developing concepts of print and a solid foundation for literacy in the future, all before he turns two.”– **Jen, Hickory Flat Public Library**



“The Gilmer County Library is one of my happy places. The garden (D.I.G.) provides a peaceful respite in a stressful day, and the availability of outdoor WiFi is such a wonderful convenience. The library’s resources, both available to check out, and to explore within, are amazing. The Family Research Center has helped me to add branches of my family tree and expand my family history through use of the shelved books, online Ancestry.com, and the Ellijay Times-Courier microfilm. Having an entire library system from which to request and provide books and other items held for checkout improves choices exponentially. And last, but definitely not least, the staff is always ready to help with whatever your needs might be. Ellijay and Gilmer County are so fortunate to have the Gilmer County Library, and I am honored to have a library card that opens the door to all that it offers.”– **Barbara, Gilmer County Public Library**



“The library has helped bring me out of my shell by getting me out of the house to do crafts, read more, and meet other people in my community at their events.”– **Jenny, Woodstock Public Library**



Sequoyah Stories

“Throughout this pandemic the whole library system has endeavored to keep me relatively sane. The loan system and easy check out and pick up systems have worked well. Now that we can enter the library for books and other media, I would like to commend the wonderful library staff, their smiles, patience, and helpfulness. I pick up and drop off books at least once a week, sometimes more.”–**Sandra, R.T. Jones Memorial Library**

“Whenever my son asked for help finding a specific series or topic, someone assisted and then remembered him and asked him about the books he had picked. Needless to say, he felt special and chatted with the librarians-all smiles whenever he visited.”
– **Karen, Rose Creek Public Library**

“Being able to check out the parks pass and other experience passes helped us find new adventures.”– **AnnaBelle, R.T. Jones Memorial Library**



Pickens Renovation

Pickens County Library celebrated the official opening of the renovated and expanded library on May 11, 2023, with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony hosted by the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce.

The project included a renovation of the 10,800 square foot building, originally built in 1996. It also included an expansion of 8,200 square feet. The expanded and renovated facility includes more space for books and technology; larger areas for programs, meetings, collaboration, and creation; and additional seating for study and quiet reading.

The Pickens County Library relocated to a temporary space in May 2021 while the primary space underwent construction. Partial funding of \$1,800,000 for this project was made possible by the Pickens County's SPLOST program. The Sequoyah Regional Library System applied and received from the State a \$2,000,000 Capital Outlay Grant, administered by the Georgia Public Library Service, to fund the remaining portion. The project received a second Capital Outlay Grant for FY24, for the amount of \$175,000. These grants are funded by the sale of bonds and must be approved by the state legislature.



Hickory Flat Renovation

The Hickory Flat Renovation and Expansion Project officially began January 25, 2023 with a celebratory groundbreaking featuring Sequoyah Regional Library System staff and board members turning the soil with Cherokee County officials and Cherokee Chamber of Commerce.

The project includes a complete renovation of the building, originally built in 1993, as well as an addition of 7,800 square feet to the building. With an expanded and renovated library facility, the community will have more space for books and technology; larger areas for programs, meetings, collaboration, and creation; and additional seating for study and quiet reading.

Funding for this project is available from Cherokee County's SPLOST program. Additional funding includes a \$2,000,000 Capital Outlay Grant, administered by the Georgia Public Library Service. These grants are funded by the sale of bonds and must be approved by the state legislature.



Revenues Expenditures

Sequoyah Regional Library System received numerous grants totaling in excess of **\$74,000**. Awarded grants include Emergency Connectivity Fund, Public Library Association Digital Grant, multiple Georgia Public Library Service Grants, and other local grants.



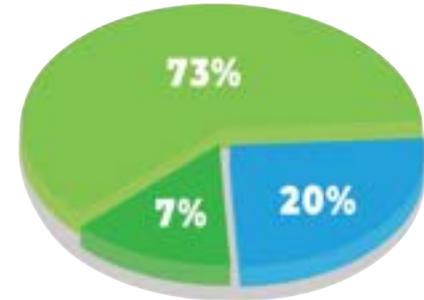
SRLS OPERATING FUNDS

73% Local Governments

20% State Government

7% Other Sources*

*(fines, fees, donations, federal grants)



Your Dollars at Work

Service	Number of Times Used	Value Per One Service	Total Value of Service
Books Borrowed	861,683	\$15.00	\$12,925,245.00
Magazines Borrowed	5,745	\$5.00	\$28,725.00
DVDs/BluRays Borrowed	18,812	\$20.00	\$376,240.00
Audiobooks Borrowed	106,345	\$20.00	\$2,126,900.00
eBooks Borrowed	13,4333	\$20.00	\$2,686,660.00
Program Attendance	32,802	\$10.00	\$328,020.00
Computer Usage	117,172	\$5.00	\$585,860.00
Chromebooks Borrowed	665	\$200.00	\$133,000.00
Hotspots Borrowed	418	\$200.00	\$83,600.00
State Parks Pass Borrowed	418	\$5.00	\$2,090.00
Zoo Pass Borrowed	519	\$75.00	\$38,925.00



Sequoyah Accomplishments

OPENED the renovated and expanded Pickens County Library.

PROVIDED access to Chromebooks and Launchpads, both available for checkout and made possible thanks to the GEER Grant.

CREATED Digitizing Equipment Labs at Gilmer County Library and Rose Creek Public Library.

INCREASED library borrowers by 10.4%.

IMPLEMENTED Fine-Free Summer for all library users.

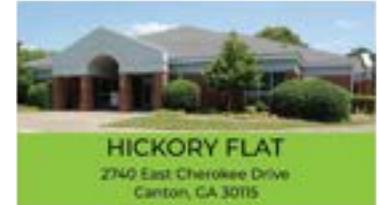
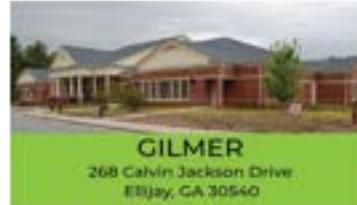
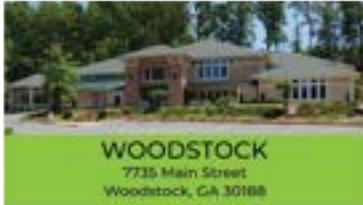
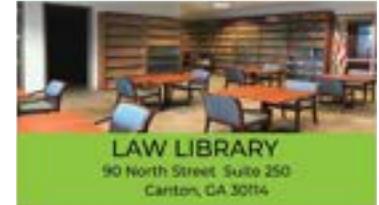
REIMAGINED Sequoyah Stories, inviting the community to share with us how the library impacts their life.

IMPLEMENTED online booking of community room, making it easier for community members to use our spaces.

BROKE GROUND on the Hickory Flat Public Library expansion/renovation project.

INCREASED bandwidth at Ball Ground, Gilmer and Pickens locations from 200 Mbps to 750 Mbps. Bandwidth at Cherokee County Law Library, Rose Creek, Woodstock and Hickory Flat locations was increased from 200 Mbps to 500 Mbps.

Sequoyah Locations



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



Sequoyah Regional Library



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