Sequoyah Regional Library System
Cherokee · Pickens · Gilmer

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

The community’s dynamic destination for discovery.

770-479-3090 sequoyahregionallibrary.org 116 Brown Industrial Parkway Canton, GA 30114
During FY22, our community checked out a total of 1,020,144 items.
Compiling our annual report is a perfect chance for the staff and community to be reminded of the incredible year our community has experienced. In FY 2021, we focused on restoring services. In FY 2022, the Sequoyah Regional Library System focused on creating connections.

This past year, we connected library borrowers to over 1 million items. We ended FY22 circulating 1,020,144 items! This marks our highest circulation year since FY11, when SRLS circulated 1,137,412 items. This could only have been achieved with the dedication from every staff member, who works hard to connect every borrower to the item that best fits their needs.

The Sequoyah Regional Library System also took big leaps in connecting our community to internet access. During the pandemic, when our buildings were offering limited access to services inside our buildings, we took steps to ensure that all of our parking lots offered continuous access to Wi-Fi. This year, we began circulating Chromebooks and wireless hotspots. Borrowers can check out a Chromebook and hotspot for two weeks, providing them with internet access at home, at work, in the park, or in any area they require or want access. In six months, the Wi-Fi hotspots were checked out over 200 times.

We also celebrated milestones! In November, we celebrated Rose Creek Public Library's 30th Anniversary. We were joined by Georgia State House Representative Charlice Byrd and Cherokee County Commission Chairman Harry Johnston. Pictures, memories, and stories were shared, commemorating 30 years of community impact and connections.
In May, we celebrated our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Class of 2022 Graduates. Our graduates read over 63,000 books! We are so proud to be a part of this impactful program that recognizes reading milestones and even prouder to be able to celebrate these accomplishments with our library families!

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 enjoyable. 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.

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

Angela Cortellino, Executive Director
Sequoyah Regional Library System
Sequoyah Snapshot

175,078 EBOOKS and AUDIOBOOKS DOWNLOADED

5,235 COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION ROOM USES

25,051 PEOPLE ATTENDED 852 PROGRAMS BOTH ONLINE AND IN PERSON

93,506 COMPUTERS ACCESSED

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

129,699 ACCESSED WIRELESS
Sequoyah Snapshot

114,520 community members have a library card.

29 different Library of Things offered in this unique collection.

3,257 new downloadable borrowers added.

527,271 youth materials borrowed.

341,575 welcomed through our doors.

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“My children and I participate in the Summer and Winter Learning programs and LOVE them. It keeps us all reading, and the kids love earning the badges. We also enjoy the wonderful programming. Libraries provide opportunities, education, and tools to everyone regardless of circumstances. They are a fantastic resource for communities!” – Addie, Ball Ground Public Library

“As a young child, I struggled with retaining information that I read. The summer between my second and third grade year, my mom brought me to the library several times a week to practice reading books aloud and answering comprehension questions. I believe that was also the first year I participated in the library Summer Learning challenge. As a result of my trips to the library (that summer and the summers to follow) and participating in reading challenges, I vastly improved my reading comprehension. I also developed a love for reading.” – Jessica, Hickory Flat Public Library

“I needed assistance applying for a job and creating a resume. I was not proficient with technology and wanted help creating an account on the job site and needed to create a resume. (Sequoyah Library Staff) helped me create a resume and apply for the job. I used the library computers and the "Building-Updating-Your-Resume" PDF on the website to create a resume. (Sequoyah Library Staff) helped me to create an account on the job site, create a resume, and to upload that into the site. They went beyond the call of duty, and really helped me out. I know I’m going to get the job now because of their help. You are all a blessing!” – Louis, Woodstock Public Library
“There were two immediate needs that were very effectively solved by my library. 1.) MiFi WiFi Usage, and 2.) meeting space. The Rose Creek Library Staff were FANTABULOUS in helping me with scheduling space for my meetings and ensuring all audio visual equipment was operational. My meetings were wildly successful and meeting attendees were so impressed with the services available to me through my local library. Cherokee County residents are so fortunate to have the BEST library system in the country! Personally, the Rose Creek Library staff are your greatest asset and they provide excellent customer service to the community. I am so grateful for all they do to make our lives better.” – Jamice, Rose Creek Public Library

“I’m a student teacher, and I check out books to do lessons all the time. I use the books to build on the reading skills of students frequently. (I recently visited the library because) I needed a room to record over my project! And you were able to provide that quiet space for me that had zero disruption! I got the room I needed! You helped me find books and get one of the rooms! You are always so quick to help others when looking for something/need something!” – AnnaBelle, R.T. Jones Memorial Library

“I was in the Rose Creek area for a college seminar, I got really sick and pulled over at the library. The library gave me a safe place to take shelter until my blood sugar got back to normal. It was very welcoming and as bad as I felt I didn’t feel as afraid as I would have had I been forced to go in a store.” – Karen, Rose Creek Public Library
Sequoyah Accomplishments

IMPLEMENTED
RFID Technology at all locations, including self-check units.

CELEBRATED
the Rose Creek Public Library’s 30th Anniversary.

IMPLEMENTED
Ask Us! Sessions, allowing patrons to receive one-on-one help by reserving time with a staff member at any of our locations.

COMPLETED
architectural design for Hickory Flat Public Library expansion/renovation project.

HIRED
an Outreach Manager, expanding our ability to serve the community outside of our library locations.

UNVEILED
the Anita D. Summers Discovery Space at Gilmer County Library.

OFFERED
Digitization Equipment at Gilmer County Library.

ADDED
Alliance Theatre Pass to SRLS Experience Passes.
The Pickens County Library, built in 1996, is being expanded and updated to better serve the community. Over the past 26 years, both the population of Pickens County and the use of the Pickens County Library have nearly doubled. The renovated building has been designed to best serve the needs of the community, offering new experiences and new spaces for them to enjoy.

This project was partially funded by Pickens County’s SPLOST program. To fund the remaining portion, Sequoyah Regional Library System received from the State a $2,000,000 Capital Outlay Grant. The renovated and expanded library is expected to open in late 2022.
SRLS received numerous grants totaling in excess of $112,780 including Emergency Connectivity Fund, Georgia Public Library eBook Grant, Georgia Public Library Tech Grant and Georgia Public Library Marketing Grant.

**SRLS OPERATING FUNDS**

- **72%** Local Governments
- **23%** State Government
- **16%** 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?
- Over time, the value of your library card adds up!

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

- 527,271 youth materials borrowed is an estimated retail value of $6,323,328
- 175,078 eBooks loaned out is an estimated retail value of $1,611,825
- 23,188 DVDs borrowed is an estimated retail value of $272,673
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.
SRLS is a three-county library system with seven locations and a law library. Pickens and Gilmer each have one branch in their county. Cherokee county 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 the local county boards. 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 or libraries and report to the Regional Board.