

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.



Message from the Executive Director

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.

Message from the Executive Director

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

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

 **129,699**
ACCESSED WIRELESS

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



114,520
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS HAVE
A LIBRARY CARD

3,257
NEW DOWNLOADABLE
BORROWERS
ADDED

527,271
YOUTH MATERIALS
BORROWED



29 DIFFERENT
LIBRARY OF THINGS
OFFERED IN THIS UNIQUE COLLECTION
THESE ITEMS
CIRCULATED **6,474 TIMES**

341,575
WELCOMED THROUGH OUR DOORS

Sequoyah Stories

"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**



Sequoyah Stories

“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**

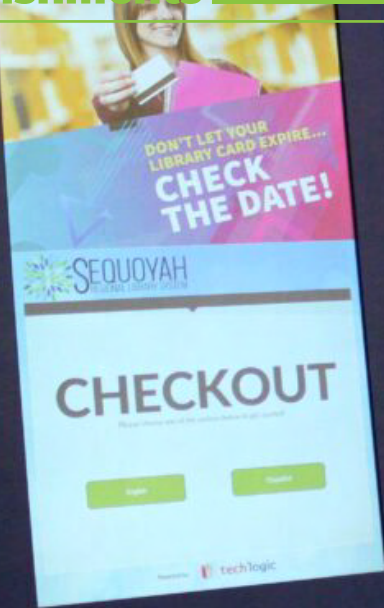
“I’m a student teacher, and I check out books to do lessons all the time. I use the books to build on the reading skills of students frequently. (I recently visited the library because) I needed a room to record over my project! And you were able to provide that quiet space for me that had zero disruption! 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/needing 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.

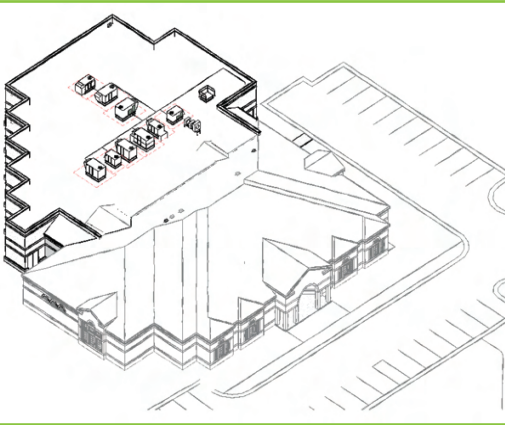
OFFERED

Digitization Equipment at Gilmer County Library.

ADDED

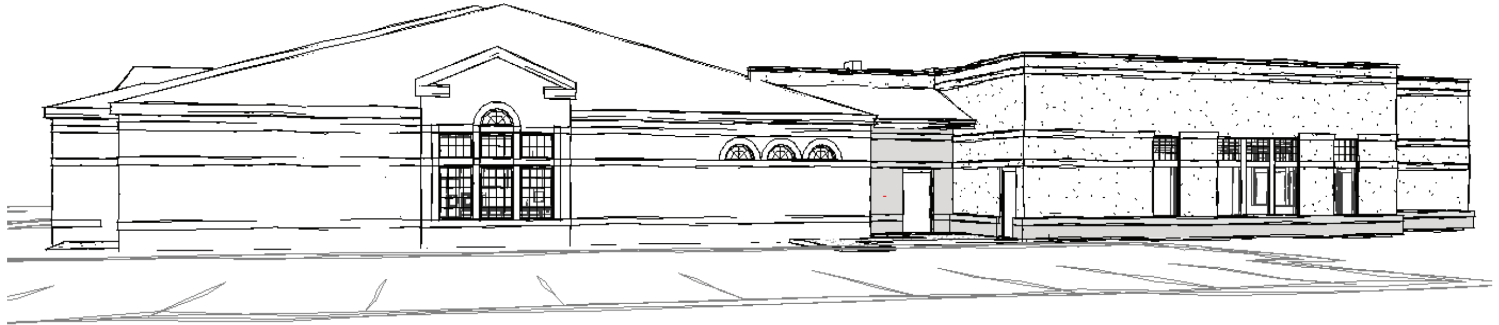
Alliance Theatre Pass to SRLS Experience Passes.

Renovation and Expansion



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.



Revenues and Expenditures

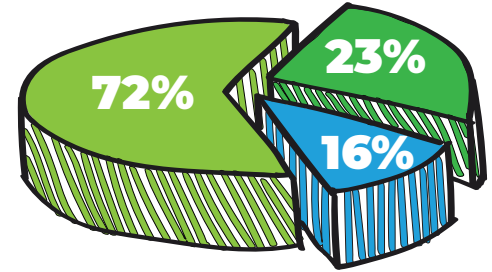
SRLS received numerous grants totaling in excess of \$112,780 including Emergency Connectivity Fund, Georgia Public Library eBook Grant, Georgia Public Library Tech Grant and Georgia Public Library Marketing Grant.



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**

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.





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

90 North Street Suite 250
Canton, GA 30114



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

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.