



MIDDLE GEORGIA
REGIONAL LIBRARY



2023

**REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY**

BUILDING A LITERATE AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Through Collaboration & Partnerships

Middle Georgia Regional Library staff collaborates with the Macon-Bibb Mayor's Literacy Alliance to ensure that our community members are connected to literacy resources that improve their lives. (page 3, top left)

Crisis Line and Safe House has a new tool for families experiencing displacement. Ten families will be able to build their children's home libraries thanks to Prime Time Family and Pre-school Boxes provided by Georgia Public Library Service. The boxes contain books, learning and art supplies, and materials to support caregivers. (page 3, bottom left)

Residents at Brookdale Resource Center have increased computer access via Chromebooks provided through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. The mobile computer lab will enable community members to meet their information needs during times that Library WoW is not visiting. (page 3, bottom middle)

Local coffee shops and bakeries in Macon joined in to share the benefits of a library card during Library Card Sign Up Month with MGRL branded coffee sleeves and conversations with customers about their favorite library services. Macon Bagels offered a 10% discount to customers who came in with a library book. (page 3, top right)

By Getting in Touch With Nature

We have planted community gardens, hosted harvesting events, and provided patrons with seeds for their home gardens through partnerships with the Georgia Farm Bureau and the Master Gardeners of Central Georgia.

The Charles A. Lanford, M.D. Library has been registered as a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. (page 3, bottom right)

Lanford Library and Oglethorpe Library's butterfly gardens are registered on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. (page 3, middle right)





Through Personal Approaches to Address Adult Literacy

One-on-one reader's advisory services offered by the Adult Literacy Librarian at Washington Memorial Library assist patrons with reaching their reading goals, including strengthening their reading skills and connecting them to their next great read. There have been 113 checkouts from ongoing advisory sessions with return patrons.

By Better Understanding Legal Transactions

Middle Georgia Justice presented the Legal Literacy series at Washington Memorial Library. This series is intended to help members of the public identify when they are engaging in a legal transaction and how to find help. Sessions include topics such as legal service providers, estate planning, and more.

Through Hands On Interactions With Technology

Patrons can get hands-on experience with technology and learn the skills necessary for academic and career success using in-person classes and online courses thanks to a grant from the Public Library Association and AT&T. Classes are currently offered at Washington Memorial Library and online courses are available at digitallearn.org.

FOSTERING DIVERSE LEADERSHIP IN MACON-BIBB'S NONPROFIT BOARDS



We have created pathways to cultural and nonprofit board participation from under-represented populations, thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Participants of the Board Works 123 Board Diversity Workshops have secured positions on nonprofit boards, created new nonprofits, and are pursuing government board positions.

A library staff member pursuing her library license was so motivated by the program that she applied to and was promoted to the Business and Nonprofit Center Librarian position.

We will continue to offer this training program to future cohorts, which will result in the ability of nonprofit organizations in Macon to understand and fulfill the needs of those they serve.

24
individuals successfully
completed the Board Works
123 training workshops

21
identify as members of a
minority group



SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH & REDUCING BARRIERS TO ACCESS

Taking Overdue Fines Out of the Equation

Circulations and readership continue to see an upward trend since overdue fines were removed from youth print materials in 2021.

85%
increase in circulations

Expanding Access to Public School Students

The PLAY Card Program now includes Baldwin, Bibb, Jones, Macon, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties.

43,381
students with PLAY Cards

Reaching Underserved Populations

Library WoW is reaching students at Brookdale Resource Center, recreation centers, and apartment complexes in Macon-Bibb.

7,568
materials borrowed by PLAY Card users in FY22-23

2023

Summer Reading

by the minute

We set a goal of 2 million minutes read by the end of summer and surpassed it with 2.3 million minutes read!



Readers
3,103



Met Reading Goal
859

The individual reading goal was 25 hours.



2,315,807
Total Minutes

33%

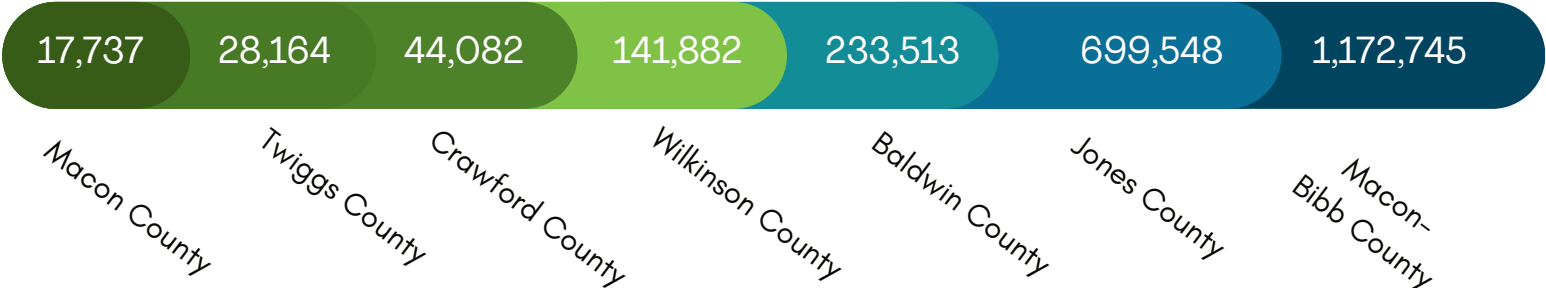
increase from 2022

85%

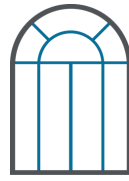
increase from 2021

The reading goal for the system was 2 million minutes.

Minutes per county



JOINT REPORT



MIDDLE GEORGIA
REGIONAL LIBRARY

1180 Washington Avenue
Macon, GA 31201
478-300-6744
www.bibblib.org



132,738
CARD HOLDERS



62%
state goal is 40%



336,478
PATRON VISITS



32,003
HOURS OPEN

OUR LIBRARIES

Baldwin County

Hancock Branch
Lake Sinclair Library
Mary Vinson Memorial Library

Bibb County

Bloomfield Library
Charles A. Lanford, M.D. Library
Library Without Walls (WoW)
Riverside Library
Shurling Library
Washington Memorial Library

Crawford County

Crawford County Library

Jones County

Jones County Library

Macon County

Marshallville Library
Montezuma Library
Oglethorpe Library

Twiggs County

Twiggs County Library

Wilkinson County

East Wilkinson County Library
Gordon Library

\$14.8 MILLION

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

\$6.7 MILLION

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

448,035

Print Books
Borrowed

\$7,616,595

38,360

eBooks
Borrowed

\$575,400

52,810

eAudio Books
Borrowed

\$501,695

28,799

Movies
Borrowed

\$115,196

293,585

Reference
Transactions

\$2,055,095

37,129

Database
Searches

\$740,724

58,389

Computer
Sessions

\$700,668

163,845

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$819,225

308

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$7,700

30,672

Programming
Attendance

\$258,422

8,614

Experience Passes
Borrowed

\$172,280

The estimated retail value of each service (if purchased) is determined by the Georgia Public Library Service Library Value Calculator. Some totals have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

2023 MILESTONES

JAN

We kicked off the year with our annual Winter Reading Challenge.

FEB

The 1st Board Diversity Project cohort completed the Boards Works 123 training program.

MARCH

The African American History Committee has 1st meeting.

APRIL

Baldwin County libraries partnered with the Milly Free Fridge to collect hygiene items for those in need.

MAY

Graduation ceremony held to celebrate the 22 children who completed the 1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten program.

JUNE

We planted new community gardens at several library branches.

JULY

MGRL sets record for 2.3 million minutes read for the Summer Reading Program.

AUG

Muriel Jackson, Head of Genealogy and Archives, received Humanitarian Award.

SEP

We partnered with local businesses to promote Library Card Sign Up Month.

OCT

14 Early Literacy Kits deploy to libraries to assist parents and caregivers to encourage a love of reading with their children

NOV

Washington Memorial Library's Centennial celebrations kick off with birthday party attended by 473 community members.

DEC

Several libraries partnered with local colleges to offer GED information sessions.

DONATIONS & GRANTS

\$70,265

IN DONATIONS

Macon-Bibb Friends of the Library • Twin Lakes Friends of the Library • Jones County Friends of the Library • Annie Dumas Trust • Martin L. Boyd Scholarship Fund • Conditioned Air • Tri-County EMC • Jones County Kiwanis Club

\$911,066

AWARDED IN GRANTS

Grants have supported outreach efforts in our affiliated counties, repairs and renovations of our libraries, technology upgrades, Lanford Library's butterfly garden, our Finance Network, the Summer Reading Program, and books and other supplies.

BALDWIN COUNTY



19,454
CARD HOLDERS



53,237
PATRON VISITS



5,326
HOURS OPEN

\$2.1 MILLION

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

BALDWIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Revel Pogue, Chair

Carl Cansino, Vice Chair

Linda Zarkowsky, Treasurer

Andrew Herren

Cameron Williams

Carol Grant

Jemeria Cummings

Linda Zarkowsky

\$537,994

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

67,451

Print Books
Borrowed

\$1,146,667

927

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$8,807

7,884

Movies
Borrowed

\$31,536

11,685

Reference
Transactions

\$81,795

5348

Computer
Sessions

\$64,176

39,595

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$197,975

36

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$900

6,872

Programming
Attendance

\$59,932

1,216

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$24,320

eBooks, databases, and interlibrary loan usage statistics cannot be separated by county and therefore are not included in itemized reports. The estimated retail value of each service (if purchased) is determined by the Georgia Public Library Service Library Value Calculator. Some totals have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

BIBB COUNTY



92,772
CARD HOLDERS



222,224
PATRON VISITS



11,946
HOURS OPEN

\$8.6 MILLION

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

MACON-BIBB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Shaundra Walker, Chair
Chris Howard, Vice Chair
Hazle Hamilton, CPA, Treasurer
Kristen Grissom, Secretary
Ethiel Garlington
Jami Gaudet
Janice Habersham

\$3.9 MILLION

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL,
STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

312,523

Print Books
Borrowed

\$5,312,891

6,179

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$58,700

12,068

Movies
Borrowed

\$48,272

249,635

Reference
Transactions

\$1,747,445

40,167

Computer
Sessions

\$482,004

100,853

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$504,265

98

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$2,450

15,360

Programming
Attendance

\$131,814

5,703

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$114,060

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CRAWFORD COUNTY



1,539
CARD HOLDERS



5,537
PATRON VISITS



1,492
HOURS OPEN

\$298,145

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

CRAWFORD COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Tom Green, Chair
Rhonda Harris, Vice Chair
Joy Lacey, Secretary
Penny Hatcher
Sara Paravis

\$40,813

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

9,984

Print Books
Borrowed

\$169,728

80

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$760

320

Movies
Borrowed

\$1,280

560

Reference
Transactions

\$3,920

1084

Computer
Sessions

\$13,008

3,156

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$15,780

20

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$500

172

Programming
Attendance

\$1,393

290

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$5,800

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JONES COUNTY



10,895
CARD HOLDERS



29,823
PATRON VISITS



2,451
HOURS OPEN

\$1.3 MILLION

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

JONES COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Debbie Lurie-Smith, Chair

Belinda Chaney

Brandy Round

Charles Lundy, Jr.

Ed Barbee

Jacqueline Tukes

Jason Rizner

Joy Carr

Marilyn Norfleet

\$196,020

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL,
STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

41,232

Print Books
Borrowed

\$700,944

302

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$2,869

2,273

Movies
Borrowed

\$9,092

24,773

Reference
Transactions

\$173,411

3,285

Computer
Sessions

\$39,420

6,015

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$30,075

39

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$975

4,004

Programming
Attendance

\$38,866

1,117

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$22,340

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MACON COUNTY



3,974
CARD HOLDERS



8,500
PATRON VISITS



4,935
HOURS OPEN

\$306,705

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

MACON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Ronald Simpson, Vice Chair

Dangle Denise Colbert

Jane Hobbs

Laura Long

Michelle Chase

Wanda Pendl

\$148,959

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

5,130

Print Books
Borrowed

\$87,210

25

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$238

98

Movies
Borrowed

\$392

3532

Reference
Transactions

\$24,724

4,966

Computer
Sessions

\$59,592

8,009

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$40,045

34

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$850

1,302

Programming
Attendance

\$11,361

71

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$1,420

eBooks, databases, and interlibrary loan usage statistics cannot be separated by county and therefore are not included in itemized reports. The estimated retail value of each service (if purchased) is determined by the Georgia Public Library Service Library Value Calculator. Some totals have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

TWIGGS COUNTY



1,980
CARD HOLDERS



4,504
PATRON VISITS



1,772
HOURS OPEN

\$154,285

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

TWIGGS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Faye Bridges, Chair

Vinnie Dupree, Secretary

Evealene Taylor

Faye Bridges

Frances Steele

Kathryn Epps

Laura Gallemore

\$46,054

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

3,711

Print Books
Borrowed

\$63,087

283

Reference
Transactions

\$1,981

44

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$1,100

16

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$152

1,633

Computer
Sessions

\$19,596

304

Programming
Attendance

\$2,759

122

Movies
Borrowed

\$488

2,242

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$11,210

62

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$1,240

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WILKINSON COUNTY



2,124
CARD HOLDERS



12,653
PATRON VISITS



4,081
HOURS OPEN

\$274,755

TOTAL **VALUE** OF LIBRARY SERVICES

EAST WILKINSON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Dwan Carswell, Chair
Barenda Hogan, Vice Chair
Beverly Clark, Secretary
Donna Asbell, Treasurer
 Betty Browher
 Sharon Carr
 Susan Wilson

GORDON LIBRARY BOARD

Brenda Broach, Chair
Bonnie Silsby, Vice Chair
Jenn Morris, Secretary
 Callie Jones
 Diana Grimes
 Elizabeth D. Proctor
 Samantha Riggs

\$109,101

TOTAL **COST** OF LIBRARY SERVICES FROM LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL SOURCES

6,288

Print Books
Borrowed

\$106,896

3,117

Reference
Transactions

\$21,819

37

Meeting Room
Reservations

\$925

40

Audio Books
Borrowed

\$380

1,906

Computer
Sessions

\$22,872

3,499

Programming
Attendance

\$25,568

157

Movies
Borrowed

\$628

3,975

Wi-Fi
Sessions

\$19,875

159

Experience
Passes Borrowed

\$3,180

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The new library at 5494 Forsyth Road will restore library services to North West Macon.

The Library Annex located inside the old Macon Mall will provide the community with an additional location to access library services.

Renovations to the Mary Vinson Memorial Library will add study spaces, increase safety, and create a more open and functional library space.

A new library at The Collins P. Lee Center in Milledgeville will increase access to library services for the Harrisburg Community.

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Ethiel Garlington

Jami Gaudet

Janice Habersham

Revel Pogue, Baldwin County

Thomas Green, Crawford County

Debbie Lurie-Smith, Jones County

Kathryn Epps, Twiggs County

Beverly Clark, Wilkinson County

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

GIVE

The Macon-Bibb Libraries Endowment Fund and Middle Georgia Regional Library General Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia were created to endow the future of the Macon-Bibb County libraries.

VOLUNTEER

Help support literacy efforts by joining the Friends of the Library! Learn more about our 'Friends' groups at

https://bibblib.org/information/get_involved/friends_of_the_library.php

ADVOCATE

Encourage friends and family members to sign up for a free library card and take advantage of the resources available.



Historic Macon joined us as an activity partner for Washington Memorial Library's Centennial Birthday Party.



1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten graduates in their cap and gowns.



The winning submissions for the 2023 Art of Reading competition.



Avi, from Shurling Library, visited a class at Bernd Elementary School for storytime.



The Museum of Arts and Sciences provided a live animal show at Lanford Library during the 2023 Summer Reading Program.



Seniors enjoyed a Create and Connect craft activity at Riverside Library.