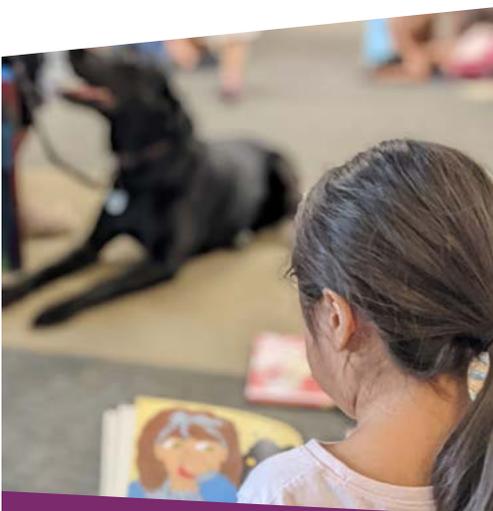




Riverside County  
Library System

# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021-2022



# CONTENTS



- Letter From the Director.....3
- RCLS Use at a Glance.....5
- Partnerships.....6
- Diversity and Inclusion.....7
- RCLS Impact.....8
- Innovation and New Services.....9
- Career Building.....9
- Literacy Services.....11
- Grants.....12
- RCLS Key Partners.....13
- RCLS Locations.....14

# Letter from the Director

I have been overwhelmed by the level of dedication from our library workers during the past year. I saw a staff that is resilient, strong, and truly committed to finding new ways to continue meeting the needs of our communities throughout Riverside County. The “we’ve got this” attitude of staff helped us overcome this year’s challenges, and it is what continues to drive us forward today.

The year started with the completion of two new libraries in Menifee and French Valley. If we needed to be reminded of how much those communities crave in-person programming, we saw it for ourselves when hundreds of children visited both libraries for storytime during the opening weeks!

After launching these new sites, we turned our attention to Canyon Lake. The branch relocated to a new space in the same strip mall, upgrading to become more accessible and visible to County residents. This 3,394 square foot library holds over 13,000 items, offers a large, comfortable meeting room, more public computers than ever before, and a dedicated braille section for sight-impaired youth.

While we continue to offer some virtual programming, we reintroduced in-person events at all locations. The personal connection and experience of storytime, a book club discussion with existing and new friends, or the chance for a child to gain confidence by reading to therapy dogs at the library, are shared community passions.

The website was restructured and reorganized, making it easier for patrons to navigate and access services. The new site provides language translation options, meets website accessibility standards and has better search technology, perfect for discovering new items and events.

Finally, we introduced new, much-needed services for everyone in Riverside County. Hotspots and Chromebooks were added and can be checked out and taken home, bringing connectivity and access to everyone. And it’s not just devices; thanks to the generous support of the California State Library and California State Parks, RCLS cardholders can now check out a Park Pass to visit any of



the hundreds of California State Parks for free.

All of Riverside County can look forward to two more Library Connect Mobile Resource Vans added to our fleet, a brand new RCLS mobile app, expanded and improved Spanish language collections, and a new streaming platform primarily offering Spanish language films from across the world.

Thank you to all County leaders and community members for your continued support. And thank you to all RCLS staff who make these wonderful services, programs, and collections possible and who provide quality, caring service to the people of Riverside County. You all make me extremely proud. We've got this!

**Jon D. Solomon | Director**



# RCLS USE AT A GLANCE



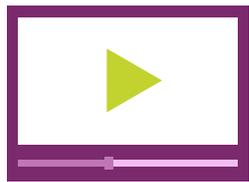
**>2.4 M**  
PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**154,112**  
EBOOKS  
CHECKED OUT



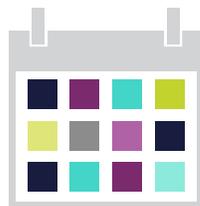
**116,952**  
EAUDIOBOOKS  
CHECKED OUT



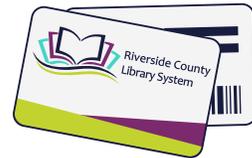
**26,155**  
FILMS WATCHED



**>1.5 M**  
LIBRARY VISITS



**7,042**  
PROGRAMS ATTENDED



**39,572**  
NEW CARDS ISSUED

# Partnerships

## Project Connect Now

Through a federal grant awarded by the California State Library, Project Connect Now brought social work interns from California Baptist University into selected branches to serve the community while receiving college credit. Under the supervision of a licensed Social Worker identified through a partnership also with California Baptist University, interns rotated weekly to provide services to some of RCLS's most underserved residents.

RCLS partnered with the Riverside County Law Library to offer pro-bono family law, civic/small claims, estate planning, and immigration law services. A successful program, RCLS has been awarded another grant to continue with these much-needed services.



**Save the Date!**

**Project Connect**  
RESOURCES • PARTNERSHIPS = IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

**Thursday**  
**April 21, 2022**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Lake Elsinore Library**  
600 W. Graham Ave.  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Homeless and Mental Health  
Resource & Information  
Sharing Events

Community Services  
Health Maintenance Information  
Veteran's Resources  
Employment Support

Riverside County Library System  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Early Childhood Programming

Staff from 17 RCLS libraries took part in training to enhance the quality of programs for children aged zero to five. The program, offered in partnership with Quality Start Riverside, resulted in staff completing online classes, developing new programs, and discussing their progress with their Quality Start advisor. With a total award of \$51,000, each branch that took part received \$3,000 to spend on early childhood development items such as books and toys.

## Reading Challenge

Library staff partnered with Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Gomez and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) to challenge families with young children to read 3 million words on the Footsteps2Brilliance (F2B) reading app. This partnership also provided Literacy Ambassador Training for 37 RCLS staff members, who learned to use the Footsteps2Brilliance curriculum. Because of this partnership with local schools, libraries can now host RCOE literacy events and better connect school, home, and the library to support the academic success of their communities' children.

# Diversity and Inclusion

## We Out Here: Diversity Film Festival and Summit

To celebrate the diversity of Norco's BIPOC/LGBTQ+ (Black, Indigenous, People of Color/Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+) communities, Norco Library hosted an online film festival, We Out Here: Diversity Film Festival and Summit. Funded by a California Humanities grant and with support from Good Docs, four films were screened (Warrior Women, The First Rainbow Coalition, Us Kids, and No Más Bebés). The screenings were followed by an in-depth discussion with the filmmaker or the subject of the film on themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Collaboration with Norco College's BIPOC/LGBTQ+ organizations produced an online diversity summit, featuring a student-led discussion panel and a leadership roundtable. The summit opened a conversation exploring the needs and strengths of Norco's growing diversity and showcased some of the brightest emerging agents of change within the Norco community.

## Celebrando Tradiciones, Culturas UNIDAS!

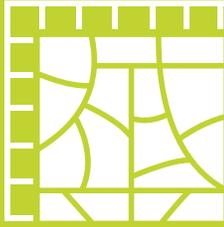
Coachella Library held an eight week series of events to celebrate and highlight the cultural heritage of Latin American countries. This event showcased both the diversity and the similarities of Latin cultures through crafts, heritage talks, and a community-created Día de los Muertos altar. Over 900 visitors took part in this event, creating space for newfound understanding and respect for different cultural heritages.

## Día de Los Niños

In April, Idyllwild branch hosted a bilingual extravaganza to celebrate Día de Los Niños. Guests enjoyed live guitar music, balloon twisting, and a piñata, and children received free bilingual books.



# RCLS IMPACT



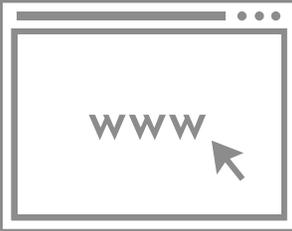
**7,000**  
SQUARE MILES



**35**  
LIBRARY LOCATIONS



**1.4 M**  
RESIDENTS SERVED



**511,378**  
WEBSITE VISITS

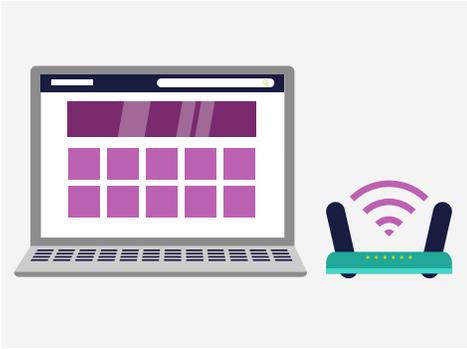


**>1M**  
SEARCHES IN THE  
CATALOG



**231,492**  
HOLDS PLACED

# Innovative and New Services



## **Bridging the Digital Divide:**

Through the support of the California State Library, RCLS provided much-needed internet access across Riverside County in the form of Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks that can be checked out and taken home. These devices are available at all library locations and allow patrons to work, apply for jobs, complete schoolwork, and explore from wherever they are.



## **State Park Passes:**

Through the generous support of the California State Library and California State Park system, all RCLS locations now have vehicle park passes for patrons to check out. Cardholders can use the passes to visit any of the hundreds of state parks across California for free. This new service encourages individuals and families to get outside and explore, expanding what California public libraries provide access to beyond books and information.

# Career Building



## **Share, Play, Succeed – A Teen Internship Program**

With a grant from the California State Library, Wildomar Library set up opportunities for local residents to jumpstart their careers via a community service internship. Teens selected for this program by the California Family Life Center had the opportunity to experience a library career, developing professional skills in computer technology, customer service, and event planning and evaluation.

## Career Orientation

A partnership between the Ronald H. Roberts Temecula Public Library and Mt. San Jacinto College delivered a series of career presentations for teens. In a popular session, a Mt. San Jacinto College representative discussed the EMT course along with expectations and requirements for an EMT career. Another session looked into the criminal justice career field, where professors discussed DNA fingerprinting technology and other methods of data gathering to solve crimes.



## Lunch at the Library

This year, RCLS hosted Lunch at the Library with grant funding from the California State Library and through partnerships with local school districts. For the first time, three libraries participated in the Farm to Summer sub-grant that provided kids and teens access to fresh, locally sourced nutritious meals and hands-on learning activities related to local produce. Thanks to additional funds, local teen volunteers at Home Gardens and Louis Robidoux libraries were able to learn workforce readiness skills while assisting with the lunch program.



## New Career Resources

With support from the California State Library, RCLS now offers five new online resources targeted at job skills and career readiness. These new resources include: Coursera, Learning Express, LinkedIn Learning, Northstar Digital Literacy, and Online Learning, and Skillshare.

# Literacy Services

RCLS Literacy Services provides both virtual and in-person services in one-on-one or small group settings.

## Adult Literacy

- One-on-One Tutoring
- Small Group Sessions
  - Basic to Advanced Grammar Classes
  - Citizenship Preparation Class
  - Computer Basics Class
  - English Conversation Club
  - Financial Literacy Class
  - Introduction to Microsoft Class
  - Learn How to Stay Healthy Class
  - Reading & Writing Learner's Book Club
- Career Online High School (COHS)
- Learning Lounge - on demand tutoring

## Family Literacy

- Literacy Care Packages
- Raising a Reader
- "Help Your Child Be School Ready" Workshops by grade level

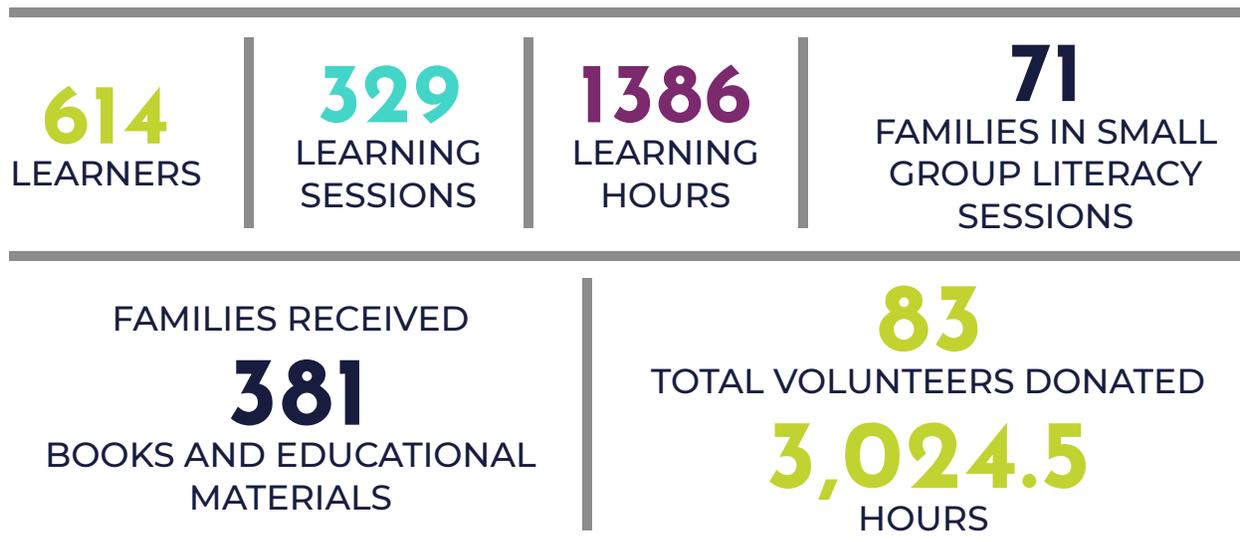
Learners set goals for their literacy skills to make a positive impact on their lives. These goals also often benefit the lives of learners' families and loved ones.

**70%** of Learners are working towards communicating effectively with educators, medical professionals, and family members.

**62%** are working towards getting a job or a better job

**63%** are working towards becoming a citizen

**48%** of Learners are working towards reading a more challenging book



**65%** OF ADULT LITERACY LEARNERS USE A VIRTUAL SETTING

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**35%** OF LEARNERS ACCESS IN-PERSON SERVICES AT 13 OF OUR 35 BRANCHES

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**Diverse community of Learners with home languages including: Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, and Arabic**

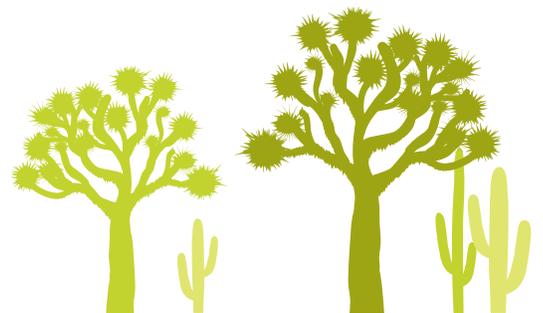
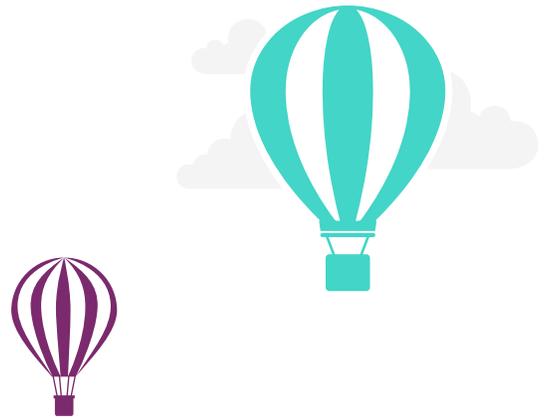
# Grants

<b>We Out Here: Diversity Film Festival and Summit</b>   <i>California Humanities</i> .....	<b>\$5,000</b>
Empower and celebrate diversity	
<b>Library Innovation Lab</b>   <i>California Humanities</i> .....	<b>\$5,000</b>
Education on endangered animals	
<b>California Public Library Meal Programs</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$27,780</b>
Programming materials at library summer meal sites	
<b>Zip Books</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$65,000</b>
Patron-direct online book purchasing	
<b>Library Connect</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$201,796</b>
Mobile Resource Vans and Literacy Services	
<b>Photographic Discovery</b>   <i>California Humanities</i> .....	<b>\$5,000</b>
Community building through photographs	
<b>California Library Literacy Services</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$103,901</b>
Literacy Services	
<b>Share, Play, Succeed</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$35,000</b>
Teen programming internship project	
<b>NASA</b>   <i>ALA</i> .....	<b>\$1,600</b>
Space exploration activities and programs	
<b>Pop Up Makerspace</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$7,137</b>
Educational literacy enrichment activities	
<b>Día</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$10,000</b>
Bilingual crafts, books and programs	
<b>Project Connect Now</b>   <i>California State Library</i> .....	<b>\$32,527</b>
Free onsite and/or virtual social welfare and legal services	



# RCLS Key Partners

- Riverside County Board of Supervisors
- Riverside County Office of Economic Development
- California Baptist University's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
- California Family Life Center
- County of Riverside Community Action Partnership
- Desert Hot Springs Historical Society
- Desert Recreation District
- Edward Dean Museum
- First 5 Riverside County
- French Valley Historical Society
- Inland Counties Legal Services
- Inlandia Institute
- Lake Elsinore Unified School District
- Malki Museum
- Mount San Jacinto College
- Norco College
- Quality Start Riverside County
- REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking
- Riverside County Law Library
- Riverside County Library System Foundation
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Riverside University Health System
- **Riverside County Library System Friends Groups:**
  - Friends of the Cabazon Library
  - Friends of the Cathedral City Library
  - Friends of the Desert Libraries: Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Lake Tamarisk, La Quinta, Mecca, Palm Desert, and Thousand Palms
  - Friends of French Valley Library
  - Friends of the Idyllwild Library
  - Friends of the Jurupa Libraries: Glen Avon Chapter, Friends of the Jurupa Libraries - Louis Robidoux Chapter, Friends of the Nuvview Library
  - Friends of the Menifee Library
  - Friends of the Perris Library
  - Friends of the San Jacinto Library
  - Friends of the Sun City Library
  - Friends of the Temecula Grace Mellman Library
  - Friends of the Temecula Public Library
  - Friends of the Wildomar Library
  - Friends of the Woodcrest Library



# RCLS Locations



**[rivlib.net](http://rivlib.net)**

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Visit us online or in one  
of our locations!

Anza  
Cabazon  
Calimesa  
Canyon Lake  
Cathedral City  
Coachella  
Desert Mobile Resource Van  
Desert Hot Springs  
Eastvale  
Edward Dean Museum  
El Cerrito  
French Valley  
Glen Avon  
Highgrove  
Home Gardens  
Idyllwild  
Indio  
La Quinta  
La Quinta Museum  
Lake Elsinore  
Lake Tamarisk  
Lakeside  
Mead Valley  
Mecca  
Menifee  
Norco  
Nuvview  
Palm Desert  
Perris  
Robidoux  
San Jacinto  
Sun City  
Temecula Grace Mellman  
Temecula Public Library  
Thousand Palms Art Sampson  
Valle Vista  
Western County Mobile Resource  
Van  
Wildomar  
Woodcrest