

2024 – 2025 Year in Review



 (770) 479-3090

 116 Brown Industrial Pkwy
Canton, GA 30114

 SequoyahRegionalLibrary.org

 **SEQUOYAH**
REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
CHEROKEE • PICKENS • GILMER





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Revenue Sources

We appreciate all the financial support we receive and consider it a privilege to serve our community.

We are able to impact our community with funding from:

Cherokee County Commissioners

Pickens County Commissioners

Gilmer 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.





Message from the Executive Director



Angela Coretellino

Executive Director, SRLS

As we wrap up another fiscal year, we are pleased to share this annual report that allows us to reflect on our accomplishments and successes. It has been a remarkable year filled with growth, learning, and community engagement.

We are thrilled to share that we welcomed over **490,000 visitors** through our doors, hosted countless events and programs, and added over **45,000 new items** to our collection. Your enthusiasm for our community spaces and love for reading continue to inspire us to provide exceptional library services.

This annual report reflects on our past fiscal year, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. 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.

For the fourth year in a row, we connected library borrowers to over 1 million items. This year, however, was extra special. We ended FY25 **circulating 1,225,682 items!** This marks our **highest circulation in our library's history**. In addition, our FY25 circulation is **10.2% higher** than last year. This is achieved by your patronage and with the dedication from every staff member, who works hard to connect people with ideas and opportunities to explore.

Message from the Executive Director



FY2025 marked a significant period of service expansion for our library system. We were delighted to **reopen the Hickory Flat Public Library** in July 2024. After more than a year of closure, the community was warmly welcomed back to **a revitalized space** featuring new community gathering areas, updated technology, and an inviting outdoor play area.

Another notable addition to our service expansion efforts was the Discovery Outreach Transport (DOT). DOT enables our Outreach Team to bring Pop-Up Libraries, Storytimes, and various other programs **directly to local community events.**

The Hill Freeman Library on the Reinhardt University campus officially became a "**Sequoyah Spot.**" This partnership allows SRLS cardholders to conveniently pick up holds, return SRLS items, and utilize the spaces within the Hill Freeman Library. This location, along with our Hickory Flat location, also features innovative book lockers. These lockers provide cardholders with the flexibility to pick up their reserved items.

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.**

10.2%

Circulation Increase
from FY24

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners for their unwavering support and hard work. Together, we have created **vibrant and welcoming spaces** where **everyone can learn, explore, and connect**. Thank you again for making this library year so successful. We look forward to serving you better in the years to come.

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

"The Sequoyah Regional Library System strives to be the community's *dynamic destination for discovery.*"

**Highest
Circulation
on record!**

1,225,682

Total Items Checked Out
from our Collection

143,770

Community Members with
a SRLS Library Card

10.41%

Increase in Library Borrowers

Hickory Flat



Grand Re-Opening:

Public Library



July 25, 2024

"The Library is safe, fun, and a place to engage my kids in education. The library has helped me teach my 4 year old daughter to read. As a mom I feel like I can only get my daughter so far, but with the resources of the library I have been able to teach her more. It is my kids' favorite place to go! "

Rachel, Hickory Flat Public Library Patron



"The library is a fun and safe place for my kids and I."

One Year Open

\$6,754,039

Total Renovation
Cost

7,800

Square Footage
Added

26

Parking Spaces
Added

86,069

Total Visitors
Since Re-Open

176,471

Total Checkouts
Since Re-Open

129

Total Events



Sequoyah Spotlight

Community Programs for All Ages

1,106

Total Programs

Program Types

Storytimes

STEAM Events

Book Clubs

Art Events

Reading Dogs

LEGO Labs

Yoga Sessions

Knowledge Base
and more!

Your Dollars at Work

Program Attendance | 32,991

Value per One | \$10.00

Total Value of Service | \$329,910



Sequoyah Spotlight

Early Literacy Thrives at the Library

543,268

Youth Materials
Checked Out

261

Storytimes

11,504

Storytime
Attendance

48

1,000 Books Before
Kindergarten
Graduates

Sequoyah Spotlight

Sequoyah Spot at Reinhardt University

**At Hill Freeman Library,
community members can:**

- **Apply for a SRLS Library Card**
- Use a SRLS library card to check out Reinhardt Library Materials
- **Reserve the Community Room**
- Use computer, printing, and copying services
- **Attend monthly SRLS storytimes**

HILL FREEMAN LIBRARY
SPRUILL LEARNING CENTER

Sequoyah Spotlight

Service Expansion: Book Lockers



**Hickory Flat
Public Library**

24/7 Holds Pick-Up

**Hill Freeman Library,
Reinhardt University**

Sequoyah Spot available to
all SRLS cardholders





Sequoyah Spotlight

Services Offered

Library Cards

Ask Us! Sessions

Community Spaces

Computers

Printers

Digitizing

Experience Passes

EZ Student Access

Interlibrary Loans

Proctoring

Seed Libraries

3D Printing

and more!



Meet

DOT!



Discovery Outreach Transport

Bringing the library's services to the community in style



300 Books



150 SWAG Items



150 Flyers

Sequoyah Spotlight

Outreach

187

Event Visits

959

Item Check-Outs



7,137

Patrons Served



Sequoyah Spotlight

Collections

886,877

Books Checked Out

10,517

Library of Things
Items Checked Out

537

Hotspots Checked
Out

469

State Park Pass
Checked Out

150,064

eBooks
Checked Out

Sequoyah Stories

"I've always loved the library, but now I have a toddler and it's like a whole new place. We love spending time here picking out books and doing the many activities the library has out for us! **We would never be able to read the amount or variety of books that we do without the library.** My kid loves coming here because there's so much to do and it changes regularly. I can't think of another place like that."

Megan, R.T. Jones Memorial Library



"Over the summer when I can't use my school's library, the public library is a visit I make every week or two for new entertainment. Imagination and letting my mind run wild seems to keep me feeling myself. I went to my first event with one of my best friends- She is on TAB at the library. **It was some of the most fun I've had in a really long time.** It was great, too, to be surrounded by a bunch of other book nerds."

Bevin, Woodstock Public Library

Sequoyah Stories

"I've been going to the library since I was a young girl. Being surrounded by books has always brought me comfort and happiness. **I love the love I see in the employees eyes**, helping young and old. I love the activities and I love seeing my daughter grow to love the library as much as I do. Where else can you get free books and fun activities? Where else could you borrow a laptop and sewing machine? Libraries are amazing!"

Kayla, Pickens County Library

"Having a place to go with friendly faces when you're a stay at home mom is crucial. We don't like to travel too far and knowing that there's a safe and friendly place to go with our toddler is so great! The library gives us access to amazing children's books to help our toddler learn and explore the world through books. We have the cutest kid section and we love that it's also our polling location to vote. Everyone is always so sweet!"

Lacey, Rose Creek Public Library

Your Dollars at Work

Books Borrowed

886,877

Times Used

\$15.00

Value Per One
Service

\$13,303,155

Total Value
of Service

Magazines Borrowed

42,644

Times Used

\$5.00

Value Per One
Service

\$213,220

Total Value
of Service

DVDs/BluRays Borrowed

17,264

Times Used

\$20.00

Value Per One
Service

\$345,280

Total Value
of Service

Audiobooks Borrowed

10,333

Times Used

\$20.00

Value Per One
Service

\$206,660

Total Value
of Service

eBooks Borrowed

150,064

Times Used

\$20.00

Value Per One
Service

\$3,001,280

Total Value
of Service

Your Dollars at Work

Computer Usage

140,567

Times Used

\$5.00

Value Per One
Service

\$702,835

Total Value
of Service

Chromebooks Borrowed

1,024

Times Used

\$200.00

Value Per One
Service

\$204,800

Total Value
of Service

Hotspots Borrowed

537

Times Used

\$200.00

Value Per One
Service

\$107,400

Total Value
of Service

State Park Pass Borrowed

469

Times Used

\$5.00

Value Per One
Service

\$2,345

Total Value
of Service

Zoo Pass Borrowed

781

Times Used

\$75.00

Value Per One
Service

\$58,575

Total Value
of Service

Library Partners

Partnerships are a pathway for the Sequoyah Regional Library System to further support our Mission, Vision, and Values through a mutually beneficial relationship with longevity in mind.

SRLS Partnerships can look like creating avenues for collaborating on public services, programming, cross-promoting, sharing resources, etc.

The terms are generated by involved parties to ensure that they are mutually beneficial with shared responsibilities, purposeful, and sustainable for years to come.

**Ball Ground
Garden Club**

**Cherokee County
Master Gardeners**

**Cherokee County
School District**

**Farm Bureau
Insurance**

**Ferst
Readers**

**Friends of the Cherokee
County Public Libraries**

**Friends of the Gilmer
County Library**

**Friends of Pickens
County Library**

**Georgia Cyber
Academy**

**Gilmer County
Genealogical Society**

**History
Cherokee**

**Gilmer County
Master Gardeners**

**North Georgia Mountains
History Center**

**Pickens County
School District**

**Reinhardt
University**

**Southeastern
Grasslands Institute**

**Unite
Homeschool**

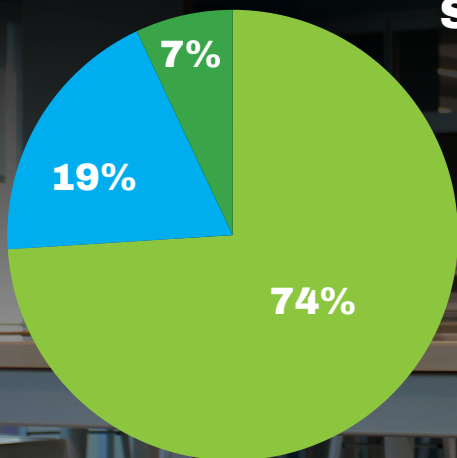
**Woodstock
Arts**

**City of
Woodstock**

Revenues Expenditures

Sequoyah Regional Library System received numerous grants totaling in excess of \$88,000.

Awarded grants include Library Technology Funds, Faith Hope & Charity, PCCRA, State Lib Tech, Sandra Deal Summer, and a Digital Connectivity Grant.



SRLS Operating Funds

74% Local Governments

19% State Government

7% Other Sources*

*Fines, Fees, Donations, Federal Grants



Your Sequoyah Locations

Ball Ground Public Library

435 Old Canton Rd
Ball Ground, GA 30107

Gilmer County Library

268 Calvin Jackson Dr
Ellijay, GA 30540

Hickory Flat Public Library

2740 East Cherokee Dr
Canton, GA 30115

Pickens County Library

100 Library Lane
Jasper, GA 30143

Rose Creek Public Library

4476 Towne Lake Pkwy
Woodstock, GA 30189

R.T. Jones Memorial Library

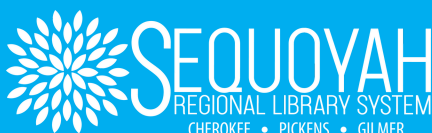
116 Brown Industrial Pkwy
Canton, GA 30114

Woodstock Public Library

7735 Main St
Woodstock, GA 30188

Law Library

100 North Street
Suite 250
Canton, GA 30114



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 SequoyahRegionalLibrary.org



Sequoyah Regional Library System is a three-county library system with seven locations and a law library. Gilmer and Pickens Counties each have one location in their county. Cherokee County has five locations and a law library at the courthouse. SRLS 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 and report to the Regional Board.