



2023 COMMUNITY REPORT

LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES

LITERACY FOR MORE

For Live Oak Public Libraries (LOPL), 2023 was another year of amazing growth. More patrons are discovering the depth and variety of our collection and services. Larger numbers of the community are benefitting from the professional, knowledgeable, and welcoming staff we have in 16 branches across Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty counties.

We are thrilled to see more people in library buildings and online, borrowing Chromebooks and Hotspots, enjoying free, amazing programs, "borrowing" ukuleles and park and museum passes, engaging during Storytime, and using "Books on the Go" for the homebound.

On the following pages of this annual report for FY2023, the numbers are impressive. We estimate that LOPL provided \$19.2 million in value in 2023, about 3.5% more than in FY2022, despite a slightly lower year-on-year operating budget. To us, that means we are working harder, but smarter, and with more focus. But we want to do more.

A Conversation with Our Communities

In Fall 2023, we kicked off a strategic planning project, using a respected and experienced consulting firm to ensure an unbiased and objective process. It has been **fifteen years** since a comprehensive strategic plan was developed for LOPL. In this period, so much has changed in our communities and within best practices for public libraries. Technology is dramatically changing the way we as a society deliver and receive information and the written word. And in the greater Savannah area, we all know the demographics and size of our populations are undergoing enormous change. Our strategic plan will help us to align the Libraries' future with the needs and wants of those we serve.

We expect to complete the strategic planning process, and to communicate a forward-looking five-year plan, by the end of calendar year 2024. We've had amazing community participation in surveys and focus groups across the three counties.

Committed to What's Next

As we look to the future, you will see new faces in our branches and in our communities as we build out our organization to support more programs, outreach, and materials for borrowing. We also remain focused on staff development and training at all levels for LOPL employees - so they can continue to support literacy and life-long learning for all community members with consistency.

We invite you to start your story, explore your world, discover your voice, and create your future with LOPL!



Lola Shelton-Council
Library Executive Director



Dr. Gordon Baker
Regional Library Board Chair

COUNTY LIBRARY BOARDS

Thank you to these community volunteers for their service:

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD

Brienne Walsh, Chair
Dr. Gordon Baker, Vice Chair
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Ambria Berksteiner
Gabrielle Gardner
Erin Lovejoy
Laura Nottingham
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Laura Nottingham, Treasurer
Ambria Berksteiner
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Hank Heller
Erin Lovejoy
James Odum
Marie Rozman
Aminata Traore-Morris
Brienne Walsh
Jere Williams

ONE YEAR MILLIONS OF STORIES



*FY2022 vs. FY2023



**START
YOUR
STORY**



**EXPLORE
YOUR
WORLD**



I am loving the library system and especially the Libby app. I love having a hard copy book to read but also an audiobook so I can continue while walking the dog or on a work commute.

Thank you and your whole team for making me a library user and lover again!

-Stephanie, Bull Street Library Customer



As a young girl, I visited the Midway branch to check out books that allowed me to explore other cultures, imagine myself in new places, and learn about history.

As I grew into an adult with a family and career, I began visiting the library as a place to engage my daughters in the programs, as well as build my business. If it wasn't for the public library, I wouldn't be the woman who I am today.

-Krystal, Hinesville Library Customer



Since becoming part of the Pines system . . . I am now trying to start a Dungeons & Dragons group and the books offered have been a lot of help in me starting my D&D adventures.

My hope is that with the new library these opportunities will continue to expand and will lead to more new discoveries. Every visit is an adventure to me!"

-Heather, Rincon Library Customer



I came to the library every day when I was looking for work. I could not have found a job without the availability of the computers and printers.

There would be a big hole in my life without the library. I hope the library never closes. Thank you.

-Georgianna Magoulas, Oglethorpe Mall Library Customer

CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Your local library is here for you - no matter where you may find us!

Live Oak Public Libraries reaches out to the community to meet you at events and activities across Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties.

Community engagement also includes innovative programs: Community Bookshelf donations for schools and nonprofits, "Books on the Go" for homebound and people with limited mobility, and Student PLAY fine-free library accounts for public school students. And all ages have fun with Summer Reading Challenge!

We are grateful for our community partners for their collaboration to help make these initiatives possible.



12,146
COMMUNITY
BOOKSHELF
DONATIONS



94
OUTREACH
EVENTS



65
BOOKS ON THE GO
HOMEBOUND PATRONS



92,287
STUDENT PLAY
ACCOUNTS



6,707
SUMMER PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



5,217
SUMMER LUNCHES



26,835
HOURS READ
IN SUMMER



4,550
SUMMER READING
REGISTRATIONS



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The homebound service for our residents at Summer Breeze Senior Living has been a great service!!! The residents love being able to request the latest books from their favorite authors and genres! Not to mention receiving mail! They love to see those bags delivered right to their rooms!

We are very grateful for the homebound service and many thanks to Pat for coming out, explaining the process and signing up our residents ~ Keep 'em coming!

-Laura Annekin

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION - FY2023

Thank you to Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties for their support of the Library's mission to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

Special thanks also to federal, state, and local sources who provided \$1,311,303 in grant funding.

REVENUES

Chatham County	\$8,176,600
Effingham County	\$1,166,848
Liberty County	\$748,045
State Funding	\$1,169,467
Rent Income	\$2,400
Fines & Fees	\$44,623
Interest/Earnings on Investments	\$227,274
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$11,847

EXPENDITURES

Wages & Benefits	\$7,234,704
Library Materials	\$669,520
Facilities Related Expenses	\$1,610,153
Professional & Technical Services	\$306,822
Technology & Equipment	\$536,985
Library Programs	\$83,158
Misc. General Operating	\$175,386
Capital Outlay	\$930,381

Total Revenues \$11,547,104

Total Expenditures \$11,547,104

VALUE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

From books and online resources to programs for all ages, the total value of library services represents a significant return on community investment.

This represents the estimated retail value of library services, if purchased. Visit liveoakpl.org/value for more details.

\$19,204,3016

TOTAL VALUE OF LIBRARY SERVICES



“Student Play” is live and active for all students in Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty County public schools!



STUDENT PLAY

PINES LIBRARY ACCESS FOR YOUTH

Free resources available at your local library and online anytime from home or school.



STUDENT PLAY

PINES LIBRARY ACCESS FOR YOUTH

Free resources to support student success inside and outside of the classroom.

- Use your student/lunch number just like a library card.
- Connect to homework help, tutoring, and study tools.
- Borrow books, ebooks, and more with no overdue fines.
- Visit your local library or go online to learn more.
- liveoakpl.org/studentplay

Use your PLAY account like a library card to check out books and access e-resources!

PLAY account example: SAV1234567
School district (SAV, EFF, or LCS) and student/lunch number. All capital letters, no spaces.

PLAY password/PIN example: 042006
Student birth month and year (MMYYYY), no spaces.

Some e-resources require a free account.
Use an email and password of your choice. When asked for library card, use your PLAY account.

Some e-resources require GALILEO access.
When asked for library card, use PLAY account/password.

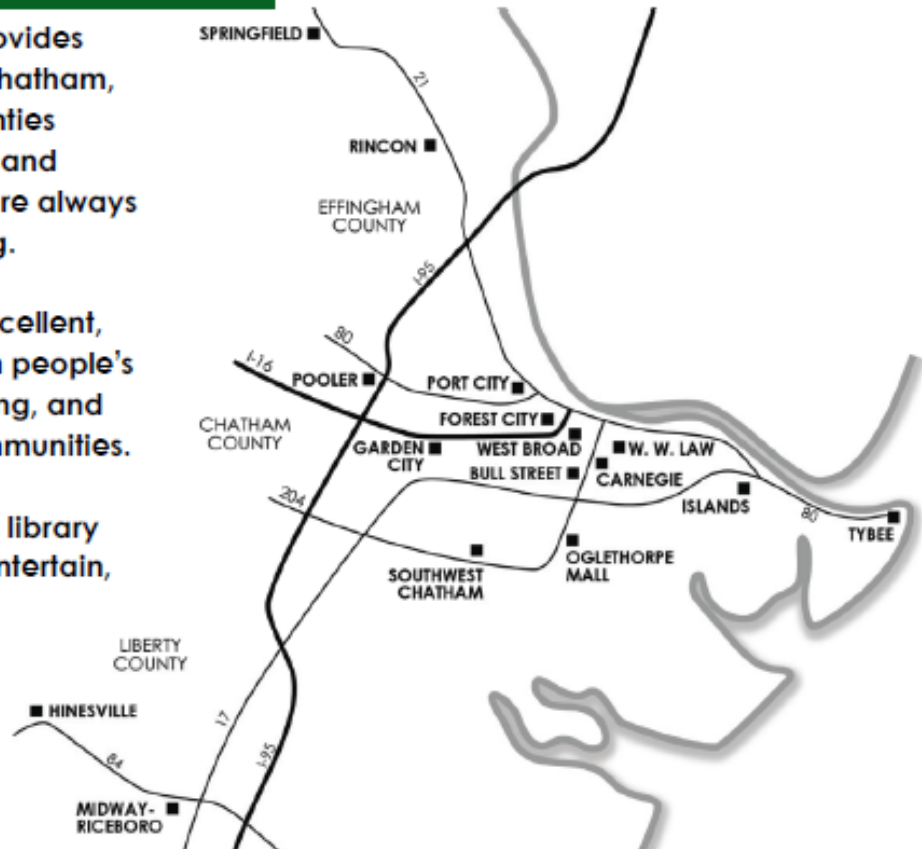
➤ liveoakpl.org/studentplay



Live Oak Public Libraries provides programs and services in Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty Counties through 16 library locations and community outreach. We are always open online at liveoakpl.org.

Our mission is to provide excellent, responsive service to enrich people’s lives, support lifelong learning, and build and enhance our communities.

We are creating tomorrow’s library today to educate, inform, entertain, and enrich our community.



LIVE OAK
Public Libraries

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