



Annual Report
2023

VISION

An engaged community that learns, works, creates, and thrives together.

MISSION

Providing resources, experiences, and places that empower people to learn, explore, and succeed.

A library is defined as a building or room containing collections of books, magazines, and other materials for people to read, borrow, or reference. Those who visit our libraries regularly often have warmer descriptions, such as “my happy place” or “heaven on earth.” The range of descriptions in between the dictionary definition and that of an avid fan is as wide and diverse as the customers we serve.

It is Spokane County Library District’s (SCLD) mission to provide resources, services, and programs in response to the variety of needs of our customers. In 2023, SCLD introduced, changed, or improved several services, resources, policies, and programs to continue this mission. Here are some notable milestones from the year.

Board of Trustees

John CRAIG Chair

John KLAPP Trustee

Jessica HANSON Vice Chair

Robert PAULL Trustee

Ellen CLARK Trustee

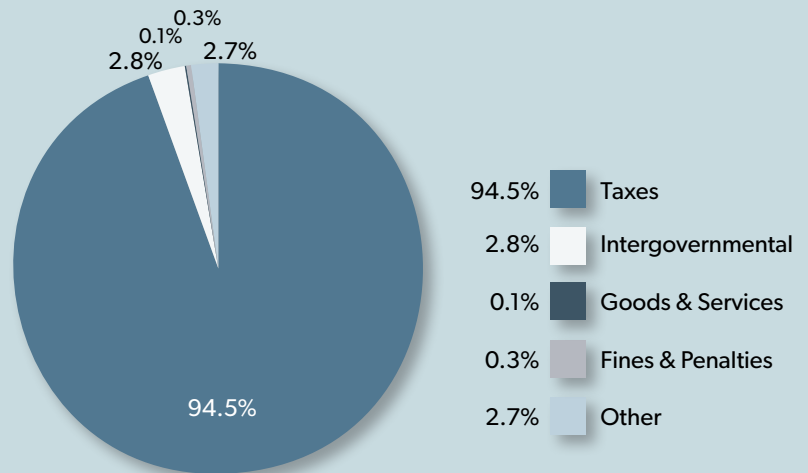
2023 Financial Information

A property tax levy of \$0.3415 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the District service area accounts for more than 94% of annual funding. Remaining revenue is derived from interest earnings, other fees and charges, and miscellaneous revenues, such as gifts and donations.

Revenues

Year 2023 (from C4 for revenues)

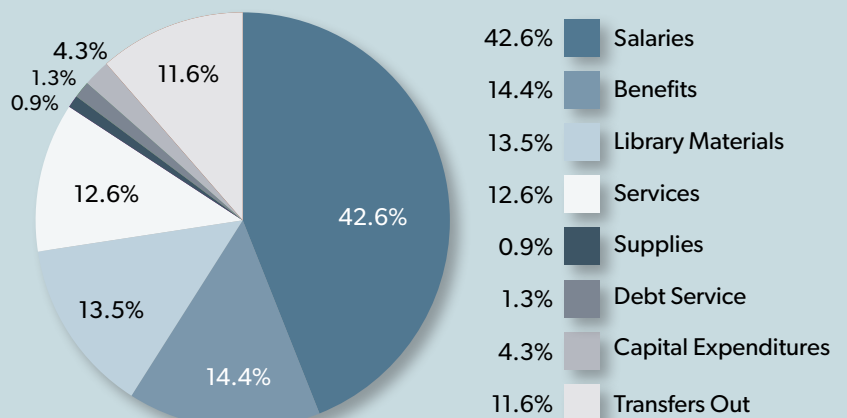
Taxes.....	16,971,013
Intergovernmental	507,519
Goods & Services.....	23,822
Fines & Penalties	51,502
Miscellaneous	494,925
Total Revenues.....	18,048,781



Expenditures

From internal statements for expenses

Salaries.....	7,715,983
Benefits	2,644,865
Library Materials	2,381,664
Services	2,036,437
Supplies	169,805
Debt Service	231,043
Capital Expenditures	366,329
Transfers Out.....	2,007,000
Total Expenditures	17,553,126



Library District Goes Fine Free

Spokane County Library District announced the end of overdue fines as of January 1, 2023. Overdue fines are no longer charged for borrowed items that are not returned by the due date. Customers are still accountable for the items they borrow. When an item is 4 weeks overdue, SCLD considers it lost and bills the customer for the item's full price.



Facility Updates

NEW SPOKANE VALLEY LIBRARY OPENS

The new Spokane Valley Library opened on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

The 28,000-square-foot facility features contemporary technology, the large Diane E. Zahand Community Room, The STCU Studio that's fully equipped for public use, several smaller conference rooms, and a vibrant, spacious children's area. The 70,000-item collection from the former facility was relocated to the new building.

Financing for the library was through a unique combination of funding sources that allowed for construction of a new Spokane Valley Library without the need to raise taxes through a ballot measure.



THE BOOKEND IN SPOKANE VALLEY MALL CLOSES

As SCLD explored different options for funding new libraries, The BookEnd was opened to demonstrate SCLD's commitment to library services in Greater Spokane Valley. With the opening of the new Spokane Valley Library, the closure of The BookEnd aligned with that original intent and allowed for refocusing resources at the new, larger library.

CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS ANNEXES INTO SCLD

The Airway Heights City Council placed, and voters approved, a proposition on the primary election ballot to annex to the Spokane County Library District to continue funding the local library.

The annexation means that property owners will pay the Library District directly (via county property tax) for service instead of the city paying through its general property tax levy.

LIBERTY LAKE REGIONAL PARK SEASONAL LENDING LIBRARY PILOT PROJECT

Parkside Books is a three-year collaboration between SCLD and Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department with approval from Spokane County Commissioners.

This pop-up style library located in the park is stocked with our "Second Look" collection. These are items that have been taken out of the circulating collection as per SCLD's standard collection management policies but are of sufficient condition and topical interest to be made publicly available. Parkside Books is unstaffed, uses the honor system, and is open during April through October.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION UPDATE

The installation of Avista's grant-funded electric vehicle chargers at Argonne, Moran Prairie, North Spokane, Otis Orchards, and Spokane Valley Libraries is complete. The chargers are available for customer use.

Avista is evaluating funding opportunities which may provide for the installation of EV chargers at additional library locations.

SECURITY CAMERA INSTALLATION

As part of the 2019 levy funding priorities, installation of security cameras on the exterior and entrances of SCLD facilities was identified as a key operational safety project and completed in 2023. Along with keyless entry and alarm system updates, the intent of the security camera project is to provide the District with greater environmental control of its facilities to better maintain safe and welcoming places for customers and staff.

Programs & Resources

SUMMER READING

Friendship, kindness, and unity encompassed this year's summer reading theme of All Together Now, featuring a reading challenge, events, and activities.

A total of 1,265 readers joined the reading challenge. These participants achieved a cumulative total of 830,588 minutes spent reading. In addition, 1,694 activities were completed, 7,990 badges earned, and 465 book reviews submitted.

There were 6,827 people who attended summer reading programs. These events included a virtual author visit with Sharon Draper, concerts in parks and libraries, Camp Read-a-Rama, Nerf battles, miniature golf programs, escape rooms, hikes, and many more activities.

NEW CATALOG INTRODUCED

The library premiered a new catalog with a fresh look and more features to aid in finding books and materials. The catalog features easier browsing, various catalog menus, and search results that group together all available format options for a title, including links to digital resources.

Library customers can also access My Account information, such as holds, due dates, and renewals as well as create and save custom lists and searches when logged in to the catalog.

KANOPY ADDED TO DIGITAL LIBRARY

Library card holders who are in-district can enjoy an ad-free streaming experience on their TV, mobile devices, and tablets as well as online from Kanopy. Viewing is instantaneous, unlimited, and includes movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema, independent films, kids programming, and educational videos.

STAY SHARP KITS OFFERED

Stay Sharp Kits are designed to be used with individuals who are experiencing memory loss or other cognitive issues related to dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other memory disorders. These kits include supportive activities and games to help reduce memory loss. There are 11 different themed kits with something for most everyone.

EXCEL ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The District introduced Excel Adult High School, which provides an opportunity for individuals in our service area to complete their high school education and earn their diploma from an accredited program.

The program is entirely online. Participants can complete the course work at the times that work best for them. Excel Adult High School is free to all applicants who are accepted into the program.

7TH ANNUAL SPOKANE WRITERS CONFERENCE

The 2023 annual Spokane Writers Conference was our largest conference to date. This was our first year of collaborating with Spokane Public Library to expand the conference to two days, offering informative and creative approaches to writing and revision as well as insights into the processes for getting work published.

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

Over 90 people attended the annular solar eclipse viewing party on Oct 14. Despite cloudy weather obscuring the event, families enjoyed learning about solar science and completing the crafts and activities. We debuted our new Sunspotter Solar Telescopes, which will be made available in the Library of Things, along with our regular telescopes.

FIRE RESPONSE

In response to the devastating Gray Fire, Medical Lake, Airway Heights, and Cheney Libraries offered support and services for the West Plains community. Medical Lake Library extended its open hours.

To assist people affected by the Oregon Road wildfire in Elk, our mobile library LINC increased scheduled stops at the community shelter at Riverside High School in Chattaroy and other locations to offer support and services for the community.

STARTUP SPOKANE

Spokane County Library District and Spokane Public Library partnered to revitalize StartUp Spokane, a program originally created by Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI) to support local entrepreneurs and foster business growth.

This natural extension of existing library resources will reach even more of the business community and offer all our accessible resources for aspiring and established business owners throughout the region.

This strategic partnership, fueled by a grant from the Washington State Microenterprise Association and a sponsorship from Numerica Credit Union, builds upon the free business resources that our combined library systems have offered for over a decade.

2023 AT A GLANCE

767,425 people came through the doors in 2023



2,444,201 items borrowed

1352 Storytime & Early Learning programs
with 26,380 in attendance

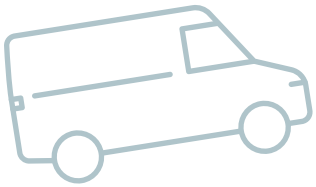


782 Education & Enrichment programs with 14,904 in attendance

70 Business & Career Development programs with 1604 in attendance

205 Mobile Services stops with 4802 visitors and

20,408 checkouts



48 School tours with 920 in attendance



Talked with 13,843 people during 79 different community events

6270 reservations made for our public meeting rooms

Facilitated 27 test proctoring sessions

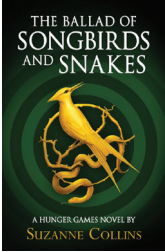
MOST POPULAR IN 2023

PHYSICAL CHECKOUTS



KIDS

Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea (Dog Man #11), by Dav Pilkey



TEENS

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (A Hunger Games Novel), by Suzanne Collins



ADULTS

Spare, by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

DIGITAL CHECKOUTS: EBOOK & AUDIO



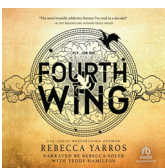
KIDS

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (Harry Potter #2), by J.K. Rowling



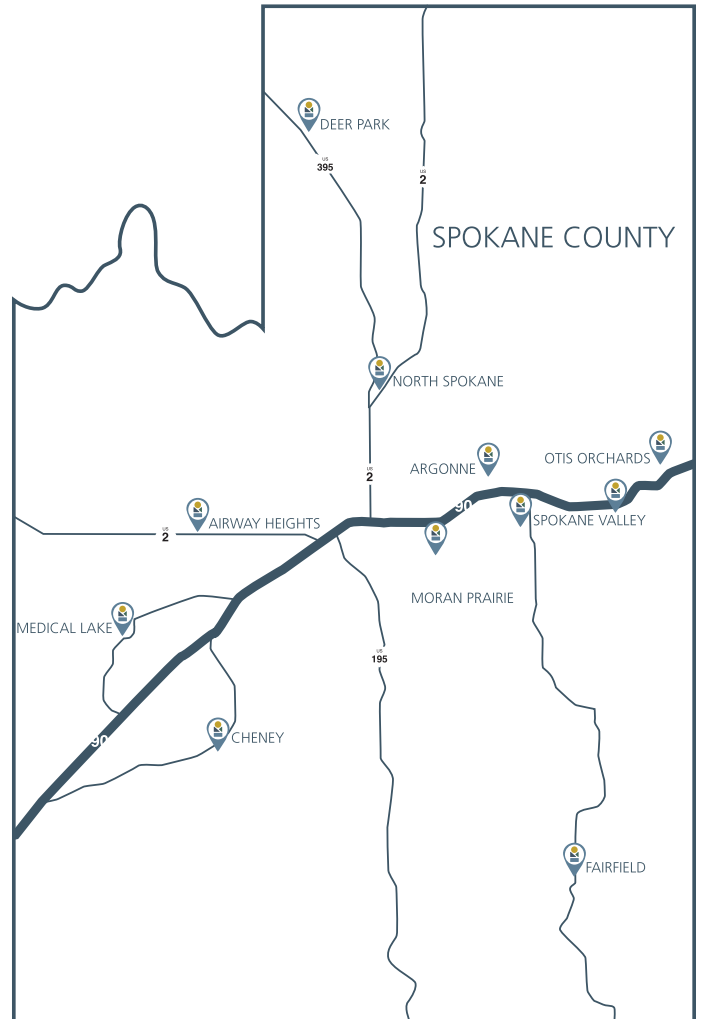
TEENS

A Court of Thorns and Roses (A Court of Thorns and Roses #1), by Sarah J. Maas



ADULTS

Fourth Wing (Empyrean #1), by Rebecca Yarros



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