

2024 Community REPORT



ANDERSON COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
SOUTH CAROLINA



About Us

For 116 years, the Anderson County Library System has been an essential and dynamic institution whose dedicated staff provides outstanding service, meaningful collections, and impactful programs in welcoming and inspiring spaces for the residents of Anderson County.



Message From the Library Director



Dear Anderson County Library Patrons and Supporters,

I am proud to share this 2024 Annual Report with you; what a great year the Anderson County Library System has had! This report reflects a year of adaptation, growth, and continued commitment to serving our community through innovative programs, resources, and connection. As you look through the report and think about the 2024 year, I want really to highlight the **39% increase** in attendance at our Anderson County Library locations! That is amazing growth, and there are a lot of factors that have contributed to those numbers.

First, I want to point out that ACLS works diligently to provide creative, relevant programming for patrons of all ages, **1,905 programs** last year, to be exact. The staff spend a lot of time developing programming that is both educational and entertaining, and that help to create lifelong library patrons.

Secondly, Hurricane Helene's devastation brought in large numbers of community members in need, and I am proud of the way our library and staff stepped up to serve those people. Many of the people that came to charge phones, use internet, and find comfort were not regular library users, but recognized the library as a place of support during crisis. I am thankful we were able to provide a sanctuary during difficult times. In addition, the Library also partnered with Anderson County Emergency Management Services to provide services from FEMA for several months. Almost **3,000 people** were served by the Federal Agency.

Finally, we've had an increase in meeting room use over the last year as well. Many groups and organizations use our facilities regularly to have internal meetings, trainings, or programs. One such partnership was with the Anderson County Board of Voter Registration and Elections, which brought early voting to the Pendleton and Powdersville locations. Many early voters also got library cards for the first time!

I want to emphasize these points from 2024 because we are glad to be here to serve the needs of our county citizens, in whatever form they take. Libraries are a vital community resource and we will continue to strive to be a welcoming space for all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Board of Trustees

Elaine Stoll
District 1

Pinkey Rinnix
District 2

Frances Saville
District 3

Nicole Davenport
District 4

Angela Dixon
District 5

Wendy Tucker
(Chair)
District 6

Andrew Cacossa
District 7

Albert "Howie"
Howard
(Vice-Chair)
At-Large

Jimmy Johnson
At-Large

Annie Sutton
Library Director

Our Vision

The library is community-driven and innovative, providing essential resources, services, and spaces.



Our Strategic Goals



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

We wish to turn nonusers into engaged library users, instill a sense of library importance, and strengthen community relationships.



PATRON EXPERIENCE

We will strive to provide consistent services to all patrons, make all feel welcome, and provide materials patrons want in formats they want.



INNOVATION

We will find innovative opportunities to provide unique services, programs, and materials.



ENGAGE OUR TEAM

We will focus on hiring a diverse and engaged staff, providing training, tools, and resources to succeed, and clear consistent communication.

Serving Anderson County with 9 Library Locations and a Bookmobile



Anderson



Belton



Iva



Honea Path



Williamston



Pendleton



Piedmont



Powdersville



Westside



After 20 years and miles of smiles, 😊
our beloved Bookmobile will be
retiring. We'll be introducing our new
Community Outreach Van in 2025!



OUR INCREDIBLE PATRONS

We love Issuing and renewing library cards!



114,499
Total Library
Cardholders
(Awesome!)



9,304
New Library
Cards Issued
(Woohoo!)



8,925
Library
Cards Renewed
(Welcome back!)

Know someone who doesn't have a library card?

We'd love to get them signed up! Every branch location and the Bookmobile can issue a library card.

DID YOU KNOW?

Library cards expire!

Your library card is good for 2 years - then it's time to renew. Stop by any library location to make sure your card is ready to check out your next great read!

\$ Savings



It's no secret that life's expensive; that's why borrowing items from the Library is a great way to save your hard-earned dollars!

In 2024, our community saved a whopping **\$2,849,834.71** by checking out items from the Library instead of buying them. That's a fact!



Books

\$2,425,880.94
was saved by
borrowing
books in 2024



DVDs

\$179,330.02
was saved by
borrowing
DVDs in 2024



\$2,388 was saved by
borrowing Wi-Fi
hotspots in 2024

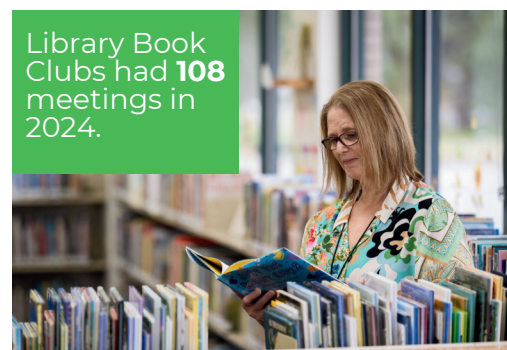
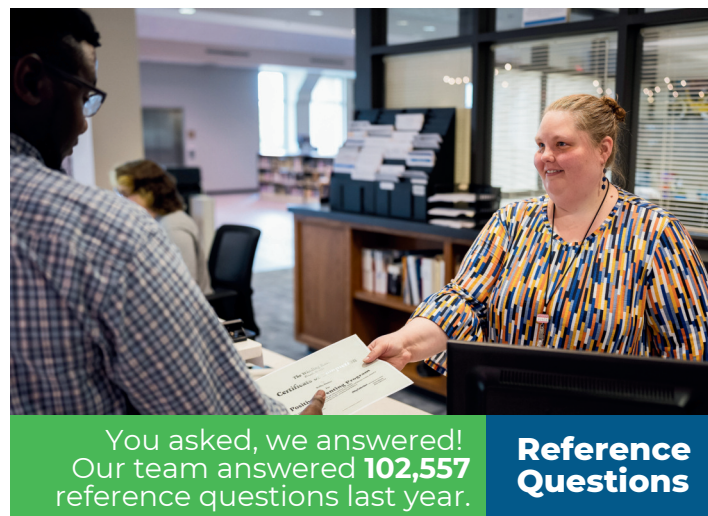


\$21,386.11 was saved
by borrowing LEAP
Station items in 2024



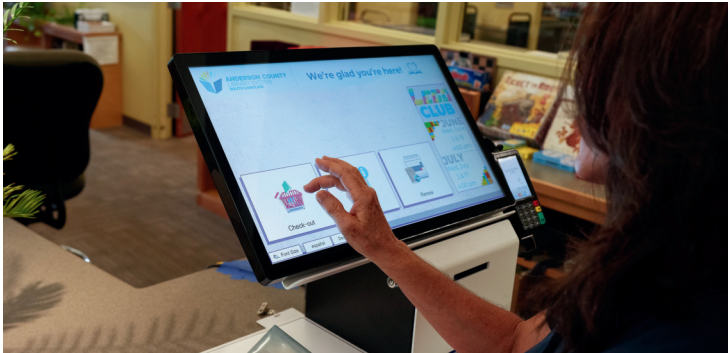
\$752.48 was saved by
borrowing
magazines in 2024

By the Numbers



But wait! There's more...

By the Numbers



Self-Checkout

65,242 of you checked out 90,932 items on our self-checkout stations.

Bookmobile

Bringing the library to you is our favorite thing to do! There were **451** Bookmobile stops in 2024.



Our innovative Makerspace served **3,553** patrons in 2024.

ECC Makerspace



We connected with **5,468** community members at outreach events.

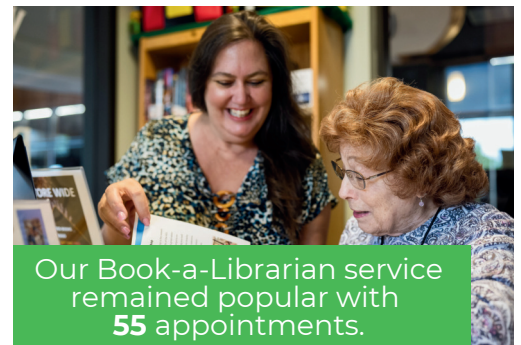
Outreach Events



We created a music video for Library Card Sign Up Month that's been viewed **3,531** times!



Our youngest readers attended **435** storytimes in 2024.

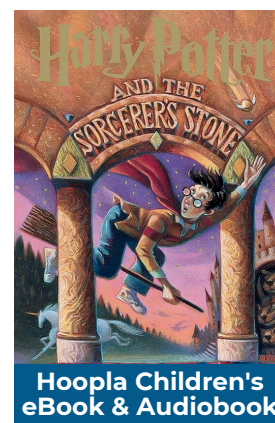
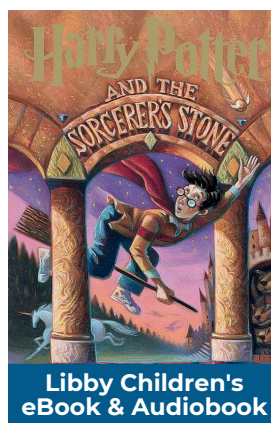
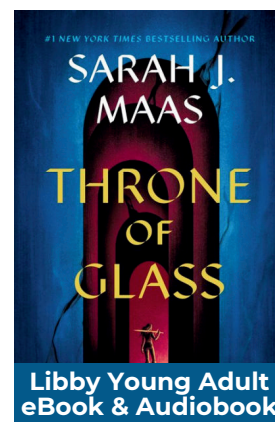
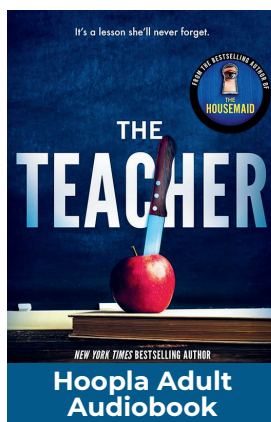
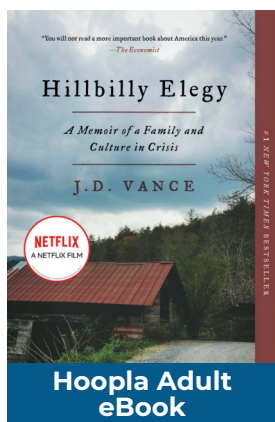
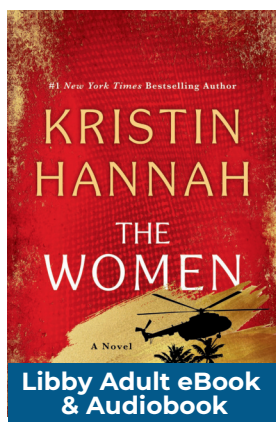


Our Book-a-Librarian service remained popular with **55** appointments.

We can't wait to see how much we grow in 2025!

Most Popular: Digital Collection

Our digital collection continues to rise, with an impressive **325,809** digital checkouts in 2024. See what was popular below!



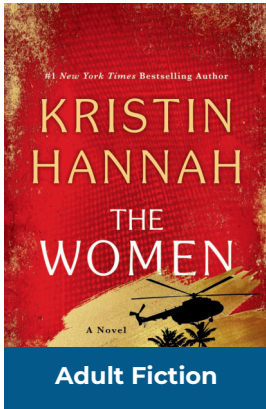
Beyond the Books



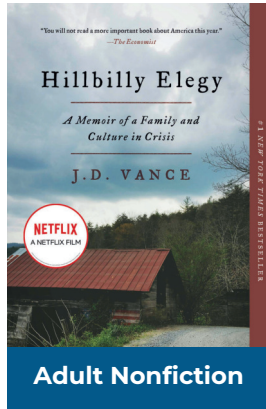
You accessed your library from home and on the go! Checkouts of eBooks, TV shows, music, magazines and more **increased 19%** in 2024

Most Popular: Physical Collection

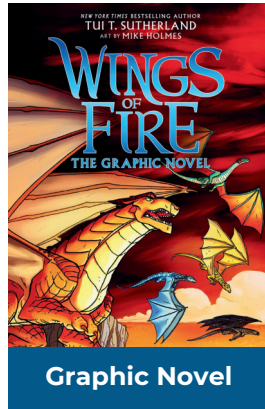
You borrowed both traditional and non-traditional items in 2024. We'll continue to add to both collections and keep you coming back for more of what you like!



Adult Fiction



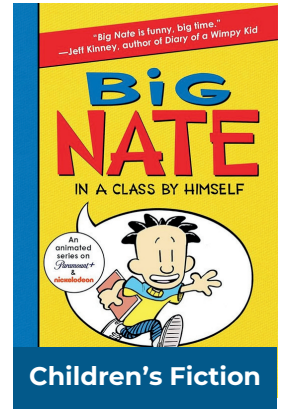
Adult Nonfiction



Graphic Novel



Young Adult Fiction



Children's Fiction



Seed Library



Adult Paperbacks



Children's Museum Passes

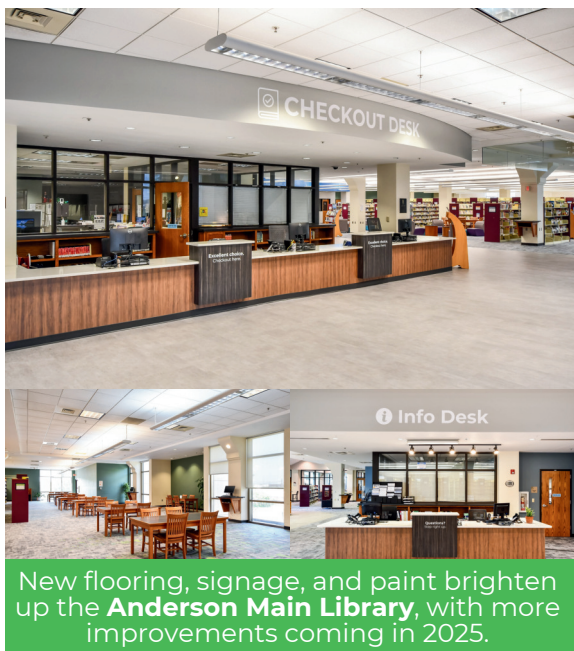


The LEAP Station



Mobile Hotspot

Library Improvements



New flooring, signage, and paint brighten up the **Anderson Main Library**, with more improvements coming in 2025.



Hello, **Honea Path Library**! Our Carnegie library branch is looking better than ever after its 2024 renovation.

New Iva Library Coming 2025!

It's almost time to unveil our renovated **Iva Branch Library**!

Coming spring 2025, our updated Iva Branch will offer a modern, cozy library, perfect for studying, reading, and more.

Visit andersonlibrary.org for all the latest updates.

Library Programs

From Summer Reading to our annual Books and Community read, programs were a huge part of 2024! We welcomed **30,605** of you to **1,905** engaging library events and programs, and can't wait to welcome even more of you in 2025!



Babies & Toddlers (Ages 0-5)
435 programs



Children (Ages 6-12)
195 programs



Tweens (Ages 8-12)
30 programs



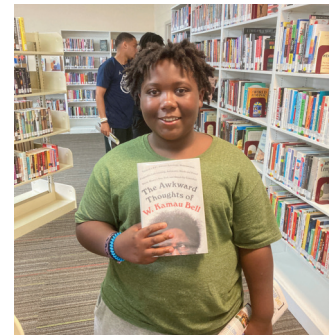
Teens (Ages 12-18)
147 programs



Adults (Ages 18+)
523 programs



All Ages
27 programs



See y'all in 2025!



2024 Highlights

Love Your Library Bookmark Contest

Over 100 patrons submitted their original bookmark design to the contest

5 lucky winners got their design professionally printed on a bookmark



Books & Community: (Don't) Call Me Crazy by Kelly Jensen

500 physical copies distributed to patrons

94 digital downloads

17 Books & Community programs hosted

Anderson Soirée

Connected with approx. 1800 patrons at this outreach event and promoted our Summer Reading Program

This is our biggest outreach event of the year!



School Outreach

We visited schools 22 times in 2024, promoting our literacy resources such as 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Tumblebooks, and more.

Pictured: Read Across America week at Iva Elementary

Summer Reading

2,526 patrons went on an adventure and participated in our annual Summer Reading Program

107 Summer Reading programs across our library system



Midnight Flight

Librarians laced up their running shoes and ran The People's Bank Midnight Flight 5k

Signed up Anderson County residents for library cards, some for their first library card!

Seed Library

The Seed Library remained popular, with 9,172 seeds "checked out" in 2024

48 types of seeds were available for checkout



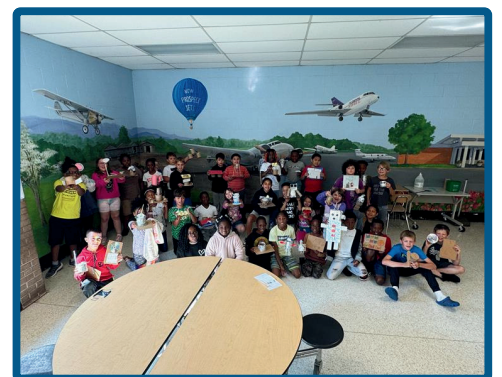
Stories with Santa

Our popular Stories with Santa event returned in 2024, with 110 attendees across 3 library branches

A special thanks to our Santa, Tim Sonefelt, for bringing holiday cheer to our youngest patrons!

Community Outreach

From festivals and school literacy nights, to library card sign up events and senior care center visits, we enjoyed getting out in the community and connecting with you at **71 events** in 2024!





Early Literacy Program

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



We launched our **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** program in December 2023. In one short year, 332 kids have joined and read a combined total of just over 55,000 books.

We're so proud of all the kids who have met important reading milestones.

Congratulations to Sebastian, our first participant to finish all 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

Made possible by the Friends of the Anderson County Library.

Storywalks continue to be a hit with Anderson County residents of all ages! In 2024, we **added two new StoryWalks** in Belton and Williamston, and **updated our original StoryWalk** in Anderson.

In the News



Photos: Storywalk added to Mineral Springs Park in Williamston

The unveiling of Storywalk, sponsored by the Anderson County Library, CU SNAP-Ed, Williamston, DocLink, and Friends of the Anderson County Library



Belton Library unveils new StoryWalk trail, combining reading and outdoor activity

The Anderson County Library System's third StoryWalk helps weave together physical activity and reading on the Bubblegum Rail Trail.

Independent Mail / Oct. 11, 2024



Made possible by the Friends of the Anderson County Library.

Photos by Ken Ruinard from the Independent Mail.



Community Support



The Library partnered with Anderson County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management to host a **FEMA Survivor Assistance Team** beginning October 8th to help residents affected by Hurricane Helene.

On October 14th, FEMA opened a full Disaster Recovery Center at the Anderson Main Library to serve Upstate residents in affected counties with disaster assistance. Over the course of 3 months, FEMA was able to help **2,893 Upstate residents**. The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center ran from October 14th thru December 21st, 2024.

We're incredibly grateful for the support FEMA provided our community, and are glad to have been able to host their DRC at the Library.



FEMA



Connecting Online

From fun social media initiatives to a brand new website, we upped our online presence in 2024. See some highlights below!



New Website

Our website got a much-needed makeover! Now featuring easy to navigate quick links, a modern look, and highlighted library events, our website is better than ever. Check it out at **andersonlibrary.org**!

Social Media

Our social media presence continues to grow! Our **Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and Nextdoor** accounts hosted engaging content, ranging from book reviews to silly videos that our community *loved*. Also, our Facebook and Instagram following grew!



7,500 followers
42,500 page visits
161,100 people reached



56,142 members
368 neighborhoods
59 posts in 2024



2,600 followers
23,600 page visits
7,700 people reached



349 subscribers
117 videos
145,970 lifetime views



Weekly Emails

We implemented a **weekly email system** in 2024 so our subscribers are always in-the-know about our latest library programs and events! Since its creation in July 2024, our weekly emails have been read **over 500,000 times**. Want to join the club? Visit **andersonlibrary.org/email-updates** to sign up!



Friends of the Library



FRIENDS of the Anderson County LIBRARY

2024 Board Officers

Cathy Champ
(Chair)

Donna
Abercrombie
(Co-Chair)

Elisabeth Willett
(Treasurer)

Libba Kellner
(Secretary)

The Friends of the Anderson County Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the growth, development, and greatest possible use of the Library. Membership is open to everyone, and membership cost goes directly towards funding important library programs, such as Summer Reading, literacy initiatives, and more.

Some of the projects our Friends helped fund in 2024 are:

Sonic Lunch partnership with GAMAC | Adult Services

Community Art Project at Soiree | ECC

Hosting VEX Robotic Competition | Teens

**Teen Empowerment Camp in Partnership with the Upstate
Fatherhood Coalition, Richard Yeargin, and
County Councilman Glenn Davis** | Teens

Multi-Canvas Community Art Project | Pendleton

LEAP Station | Pendleton

Love Your Library Bookmark Contest | Marketing

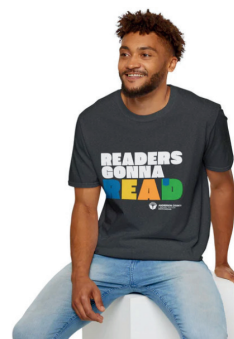


Thank You for Being a Friend!

For more information
on becoming a
member, volunteering
or shopping in the
Friends of the
Anderson County
Library used bookstore
and gift shop, visit
**[andersonlibrary.org/
friends](http://andersonlibrary.org/friends)**.



Friends Online Shop



Support the library you love at the **Friends of the Library Online Shop!** From stylish apparel to cozy home & living items, the Friends Shop offers something for everyone. The best part? All proceeds support learning and discovery at the Anderson County Library!

Shop online at andersonlibraryfriends.org today!

Serving our community
is our story.



From all of us,
Thanks for loving your library!



ANDERSON COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
SOUTH CAROLINA