



**RICHLAND
LIBRARY**

access freely.®





Libraries aren't amenities; we're necessities. And we will continue to move our communities forward, making sure our residents are prepared for the future. We will be places where the community can come together and discuss issues that are important to them. We are ensuring people have spaces to learn, create and share. And we need to break down barriers, provide access to information and connect local residents directly to the experts.

Melanie Huggins
*Richland Library Executive
Director*

RICHLAND LIBRARY

Our libraries have become community hubs that match the individualized needs of each community we serve in [Richland County](#). Walking through the doors of any of our 11 library locations opens up a whole new world of opportunities for people of all ages to learn, create and share.

Named one of the top 15 libraries in the country by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), Richland Library was a finalist for the [2016 National Medal](#) for Museum and Library Service—the nation's highest honor given to that sector.

Building Your Library

Richland Library has spent the last year talking with customers, community partners, collaborators and others about shaping our facilities to meet their needs both today and in years to come. From Community Conversations to Focus Groups and One-on-One Interviews, our design teams have worked hard to take community input and realize it through floor plans, refreshed service areas, innovative technology and more.

Thanks to a bond referendum passed by Richland County residents in November 2013, and significant community input, construction began on six of our library locations, including:

- 
- [North Main](#) – September 2015
 - [Sandhills](#) – September 2015
 - [Main](#), Third and Second Levels – October 2015 & February 2016
 - [Ballentine](#) – March 2016
 - [Cooper](#) – March 2016
 - [Blythewood](#) – June 2016

The library and Richland School District Two teamed up to unveil plans for a joint-use facility that will house the new 30,000 square foot Richland Library Sandhills and the [Richland Two Institute of Innovation \(R2i2\)](#). An important crossroads where local residents can take advantage of technology, classrooms, programming and meeting spaces, the facility is located along Fashion Drive in the Village at Sandhill.

For the latest updates on Richland Library renovations and reconfigurations, visit BuildingYourLibrary.com.

PRINT RESOURCES

Spending nearly four million dollars a year on all of the materials included in our collection, print books still top the list, making up the largest portion of that expense. Our customers can choose from nearly 800,000 books, 600 newspapers and magazines, and more than 150,000 CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays.

Part of our children, teen and adult collections, these print and non-print items were checked out more than four million times last year:

- **1,083,299** print adult
- **1,224,109** print juvenile
- **1,571,059** non-print adult
- 286,559 non-print juvenile

Assistive Technology

To help readers of all ages fully enjoy our print collection, the library purchased an Enhanced Vision text-to-speech Smart Reader and a Ruby HD handheld magnifier, thanks to a Library Services and Technology Act Grant from the South Carolina State Library.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

With a Richland Library card and an eReady device, customers can access our robust downloadable collection from anywhere, at any time, thanks to services like [Overdrive](#), [Freegal](#) and [Hoopla](#).

This fiscal year, customers downloaded nearly **1.4 million** items – a **nine percent increase**. They included:

- **341,145** eBooks
- **126,084** eAudiobooks
- **41,479** eMagazines
- **160,943** eMusic
- **19,398** eVideos

Read Local

For local writers, circulating their work directly to the library's voracious readers became a whole lot easier, thanks to a partnership with the [South Carolina State Library](#). Richland Library offered a new way to connect indie authors with literary audiences through a free service, called [SELF-e](#).

CAREER & JOB RESOURCES

Business, Careers and Research Center Unveiled

In March 2016, Richland Library unveiled its newly renovated and reconfigured Business, Careers and Research Center at Main. Quickly becoming the perfect spot to connect with clients, finish a thesis or explore new career opportunities, dedicated spaces include:

- Career Process Center
- Coworking Center
- Family Career Studio
- Networking Center
- Small Business Center

Committed to providing career and entrepreneurial resources throughout our community, the library assisted customers with the following:

- Cover Letter/Resume/References – **4,890**
- Job Applications – **7,503**
- Job Search/Email Set-Up – **5,310**

"The Richland Library's Business, Careers and Research Center has truly given me a gift: the tools and support to begin the search for a new and exciting career. Initially, I thought I would just have someone assist me in reworking my resume, take advantage of some interview skills practice sessions and go on my merry way. I never dreamed that in the process, my Richland Library career service allies would challenge and inspire me – not only to rework my resume but also to rework my life."

– Jean Guess

OUTREACH

During October 2015, South Carolina felt the impact of an historic flooding event that left behind a path of devastation and destruction. Richland Library staff worked together to open our locations just days after the intense rainfall hit – providing access to resources, power to charge cells phone and computers to apply for federal assistance or contact loved ones.

In the weeks that followed, other efforts included:

- Teaming with [Congressman James Clyburn’s Office](#) to offer [FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers](#) in three of the hardest hit areas (Main; Southeast; Eastover)
- Distributing clean, bottled water at several library and community locations
- Providing laptops, books, storytimes and puppet shows to emergency shelters and transitional family shelters
- Waiving fines and forgiving damages for customers and communities throughout the county
- Establishing a community collection at [Timmerman School](#), whose library was destroyed by flooding

Throughout October 2015, more than **2,000** local residents came to Richland Library to connect with FEMA at our Southeast location, averaging about **90** customers a day.

Early Literacy

Targeting young children before they become school age, library staff provided **353** early literacy programs with **13,937** participants. Here Comes Kindergarten is one of those highlighted programs that heads to locations, such as Latimer Manor and Allen Benedict Court, in an effort to provide fun, educational techniques and tools to both kids and adults preparing for kindergarten.

Community Engagement

In November 2015, our new 39-foot, state-of-the-art [Learn Freely](#) bus hit the road—taking part in **94** community engagement programs – a **32 percent increase** – and connected with more than **11,000** attendees at events, like [First Thursdays on Main](#) and [FoodShare Columbia](#).

Essential Services

Committed to the continued growth of our community, the library provided almost **800** programs, ranging from technology and workforce development to arts and life skills—impacting nearly **43,000 people**.

One of the most highly sought-after resources was the library's social workers. Local residents struggling with basic needs met with a social worker one-on-one for reliable access to community resources, like [SNAP](#), veterans' benefits and the [Affordable Care Act](#).

Library navigators worked with local partners like [Palmetto Project](#) and [Enroll America](#) to help Midlands' residents learn the ins and outs of the Affordable Care Act. In November 2015, the library participated in a phone bank broadcast on [WLTX](#) where navigators responded to **75** calls in two hours and received almost **150** voicemail messages.

Lifelong Learning

Over the last year, Richland Library staff reached more than **2,000** people in our community who were homebound through services, such as [Books to You](#). Visiting places, like [Lowman Home](#), we were able to engage and develop relationships with members of our community who were unable to visit us in person – supplying them with books and other requested information.

Life skills

In an attempt to help people cope with issues or challenges that they face in their everyday lives, Richland Library scheduled **87** life skills programs – a **38 percent increase** – that served more than **2,500** people.

Thanks to a **\$30,000 [Library Services Technology Act](#)** grant through the [South Carolina State Library](#) and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), Richland Library formed a six-week course, titled Self Sufficiency 101 at the [Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center](#). Impacting the lives of more than **50** male detainees, the course covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Goal setting
- Literacy
- Fatherhood
- Community Resources
- Jobs Skills
- Finances



CHILDREN

Richland Library staff helped more than **160,000** children use their library cards last year. More than **58,000** children attended family-friendly programs at Richland Library.

ConnectED Library Challenge

In September 2015, Richland Library announced a partnership with [Richland School District Two](#) as part of the [White House's ConnectED Library Challenge](#) initiative. More than **26,000** students received a library card. As a result, Richland County became **one** of only **30** communities across the country to participate in the White House's ConnectED Library Challenge initiative, which aims to eliminate barriers and provide children with access to books and other learning materials.

TEENS

Richland Library appealed directly to teens and tweens (12 to 18-years-old) by offering dedicated spaces with access to resources, such as a recording studio, video gaming, 3D printers and the latest high-tech gadgets.

During the last fiscal year:

- More than **7,000** teens attended programs, including October's Zombie Prom where teens dressed in costumes for games, karaoke and Halloween make-up artist consultations.
- Over spring break, the Teen Center at Richland Library Main served **246** customers – about **87** a day.

Through a First Citizens grant, Richland Library offered a free, four-week SAT prep class in October, which typically would cost students **\$400**.

OUR PEOPLE

Nearly **400** people make up Richland Library's award-winning, diverse staff. From librarians to career coaches, social workers, and security officers, our employees have become workplace ambassadors and pillars within our community.

Last year, staff members volunteered hundreds of hours to promote early literacy and workforce development at community partners, like the [Midlands Reading Consortium](#) and [Transitions Homeless Shelter](#).

Volunteers

Last year, **667** volunteers donated more than **18,483** hours of their time – a value of almost **\$390,725**. Without their dedication, generosity and help, the library wouldn't have been able to provide all the services and programs that our community values.

In May 2016, Richland Library recognized the following volunteers:

- Youth Volunteer of the Year: Hannah Frances Welch
- Teen Volunteer of the Year: Priscilla Li
- Adult Volunteer of the Year: Lynda Kuntz

Interested in volunteering? Call (803) 929-3436 or visit our [website](#).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board members are appointed by Richland County Council and volunteer their time to advance their community.

2015 – 2016 Board

What has transpired over the last couple of years with Richland Library is just fascinating. As I've told many members of our community, you're going to be very pleased with what the end result is. Our customers are going to love the new library that they envisioned and we supported.



Nathaniel A. Barber, Chair,
Richland Library
Board of Trustees,
2015-2016

Ed Garrison, Vice Chair
Yvonne Stocker, Secretary
Katherine Swartz Hilton

Ida W. Thompson, Treasurer
Cheryl English
Alethia P. Rearden

Johnny Ray Noble, Vice Treasurer
Betty L. Gregory
James "Jamie" Shadd, III

Elected to Serve 2016 – 2017

Nathaniel A. Barber, Chair
Yvonne Stocker, Secretary
Katherine Swartz Hilton
Ida W. Thompson

Ed Garrison, Vice Chair
Cheryl English
Alethia P. Rearden

Johnny Ray Noble, Treasurer
Betty L. Gregory
James "Jamie" Shadd, III

Joyce Dickerson, Norman Jackson, Kelvin Washington
2015 Richland County Council Liaisons

RICHLAND LIBRARY FRIENDS

Richland Library Friends is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising support for library programs and spearheading advocacy efforts on behalf of Richland Library. Established in 1975 by the Junior League of Columbia, Inc., Friends' members raise money throughout the year through book sales and special events. Want to become a Friend? Visit [here](#) or call (803) 988-0885.

This fiscal year, the Richland Library Friends:

- Volunteered more than **5,200** hours to support Richland Library.
- Raised nearly **\$70,000** to support the library through their quarterly book sales, pop-up book sales and half-priced book sales.
- Attracted hundreds in May 2016 for book discussions, book sales and book signings during Three Thursdays, Three Authors with Pearl Cleage, Sandra Johnson and ZANE who were dishing about their latest novels.
- Encouraged nearly **20,000** children, teens and adults to participate in the **2015 Friends' Summer Learning Challenge**.

2015 – 2016 Friends Board Members

It is encouraging to count the number of customers who walk through the doors during our Friends' quarterly book sales and know that money will go directly back to the community through quality programming at Richland Library throughout the year. An example would be the Friends' Summer Learning Challenge where children, teens and adults have the opportunity to choose from more than 1,000 programs and then get rewarded for reading, learning, creating and sharing.



Susan Mazur, President

John Bradley, Vice President
Tina Auman
Caroline Bokesch
Emily Brannen
Tracy Haisley
Linda Kuntz
Jess Torres

Will Stork, Treasurer
Jennifer Bishop
Gloria Boyd
Erin Crawford
Amy Hill
Teresea Mathis
Ashlye Wilkerson

Sara Weinberg, Secretary
Robin Blume
Brenda Branic
Susan Hackett
Chris Koon
Chakisse Newton

Nathaniel A. Barber, Richland Library's Board of Trustees Representative

Elected to Serve 2016 – 2017

Will Stork, President
Sara Weinberg, Secretary

John Bradley, Vice President

Brenda Branic, Treasurer

Nathaniel Barber, Richland Library's Board of Trustees Representative

RICHLAND LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Richland Library Foundation works to increase financial support for Richland Library to broaden and diversify its ability to serve the citizens of Richland County. Because public funding is not enough, Richland Library also relies on private support from generous donors. If you would like to contribute to the future of our library system, [click here](#).

Ethel Bolden Scholarship

In 2010, the Richland Library Foundation established the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship in honor and recognition of Mrs. Ethel Bolden's years of service to the Richland County community and its libraries. The **\$2,500** scholarship seeks to encourage and to provide financial support for students from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, who are working toward the completion of a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of South Carolina. The 2015 recipient – Seneca Jackson – was honored during a presentation and reception in November 2015.

2015 – 2016 Foundation Board Members

For 40 years, Ethel Bolden worked tirelessly to bolster reading in our community, and she was a pioneer for library services among area children. This scholarship honors and recognizes her dedication to promoting the importance of libraries and the vital role that they continue to play in Richland County.



Adam Davis, Chair



Sarena Burch, Vice Chair
Jody Bedenbaugh
Susie Dibble
David Hodges

Sara Fisher, Secretary/Treasurer
David Campbell
Beth Elliott
Jonathan "J.P." Lee

William "Buddy" Bateman
Tony Cooper
Alexander Fournil
R. Neal Reynolds, M.D.

Susan Mazur, Richland Library Friends Representative

Elected to Serve 2016 – 2017

Sarena Burch, Chair

Sara Fisher, Vice Chair

Jonathan "J.P." Lee, Secretary/Treasurer

OUR NUMBERS

REVENUES

\$ 24,629,200

County Appropriation

\$ 499,673

State Aid

\$ 17,701,492

Bond Revenue

\$935,685

Miscellaneous

TOTAL

\$ 43,832,808

EXPENDITURES

\$16,192,990

Personnel

\$4,036,217

Operations

\$4,389,513

Materials

\$18,334,578

Capital Projects

TOTAL

\$42,953,298

Addition to reserves: \$879,510

ITEMS CHECKED OUT

1,561,920

Main

302,593

Ballentine

180,329

Blythewood

308,812

Cooper

83,603

Eastover

87,655

North Main

357,399

Northeast

597,877

Sandhills

499,277

Southeast

389,594

St. Andrews

202,939

Wheatley

614

EdVenture

23,587

Outreach

TOTAL

4,596,199

eRESOURCES CHECKED OUT

341,145

eBooks

41,479

eMagazines

493,704

Streaming Music

126,084

eAudiobooks

160,943

eMusic

19,398

eVideos

TOTAL

1,182,753

LIBRARY USE

206,081

Total registered borrowers

30,618

New registered borrowers

3,818

Number of in-library programs

69,196

Number of attendees at in-library programs

789

Number of outreach programs

43,695

Number of attendees at outreach programs



4,596,199

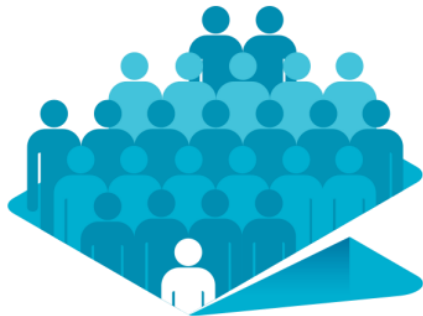
items checked out this fiscal year



Door Count:

2,380,991

visits this fiscal year



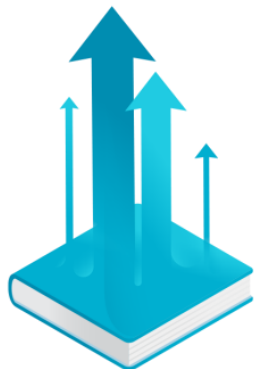
30,618

new cardholders this year



126,084

eAudiobooks circulated this year



69%

increase in the number of outreach programs focused on literacy



22%

increase in wireless users

CONTACT US

Locations and Hours

Richland Library Main

1431 Assembly St.
Columbia 29201
(803) 799-9084

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri – Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Cooper

5317 North Trenholm Rd.
Columbia 29206
(803) 787-3462

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Northeast

7490 Parklane Rd.
Columbia 29223
(803) 736-6575

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library St. Andrews

2916 Broad River Rd.
Columbia 29210
(803) 772-6675

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Ballentine

1321 Dutch Fork Rd.
Irmo 29063
(803) 781-5026

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Richland Library Eastover

608 Main St.
Eastover 29044
(803) 353-8584

Mon - Thurs 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Sandhills

1 Summit Parkway at Clemson Rd.
Columbia 29229
(803) 699-9230

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Wheatley

931 Woodrow St.
Columbia 29205
(803) 799-5873

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tues, Thurs 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Richland Library Blythewood

218 McNulty Rd.
Blythewood 29016
(803) 691-9806

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library North Main

5306 North Main St.
Columbia 29203
(803) 754-7734

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Richland Library Southeast

7421 Garners Ferry Rd.
Columbia 29209
(803) 776-0855

Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fri, Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

All hours are subject to change.

HOW DO I...

- Find a Children's Book, **(803) 929-3434**
- Get my account info, **(803) 929-3456**
- Reserve a meeting room, **(803) 929-3457**
- Find a newspaper or magazine, **(803) 929-3405**
- Find music, movies or eBooks, **(803) 929-3450**
- Get help finding a job, **(803) 929-3401**
- Research my family history, **(803) 929-3402**
- Start a research project, **(803) 929-3400**
- Volunteer at the library, **(803) 929-3436**
- Access the Deaf Relay Service, **(803) 735-2905**

Need to renew materials? It's easy!

Call (803) 929-3425 or (803) 929-3427.

Visit any [Richland Library location](#).

[WHO'S WHO AT THE LIBRARY](#)

[DOWNLOAD STRATEGIC PLAN](#)