



JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY

—ANNUAL JOINT MEETING—

**Board of County Commissioners
&
Library Board of Directors**

**Board Report
April 9, 2026**

**Notice of Meeting of the Board of Directors of the
Johnson County Library and Board of County
Commissioners**

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2026
TIME: 6:00 p.m. (Central time)
PLACE: Carmack Community Room
Central Resource Library
9875 W 87th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212

PURPOSE:

The Library Board of Directors hereby provides notice of an upcoming Joint meeting of the Library Board and Board of County Commissioners to be conducted in person at Central Resource Library at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to review ongoing Library matters relevant to the Library Board and the Board of County Commissioners.

Date of notice: Friday, April 3, 2026



— ANNUAL JOINT MEETING —

Board of County Commissioners & Library Board of Directors

* * *

Thursday, April 9th, 2026 from 6:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

Location: Central Resource Library

Carmack Community Room

9875 W 87th St

Overland Park, KS 66212

AGENDA

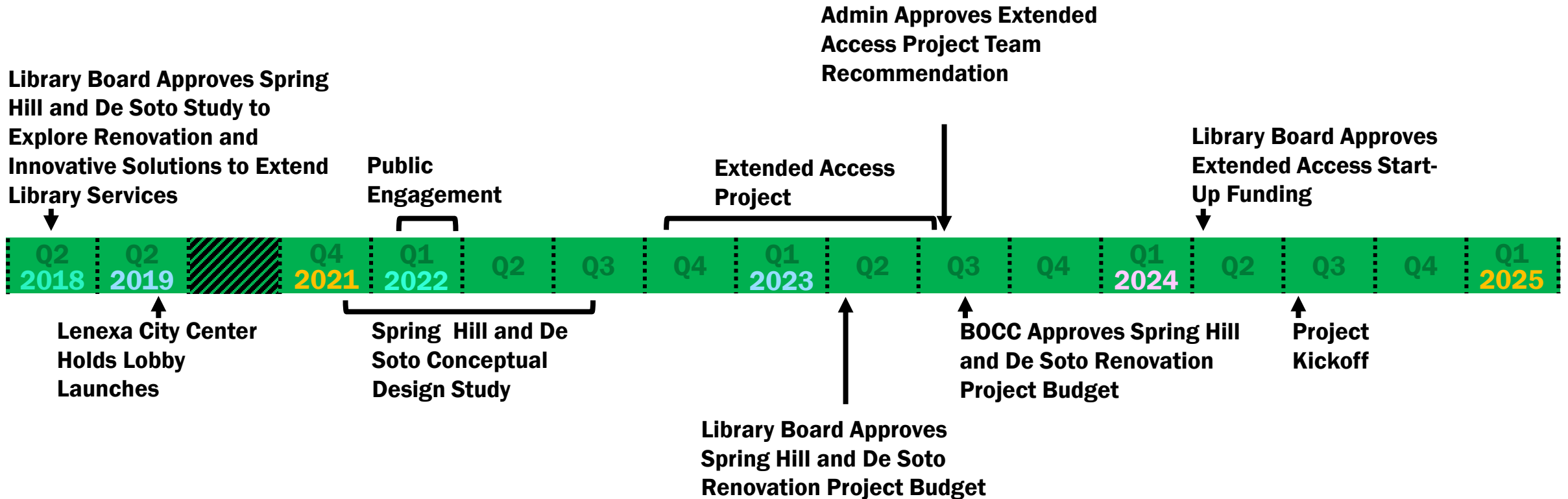
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|-------|--|-------------|
| I. | Welcome/Introductions: | 6:00 – 6:10 |
| | a. Mike Kelly, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners | |
| | b. Jeffrey Mendoza, Chair, Library Board of Directors | |
| | c. Introductions for Commissioners and Board Members | |
| II. | Overview and Background for the Extended Access Services | 6:10 – 6:30 |
| | Concept Tricia Suellentrop, County Librarian | Page 3 |
| | a. Pilot project at Spring Hill | |
| | b. Questions and discussion | |
| III. | Corinth Replacement Update | 6:30– 6:40 |
| | Adam Wathen, Associate Director of Branch Services | Page 17 |
| IV. | Comprehensive Library Master Plan (CLMP) Refresh Update | 6:40 – 6:50 |
| | Scott Sime, Project and Events Manager | Page 25 |
| | a. Progress to Date and Scope | |
| | b. Future Milestones and timeline | |
| V. | Intellectual Freedom in the Library | 6:50 – 7:10 |
| | Adam Wathen, Associate Director of Branch Services | Page 35 |
| VI. | Amenities Generally Found at County Wide Facilities | 7:10 – 7:20 |
| | Board of County Commissioner, Chairman Kelly | |
| VII. | Other Questions and Discussion for the benefit of either Board | 7:20 |
| VIII. | Adjournment | |

Spring Hill Extended Access

Board of County Commissioners and Johnson County Library Joint Meeting 2026



Spring Hill and De Soto Extended Access: Project Timeline



Project Scope and Definition

Project Scope



Define, design and direct implementation of Extended Access services at Spring Hill Library.

Definition



Extended Access services grant registered patrons secure access to the facility outside of the branch's staffed hours. Extended hours are self-service and patrons must register in advance.



Extended Access: Spring Hill

Extended Access at JCL

Extended Access has been available at the Lenexa City Center through the Holds Lobby since 2019 for holds pick-up.

The Library is bringing Extended Access to Spring Hill in 2026 through a pilot program offering even more services.

Extended Access At Spring Hill

- Browsing Collection
- Holds
- Self-Checkout
- Computers and Printers
- Restrooms
- Seating



Public Engagement Update

- **Methods of Information Gathering Regarding Spring Hill and De Soto Renovations:**
 - March 2022: Online and paper surveys, live and virtual listening sessions

High-level trends

- Desire for wider range of hours
- Keep access to Popular Collections, Placing Holds & Browsing
- Desire for collaborative and quiet study spaces
- Kids area
- Appreciation for friendly staff



DeSoto and Spring Hill Study

Administration Findings, Building Priorities

Spring Hill



1. Study Spaces / Collaborative Patron Spaces
2. Security / Service Desk
3. Public PCs
4. 6 by 6 Early Literacy / Storytime Space
5. Collection
6. Meeting Room / Study Rooms.
7. Staff Space
8. Efficient Circulation Space
9. Outdoor Space
10. Convenient Entrance

DeSoto



1. Study Spaces / Collaborative Patron Spaces
2. Security / Service Desk
3. Public PCs
4. 6 by 6 Early Literacy / Storytime Space
5. Collection
6. Meeting Room / Study Rooms
7. Staff Space
8. Outdoor Space
9. Efficient Circulation Space
10. Convenient Entrance



Extended Access: Spring Hill

Hours for Extended Access will mirror the hours that our large branches are open.

Former Hours at Spring Hill



Days	Staffed Hours
Mondays, Tuesday Wednesdays	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursdays	1 p.m – 8 p.m.
Fridays	Closed
Saturdays	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sundays	Closed

Total Hours = 35

New Hours At Spring Hill



Days	Staffed Hours	Extended Access Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays	Noon – 8 p.m.	9 a.m. - Noon
Fridays		9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturdays	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	9-10 a.m., 2 – 5 p.m.
Sundays		1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Total Hours = 36 + 29 = 65 Hours



Extended Access: A Pilot

Timeline

- Launch in mid-2026 at the Spring Hill Library when it reopens
- 6 months: Initial evaluation
- 1 year: Further evaluation & recommendations

Example Metrics to Measure Success

- Number of sign-ups
- Usage: Frequency, days, times and types
- Feedback from Patrons

Outcomes

- Determine whether / when to launch extended access services at other locations
- Potential to adjust service hours and staffing based on usage patterns and feedback

GOAL

To assess the viability of this type of service and determine whether it adds value to the community

To offer increased service levels to the community



Extended Access: Technology and Physical Security

Both branches to open with refreshed technology and physical security systems, including:

- Public and Staff computers
- Print and scan-to-print services
- Wireless internet access
- Conference and Study Room technology
- Security cameras and intrusion systems
- Catalog-only stations
- Overhead announcement system
- Door security gates
- Self-checks
- Emergency Phone

GOAL

Purchase, configure and install technology supporting both public and staff areas for new library buildings, and for physical security needs.



Extended Access: Registration

Patrons will sign up for the service:



The extended access pilot will grant registered patrons secure access to the library outside of the branch's regular staffed hours.

Only adult patrons 18 and older who sign a user agreement will be able to access this service, in much the same way we control patron access through user agreements at our Lenexa City Center holds lobby.



Spring Hill Community Partnerships & Outreach

We maintain ongoing relationships with:



City of Spring Hill
Spring Hill Aquatic Center
Spring Hill Food Pantry
Local businesses
Spring Hill Police Department



ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Patron Services

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 20-10-10

SECTION: General Patron Services

SUBJECT: PUBLIC FACILITIES HOURS OF SERVICES

SUMMARY

The purpose of this regulation is to establish hours during which library services will be available to the public at each library facility.

Effective Date:

March 14, 2019

Reviewed:

October 27, 2021

November 14, 2024

December 11, 2025

March_12, 2026

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING HOURS OF SERVICE

i. Hours of service at each public service location will be established by the Library Board of Directors based upon the needs of the community it serves, availability of qualified staff, and consideration of budget factors.

ii. The Library may offer access to certain Library branch facilities outside of a facility's regular staffed hours ("Extended Access"). Extended Access is a self-service option without Library staff present at the Library branch facility. Extended Access is subject to availability and only to patrons who register and execute an Extended Access User Agreement, who are age 18 or older, and possess a valid Library card in good standing. The County Librarian, or the County Librarian's designee, shall have the authority to determine a patron's qualifications for Extended Access and termination or suspension of Extended Access privileges.

REGULAR HOURS OF SERVICE

The regular hours of public service locations are:

- i. Blue Valley Branch, Central Resource Library, Corinth Branch, Lenexa City Center Branch, Merriam Plaza Branch, Monticello Branch:
Monday - Thursday 9am to 8pm

Friday 9am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 1pm to 5pm

ii. Gardner Branch, Leawood Pioneer Branch,
Oak Park Branch, and Shawnee Branch:
Monday - Thursday 9am to 8pm
Friday 9am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday Closed

iii. Cedar Roe Branch:
Monday - Thursday 9am to 8pm
Friday 9am to 6pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm
Sunday Closed

iv. De Soto Branch:
Monday Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 6pm
Thursday 1pm to 8pm
Friday, 10am to 6pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm
Sunday Closed

v. Spring Hill Branch:
Monday, Wednesday 9am to 5pm
Tuesday, Thursday Noon to 8pm
Friday Closed
Saturday 10am to 2pm
Sunday Closed

vi. Edgerton Branch:
Monday Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday 1pm to 6pm
Thursday 1pm to 8pm
Friday 1pm to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm
Sunday Closed

EXTENDED ACCESS

The Library may offer Extended Access services
as follows:

i. Extended Access Lenexa City Center Holds
Lobby:
Monday-Saturday, 5am to 9am, 8pm to
10pm
Sunday 5am to 1pm, 5pm to 10pm

- ii. Extended Access Pilot Spring Hill Branch:
 - Monday, Wednesday 5pm to 8 pm
 - Tuesday, Thursday 9am to Noon
 - Friday 9am to 6pm
 - Saturday 9am to 10am, 2pm to 5pm
 - Sunday 1pm to 5 pm

March 12, 2026

ARM 20-10-10

End

Corinth Library Replacement: Joint Board Meeting

April 2026



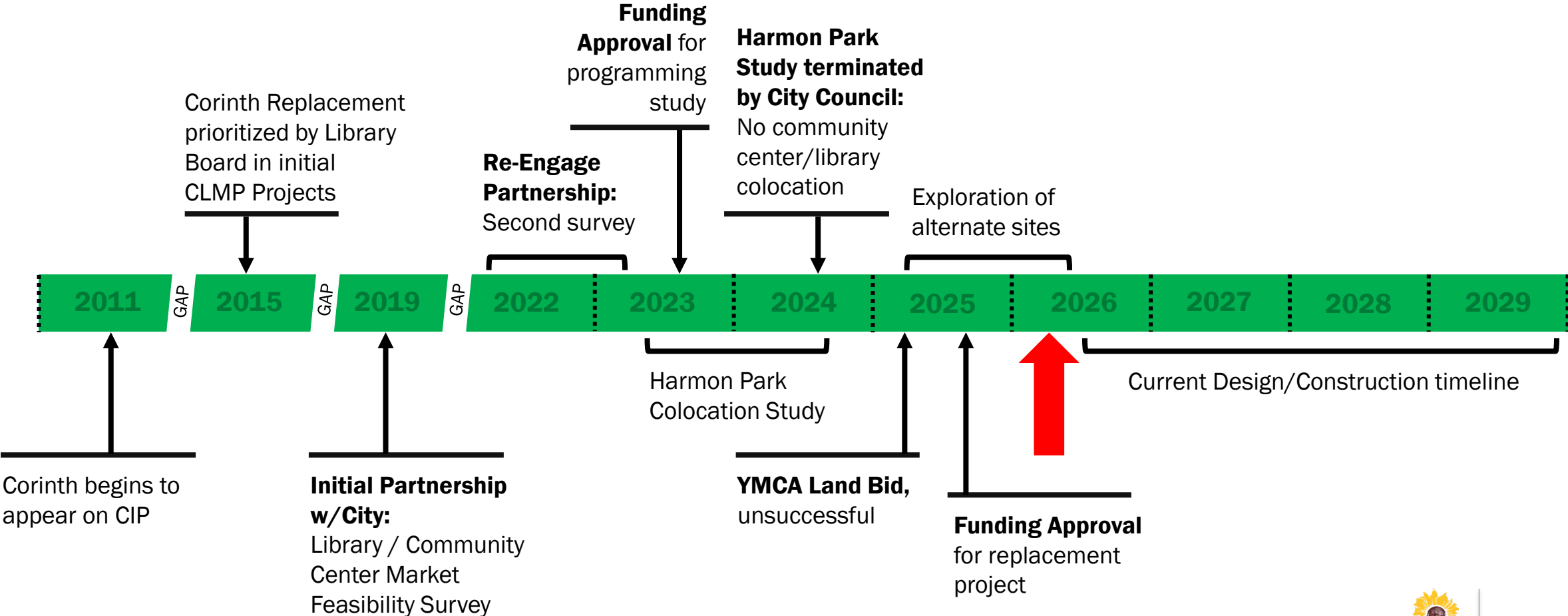
Corinth Library Replacement: Agenda

- Context / Timeline
- Why Replace?
- Exploration of Sites
- Funding Strategy
- Decision Points
- Timeline



Corinth Library Replacement:

Context / Timeline



Corinth Library Replacement:

Why Replace?

- #2 or #3 busiest branch in the system depending on time of year
- Facility Condition Index (FCI) score is "poor" based on these factors:
 - Condition of Space (Facility Need) – does the physical condition of the interior and exterior of the facility warrant further investment?
 - Quantity (Space Need) – is there enough space to support current needs and/or anticipated growth?
 - Function of Space (Program Need) – Does the current design support the programmatic, functional requirements of the services operating within the space?
- Replacement has been recommended since 2011 – we have implemented a tactical approach to maintain the existing building and minimize long-term expenditures



Corinth Library Replacement:

Exploration of Sites

Current Site:

- Tight fit for program, need for multi-level library and parking.
- Challenging site work – unknown geotechnical risks, continued water mitigation, landlocked lot
- Would need to relocate current services during rebuild to meet community demand
- + We own the site

Different Site:

- Harmon Park study in 2024 which included engagement with community and strong support for continued library services
- YMCA land – put in an unsuccessful bid in 2025
- Broker-led search looked at 8 potential options – no strong readily available candidates to meet our needs
- Prairie Village Campus opportunity:
 - Library is currently working on test fits, assessing feasibility for multiple factors



Corinth Library Replacement:

Funding Strategy

- In 2016, the BOCC authorized a mill levy increase for Library capital projects, which partially funded the Comprehensive Library Master Plan
- Corinth replacement was included in the Library's 2025 CIP request and is included in the 2026 Adopted Budget
- We anticipate using a combination of reserves and bonding as we have with our previous builds at Leawood, Monticello, Lenexa, and Merriam.
- Our track record of "on time and on budget" CIP projects is 100% for the last 15+ years.



Corinth Library Replacement:

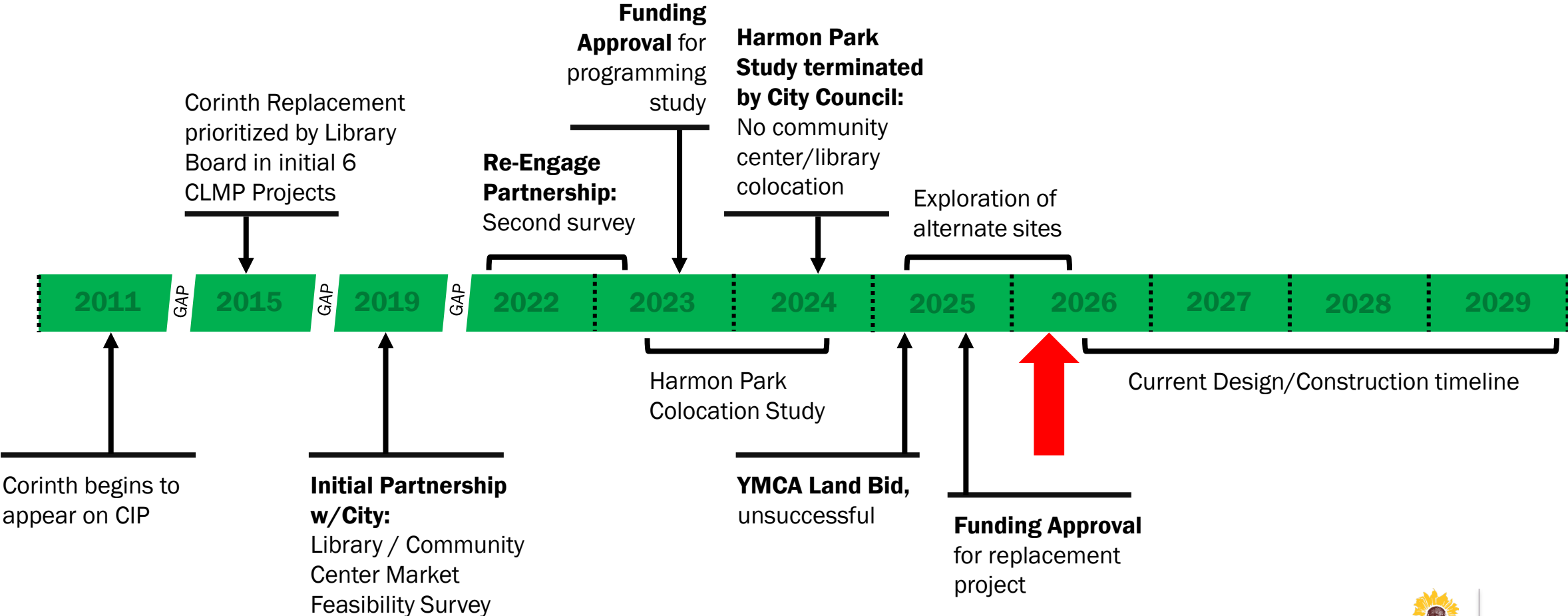
Decision Points

- Library Board approves current or alternate site for rebuild
- BOCC ratifies site acquisition (if necessary)
- Library Board, BOCC, and PBC actions related to architect and construction manager selection
- Library moves forward with building project



Corinth Library Replacement:

Context / Timeline



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh Joint Board Meeting

April 2026



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh: Agenda

- Context, Accomplishments
- Scope of the Refresh
- Stakeholders
- Milestones
- Work So Far / Next Steps
- Timeline



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh:

Context

- In 2014-2015 we worked with a consultant and stakeholders to develop initial CLMP
- Library Board approved in 2015
- Board of County Commissioners authorized partial (76.5%) funding
- 10 years in, accomplishments



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh: Accomplishments

Staffing

- Transition from individual Branch to Regional model
- Formalized departments (Programming, Learning & Development, Communications, Project Management, Patron Insights)

Buildings

- Monticello (2018)
- Lenexa City Center (2019)
- Central Library / Operation Center (2021)
- Merriam Plaza (2024)

Technology

- Develop and implement Audio / visual equipment standards in branches
- Improve visibility of user reservations for meeting rooms
- Development of virtual services (e-Audiobooks, online Library Card, remote printing)

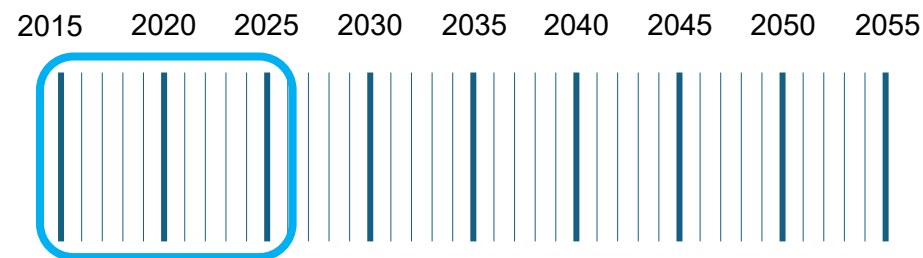
Infrastructure

- Materials Handling Study, implementation of findings (automated materials handling systems, analytics tools)
- Refinement of volunteer services operations
- Installation of fiber service at all locations – more reliable, faster internet for public and staff



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh:

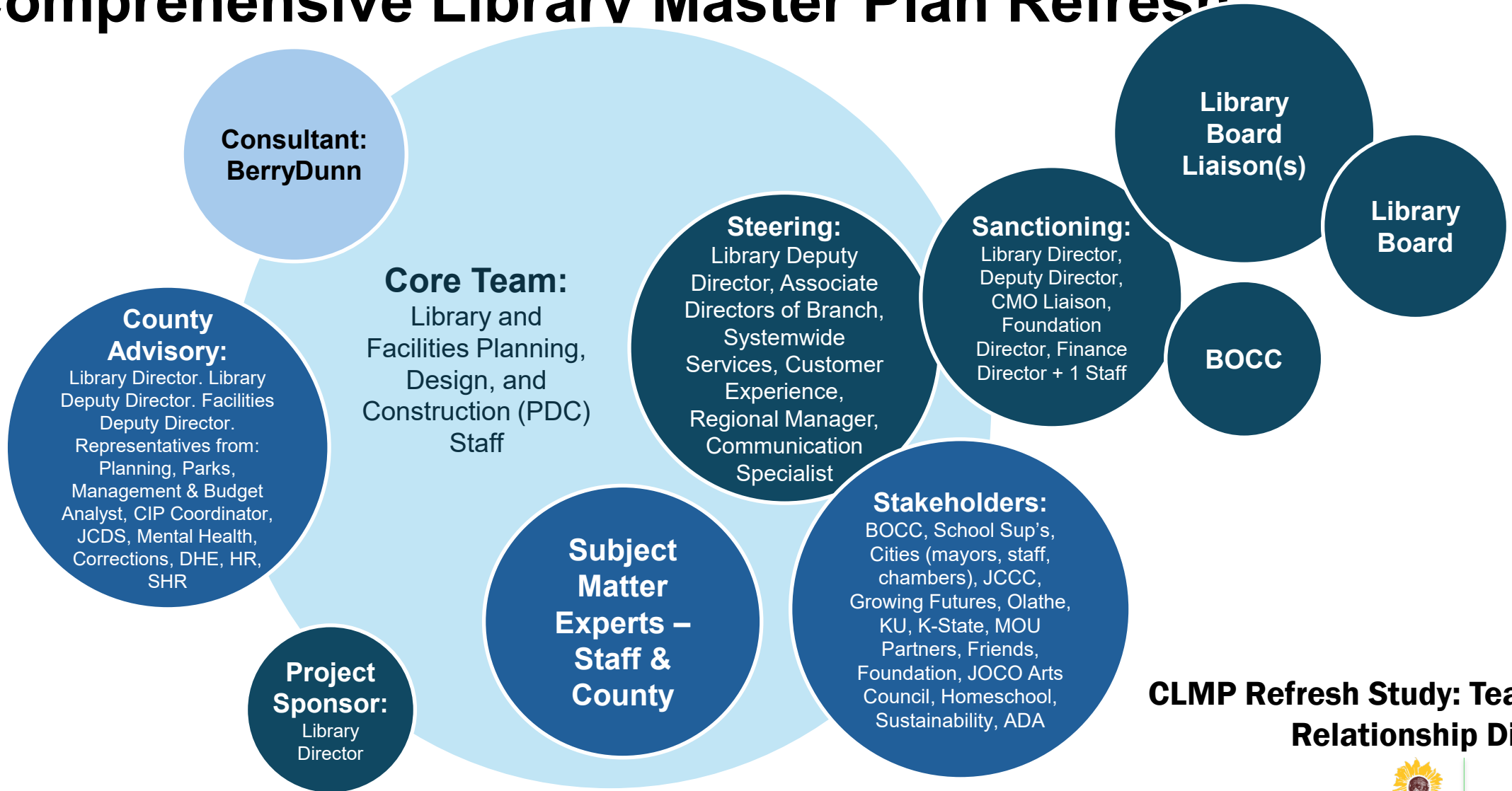
Scope of the Refresh



- Moving the planning window
- Comprehensive focus
- Guides and helps us make informed decisions
- Public, Staff, and Partner engagement
- Services, Programming, Technology, Staffing, Spaces, and Partnerships



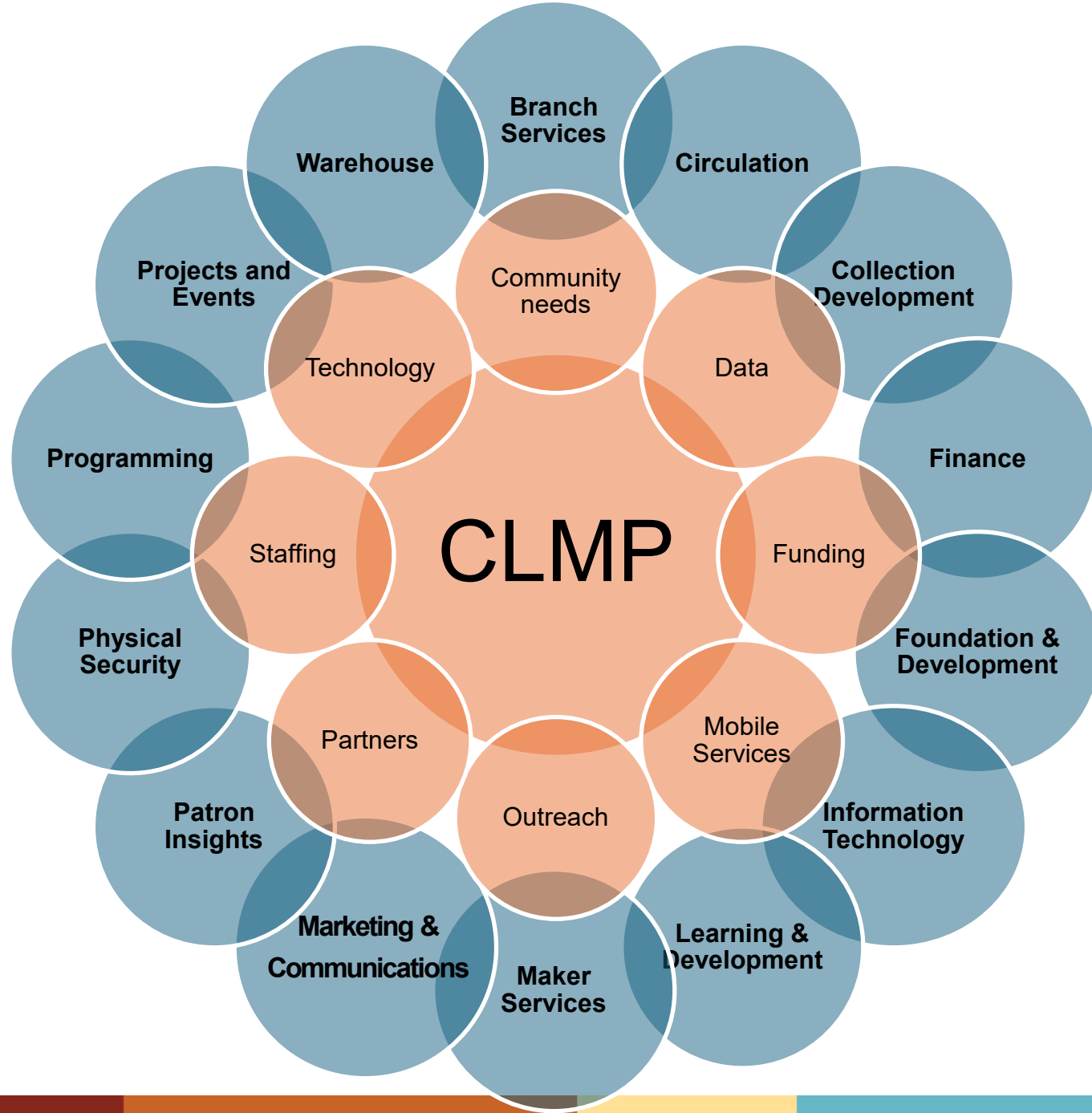
Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh:



CLMP Refresh Study: Team and Relationship Diagram

06/02/25





Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh: Milestones

1. Initial Project Planning
2. Environmental Scan and Engagement Planning
3. Community and Staff Engagement
4. Prioritization of Needs and Demands
5. Develop Draft and Final Master Plan
6. Implement and Evaluate



Comprehensive Library Master Plan Refresh:

Work so far

- Staff Prep Meetings
- Admin team alignment
- Library Board & Board of County Commissioners engaged in vision exercise
- Developed RFP, hired a consultant
- Internal teams formed
- Consultant and Teams Kickoff
- Gathering Data

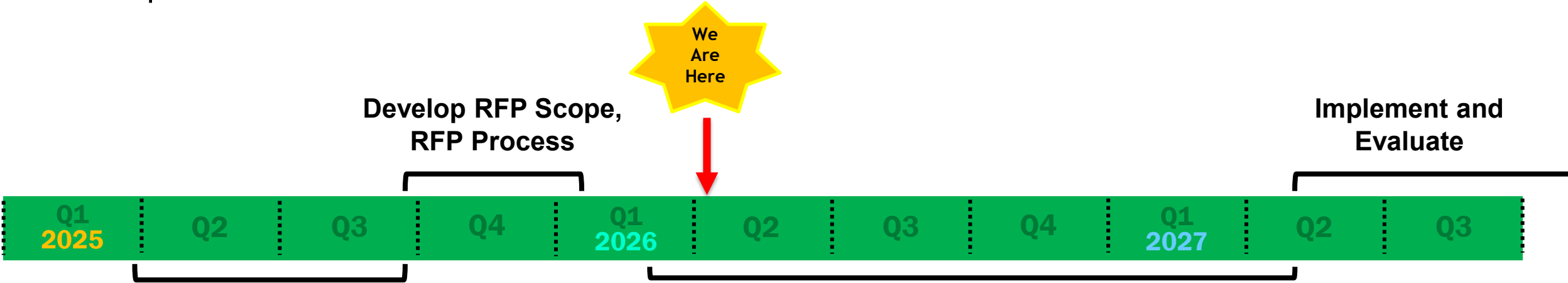
Next Steps

- Review data gathered
- Develop Communication Plan
- Develop list of, and reach out to stakeholders
- Conduct engagement sessions with stakeholders



CLMP Refresh:

Anticipated Timeline



Internal Alignment

Study:

- Project Planning
- Environmental Scan, Data Review, Engagement Planning
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Prioritization of Needs and Demands
- Develop and Present Recommendations



The Library and Intellectual Freedom: Joint Board Meeting

April 2026



Agenda: Intellectual Freedom

- Mission of Johnson County Library
- Access Policy (ARM 20-15-10)
- Library Bill of Rights (ARM 10-20-10) and Freedom to Read (ARM 10-20-30)
- Statutory Framework (KSA 12-1225)
- Patron Code of Behavior (ARM 20-10-50)



Library Mission

Johnson County Library provides **access** to ideas, information, experiences and materials that support and enrich people's lives.



Access Policy (ARM 20-15-10)

- **All** circulating materials in the Library's collections are accessible **to any patron** at any Johnson County Library site, ... online ... and available delivery systems...
- **Access ... is assured** and policies and procedures will not unjustly exclude materials even if they are offensive to the librarian or the user
- **Parents or guardians**, and only parents or guardians, **may restrict their children**, and only their children, from access to library materials and services.



Library Bill of Rights (ARM 10-20-10) and Freedom to Read (ARM 10-20-30)

- American Library Association documents adopted as Library Board Policy
- Philosophical foundation for the work of libraries.
- Evergreen documents established in the context of World War II and McCarthyism



Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read

Provide breadth and stand against censorship

- JCL should
 - represent the **widest possible points of view** in our materials and information.
 - **not proscribe or remove materials** based on “partisan or doctrinal disapproval.”
 - **challenge censorship** and cooperate with groups challenging censorship
 - **not endorse** the ideas and presentation made available in our spaces and collection



Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read

Defer to community choice and interests

- JCL should:
 - provide materials and information for the interest, information and ideas, and enlightenment of **all** people in the community.
 - not deny or abridge **a person's right to use a library** because of origin, age, background, views or economic status. This includes coercing people, limiting access, or subjectively labeling content.



Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read

Defer to community choice and interests

- JCL should:
 - advocate for, educate about, and **protect people's privacy** – safeguarding library use data, including personally identifiable information.
 - make **exhibit and meeting spaces** available on an equitable basis regardless of the beliefs or affiliation of individuals or groups requesting their use.



Statutory Framework:

Kansas Statutes 12-1225b and 12-1226

Kansas State statute sets the policy authority of the Library Board and taxing district separately from the Board of County Commissioners

This supports intellectual freedom by creating indirect authority by elected officials over the Library's collection and policy.

This buffer allows for independent decisions about collection to allow for the broad selection necessary to meet the information and experiential needs of a diverse community who might not align with the opinions of elected officials.



Patron Code of Behavior (ARM 20-10-50)

We restrict people's access when their behavior **disrupts access** to the library.

This includes a variety of disruptive, destructive, abusive, and illegal behaviors.

We **aim for access** – we apply suspension of access very cautiously and intentionally.



Questions?

Mission:

Johnson County Library provides **access** to ideas, information, experiences and materials that support and enrich people's lives.



ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Patron Services

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 20-15-10

SECTION: Access to Materials

SUBJECT: ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

SUMMARY

This document describes the Library Board's intent regarding accessibility of circulating materials for patrons in various parts of the district.

Effective Date:
Reviewed:

July 21, 2011
October 4, 2017
October 27, 2021
July 10, 2025

POLICY

a. All circulating materials in the Library's collections are accessible to any patron at any Johnson County Library site, through online catalog requests and available delivery systems unless excepted in the related procedure.

No
Discrimination

b. Access to all materials legally obtainable is assured to the user, and policies and procedures will not unjustly exclude materials even if they are offensive to the librarian or the user. Libraries and library staff are responsible for providing equal access to library materials and services for all library users.

Children

c. Parents or guardians, and only parents or guardians, may restrict their children, and only their children, from access to library materials and services.

**COMPLIANCE
WITH THE
AMERICANS
WITH
DISABILITIES
ACT (ADA)**

d. Access to materials by individuals with disabilities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act shall be in accordance with the Act, (ARM 50-20-20), and other provisions of this regulation.

July 10, 2025

ARM 20-15-10 End

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

DOCUMENT NUMBER: ARM 10-20-10

SECTION: Library Documents

SUBJECT: LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

SUMMARY

This statement, authored by the American Library Association, is the basis of the Johnson County Library’s ethical stance regarding collections and patron’s rights.

Effective Date:

Reaffirmed September 13, 2012

Reviewed

October 18, 2018

October 13, 2022

November 14, 2024

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

Basic Policy

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and ideas, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

Represents All Views

2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Censorship

3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

Alliances

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

Right to Use

5. A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.

Exhibit and Meeting Space

6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Privacy

7. All People, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

History

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Authorship

American Library Association

November 14, 2024

ARM 10-20-10

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 10-20-30

SECTION: Library Documents

SUBJECT: FREEDOM TO READ

SUMMARY

The Library Board’s adoption of this document, a joint statement by the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers, illustrates its endorsement of intellectual freedom. This document is frequently used as background material in explaining to patrons the principles of intellectual freedom. The document also is an underpinning for the Collection Development Policy. History of the document and other endorsements are included at its conclusion.

Reaffirmed: October 11, 2018
Reviewed: November 8, 2018
October 13, 2022
August 14, 2025

THE FREEDOM TO READ

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label “controversial” views, to distribute lists of “objectionable” books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy; that the ordinary individual by exercising critical judgement, will accept the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what otherstink may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 10-20-30

SECTION: Library Documents

SUBJECT: FREEDOM TO READ

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that

Library

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 10-20-30

SECTION: Library Documents

SUBJECT: FREEDOM TO READ

every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read.

Librarian
Responsibility

We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

Constitutional
Guarantee

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

Affirmation of
Propositions

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe

Library

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 10-20-30

SECTION: Library Documents

SUBJECT: FREEDOM TO READ

but why we believe it.

Non-
Endorsement

2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

Content
Independent of
Authorship

3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

Freedom of
Choice

4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.

Library

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Governance

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SUBJECT: FREEDOM TO READ

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

Subjective
Labeling

5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

Responsibility
to Contest
Encroachments

6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally

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collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

Responsibility
to Provide
Diversity

7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

Conclusion

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of

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enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

History

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, June 30, 2004, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

Authorship

A Joint Statement by: American Library Association and Association of American Publishers

Subsequent Endorsements

American Booksellers for Free Expression, The Association of American University Presses, Freedom to Read Foundation, The Children's Book Council, National Association of College Stores, National Coalition Against Censorship, National Council of Teachers of English, The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

August 14, 2025

ARM 10-20-30 END

12-1225. Powers and duties of board. Library boards shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the library;

(b) with the approval of the governing body of the municipality, to purchase or lease a site or sites and to lease or erect a building or buildings for the use of the library;

(c) to acquire by purchase, gift or exchange, books, magazines, papers, printed materials, slides, pictures, films, projection equipment, phonograph records and other material and equipment deemed necessary by the board for the maintenance and extension of modern library service;

(d) to employ a librarian and such other employees as the board deems necessary and to remove them and to fix their compensation, except as provided in K.S.A. 12-1225b;

(e) to establish and maintain a library or libraries and traveling library service within the municipality or within any other municipality with which service contract arrangements have been made;

(f) to contract with other libraries established under the provisions of this act or with the governing body of a municipality not maintaining a public library for the furnishing of library service to the inhabitants of such municipality to the extent and upon such terms as may be agreed upon, and to contract with any school board to furnish library service to any school library or to use the library facilities of the public school to supplement the facilities of the public library;

(g) to receive, accept and administer any money appropriated or granted to it by the state or the federal government or any agency thereof for the purpose of aiding or providing library service;

(h) to receive and accept any gift or donation to the library and administer the same in accordance with any provisions thereof. If no provisions are specified, the board shall have the power to hold, invest or reinvest the gift and any dividends, interest, rent or income derived from the gift in the manner the board deems will best serve the interests of the library;

(i) to make annual reports to the state librarian and the governing body of the municipality on or before January 31 of each year for the preceding calendar year, showing receipts and disbursements from all funds under its control, and showing such statistical information relating to library materials acquired and on hand, number of library users, library services available, and other information of general interest as the governing body requires;

(j) as to money received from sources other than a tax levy for library purposes, in its discretion, to place such money in a separate fund or funds, or to place the money in the fund to which the tax levy money is credited unless the grantor or donor directs how and for what purpose the money shall be handled and spent.

History: L. 1951, ch. 485, § 8; L. 1953, ch. 65, § 1; L. 1965, ch. 103, § 1; L. 1965, ch. 104, § 1; L. 1984, ch. 69, § 7; L. 1984, ch. 69, § 2; January 1, 1985.

12-1225b. Same; powers and duties. (a) In addition to the powers and duties prescribed by K.S.A. 12-1225, and amendments thereto, in Johnson county, the library board shall:

- (1) Establish bylaws for the operation of the library board;
- (2) formulate new policies and revise existing programs, facilities and services for the county libraries;
- (3) annually review, evaluate and report to the board of county commissioners on the status of the county libraries;
- (4) review the annual work program, budget and fee schedule and provide recommendations on each to the board of county commissioners; and
- (5) employ and terminate the employment of a county librarian.

(b) Any action taken by the library board or its county librarian shall be subject to the following provisions established by the board of county commissioners:

- (1) Personnel policies and procedures for employees other than elected officials;
- (2) any pay plan and benefits for all county employees other than elected officials;
- (3) purchasing policies and procedures except as provided in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 12-1225, and amendments thereto;
- (4) budget policies and procedures which budget shall be approved by the board of county commissioners;
- (5) financial policies and procedures, except as provided in K.S.A. 12-1226, and amendments thereto, with respect to gifts and nongovernmental grants;
- (6) audit policies and procedures; and
- (7) insurance and loss control policies and procedures.

Any liability therefor will be the responsibility of the board of county commissioners, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-6101 et seq., and amendments thereto.

- (c) The provisions of this section shall take effect and be in force on and after January 1, 1985.

History: L. 1984, ch. 69, § 4; July 1.

12-1226. Treasurer of board; bond; duties; Johnson and Wyandotte counties library board treasurer. (a) Except as provided by this section, the treasurer of the library board shall give bond, in an amount fixed by the board and approved by the governing body of the municipality, for the safekeeping and due disbursement of all funds that may come into the treasurer's hands. The bonds shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality. Except where otherwise provided by law, the treasurer of the municipality shall pay over to the treasurer of the library board all funds collected for the maintenance of the library, and the treasurer of the library board shall pay out the funds on orders of the board signed by the secretary and chairperson thereof. Such treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received and disbursed thereby and make a report thereof to the library board monthly, or as often as the board requires.

(b) In Johnson county, the treasurer of the library board shall give bond, in an amount fixed by the library board and approved by the board of county commissioners for the safekeeping and due disbursement of all funds that may come into the treasurer's hands. The bond shall be filed with the county clerk. Except where otherwise provided by law, the treasurer of the library board shall pay over to the county treasurer all funds collected for the maintenance of the library, with the exception of gifts and nongovernmental grants. The treasurer of the library board shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received along with its source and those moneys disbursed to the county treasurer. The funds of such library board in the hands of the county treasurer shall be maintained in a separate library fund and any interest payable thereon shall be added to that fund. The administration of such fund shall be with the county treasurer who shall pay out moneys from the fund upon orders signed by the chairperson of the board of county commissioners and the county clerk or their designees.

(c) In Wyandotte county, the director of revenue of the unified government shall not pay over to the treasurer of the library board moneys collected for the maintenance of the library. The director of revenue shall maintain such moneys in a separate library fund. Any interest attributable to library moneys shall be deposited in the library fund. All moneys from gift, grants, donations or bequests to the library also shall be deposited in the library fund. The director of revenue shall administer the library fund and shall pay out moneys from the library fund, upon approval of the library board, and on orders signed by the chairperson and the treasurer of the library board or other authorized officers of the library board.

History: L. 1951, ch. 485, § 9; L. 1984, ch. 69, § 6; L. 2002, ch. 68, § 1; July 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Patron Services

DOCUMENT NUMBER: ARM 20-10-50

SECTION: Resolutions by Library Board of Directors

SUBJECT: PATRON CODE OF BEHAVIOR

SUMMARY

The purpose of this regulation is to describe the situations under which a patron may be asked to leave the library premises. The document also contains a Patron Code of Behavior and instructs how this Code is to be made available to the public.

Effective Date:

August 13, 2015

Review Date

October 4, 2017
February 11, 2021
November 14, 2024

**POLICY ON
DISRUPTIVE
PATRON**

a. A patron whose behavior is disruptive to the use of the library by other patrons may be asked to leave the library premises. A patron who refuses to leave under these circumstances is trespassing. The staff member in charge shall be responsible for handling the problem in accordance with library procedures and may seek assistance from library administration or a local law enforcement agency if needed

Repercussions

b. The County Librarian is authorized to suspend a patron's library privileges in accordance with ARM 20-10-30.

**PATRON CODE
OF BEHAVIOR**

c. The following Patron Code of Behavior shall be posted in each facility and shall also be available as a hand-out:

Compliance

1. Failing to comply with library regulations and with instructions or requests made by library staff with respect to library regulations is strictly prohibited.

Destruction

2. Destruction, theft, or defacing of library property including tampering with technology systems or computer hardware, software, and data is strictly prohibited.

Weapons	<p>3. Subject to the exceptions set forth in subsections (i) and (ii) below, the carrying of any pistol, revolver or other firearm with similar characteristics, or any weapon as defined by K.S.A. 21-6302 into a library building of any kind or onto library property, including library parking lots, is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>(i) This section 3 of ARM 20-10-50 shall not apply to certified law enforcement personnel or personnel contracted by the Library for cash handling services and authorized to carry weapons in the course of their duties pursuant to a service contract.</p> <p>(ii) This section 3 of ARM 20-10-50 shall not apply to individuals lawfully carrying concealed handguns pursuant to the terms of the Personal and Family Protection Act, K.S.A. 75-7c01, et seq., as amended. All such individuals shall comply with all municipal, county, state and federal regulations and laws applicable to the carrying of concealed handguns.</p>
Unruliness	4. Dangerous or disruptive behavior is not allowed. This may include cell phone use, talking loudly, running, or any behavior that is disruptive to patrons or staff.
Abusiveness	5. Behavior that is abusive to library patrons and/or staff is not allowed.
Language	6. Abusive or obscene language is not allowed in the library.
Smoking	7. As defined in policy 60-10-50, smoking and tobacco use is not permitted in the library.
Food/Drink	8. Non-alcoholic beverages are permitted in the library; alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the library or on library premises, except as set out in ARM 20-80-30. Food is permitted in the library so long as its consumption is not disruptive to other patrons and is not damaging to library facilities and property.
Alcohol	9. Patrons shall not possess or consume alcoholic beverages in the library or on library premises. Alcoholic beverages may be served in designated areas of the library at library-approved events by the library, the Friends of the Johnson County Library, or the Johnson County Library Foundation pursuant to ARM 20-80-30.

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| Pets | 10. Pets are not permitted in the library. Service animals are allowed as permitted under the Americans with Disabilities Act. |
| Skating | 11. Skating, skateboarding, and use of other similar devices (scooters, hoverboards, etc) are prohibited in library buildings and on any library property. |
| Parking Lot | 12. Participating in any behavior that endangers library patrons and/or their vehicles, library property, or library staff in the library parking lot is not allowed. |
| Use of Library Computer Workstations | <p>13. Using library computer workstations in an unacceptable manner, as defined herein is prohibited. Members of library staff are under no obligation to monitor library computer workstation usage and accept no responsibility for investigating the manner in which those workstations are used. When, however, a member of the library staff observes a patron using a workstation in violation of the following subsections, the patron will be deemed to be using the workstation in an unacceptable manner and will be asked to immediately terminate use of the workstation:</p> <p>a) Patrons shall not access or exhibit obscene material on library computer workstations. See K.S.A. 21-6401 as amended. Disseminating or exhibiting obscene material is a crime in the state of Kansas.</p> <p>K.S.A. 21-6401.</p> <p>b) Patrons shall not access or display obscene material where the recipient of the obscene material is a child under the age of eighteen years. K.S.A. 21-6401, as amended.</p> <p>c) Patrons shall not use library computer workstations in a manner that allows them to possess a computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner any film, photograph, negative, photocopy, videotape, or video laser disc in which a real child under sixteen years of age is shown or heard engaging in sexually explicit conduct with intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interest of the offender, the child or another. See K.S.A. 21-5510, as amended t</p> |

PROCEDURES

d. Procedures for handling incidents shall be maintained by staff in accordance with Library policy.

November 14, 2024

ARM 20-10-50 End