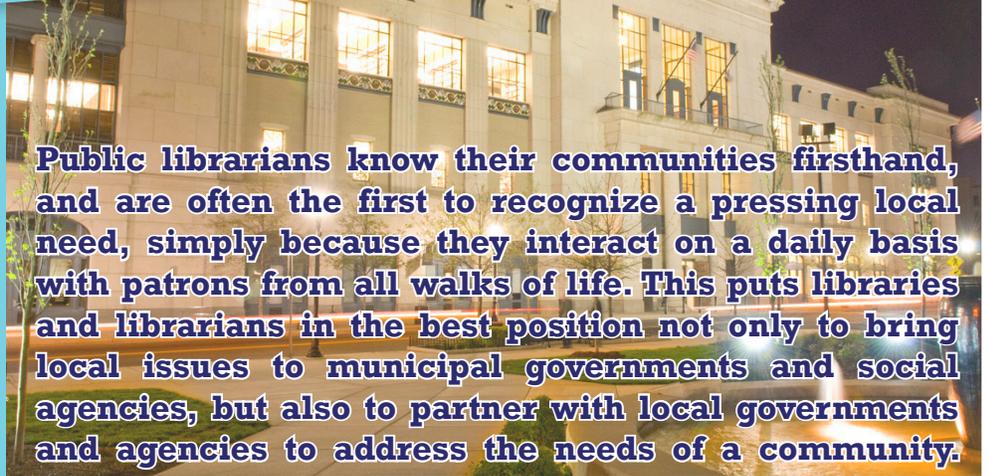


PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DID YOU KNOW?

- » The Nashville Public Library has 21 locations throughout Davidson county.
- » The Downtown-Main Library hosts over 700 meetings each year.
- » In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Nashville public library had an attendance of 1,399,903 at 4,378 meetings.
- » Nationwide, 64 percent of libraries report that they are the sole source for free internet access in their communities.
- » Since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2008, there has been a 31 percent increase the perception of the public library as a key community asset by local residents.
- » Every day, 300,000 job seekers seek help from public libraries.



Public librarians know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life. This puts libraries and librarians in the best position not only to bring local issues to municipal governments and social agencies, but also to partner with local governments and agencies to address the needs of a community.

Technology change...

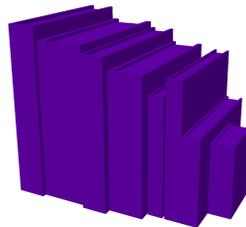
According to the Nashville Public Library staff, e-content has grown over **400 percent** in the past few years.

For instance, while libraries in the past bought one physical copy of a book for consumers to check out, now libraries must purchase the hardcopy, a large-print edition, an e-book, and even other versions of the same book to allow downloads on tablets, smart phones or audio devices.

Usage...

35,110

The number of **days of computer usage time** in the 2010-2011 fiscal year in Nashville public libraries.



4,033,490

The number of **circulation transactions** in the 2010-2011 fiscal year in Nashville public libraries.



- » In the coming years the primary role of a library will shift from housing collections to fostering and creating ideas.

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The public library system plays a vital role in the day to day lives of thousands of Nashville residents. The Nashville Public Library serves not only has a collection center for information, but as community center to 21 different communities in Davidson county. The library branches in Davidson county house over 4,000 meetings every year.

This background report discusses several changes that will occur relating to public library system over the next 25 years.

- » The role of the public libraries will increasingly be as a core community institution, placing them in a vital position as leaders in community development.
- » The public library, in addition to offering free access to the internet, has the potential and the capacity to expand its role in not only offering information about community services, but also serving as the central repository for that information. Metro public schools and the Nashville Public Library need to continue developing and encouraging the use of Limitless Libraries.
- » Public libraries will have to take into consideration the costs associated with implementing outreach efforts to include under-served groups. Access to the library and its services may be a problem for these groups; distance may be an important factor impacting library use for immigrants, the elderly, or disabled populations. It is important for libraries to include collections and services relevant to the particular needs of these groups.

Public Libraries are facing numerous challenges and have significant opportunities before them. The Public Libraries background report recommends that the NashvilleNext planning process include conversation about some the following recommendations:

- » Physical spaces must be maintained, but should be structured in a way to meet future demands.
- » Public libraries will continue to be community centers and should continue to plan to expand services to enhance this role.
- » The library as a civic institution should continue to play a role in improving equity of access to the infosphere.
- » Public libraries and public schools should continue to expand the current relationships that exist between the two entities.

