

# 2025

## Manatee Library Annual Report



# ADVISORY BOARD

The Manatee County Library Advisory Board is comprised of 5 members who serve in an advisory capacity to the Library Services Manager and assists the Board of County Commissioners in providing and improving library services throughout the County in compliance with Florida Law.

The primary function of the Library Advisory Board is to advise and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on matters pertaining to the County library system.

## MISSION

To welcome all members of the community to learn, grow, and connect at the Library.

## VISION

Manatee Library will be the living, breathing center of your neighborhood.

## VALUES

We are guided by these shared values in everything we do:



**Connection**  
**Belonging**  
**Access**  
**Creativity**  
**Trust**  
**Joy**

# Letter from Leadership

This year, the Manatee County Public Library System kept a clear promise: to be a welcoming place to learn, grow, and connect. In our buildings, online, and out in the community our mission and values guided everyday decisions so the Library remains a living, neighborhood-centered resource.

Our shared theme Building Relationships and Removing Barriers drove tangible improvements: more coordinated outreach, stronger partnerships, and clearer, more personalized communication so residents receive what matters to them.

We aligned resources with demand by using data to refresh collections, continue to streamline processes, and strengthen collection development practices that keep materials relevant and cost-effective.

Because buildings shape what's possible, we evaluated current spaces, identifying priority upgrades, and explored flexible access models, from a 24-hour kiosk to expanded mobile and homebound services. We also invested in people: refining staffing structures, adding targeted roles, and additional career path opportunities for staff. We began preparing for outreach staff capacity for the bookmobile.

Thank you to our staff, Friends groups, Library Foundation, County leadership, and the Library Advisory Board. Together, we're keeping the Library open, strong, and future-ready, so every resident can discover their story in every corner of Manatee County.



**Tammy Parrott**  
Library Services Manager

*Tammy S Parrott*



**Lyn Begraft**  
Asst. Library Services Manager

*Lyn Begraft*

# 2025 Metrics

Total Transactions

7,821,751

Use of Online Resources

2,336,314

Physical Circulation

1,699,266

Library Visits

912,321

WiFi Use

760,826

Digital Circulation

427,693

Reference Questions

286,429

Catalog Logins

164,303

Program Attendance

112,439

Computer Sessions

60,507

In-House Use

57,058

Study Room Bookings

8,415

MANATEE COUNTY  
POPULATION\*



458,352

ACTIVE LIBRARY  
CARDHOLDERS



143,636

VOLUNTEERS



1,103

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
WORKED

8,916

\*2024 U.S. Census Bureau estimate

These findings were pulled from various 2025 state reports and library logs. For a detailed list of statistics, please visit [mymanatee.org/library](http://mymanatee.org/library)

# A Typical Day Included:

**2,914**

Library  
visits

**5,428**

Physical Items  
checked out

**1,366**

Digital Items  
checked out

**193**

Library-provided  
computer  
sessions

**359**

Program  
attendance

**915**

Reference  
Questions

**458**

New Library  
Patrons

# Literacy Focused

Cultivating literacy skills from infancy into adulthood is one of the main priorities of the Manatee County Public Library System. Literacy empowers communities, creates job opportunities, and positively impacts our health.

## 2025 Summer Learning Program

Our 2025 Summer Learning Program was a wonderful time, with 3,137 children and teens participating in reading, learning, and programs county-wide.

## Suds + Stories

Our Suds + Stories initiative launched in 2024 and has since expanded to seven locations. By placing books in laundromats near Title I elementary schools, we're turning laundry time into story time and helping children discover the joy of reading—one book at a time.

## Early Literacy Programs

500 Books Before Middle School and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten are self-paced early literacy programs that encourage families to read together. In 2025, 500 Books Before Middle School had 636 participants, and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten had 897 participants. Both programs are made possible by the Manatee Library Foundation.

## Books by Mail & Homebound Delivery Services

Manatee Library offers free delivery of library materials to Manatee County library patrons who are not able to access our facilities due to a temporary or long-term physical or visual disability. Combining homebound delivery and books by mail, 3,257 items circulated in FY2025.



SLP Minutes  
Read:  
**1,507,132**

Circulation of  
Youth Materials  
**590,490**

# Beyond Books

Libraries today must offer so much beyond books. Manatee County Public Library System is proud to be a community hub where patrons can access thousands of free online resources, Wi-Fi hotspots, an Archive Lab, 3D printers, special events and programs, and much more!



## Archive Lab

On June 30, 2023, the Central Library branch launched the Archive Lab! The Archive Lab is a digital DIY space and part of the Eaton Florida History Room. It comprises four stations where you can scan and save your photos, home videos, scrapbooks, slides, and more. This popular service has had almost 11,000 visits since its opening.



## Makerspaces

Our Makerspaces provide patrons with access to tools, technology, and resources to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and engage in tactile learning. Makerspaces are vital components of a modern library by promoting technological innovation and entrepreneurship in the local community.



# Value Calculator

TOTAL VALUE:

**\$59,367,861**

BOOKS BORROWED

**\$18,223,600**

AUDIO/EBOOKS BORROWED

**\$5,889,726**

ONLINE RESOURCES/DATABASES USES

**\$28,956,746**

PROGRAMS AND CLASSES ATTENDED

**\$1,052,180**

COMPUTER USAGE

**\$726,084**

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ASKED

**\$4,302,645**

STUDY ROOMS USE

**\$125,220**

DVDS BORROWED

**\$91,660**

CALCULATE THE APPROXIMATE VALUE OF THE SERVICES YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR MANATEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY THROUGH OUR ONLINE CALCULATOR.

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