



OUR LIBRARIES ARE
VITAL AND VALUED



2023 - 2028
Strategic Plan

OUR LIBRARIES ARE READY FOR THE FUTURE

As a system of member libraries, we collaborate in our work for the Delaware County community. Each library has a unique set of resources, dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers, and a connection to their own community; yet we all work together as partners to ensure our entire County benefits from our library services. To do that effectively and efficiently, we have collaboratively created this Strategic Plan for the future. These are our shared Values, our shared Mission, our shared Vision, and our shared Strategic Goals.

THIS STRATEGIC PLAN IS A VISION AND ROAD MAP FOR THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARIES DISTRICT CENTER AND THE TWENTY SIX MEMBER LIBRARIES ACROSS THE COMMUNITY.



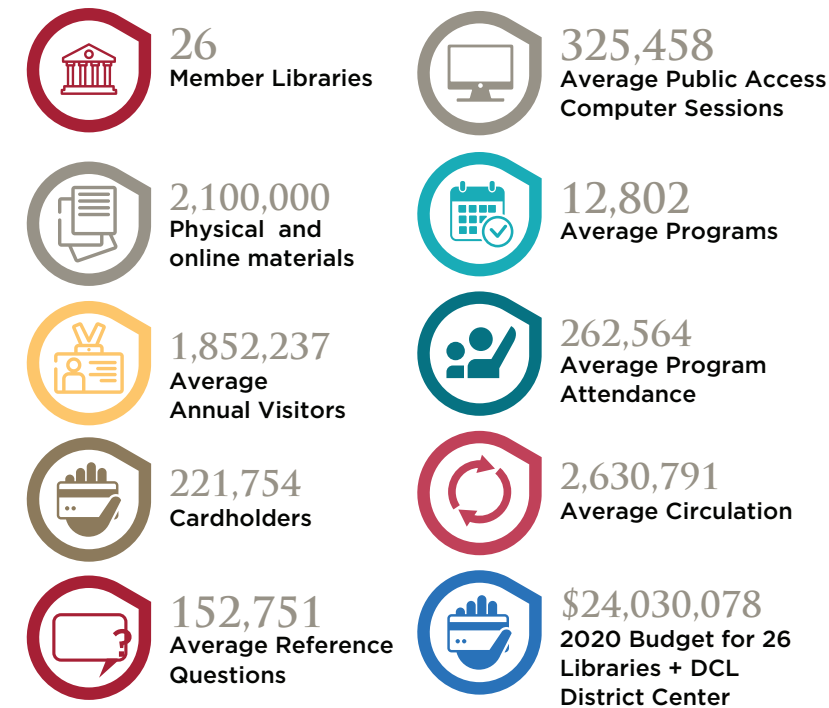
Delaware County Libraries (DCL) District Center Headquarters, an agency of County government with a Council-appointed Board of Directors, is a federated system of 26 member libraries and a Pennsylvania Library District Center. Our goal is to optimize services for the community through cooperative efforts while providing support to the independent member libraries. We do not manage or operate any of the individual libraries in our communities, but we do provide service to those libraries to enable them to provide high-quality, equitable service to their users.



ABOUT DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARIES

DCL DISTRICT CENTER SERVICES INCLUDE:

As a collaborative group of libraries across the County, we have created vital and valued resources for our communities that include:



- Administrative support through consulting, continuing education, grant writing support, advocacy, and direct monetary support.
- Programs to libraries and patrons directly, support for county-wide initiatives, and tools like Zoom, Beanstack, bingo and small games of chance licenses, a movie license, and a combined events calendar for promotion.
- Collection management services including cataloging, delivery among libraries, interlibrary loan, and library cards
- Broadband and high-speed internet access with the hardware and software necessary to ensure staff and patron access to the internet and the library circulation system
- Collections and resources like Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla for digital books, high-quality research resources not available on the free internet, circulating hotspots, Book Club in a Bag, etc.
- Equipment and services including copying, laminating, poster printing, fax machines, marketing materials, and bookable equipment
- Outreach and coordinated programming for children, young adults, older adults, and other special groups

OUR LIBRARIES ARE VITAL AND VALUED

Our libraries are a community anchor that play a critical role in the areas of early literacy, out of school learning, workforce and economic development, and neighborhood vitality.

The libraries are open, accessible, and welcoming spaces that enable people to transform their lives through life-long learning, digital literacy, and connections to others. As we move through this strategic plan, the Delaware County Libraries District Center will be a connector for our member libraries. Through the member libraries, ideas, people, and, organizations will interact to create positive change. Across neighborhoods, age groups, demographics, platforms, and time, our libraries will promote literacy and support a community that values innovative, patron-centered services, welcoming gathering spaces, curiosity, tolerance, respect, and the acquisition of knowledge.



OUR LIBRARIES ARE A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

This strategic plan has been organized into interconnected areas of focus that reflect the priorities of our community and enable all people to realize their own power and potential.

OUR MISSION

To provide access to resources, programming, services, and support to educate, enrich, and engage our diverse communities.

OUR VISION

We are a vital and beloved community resource for all, meeting challenges and leading change with unfettered access to equitable, diverse, and inclusive opportunities that promote discovery, innovation, and learning.



KEY FOCUS AREAS



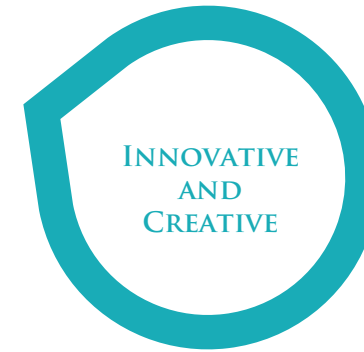
A strong and stable library system is essential to a vibrant community.



Engaged and informed people are the foundation of a thriving community.



Our whole community benefits from our libraries.



Technological and social changes fuel a need for new resources and creative ways to learn.



Community is fostered when people have places to gather and connect.



Access to resources and information is critical to the well being of our communities.



Being able to meet challenges and opportunities with quick and targeted responsiveness will open the door for growth and sustainability for all.



STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

REACH PATRONS IN UNSERVED AREAS OF DELAWARE COUNTY

Potential Initiatives

- Begin at home services coordinated via DCL for residents in unserved municipalities
- Increase outreach to retirement communities
- Grow DCL's outreach events through activities such as participation in community events and "pop-up" events for library card sign ups, education, and more.

Outcomes

- All people, regardless of age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, ability, immigration status, housing security, mental health, or sexual orientation have equal access to library services.
- The Library is a presence in all communities and supports a path toward constructive action.
- Every resident has a library card.



STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

ENCOURAGE THE USE AND PROMOTION OF DCL-PROVIDED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Potential Initiatives

- Provide opportunities for library staff and patrons to become more familiar with the DelcoReads app through strategies such as promotional visits, a social media campaign, or contests
- Ensure all member libraries understand the full range of capabilities of the DelcoReads app and encourage adoption of all facets including self-check
- Establish a regular rotation of in-person visits to member libraries by DCL staff to engage, educate, and encourage full participation in all activities sponsored or coordinated by DCL

Outcomes

- Every resident has a library card





STRATEGIC GOAL 3: AMPLIFY INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Potential Initiatives

- Expand partnership activities with other Delaware County government agencies
- Increase number of 1000 Books Before Kindergarten classrooms to include districts across the county
- Increase outreach to Delaware County schools/districts through opportunities such as back to school nights and PTO visits

Outcomes

- Staff are increasingly prepared to serve their diverse communities
- The community will be informed about critical resources
- People see themselves reflected in our materials, displays and programs



STRATEGIC GOAL 4: ENHANCE ADVOCACY TO INCREASE FUNDING

Potential Initiatives

- Provide member libraries with tools to advocate locally for better funding such as training opportunities for staff, board, and Friends groups
- Help member library board and Friends groups feel confident in their advocacy messaging
- Disseminate information about grant opportunities in a timely fashion

Outcomes

- Increased opportunities for access to electronic resources
- Access to tech for all, bridge the digital divide





STRATEGIC GOAL 5:

INCREASE STAFF TRAINING FOR MEMBER LIBRARIES

Potential Initiatives

- DCL staff will create a “menu” of training/education opportunities that can be customized to the needs of member libraries. Some examples include Sierra functions, interlibrary loan, and Excel.
- Reengage DCL Continuing Education Task Force
- Provide connections for interagency cooperative trainings
- Rethink where and how training can be delivered

Outcomes

- Library workers are trained to meet the needs of all users including those with physical and mental disabilities
- Staff are increasingly prepared to serve their diverse communities
- Libraries create a work culture in which all staff are supported, can thrive and be successful



STRATEGIC GOAL 6:

IMPROVE INTER-LIBRARY COLLABORATION

Potential Initiatives

- Encourage member libraries to share experiences and expertise in new library ideas and trends such as going fine free or programming
- Champion collaborative programming among libraries through discussion at quarterly adult program meetings and open forum meetings among library directors
- Create a mentor program for new library directors, potentially expanding the program based on experience

Outcomes

- Staff are increasingly prepared to serve their diverse communities
- People see themselves reflected in our materials, displays and programs
- Partnerships with regional stakeholders and civic groups further amplify individual voices





OUR LIBRARIES ARE SOMETHING WE ALL DO TOGETHER

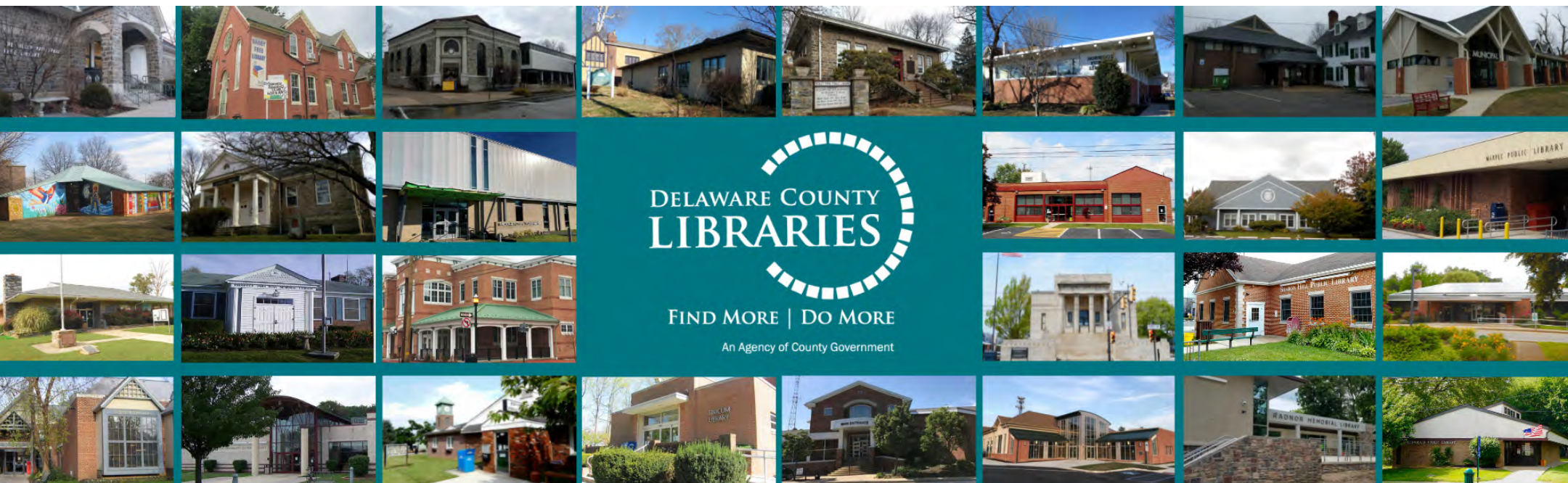
Our communities consistently move through invention and reinvention, facing challenges and opportunities with optimism and courage. Our libraries are there in support, growing and changing every step of the way.

As our community around us changes, so do we.

We are excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead and look forward to engaging with the community in new and innovative ways.

We are always stronger together.





For more information about Delaware County Libraries and any of our twenty six member libraries in the community, please visit www.delcolibraries.org
Learn how you can support our libraries and keep this vital and valued resource in your community.