2017 Annual Report

Making Connections.

Cobb County Public Library System

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Cobb County Public Library System serves people of every age and background with resources and programs to bolster Cobb County's quality of place. Our successes and challenges of 2017 are powering us through to expand and grow our ambitions to serve you and the community.

We deliver innovative programs for education and lifelong learning, economic development, health, civic engagement and cultural enrichment to meet the goals of families and community organizations. We are building positive relationships across Cobb County.

Cobb libraries are enriched by strategic partnerships with a broad range of local innovators in schools, businesses, healthcare and wellness groups, and organizations for children, adults and seniors. We are recognized by our Cobb County Government colleagues for our impactful programs and working together for your needs.

We are building for the future. The Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center opened in December as a model of innovation and collaboration, a library for the 21st century blending library space with creative arts and education spaces in partnership with Cobb County PARKS. A highlight of 2018 is construction of the new North Cobb Regional Library for expansion of library space and services in the Acworth and Kennesaw communities.

I am proud of the accomplishments and dedication to public service of the Cobb County Public Library team. Thank you for your support for Cobb County Public Libraries!

Sincerely,

Helen Poyer, Director
Cobb County Public Library System

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Mission

To be a vital resource center where all people have equal access to information, materials, and services that enrich their lives.

Vision

To move beyond traditional library services by integrating new technology services and providing enriching library and cultural experiences for all who enter our doors.

BY THE NUMBERS

5,788,213
Visits to Our Website

1,184,909
Public Internet Sessions

21,104
Volunteer Hours Donated

19,086
Summer Reading Program Participants

49,881
Hours of Reading during Summer Break from school

1,708,475
Visits to Our Libraries

Value of the Library: $70,328,195.50

2,989,881
Library Materials Checked Out

509,904
Database Searches

2,208
Community Meetings Held in Library Space

406,273
Reference Questions Answered

448,578
Library Card Holders

137,210
Attendees at Children's Programs

$343,701
In Admittance Fees Saved Through Family Pass Checkouts

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Lifelong Learning. Each year, thousands of babies and toddlers attend the library's weekly story time events and participate in the **1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten** early literacy program.

Family Engagement and Literacy. **Prime Time** was developed to assist families of students in at-risk communities to improve children's literacy skills before they enter third grade. Cobb County Libraries received funding from the Georgia Public Library Service to bring the Prime Time program to Spanish speaking families. The program provides materials and guidance on starting regular family reading time and group discussions around the themes in the books. The 2017 program registration included 32 families and 60 children.

Workforce and Economic Development. The Cobb County Libraries annual workshop series, GEMS: Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science, was created for female students from ages 11 to 17. This extensive workshop offers a welcoming and encouraging environment introducing the students to influential women in STEM careers, educating them more about STEM opportunities, and providing them with hands-on experience with STEM activities. This annual workshop involves more than 100 participants and is conducted over a four week span hosted at five of our Cobb County Libraries. GEMS 2017 included professionals from Women in Technology, Cobb County School District, Cobb County 4-H, Cobb County Information Services, Kennesaw State University, Emory University, Georgia Tech, The Home Depot and Georgia Power. Major support for GEMS includes a grant from the **Cobb Library Foundation**. The library partnered with the Atlanta chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Atlanta) and Kennesaw State's Department of Architecture to present one-day workshops at four libraries for school age children. **Discover ARCHITECTURE: Library Edition** gave students on summer break a chance to meet design professionals and create architectural models based on Cobb landmarks. Tech and career workshops for youths offered in 2017 included the **Girls Who Code Club** at Stratton Library. The program for developing coding skills through group coding projects is continuing through the 2017-2018 school year for pre-teens and teens.

The Cobb County Public Library builds community connections. Innovative library programs are bolstered by a variety of organizations sharing common goals for Cobb County.

Educators and Students. The quality of life is enriched by the successful year-round support provided by Cobb librarians for Cobb County and Marietta City Public Schools, independent schools and homeschool families. Community organizations such as Head Start and Communities in Schools collaborate with Cobb County Libraries to promote school success. **Library PASS** — Public Library Access for Student Success — was developed through 2017 in coordination with the Cobb County and Marietta City Schools to allow students to easily reach library resources through PASS library accounts.

The Summer Reading Program features hundreds of events. The library's 2017 SRP program involved a countywide collaboration with the Cobb and Marietta school districts and the Smyrna Public Library. Under the *"Build a Better World"* 2017 theme, the Summer Reading partnership with Scholastic provided an online platform for logging students' reading progress over the summer break. Adult programs included book discussion groups, gardening and cooking workshops and more.

Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center opened in December. The 28,000-square-foot complex situated within Sewell Park on Lower Roswell Road is a joint-use project of the Library System and Cobb PARKS. More than a replacement for the East Marietta Library, Sewell Mill includes unique children and teen spaces, study rooms, recording studios, a conference room, a digital maker space commons, a community room, an art gallery and art classrooms, an outdoor amphitheater and a black box theater. Batson-Cook Construction and CAS Architecture served as the design-build team for the $10.6 million Sewell Mill project funded with $8.6 million from Cobb County's 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and $2 million from the Georgia Board of Regents.

The design phase for the new **North Cobb Regional Library** started in 2017. Planned as a consolidation of the Acworth and Kennesaw Libraries built in the mid-1960s, the facility will be built at the intersection of Old 41 Highway and Blue Springs Road with $8.6 million from the 2016 SPLOST. The site across from North Cobb High School is approximately equidistant from the small Acworth and Kennesaw Libraries.

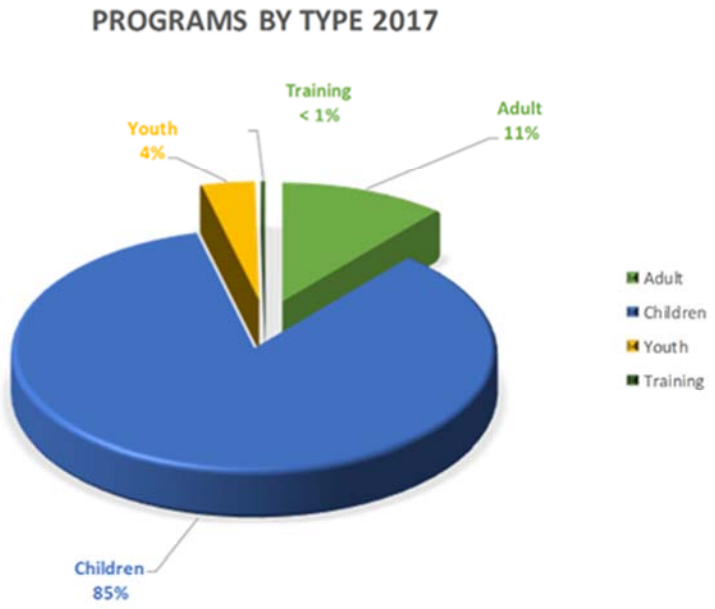
The library's **Falls Prevention Awareness** events which were held for the third year in September at Cobb County Libraries included Tai Chi for Arthritis demonstrations by Cobb Senior Services, health screenings by WellStar Health System, and vision screenings for children and adults by the South Cobb, North Cobb and West Cobb-Paulding Lions Clubs.

VALUE OF THE LIBRARY

Use	Item	Value	Total Value
188,962	Books Borrowed	$25.00	$45,965,375.00
175,703	Magazines / Paperbacks Borrowed	$3.50	$614,960.50
269,398	Videos Borrowed	$2.00	$538,796.00
131,174	Audio Books Borrowed	$25.00	$3,279,350.00
1,711	State Park Passes Borrowed	$8.00	$13,688.00
3,868	Atlanta Zoo Pass DVD Kits Borrowed	$80.00	$309,440.00
329	Center for Puppetry Arts	$33.00	$10,857.00
11,199	Magazine Use in Library & Equip/Kits Used	$2.00	$22,398.00
347	Carlos Museum Passes Borrowed	$28.00	$9,716.00
2,050	Wi-Fi Hot Spots	$35.00	$71,750.00
137,210	Children's Programs Attended	$6.00	$823,260.00
22,279	Adult/Teen Programs Attended	$15.00	$334,185.00
146,892	Hours of Computer Use, e.g., Internet and MS Word	$12.00	$1,762,704.00
197	Book Club Kits Borrowed	$150.00	$29,550.00
406,766	eDownloadable Materials Borrowed	$25.00	$10,169,150.00
274,521	Database User Sessions	$12.00	$3,294,850.00
1,342	GaleCourses—Online Continuing Education Courses	$175.00	$2,843,911.00
406,273	Reference Questions Asked	$7.00	$2,843,911.00
	Value of Use		**$70,328,192.50**

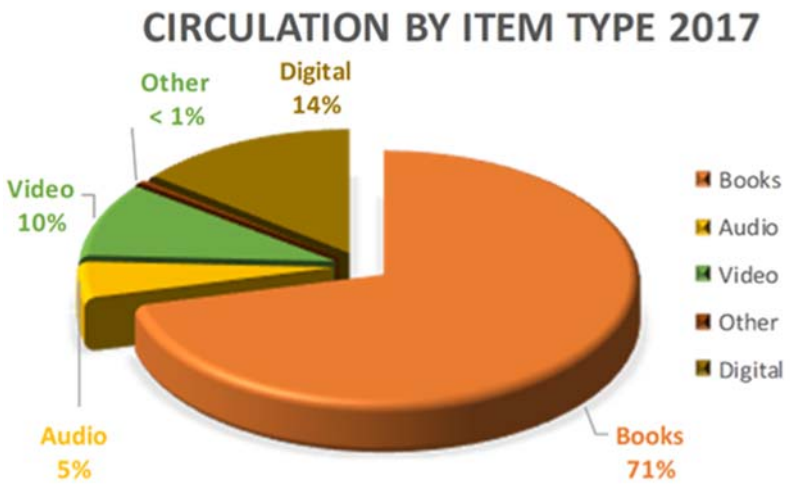
Value of Library Collection

Item Collection	# of Items
Books	914,647
Audio	48,366
Video	68,620
GA Room	18,605
Digital	30,746
Total Value	**$24,027,052.19**



Database Sessions

Ancestry— Library Edition	67,236
GALILEO	20,268
HeritageQuest Online	58,323
Morningstar Online	1,589
NewsBank	12,206
GaleCourses	19,045
Mango Language Learning	8,376
Reference USA	7,970
Lynda.com	15,230
Chilton Library	709



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees

The Cobb County Public Library Board of Trustees is a nine-member volunteer board made up of local citizens appointed by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Each trustee serves a 3-year term and may serve successive terms. The trustees set library policy and advise on activities. The Library Board holds regular meetings at the various library locations on a rotating schedule and are open to the public.

Abby Shiffman, Chair

Peggy Holbrook, Vice Chair

Peggy Pool, Secretary

Jon Jordan

Shondrae Knight

Dr. Tony Le

Maxvel Rose

Ellen Springer

Connie Taylor

Library Administration

Helen Poyer, Library Director

Mike Aiken, Division Director of Community and User Engagement

Jonathan McKeown, Division Director of Branch Services

Shelley Zhang, Division Director of Technical and Automated Services

William Tanks, Public Services Agency Director

Dr. Jackie McMorris, Deputy County Manger

Rob Hosack, County Manager

Cobb County Board of Commissioners

Mike Boyce, Chairman

Bob Weatherford, District One (Northwest Cobb)

Bob Ott, District Two (Southeast Cobb)

JoAnn Birrell, District Three (Northeast Cobb)

Lisa Cupid, District Four (Southwest Cobb)

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving the quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better."

- Sidney Sheldon

Changing Lives.