

SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018

Santa Clarita Public Library's first three years were marked by successful completion of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan. The Old Town Newhall Library also opened during this period, which combined with the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library and the Valencia Library, brought total library space to almost 71,000 square feet. The collection grew to 412,000 print, electronic, and audiovisual items. More than 4.7 million items were borrowed by 103,000 card holders. Members of the community were enriched by 5,297 programs such as technology classes, Homework Help, and 25 storytimes per week.

Five service priorities have been identified for 2015-2018: Technology, Facilities, 21st Century Literacy, Self-Enrichment, and Success in School. Strategies for service improvements in these five priority areas have been developed in response to input gathered from online surveys, paper surveys, community groups, and staff focus groups.

The Strategic Plan articulates what the library's success will look like in 2015-2018. Santa Clarita Public Library will continue to provide excellent service to the community and make improvements as described in the service strategies below. Progress will be communicated regularly to City Council, the Citizen's Public Library Advisory Committee, the Friends of the Santa Clarita Public Library, and to the public.

TECHNOLOGY

Santa Clarita Public Library will provide residents access to the digital world and opportunities to use new technology.

1. Evaluate usability of the library's website and catalog and use findings to make improvements.
2. Utilize technology tools to build patron-driven collections of books, DVDs, other audiovisual materials, and magazines.
3. Market simplified instructions for using the library's digital resources.
4. Enhance popular digital technology learning opportunities for all levels – beginners to advanced.
5. Maintain a dynamic position that is current with emerging library technologies.



FACILITIES

Santa Clarita Public Library will create thriving, comfortable, and welcoming spaces where the community can connect and access library resources.

1. Develop library facilities Master Plan to determine needs for space and refurbishment of current and future buildings.
2. Prepare or update emergency plans for each library building, and train staff on the procedures.
3. Form sound-sectioning or age-sectioning wherever possible in current and future buildings so patrons can enjoy more areas appropriate for quiet reading, group learning experiences, and family library visits.
4. Improve customer service to enhance the overall library environment.

21st CENTURY LITERACY

Santa Clarita Public Library will support residents of all ages and abilities in the varied literacies needed to improve skills that help them meet personal goals and goals for their families.

1. Increase programming that addresses information literacy, digital literacy, and family literacy.
2. Launch outreach campaign to non-English speakers to let them know that library print, digital, and audiovisual materials and programming are free and easily accessible.
3. Produce an English as Second Language (ESL) Family Literacy Program that facilitates basic reading skills for all ages through incorporation of library materials, community partnerships, technology, volunteers, and staff training.
4. Develop a robust collection of print and digital materials that supports struggling readers of all ages.



SELF-ENRICHMENT

Santa Clarita Public Library will strengthen its role as a primary agent for supporting self-enrichment of individuals in the community.

1. Provide opportunities for staff to develop as informed ambassadors for the library's role as a supporter of self-enrichment in the community.
2. Partner with community organizations to link library services to their groups and bring their expertise to library patrons.
3. Augment the budget for purchase of materials to enrich the lives of community members.
4. Support patrons in the improvement of their professional skills and prospects for employment.



SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Santa Clarita Public Library will furnish access to tools needed for the academic success of K-12 public, private, and homeschooled students, as well as trade school and post-secondary students.

1. Market library resources and services to educators, students and their families, and para-education organizations.
2. Create a coordinated service for school partnerships including classroom book bags, school visits, and communications between schools and the library.
3. Find solutions to overcrowding in Homework Helpers so the program can grow to serve additional students who need this free service.
4. Provide resource support for trade school and other post-secondary students.

