



COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

EDUCATE - ENGAGE - ENRICH

Five Year
Long Range Plan

2025 - 2030

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cooke County Public Library is to provide all persons in the community with a safe and confidential environment in which they may freely pursue intellectual, educational, and recreational interests through diverse services and resources collected in a variety of formats.

Vision Statement

The Cooke County Library dedicates itself to providing an environment to increase the literacy and educational level of Cooke County in order to raise the quality of life and standard of living.

Current Statistics

The public library serves a population of 40,515. The annual operating budget is \$535,328 used as 33% wages and benefits: 52% purchase of library materials: and 15% indirect and miscellaneous costs. The collection consists of approximately 98,598 titles from 5 digital or online collections and 5,554 periodical subscriptions. Current circulation is 90,475 transactions per year. The library is open an average of 50 hours per week. Total paid staff is 5 full time employees, 4 part-time employees who work 10-25 hours per week.

*Based on figures from the Texas Public Library 2023 annual report.

Introduction to Goals

The following goals are the priorities to be accomplished over the course of the next five years, which address key strategic issues and support our vision and mission. They are not intended to address all the issues facing the Library; rather they are designed to focus the efforts of the Cooke County Library staff in providing materials and programs that meet the needs of Cooke County and surrounding communities, while striving to improve the services to our patrons. These goals will be used by the Cooke County Library staff to implement the long-range plan approved by the Cooke County Commissioners Court. This plan will be approved annually by the Cooke County Commissioners Court.

Service Goals

Goal #1: Enable senior citizens to continue their active participation in lifelong learning.

- Continue to develop a large print collection and audio book collection.
- Continue to offer Adult Reading Programs from 18 years old and up.
- Continue to offer formal and informal basic computer or eDevice classes as needed.

Goal #2: Foster a lifelong love of books in children and a desire to learn that will help them live productive and satisfying lives.

- Conduct weekly and other educational classes for children.
- Continue to offer the Family Place Library area and parent/child workshops.
- Continue to offer Summer Reading Programs for toddlers to 18 years old.
- Evaluate ways to make the library a resource valued by teens.
- Continue to provide access to a variety of electronic resources for ages 5 and up.

Goal #3: Increase and improve the library experience for patrons.

- Continue to communicate services offered by the library through the library's website and social media outlets, newspaper articles, newspaper advertisements, announcements on the local cable channels, fliers and posters.
- Provide customer service and resource training to staff.
- Continue to maintain the library building.

Goal #4: Increase and improve the awareness of Library facilities, materials and services.

- Provide professional assistance to patrons in all areas of library service.
- Outreach classes to local child care facilities, youth activity centers and school systems.
- Continue to inform the local school systems, community clubs and organizations of the library services available.

Goal #5: Continue to respond to patrons requests.

- Provide books, and other materials preferred by patrons.

- Provide Inter Library Loan service to obtain materials the Cooke County Library does not have in its collection.
- Seek out and respond to suggestions and concerns of patrons concerning library facilities, services and collections.

Goal #6: Improve technology services.

- Obtain grants or other outside funding for new technology services (ie: Wi-Fi; new computers).
- Offer formal and informal computer and eDevice classes to seniors and other age groups.
- Continue the current electronic resources Cooke County Library offers to the patrons (ie: Freegal; OverDrive which includes Kanopy, Libby, and Zinio; Freading; TexShare databases).

Goal #7: Develop and maintain a diverse collection.

- Conduct ongoing collection maintenance activities for entire collection. All sections of the collection will be weeded every 3 years.
- Establish a method of tracking collection use and utilize results to improve the collection. This will be done through technology and will aid in the weeding of the sections every 3 years.
- Increase, strengthen and promote the popular reading/high interest collections. In order to meet this objective, 25% of the collection will be less than 5 years old. This is a requirement from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- Examine present electronic formats and be prepared to acquire new technology as needed.

Goal #8: Continue to develop sources of public and private funding, including grants, to support and improve the Library.

- Explore all avenues to obtain grants from local, state and federal resources.
- Explore all avenues to obtain funding from private and non-profit organizations
- Continue to market to local civic groups for sponsorships and special projects.

CONCLUSION

This Long Range Plan, was created by the Cooke County Library as per the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and approved by the Cooke County Commissioners Court. The Library also requests their ongoing commitment and encourages them to provide the funding the library needs to meet its maintenance of effort. This in turn keeps the Library's accreditation status with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Cooke County Commissioners Court acknowledges and appreciates the support of the Friends of the Cooke County Library and the community.

The Cooke County Commissioners Court would also like to urge the community to continue to explore ways to increase funding for the important work of the library, so the Cooke County Library can continue to improve and provide high quality library service to the citizens of Cooke County.

APPROVAL

COOKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

LONG RANGE PLAN

2025 - 2030

Gary Hollowell 11/10/25
Date
Gary Hollowell, Pct. 1

Jason Snuggs 11-10-25
Date
Jason Snuggs, Pct. 2

Adam Arendt 11-10-25
Date
Adam Arendt, Pct. 3

Matt Sicking 11-10-25
Date
Matt Sicking, Pct. 4

John O. Roane 11-10-25
Date
John O. Roane, Cooke County Judge

Jennifer Johnson-Spence 11/10/25
Date
Jennifer Johnson-Spence, Director Cooke County Library