

State of Library Services in Southern Oregon



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Jackson County Library Services



Outline

- ❖ Introduction and History of JCLS
- ❖ Highlights of Library Services and Innovative Programs at JCLS
- ❖ What our neighbors in Southern Oregon are doing
- ❖ What's Next



Jackson County Library Services

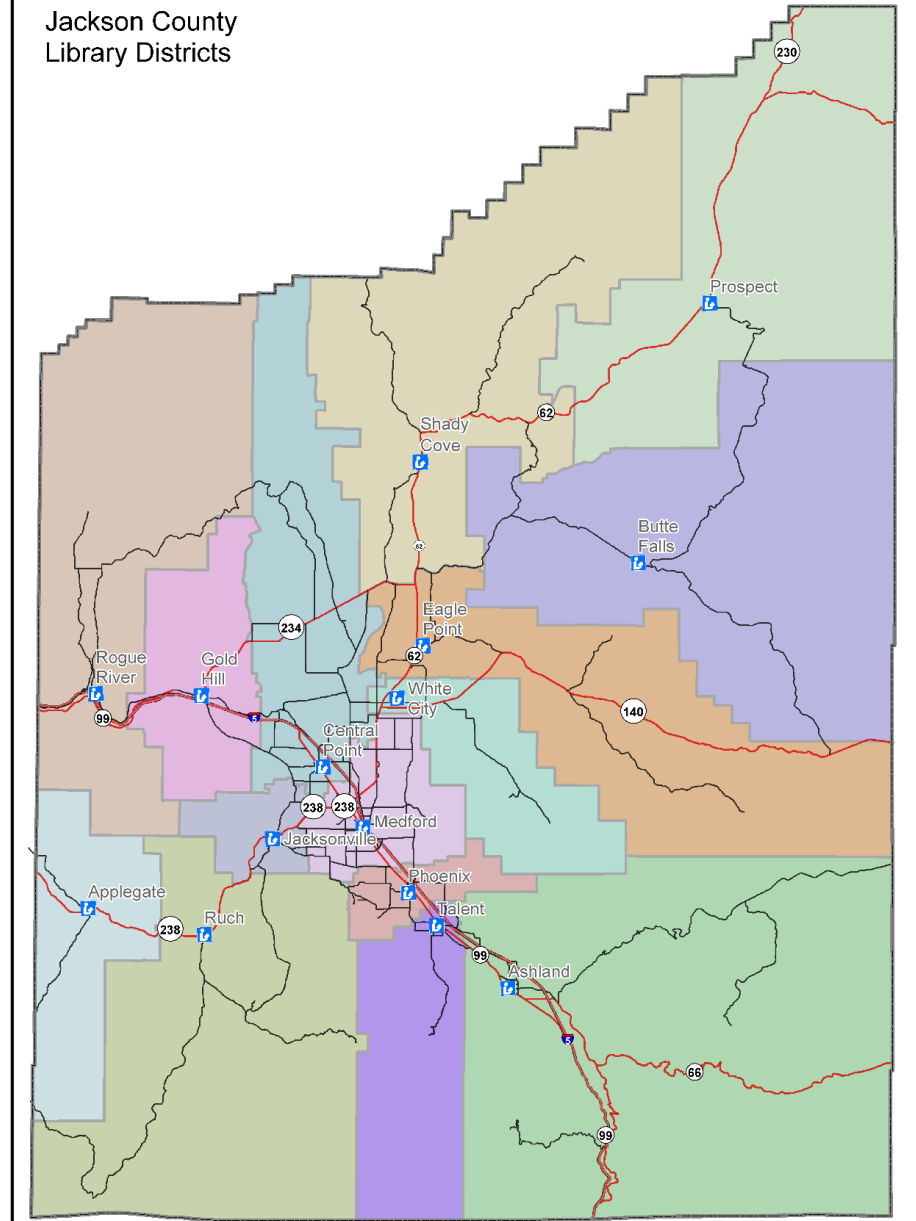
Serving over 220,000 residents in Southern Oregon over 2800 square miles

15 library branches from Urban to Rural areas

Open a total of 500 hours per week

Staff of 185

Annual circulation of around 2 million items, physical and digital



Library Districts Applegate Ashland Butte Falls Central Point Eagle Point Gold Hill Jacksonville Medford Phoenix Prospect Rogue River Ruch Shady Cove Talent White City	Libraries Freeway State Highway Major Road	 <small>This map is based on a digital database compiled by Jackson County from a variety of sources. Jackson County cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions, or distortions. There are no warranty terms expressed or implied.</small>	 JACKSON COUNTY GIS
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A Brief History of JCLS

Library services started in 1919

Expanded to 13 branches in the 1970s

Ruch added in 1986 and Applegate in 1996



The Path to Becoming a District

Jackson County passed a bond measure to construct or renovate all 15 branches in 2000

When federal revenue from the timber industry went away, Jackson County closed all libraries in 2007

The libraries reopened 6 months later, under private partnership with LSSI

On May 20, 2014, voters approved the formation of the Jackson County Library District

Then there was 2020....



Measure 15-122 Jackson County (by referral)

Ballot Title

15-122

Formation of Library District with Dedicated Funding for Library Services

QUESTION: Shall County-wide Library District be formed with permanent rate limit up to \$0.60 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning July 2014?

SUMMARY: If approved, Jackson County Library District will be formed with dedicated funding for library services, including: programs; activities; books; materials; online resources; technology; Community outreach; operational and administrative expenses. District boundaries will include all territory within Jackson County. Formation of District would:

- Provide permanent, dedicated library funding for library services, preventing immediate reductions in services, programs, activities and hours, and allowing libraries to retain, and possibly expand, service hours, educational resources and programming; library funding cannot be used for any other purpose;
- Transfer library governance to separately elected, five-member public Board, removing library authority and financial oversight from Jackson County;
- Empower elected District Board to endeavor to restore and possibly expand critical library services such as service hours, books, student and jobseeker support, online resources and outreach to senior citizens and other Community members;
- Cap the permanent tax rate at \$0.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which cannot be increased; District is not required to levy full taxes each year; homeowner with taxable value of \$154,210 would pay \$92.53 per year.

Explanatory Statement

Library services are currently provided by Jackson County and funded through General Fund dollars. These funding sources are not stable. The County is facing significant budget constraints due to loss of certain federal funding streams and the General Fund consistently experiences budget shortfalls. After providing financial support necessary for supporting mandated and basic services such as the Sheriff's office, Community Justice, and District Attorney's office, Jackson County lacks sufficient non-dedicated operating or recurring revenue to support the community library system. In 2007, budget reductions prompted

is not required to collect the full rate each year. A typical homeowner with a taxable value of \$154,210 (the average value in the County) will pay \$92.53 year (25 cents/day). The boundaries of the District will include all territory within Jackson County.

Formation of Jackson County Library District would provide permanent funding for library services, preventing immediate reductions in services, programs, activities and hours, while allowing libraries to retain, and possibly expand, service hours, educational resources and programming. Further, a district offers opportunities for the District Board to endeavor to provide:

- **Increased hours** at all 15 library branches.
- **Additional books**, in print or electronic format, research documents and other materials.
- **Trained library staff**, who answer about 150,000 reference questions a year.
- **Career and employment services** for jobseekers, small-business owners, and English-language learners.
- **Computer, Internet and Wi-Fi services** for those without access at home.
- **Community Center facilities** serving about 70,000 people in community meeting rooms each year.
- **Programs and activities** for school-age children, storytimes for babies and toddlers, literacy services for children in child care, homework help, teen activities, and programs teaching parents how to foster the love of reading in their children.
- **Summer reading programs.** Roughly 5,000 kids participated in the 2013 library summer reading program.
- **Events for kids and teens.** Nearly 55,000 attend each year.
- **Book delivery** to homebound and assisted-living residents.
- **Remote online access** to information, learning resources, and the library catalog available 24/7.
- **Support for schools.** The primary and secondary schools in our community rely on county library resources for educating our children.

A five-member, independently elected board, not the County Commissioners, will serve as the governing body of the Library District to provide oversight and accountability to the public.

(This information furnished by the Board of Commissioners, Jackson County.)

The Path to Becoming a District

2020 – the Year of Transition & Resilience

End of contract with LS&S

Then COVID-19 hit

Then the Alameda and South Obenchain Fires hit

And it was time to draft a new Strategic Plan



July 21, 2023



Jackson County Library Services

Popular and Notable Services

- Take and Makes
- Rogue Reads
- Storytimes – Bilingual, sensory, PreK, Babies & Wobblers, Toddlerobics
- Library of Things

Outreach

- DART
- Digital Services
- At Home Services
- Outreach to Child Care
- Juvenile Justice Center
- Educational Services



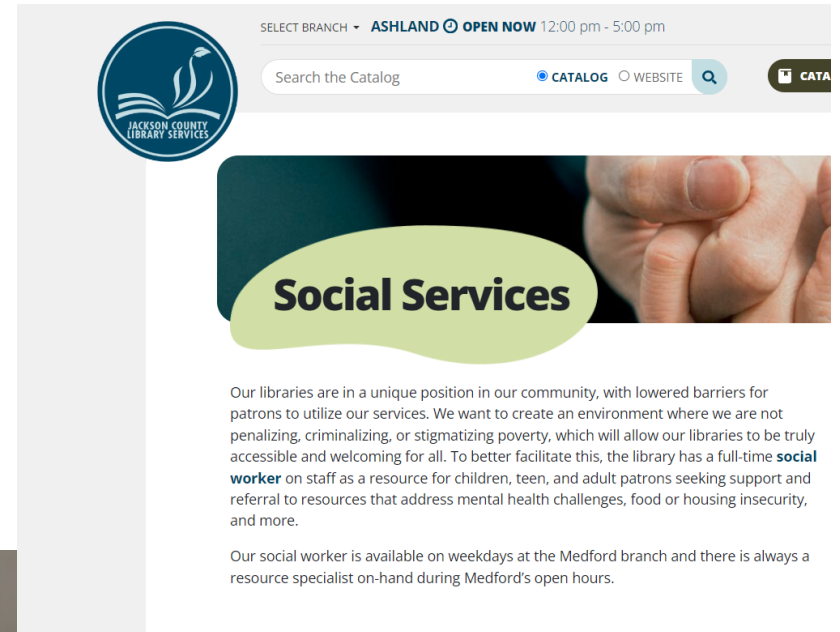
Jackson County Library Services

Social Services

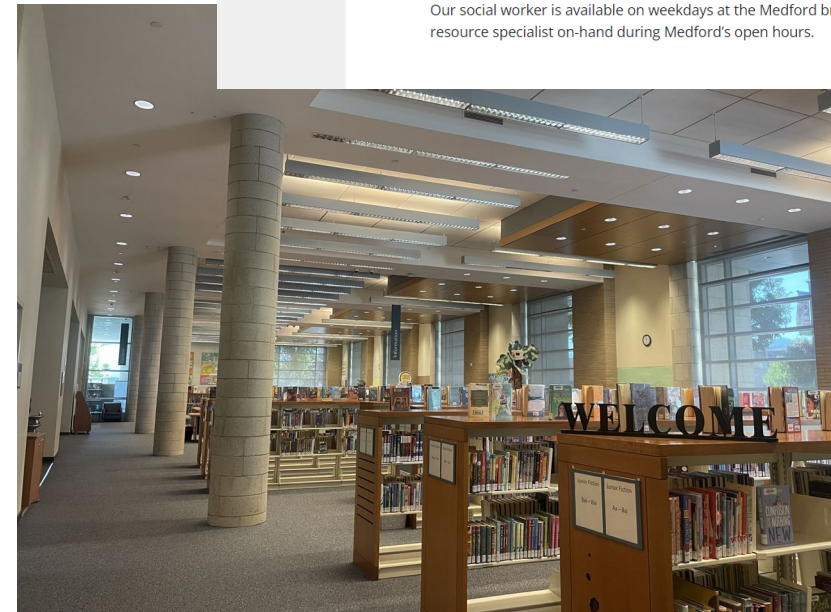
- Licensed Social Worker
- Referral Services
- Community Partnerships
- Resource Specialists

Community Engagement

- Chambers of Commerce
- Business Outreach
- Land Acknowledgement Statement



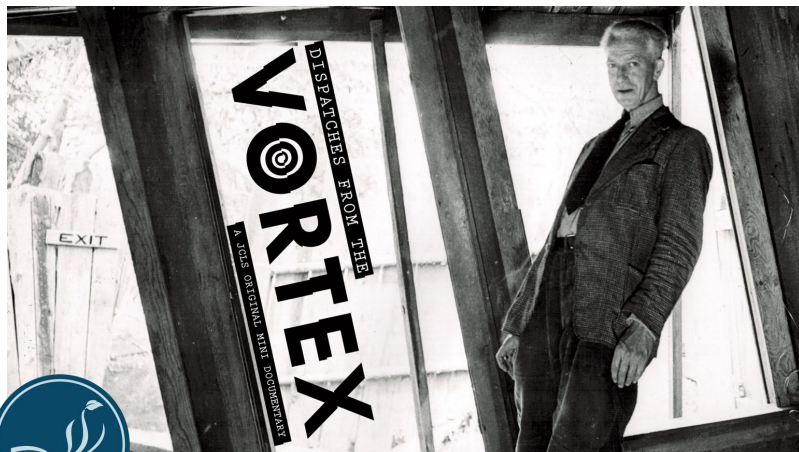
The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Jackson County Library Services website. It includes the library logo, a branch selector set to 'ASHLAND' with 'OPEN NOW' hours from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, a search bar, and links for 'CATALOG' and 'WEBSITE'. Below the navigation is a large banner for 'Social Services' featuring a close-up image of hands. The text below the banner states: 'Our libraries are in a unique position in our community, with lowered barriers for patrons to utilize our services. We want to create an environment where we are not penalizing, criminalizing, or stigmatizing poverty, which will allow our libraries to be truly accessible and welcoming for all. To better facilitate this, the library has a full-time **social worker** on staff as a resource for children, teen, and adult patrons seeking support and referral to resources that address mental health challenges, food or housing insecurity, and more. Our social worker is available on weekdays at the Medford branch and there is always a resource specialist on-hand during Medford's open hours.'



Jackson County Original Documentaries



<https://www.youtube.com/@JCLSBeyond/videos>



Jackson County Library Services

Key Accomplishments

- ✓ Innovative Library programs
- ✓ Utilized grant funding to launch Technology Van and Social Services program
- ✓ Expanded Library Services Hours by 30% in April 2023

Looking Forward

- Year 2 of Strategic Plan
- Book Locker Installations
- Enhance Outdoor Spaces
- Collection Development Audit



Klamath County Library

Popular and Notable Services

- Library of Things and Hotspot Checkouts
- Stem Kits
- Community Gardens and programming partnership with SOU
- Bookmatch – helping patrons to find their next great read

Outreach

- UPS, USPS and outreach courier deliver materials to homebound patrons and assisted living facilities
- Oversees honor collection in branches
- Youth Services Outreach partnership with local Early Literacy Hub



SOU Hannon Library

Oregon Digital Archives

- Southern Oregon History Collection
- First Nations Collection
- Bioregion Collection

Information, Science and Society credit courses

Inviting students to explore current topics in science and exploring how people encounter and use scientific information in their daily lives

Art Installations

¡Provecho! by mixed-media artist Justin Favela coordinated by the Schneider Museum of Art



Josephine County Library

Kindergarten Toolbox Program

School supplies paired with weekly programs to learn pre-k skills

Amateur Radio Series

Extremely popular programs featuring classes leading to licensure in Ham radio

Storybook Walk Programs

Reading and walking experience in downtown Grants Pass and Cave Junction



Looking to the Future

Facilities improvements at all branches

Additional Grants Pass location

JosephineLINK

Online community resource database



Moving Forward

Libraries are Resilient

Library services in Southern Oregon continue to offer vital services to our communities.

We're getting our work done

While many statistics are not at their pre-pandemic levels, signs of recovery and progress are promising.

We're delivering for our patrons

Libraries have adapted their offerings and are still seeing positive results.

Our patrons are coming back

JCLS set a goal to increase circulation of physical materials by 25% in FY2024, a lofty goal to help us get back to pre-pandemic levels. We call it the BHAG.

We're leaders

Like many libraries around the country, we face challenges related to societal issues – namely increased levels of houselessness and intellectual freedom challenges.





Thank you

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Jackson County Library District

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