Radford Public Library

Five Year Plan

2017-2022

THE NEW RIVER CITY
RADFORD
VIRGINIA

Introduction

"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."

~ Henry Ward Beecher

Mission: To educate, enlighten and enrich our community.

The primary functions of the Radford Public Library, as defined in the Radford Public Library Policy Manual, are:

A. To assemble, preserve, and make available books and related educational materials in organized collections in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and to enrich personal lives.

B. To serve the community as a general center of reliable information.

C. To provide opportunity and encouragement for children, young people, and adults to educate themselves continuously.

In support of these goals, the Radford Public Library plans to work toward developing and enhancing efforts in the following areas:

I. Collection

II. Technology

III. Human Resources

IV, Facilities

V. Cooperation

VI. Programs & Services

I. Collection

To assemble, preserve, and make available books and related educational materials in organized collections in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and enriched personal lives.

The Radford Public Library collection is central to the library's offerings. Whether the format is print, audiovisual, or electronic, the collection of information resources and literature requires continuous development in order to be current, reliable, and to meet the needs and demands of the citizens. According to a recent survey conducted online and on paper in July of 2017, 91.5% of responses listed "checking out books" as the primary reason for coming to the library.

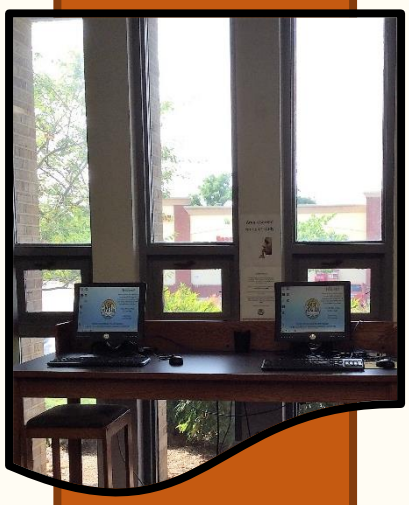
The Library will regularly purchase wide ranges of material based upon critical reviews, patron request and general popularity, adding to all collections as needed. Realizing that we are a public but not archival library, culling attention will be given to material not circulating. Continually purchasing new material while weeding and updating all sections of the Library, with special consideration given to the New River Ann Fisher Room, will remain a basic collection development process.

Goal: Follow the collection development policy to maintain a current and appealing collection.

Goal: Develop improved archival storage and catalog all microfilm and physical items in the New River Room by the end of 2019.

Goal: Evaluate and continue to develop remote access to the electronic collection with a focus on OverDrive and Hoopla, which are currently the most popular resources.

II. Technology



Technology is available at the Radford Public Library as a tool to assist in accomplishing the work and mission of the Library. Patrons will have access to the digital world via public computers and free wireless so that they can take advantage of resources and services for their ongoing education and entertainment.

A recent survey conducted in July 2017 indicated that using public internet access or other software was one of the top five reasons for coming to the Library. As a destination for computer use and technology learning, RPL strives to offer desired digital collections, equipment and training.

Goal: Create more in-depth computer classes for patrons in 2017.

Goal: Explore the possibility of establishing a Library specific domain that is independent of the City in 2018.

Goal: Use technology as a vehicle to promote library services, collections, programs, and more by 2019.

Goal: Explore alternative public computer options in effort to reduce the number of thin client computers currently in place with the ultimate goal of improving the patrons' experience in using public computers.

III. Human Resources

"The Radford library is filled with lovely helpful people who strive for fun activities and a safe learning environment."

- RPL Patron

A well-trained, courteous and service-oriented staff is critical in providing high quality public library service to our community. Staff will be encouraged to attend in-house, City, and other expansive training, including online courses, in effort to self-develop. Library staff are a valued and essential part of Library services and contribute to the Library as a welcoming and comfortable place.

Goal: Create a written staff training manual that addresses orientation for new employees by 2020.

Goal: By 2019, offer a minimum of 12 training hours yearly to all staff to include relevant learning such as on-the-job training, instructional staff meetings, workshops, or similar activities that contribute to the professional development of Library staff.

Goal: Safety is a priority for staff in effort to provide a safe environment. Staff will yearly attend training on safety, including Emergency Action Plans, Fire, Active Killer, Bomb threats, AED machine, etc.

IV. Facilities

The Library building should be well-maintained, welcoming, and easily accessible to all citizens. It should be designed and arranged to be used by the public for reading, studying, independent learning, community meetings, and socialization. Additionally, the Library strives to offer accessible virtual spaces.

Goal: By 2018 evaluate and improve the appearance of the facility by accomplishing general updates such as new signage, parking lot updates, improved landscaping, etc.

Goal: Update furniture that is worn or no longer sturdy by purchasing new furniture.

V. Cooperation

To serve the community as a general center of reliable information.

Beginning in 2000, the Radford Public Library began a more direct cooperative effort with other public libraries in the New River Valley. This group, referred to as the New River Public Library Cooperative (NRPLCOOP) builds on more than twenty years of reciprocal borrowing and seeks to find other cooperative projects that benefit citizens using library facilities. Training for staff has been the primary new development, as well as the goal of having all library catalogs accessible over the internet from one site and a regional library card that can be used at all libraries in the group.

Radford Public Library will continue to explore areas of cooperation with neighboring libraries, including joint staff training and collective purchasing of electronic databases.

Goal: IT staff will explore the creation of a NRPLCoop website or blog in effort to actively promote and link resources of involved libraries by 2020.

Goal: RPL will initiate NRPLCoop meetings and trainings.

Goal: RPL will continue to participate in the OverDrive consortium in partnership with other libraries to increase and expand access to digital content for patrons.

VI. Programs & Services

To provide opportunity and encouragement for children, young people, and adults to educate themselves continuously.

Programs and services are a valuable component of the Radford Public Library. A recent survey showed that 44.7% of patrons who came to the library did so to attend a library class, program or event. The library will continue to offer programs in response to patron requests and will offer a variety of programs to varied age groups.

Goal: Increase the number of library events for adults.

Goal: Serve the community as a meeting place for gathering together in discourse, education, and entertainment.

Goal: Become a passport acceptance facility and offer a minimum of five trained agents.

Goal: Partner with New River Community College to support ongoing adult education, literacy and GED endeavors.