

2019

Akron-Summit County Public Library Facts



History

The Library was organized in 1874 as the Akron Free Library. It has served this community for 145 years.

Mission Statement

The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure, information services, meeting spaces, and programs for all ages that support, improve, and enrich individual, family, and community life.

Library Core Values

Excellence – Operating with the highest level of integrity and accountability and demonstrating excellence in all we do

Service – Providing innovative service that is kind, welcoming, and equitable for our customers and co-workers

Learning – Engaging those we serve in life-long learning and individual enrichment to foster community well-being

Diversity and inclusion - Creating a library environment that respects and values human diversity, offers access to resources that present multiple views, and provides inclusive opportunities for all

The Library Promise

Each and every customer will experience exceptional and personalized customer service.



Facilities and Organization

With the Main Library in downtown Akron, two bookmobiles, a Mobile Services van, and 18 branch locations throughout Summit County, the system has 22 physical public service outlets. Library locations annually are open more than 50,000 hours, which includes nearly 50 Mobile Services stops per week.



Main Library:

270,000 sq ft.

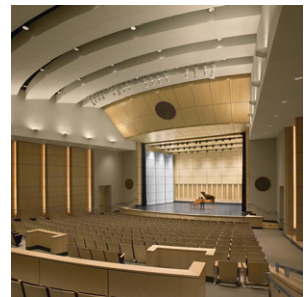
Typical branch size:

12,000 sq. ft.

Total square feet for Main and Branch Libraries: 446,807



The Library provides numerous community spaces, including a 425-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, and computer training labs at Main Library. Branch library meeting rooms are available for use by non-profit and community groups.



Library Finances and State Funding

The cumulative effect of years of reduction to the Public Library Fund has taken a toll on public libraries in Ohio and continues to affect the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Public Library Fund distributed to ASCPL

2008: \$14.2 million

2018: \$12.1 million

The Public Library Fund currently provides 45% of our library's annual operating revenue and is crucial to our operations.

Staff

Employees 400 (311 FTEs)

Volunteer support

Friends of the Library groups provide support at all Library locations.

Library Statistics 2018

Population of legal service area: 377,588

Visits to library facilities: nearly 2.2 million

Registered borrowers: 318,163

Program/Meeting Attendance: 400,351

Items available: 2.4 million

Items borrowed: nearly 4.6 million

Computer Access

Public Internet computers: 553

Computer logins / WiFi connections: nearly 1.4 million

Uses of library mobile app: 4.3 million

Innovative Programs and Services at a Glance

- Our TechZone@Main, the Library's Makerspace, has the following equipment for use by the public: laser engraver, vinyl printer/cutter, 3-D printer, button maker, audio-video transfer station, sewing machine, heat press, and photo studio in-a-box. Additionally, the space provides audio recording studios, green screen, and digital media training.
- Our Microbusiness Center provides accessible business training, educational resources, and individualized direction to entrepreneurs, students, and established business owners. The Microbusiness Center also offers co-working space to contemplate, cultivate, or expand a business or business idea.
- We've partnered with the national organization, Girls Who Code, to offer a weekly coding program for girls in grades 6-12. The group includes participants from the National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM Middle School, who adopted the weekly program as an after-school enrichment activity. The girls have been working through the Girls Who Code curriculum to create individual projects incorporating Raspberry Pi and LED lights.

- Our Kitchen Tool Collection contains common and niche items, tools necessary to try new and adventurous



dishes, as well as tools for everyday use. The tools can be checked out for two weeks with an Akron-Summit County Public Library card.

- Our library system is the first in the country to be designated as a sensory-inclusive space for those on the autism spectrum and those with dementia, PTSD, and other related conditions. Visiting the library is now a better experience for all of its customers, including those with sensory-processing needs, thanks to a collaboration with KultureCity.



- Tutor.com provides live online tutoring for students and adults with an Akron-Summit County Public Library card. Tutor.com offers homework help and test preparation for students of all ages as well as career assistance. This service is available daily from 3 to 11 pm.



- Lynda.com offers library cardholders access to thousands of online courses and more than 250,000 video tutorials. Participants can enhance their business, software, technology, and creative skills with this online teaching tool.



- STEM Kits equip classrooms with STEM materials covering topics such as Google Expeditions, Snap Circuits, magnetics, and robotics. (Thanks to a partnership with the Akron Public Schools, the Ohio STEM Learning Network, and a grant from the EXL Center.)

