



Annual Report | 2024



VISION

An engaged community that learns, works, creates, and thrives together.

MISSION

Providing resources, experiences, and places that empower people to learn, explore, and succeed.

Spokane County Library District’s (SCLD) mission to provide resources, services, and programs is in response to the variety of needs of our customers. In 2024, SCLD introduced, modified, or improved several services, resources, policies, and programs to continue this mission. Here are some notable milestones from the year.

Board of Trustees

- Jessica Hanson, Chair
- Jon Klapp, Vice Chair
- Ellen Clark, Trustee
- Robert Paull, Trustee
- Patti Stauffer, Trustee

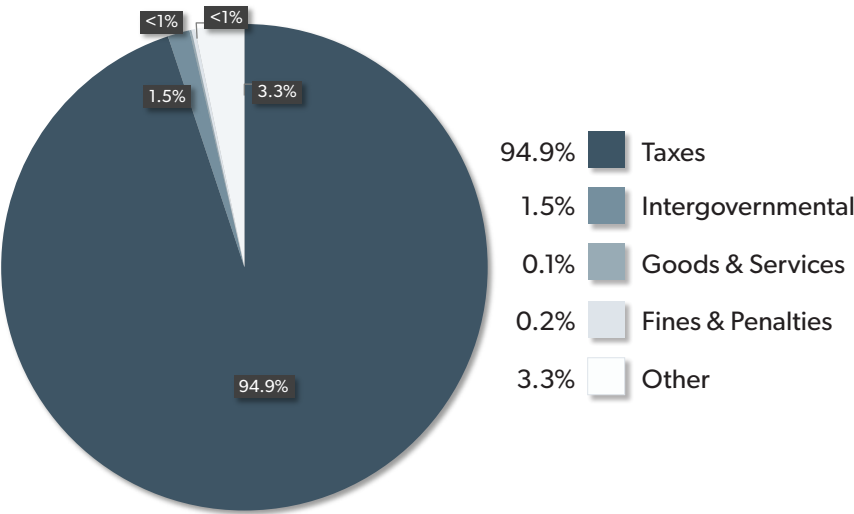
2024 Financial Information

A property tax levy of \$0.33369 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in SCLD’s service area accounts for 94.91% of annual funding. Remaining revenue is derived from interest earnings, other fees and changes, and miscellaneous revenues, such as gifts and donations.

General Fund Revenue

Year 2024 (from C4 for revenues)

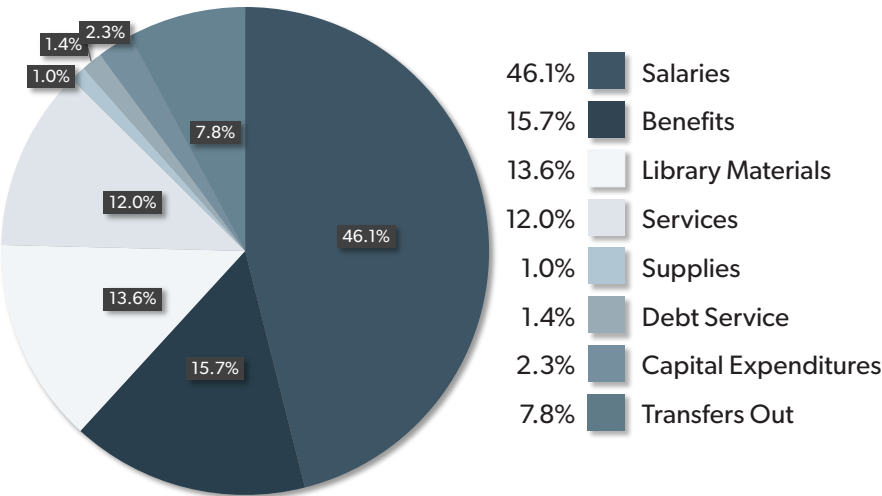
Taxes.....	17,446,681
Intergovernmental	267,900
Goods & Services.....	25,764
Fines & Penalties	43,312
Miscellaneous	598,830
Total Revenues.....	18,382,487



General Fund Expenditures

From internal statements for expenses

Salaries.....	8,239,069
Benefits	2,815,891
Library Materials	2,432,151
Services.....	2,154,593
Supplies	185,570
Debt Service	249,747
Capital Expenditures	412,279
Transfers Out.....	1,400,000
Total Expenditures	17,889,300





Customized pavers leave a legacy and decorate the outdoor space at the new Spokane Valley Library.

Spokane Valley Library's One-Year Anniversary

Spokane Valley Library celebrated a one-year anniversary! The popular new facility has received double the number of monthly visitors compared to the previous location, averaging around 15,000 per month, and has lent over 287,000 items in the first year of operation.

Community Partnerships

Providing convenience for residents in north Spokane County, the **Spokane County Treasurer's Office** accepted in-person payments of 2024 property taxes at North Spokane Library in April and October.

SCLD and **Vitalant** teamed up to host two blood drives at Spokane Valley Library in July and August. Vitalant works with regional blood donors, local hospitals, and community organizations to ensure blood is available for whoever needs it, whenever it's needed.

Library of Things

SCLD's Library of Things is a varied collection of items available to borrow. The **Library Foundation of Spokane County** held a fundraising campaign in 2023 for this collection, resulting in the addition of new things, including **pickleball sets**, **small kitchen appliances**, and **snowshoes**.

Eight new **Stay Sharp Kits** were added to the collection, increasing the total to 19 different themes. These kits are a resource for caregivers, friends, and family to use as a tool in creating pleasant, shared experiences while helping keep cognitive abilities active for those affected by memory loss.

SCLD received a grant to bring seven different **tabletop role-playing games** for all ages to our community. These games focus on collaborative storytelling using imagination, and players work together to tackle challenges and create an epic narrative.

Library Giving Day & Summer Reading Book Giveaway

The **Library Foundation of Spokane County** fundraised during **Library Giving Day** in April 2024 with a focus on sponsoring Summer Reading. Thanks to generous donors, kids and teens who registered for Summer Reading were able to choose a free book that they could keep.

Online Reading Challenges

SCLD's online reading challenges encourage reading at all ages. Our free, dedicated **Beanstack** site and mobile app make it convenient to track reading minutes for these challenges.

- The "Where We Come From" **Winter Reading Challenge** ushered in the new year, inviting customers to read at least 300 minutes throughout the month of January.
- The **Online Summer Reading Challenge**, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," further motivated readers with opportunities to earn badges and enter to win prizes.
- To commemorate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday in 2024, SCLD partnered with the USDA Forest Service to introduce the **Smokey Bear Reading Challenge**. This challenge focused on literature shedding light on wildfire prevention and environmental stewardship.



Kids get creative with the "Rig-a-ma-jig" at North Spokane.



Early morning birders gather for a Bird Watching Program near Saltese Flats.

Library Programs & Exhibits

The **Annual Community Art Show** returned to SCLD libraries in 2024 encouraging people of all ages to participate. The show's theme was "Through a Window." A clear acrylic tile was the canvas, simulating a window and giving artists a chance to explore their imaginations. During the month of March, public submissions were on display in libraries and online.

Hiking programs and informational sessions were led by naturalist writers in June. They included "Nature Journaling Hike: Glenrose Trail" with Heidi Lasher of *Out There Outdoors* magazine, "Hiking Safely Near Bears" presented by Matt Brinkman, wildlife biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and "Wildfire in the Hills: Iller Creek History Presentation & Hike" led by Jack Nisbet, naturalist and published author.

The 50th anniversary of the 1974 World's Fair was celebrated in 2024, inspiring SCLD to present the "**Expo '74: 50th Anniversary Celebration Exhibit.**" Community members shared memorabilia and memories from Expo '74 to help create the displays hosted in July at eight SCLD libraries and online.

Through the continued partnership with **Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington** (ALTCEW) and with Dementia Friends, SCLD hosted a series of programs designed to help create a more dementia friendly community.

SCLD continued to offer the **Memory Café** at North Spokane Library, providing caregivers and people experiencing memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease a comfortable atmosphere to socialize, build new support networks, and do activities that help bolster memory.

Spokane Is Reading

Spokane Is Reading is the annual community-wide read that invites adults to read and discuss a common book together and culminates in two in-person events with the author. The 2024 selection was **Debra Magpie Earling's novel *Perma Red***, recently named by *The Atlantic* as one of "The Great American Novels."

Online Resources for Early Learners

Three new online resources with educational and entertaining content for young children and their educators were added to the Digital Library.

- **BookFlix** is a collection of animated stories paired with nonfiction eBooks on a similar subject.
- **Just For Kids** provides access to child-safe, ad-free educational videos for pre-kindergarten and elementary learners.
- **Scholastic Teachables** is a resource for parents and adults who teach children, pre-kindergarten through grade 8. Teachables includes printable lesson plans, learning games, and worksheets for STEM, reading, writing, and more.

New SCLD Libraries App

Due to a contract conflict between software vendors, our previous mobile app began experiencing functionality limitations in late November 2023. In response, SCLD transitioned to a different app platform. With the new **SCLD Libraries app**, customers can search for books and other materials and see details of their library account.

2024 at a glance

741,898 visitors came through
our doors in 2024

144,008 SCLD library
card holders

2,545,794 items borrowed

1,065,173 digital reads
checked out on Libby/OverDrive

3,645 library programs held
with **67,857** people attending

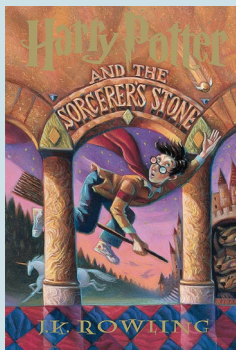
8,984 reservations made for
SCLD's public meeting rooms



Fun with toys during Toddler Storytime at Moran Prairie.

Most Popular Checkouts in 2024

KIDS

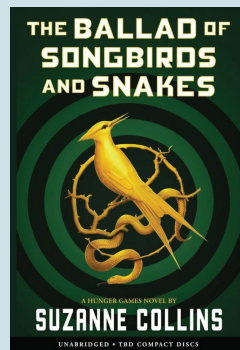


Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,
by J. K. Rowling

No Brainer (Diary of a Wimpy Kid #18),
by Jeff Kinney

Dog Man (Dog Man #1), by Dav Pilkey

TEENS

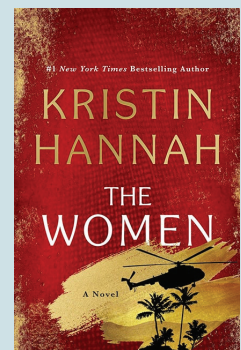


The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes,
by Suzanne Collins

Throne of Glass, by Sarah J. Maas

Divine Rivals, by Rebecca Ross

ADULTS



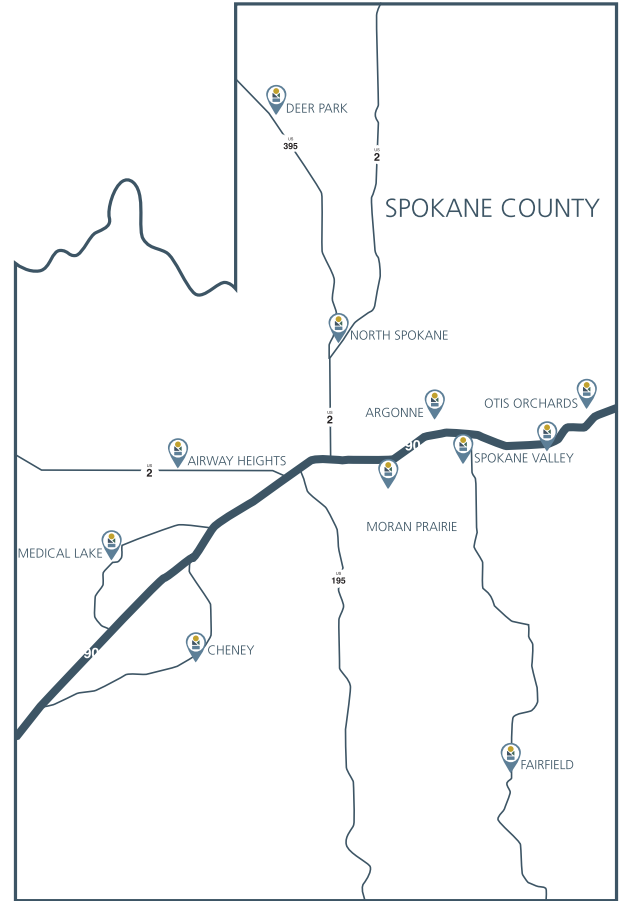
The Women, by Kristin Hannah

The Emyprean series (Fourth Wing),
by Rebecca Yarros

Funny Story, by Emily Henry



SCLD staff, Kris and Robert sharing resources at the annual Homeless Connect event.



On the Cover: Students at Camp Read-a-Rama meet the special guest, Maisy the Service Dog, at Spokane Valley.

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