Our Vision: The library is the hub of the community, providing a welcoming environment to inspire our diverse population to read, learn and connect.

Our Mission: El Dorado County Library provides free and easy access to ideas, books, and technology to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

**ENHANCE PATRON CONVENIENCE**
- Implement new debit/credit payment options
- Reduce barriers to access
- Support staff development
- Provide services outside library walls

**CREATE INNOVATIVE SPACES**
- Enlarge and improve children’s and teen spaces
- Create additional enclosed meeting spaces
- Replace furnishings with adaptable and mobile options

**EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
- Host forums on current topics and community concerns
- Expand Community Hubs by collaborating with agencies to serve ages 6-18 and adults
- Establish adult literacy program
- Invest in system-wide library programs

**BUILD SUSTAINABILITY**
- Develop and implement marketing plan to expand public awareness
- Explore feasibility of expanding tax zones
- Develop facilities master plan
- Develop technology master plan
- Seek out and apply for grant opportunities
• Extraordinary collections of materials and resources (Link+, eBooks, eAudiobooks)
• Award-winning Early Literacy programming
• Partnerships with essential community agencies and resources
• Community Hubs with Family Engagement Specialists, Community Health Advocates and access to Public Health Nurses
• High-speed broadband at all locations
• El Dorado County Library mobile app

Starting to Plan for the Future

The library conducted a survey with 630 responses and held Community Conversations in each of our six libraries with over 100 attendees.

The survey found that community members from all areas of the county love their small towns, the sense of community and history, the friendly people and the quiet and nature-filled environment. They also value their libraries, and current library services are highly rated:

- 98% of survey responses rate current library services as satisfactory or above
- 70% of survey responses answered ‘5’ when asked to rate overall library experience from 1 to 5

Conversations revealed and reinforced the enduring and fundamental value of libraries:

- Libraries are the heart of the community, a hub offering meeting and gathering spaces, safe spaces, human interaction, and social connections.
- Libraries provide unbiased, accurate resources in depth, and expert staff to guide patrons to find information and help with technology.
- Democracy depends on libraries for free and accessible resources so everyone, regardless of income or age, has an opportunity to learn throughout their lifetime.
Enhance Patron Convenience

In addition to surveying the public, we worked with library staff across the county to pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses within our existing operations. We identified key ways in which we could enhance services to meet the expressed needs of our patrons. These include updating payment infrastructure, expanding hours and points of access, and supporting staff development to strengthen services. We recognize our patrons have busy lives; therefore, we strive to make the library services easy to use and part of your everyday routine.

Create Innovative Spaces

In response to our 2019 survey, patrons said they would like more specialized spaces such as quiet places to read and study, places for homework, small meeting rooms, and spacious children’s rooms. To realize this vision, we plan to assess our libraries and identify opportunities for multi-use spaces. Innovations in library shelving, furniture, and work areas offer us the ability to be more flexible within our existing facilities.

Expand Educational Opportunities

From our community conversations, patrons stated that libraries are important for the education of children who thrive through exposure to reading, books, and early literacy storytimes. Patrons also valued the importance of providing a place for independent learning for all ages. The wide variety of programming supported by the survey results shows we need to offer engaging educational events for all members of our communities. We commit to offering opportunities to inspire our community to read, learn, and connect.
Although regarded as respected government agencies, libraries struggle to compete for public funding. We are careful stewards of public resources, enhancing our budget by relying on Friends of the Library fundraising, donations, partnerships, and grants.

How does El Dorado County Library compare with other libraries?
Expenditures per Capita 2016/2017

- Solano: $46.34
- Yolo: $40.16
- Placer: $33.75
- Nevada: $29.78
- Sacramento: $26.84
- El Dorado: $18.54
- Butte: $17.41
- Amador: $16.65
- Sutter: $14.47

97% of survey participants agreed that the following statements are true:

- The Library provides good value for the tax dollars invested
- The Library is a trusted and important community asset
- Libraries help to bring communities together

Looking Forward to the Next Three Years

Our community can continue to expect the highest level of customer service, while anticipating enhancements to online resources, outreach, and seamless access to library cards for students. Our library environments will become adaptable to multiple uses allowing more programming, collaboration, and opportunities for discovery. Partnerships will bring community-based solutions and new services to our county. We will plan for the future beyond three years as we build a stable source of funding.

We have some ambitious goals to accomplish in just three years and with your support we can achieve them!