

# St. Mary's County Library

## Annual Report

### Fiscal Year 2024 Community Impact





"You guys are always so friendly. This is the best library in the state!"

-John, Leonardtown Library customer

## 1,039,038 Items Checked Out

Items checked out include children's, teen, and adult books, DVDs, digital content, and so much more. Did you know St. Mary's County Library even has hotspots and ukuleles to check out?

Curious what our most popular titles were in 2023-2024?

Check out our most 'checked out' books.

### Adult Fiction

*There, There* by Tommy Orange

### Adult Nonfiction

*The Waterman's Widow* by Carol McCabe Booker

### Children's Fiction

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* by Jeff Kinney

### Children's Picture Book

*Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons* by James Dean and Eric Litwin

### Young Adult Fiction

*My Hero Academia: School Briefs* by Anri Yoshi and Kohei Horikoshi, translated by Caleb Cook

### Digital Audiobook

*Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros

### Digital Book

*Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros





*"You can count on your public library, its all you need!!"*

-Lexington Park Library customer

*"It's so good coming to the library. They have all the answers to everything!"*

-Charlotte Hall Library customer



**205,153 digital items were checked out in Fiscal Year 2024 - that's 22% increase over FY2023**



In FY24, St. Mary's County Library launched Palace, an e-reading experience developed by and for libraries.



Palace, Hoopla, and Overdrive provide hundreds of thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, movies, music, and more all available to stream or download onto your device.

## **Did you know the Library has online resources beyond media and books?**

Need some help with a new job skill or hobby? Try LinkedIn Learning. Looking to keep up with the news? Through the Library you have access to both *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* online! We provide access to many online resources including Consumer Reports, Mango Languages, test preparation and homework help services, and a variety of resources on topics such as genealogy (even Ancestry.com!) and finance.

**In FY24, St. Mary's County Library added access to:**

**The Shelf**, which offers thousands of Spanish language movies, television shows, and live performances.

**American Mosaic**, which provides access to The African American Experience, The American Indian Experience, The Asian American Experience, and The Latino American Experience.





*"Libraries are the best free resource. If we didn't have libraries, we'd have to invent them."*

-Lexington Park Library customer

*"Thank you! We LOVE the library!"*

-Amber, Charlotte Hall Library customer

## **314,043 visitors came to one of our Libraries in FY2024**

We provided over 1,700 free events that nearly 40,000 people attended.

Our attendance for events was up 32% over last year!

Events included professional performances, classes on topics such as crafting, 3D printing, boating safety, archaeology, STEM, and more; book discussions, children's programs, and several nationally recognized experts and authors.

## **Our Meeting Room and Study Room Use Increased by 9% in FY 2024**

Meeting rooms and quiet study rooms are free and available for the public to use for meetings, parties, study groups, and so much more! The Computer Lab at Leonardtown Library is now available for reservations. In FY24, 2,008 groups used the meeting rooms and 5,212 individuals or groups used study rooms.







*"I so very much appreciate all the services you provide. You have no idea how deeply you impact lives in St. Marys County! We use your virtual services a LOT!"*  
-Rebecca, Lexington Park Library customer



## **St. Mary's County Library has 32,803 active card holders**

Library cards are free and you can register online or in any of our locations. Library cards allow you to check out 75 items at a time and use all of our online resources.

Kids' Cards and SMCPs SMART Cards are special cards available for our youngest residents under the age of 18, to help get library cards in the hands of children and encourage reading. All SMCPs students receive a SMART card number (unless parents choose to opt out).

## **Our Mobile Library is finally on the road!**

Our Mobile Library team held 48 community stops, and with help from Library staff, attended 156 events throughout the County. All together, we visited over 9,500 community members this year.



*"We're very happy with the library. It is so important to the community."*

-Lexington Park Library customer

*"Boy, I sure love my library. It's such a great place to have."*

-Leonardtwn Library customer

## **We continue to provide vital technology access.**

Our free-to-use public computers have internet access and Microsoft Office, and we have workstations at each location that provide assistive technology to citizens of Maryland protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Our computers had nearly 34,000 sessions logged and our free WiFi was accessed over 20,000 times.**

In addition to computers and WiFi, we have **printers** at each location that can print full color, **scanners**, **faxing** capability, and **laptops** that can be checked out to use in the Library.

Our friendly and professional staff will help you with your technology questions! **Schedule a one-on-one** with one of our staff to learn how to use your device, get computer help, or learn how to use Microsoft Office or Google Workspace.



## **Our app continues to grow with now over 2,000 installations!**

Find our app on both Google Play and the Apple Store. Check your account, search the catalog, save your Library card number directly in the app, check out digital content, and even scan a book's ISBN to instantly see if we have it in our collection! You can access all of our digital content with quick links to apps from Libby and hoopla.



*"You've so helpful; you've really made me excited to use the library!"*

-Bella, Leonardtown Library customer

*"This library has been a godsend for me and my family."*

-Lexington Park Library customer

## It's been an INCREDIBLE year!

The Leonardtown Library Makerspace continues to be popular and saw 1,388 visitors come in to use the Cricut Maker, 3D printer, large format printer, 3D pens, or other items in the makerspace.

Through a generous donation from our Friends of the St. Mary's County Library, Lexington Park Library got new shelving to help with accessibility and made room for a future makerspace. Don't worry! The collection was not significantly changed, it was just reorganized.

All three Library locations opened SEED libraries in April which provide free veggie, herb, and native plant seeds for personal use. Already over 400 customers have collected nearly 2,500 seed packets!





*"That's one of the wonderful things about libraries: you can checkout whatever you want."*

-Lexington Park Library customer

*"Thank you so much for your help! This is how I learn to do things on my own."*

-Lexington Park Library customer

## **And there's more!**

All three Library buildings now have Memory Labs which allows customers to take physical memories and make them digital for free! VHS tapes, cassettes, film negatives, slides, photos, and documents can all be converted to digital files in just a few simple steps.

The Leonardtown Rotary and SMECO partnered with the Leonardtown Library and Charlotte Hall Library to install new Storywalks.

St. Mary's County Library completed an updated Strategic Plan to guide our progress over the next 3 -5 years.

The St. Mary's County Art Council donated funds for art programs such as Art Night for Kids and adult art classes with local artists.

