## WE WANT YOU BACK!

*Libraries*
**February 2020**
*You*

Are library fines keeping you away? We've been missing you and want you back. In February 2020, we're going to be waiving fines, and all you've got to do is come back. Here is how it's going to work: if you've got overdue fines on your library card, come in and we'll **waive up to $200**; if you've got overdue material, bring it back and **no fines**. Keep an eye out for more information regarding this opportunity.

### NEW LIBRARY OPENING IN 2020

We are pleased to announce that **Center Point Library** will open to the public in early 2020. We're working hard to get them up and running as a member of the library cooperative. Keep an eye out for the grand opening announcement, and we'll see you there!

The library  address is at533 Sunhill Road, Center Point, AL 35215.

*Center Point Library*

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# 5 REASONS TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### Libraries are Local

Public libraries aren't one-size fits all. Each public library reflects the unique needs of the local community.

### Libraries Return Value

Few other places exist in our communities that offer such a wealth of opportunity and resources for no cost to the users.

### Libraries are Community

Libraries serve the community, and in turn, communities coalesce around the library.

### Libraries are Life-long Learning

From early childhood literacy to adult education and work-force development, the public library is with you at all stages of life.

### Libraries Collaborate and Strengthen Communities

Resource sharing and collaboration are integral to the Jefferson County Library Cooperative. When the public libraries choose to create partnerships, communities benefit through greater access to resources and services.

**Please support the Public Libraries in Jefferson County.**

*Learn more at publiclibrariesinjc.org.*
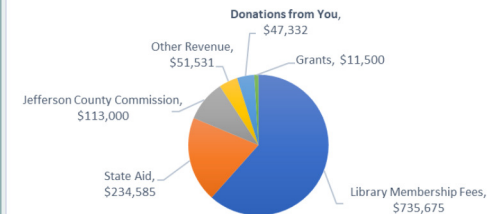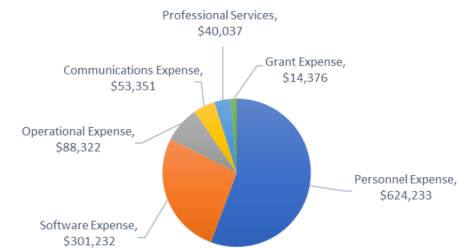
**PUBLIC Libraries IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**
**41 Libraries . 1 County . 1 Card**

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# Public Libraries in Jefferson County

## Report on 2019

**PUBLIC Libraries IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**
**41 Libraries . 1 County . 1 Card**

### COOPERATIVE FUNDING SOURCES AND USES

A financial snapshot for the fiscal year 2018-2019.

**Revenue Fiscal Year 2018-2019**

- Donations from You, $47,332
- Other Revenue, $51,531
- Grants, $11,500
- Jefferson County Commission, $113,000
- State Aid, $234,585
- Library Membership Fees, $735,675

**Expense Fiscal Year 2018-2019**

- Professional Services, $40,037
- Communications Expense, $53,351
- Grant Expense, $14,376
- Operational Expense, $88,322
- Software Expense, $301,232
- Personnel Expense, $624,233

*Jefferson County Library Cooperative*
*Partnerships Matter. Libraries Matter.*
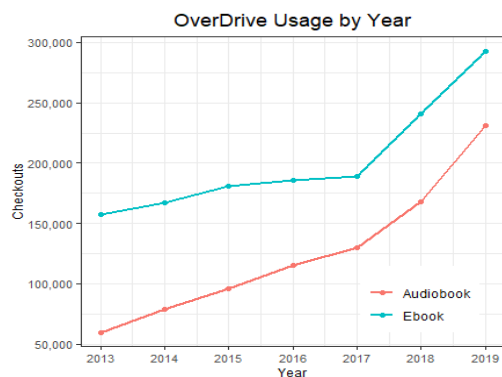
# Director's Report

What a great year! 2019 has seen both challenges and achievements for the public libraries in Jefferson County. We're excited to be witness to the value the community sees in public libraries through a new library in Center Point and expressions of interest in establishing libraries in other areas. We are also acutely aware of the financial challenges that our libraries face through declining budgets or rising membership fees required to deliver services. The expressions of support for Walter J Hanna Memorial Library at Fairfield were powerful and moving. The idea of a library partnership born 40 years ago still bears fruit, and the public libraries are stronger and more vibrant through collaboration. Like all living systems, the library cooperative needs care and feeding. You'll see some of the steps we've taken to support the cooperative in this report, others such as investing in remote collaboration tools, migration to new email and productivity services, and leveraging opportunities from the Alabama Legislature are less apparent. The library cooperative exists to strengthen the public libraries in Jefferson County, and with your support we will work through 2020 and beyond to deliver on that mission.

Tobin M. Cataldo
Executive Director

## NEW GROWTH

Downloadable ebooks and audiobooks on OverDrive continue to be very popular resources. Usage of our OverDrive collection has seen an astounding **28% growth** from 2018 to 2019. If you haven't experienced this service yet, look for **Libby** on the web or in your app marketplace.



**Goal:** We're working to prioritize existing funding and identify new funding sources to grow this resource to meet demand. We've taken steps to facilitate expanded library participation in the program by investing in their ability to exercise local control of digital material.

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

With the **Library + School Partnership**, participating schools can enable direct access to library materials for their students using school IDs. We've already added three public school systems and are looking for more partners. Ask about the **Sora Starter Kit** as a no-cost option for schools to get started.



**Goal:** The libraries seek to demonstrate that resource sharing and inter-organizational collaboration are cost-efficient and add value, particularly in the context of digital material collections.
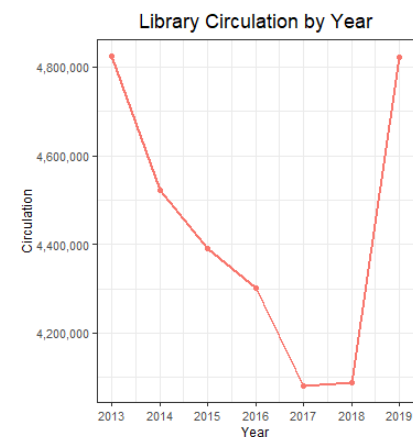
## NEW SERVICES

Our public libraries are creators and innovators. We've been working collaboratively with a major software vendor to develop **Inspire Discovery,** a next-generation library discovery catalog. Where Inspire Discovery diverges from the library catalog you are used to is in the technology used to define the library materials. By adopting the technologies that are prevalent in our homes, schools and businesses, library information can be integrated more easily into those services.



**Goal:** The library is a critical community resource for information discovery and knowledge creation at all stages of life. Our goal is to help you utilize library resources wherever you are whenever you need them.

## NEW HORIZONS

The traditional measure of library use is the count of items that are checked out. From 2018 to 2019 we've seen an **18% increase** in library usage and are at a **5-year high**.



**Goal:** The public library exists to serve the community. Our librarians work hard to provide you with compelling and useful resources for life-long learning, enjoyment and recreation.