



2024 - 2026 Strategic Plan

Mission & Vision

The mission of Duchesne County Library System is to enrich our residents' knowledge and inspire their growth. Through these efforts the library envisions our residents empowered to strengthen each other and unite their communities.

Core Values

Provide access to needed information resources, technology, and experiences; including the preservation of local history.

Be a welcoming heart for the community to gather and build bridges across diverse groups.

Build relationships and synergistic collaborations with other community organizations and patrons in providing programs and services for all.

Promote staff learning and innovation to continually improve services.

Introduction & Transition from Previous Strategic Plan

Duchesne County Library System endeavors to serve a county population of approximately 20,100 residents as of 2022. The county has an area of 3,235 square miles. Approximately 32% of the population is under 18 years of age (6,430 youth) and 13.2% is over 65 years of age (2,650 adults). 84.3% identifies as white (16,940), 8.8% as Hispanic or Latino (1,760), 4.9% as American Indian or Alaskan native (980), and 2% as other races (420). 6.1% speak a language other than English at home (1,220). 9.4% under 65 years of age have a disability (1,890). 89.2% graduated high school and 14.4% completed a bachelor's degree or higher. 13.8% live in poverty (2,770) and the median income is \$70,800. 94.6% of households have a computer and 87.3% subscribe to the Internet.¹ Unemployment was at 7.7% as of 2020.²

During the 2021-2023 strategic plan cycle, the Duchesne County Library System achieved various goals, while moving on from the setbacks that the COVID-19 pandemic brought. Some of the major highlights include:

- The bidding, construction, move, and grand opening of the new 16,700 sq. ft. Roosevelt Branch.
- Continuing partnerships with USU Extension, Duchesne Arts Council, Roosevelt Business Alliance, Uintah Basin Association of Governments, and others in hosting events and services.
- Increasing county purchases of eBook and eAudiobook collections to meet growing patron demand; including launching the Hoopla platform.

¹ "Quick facts: Duchesne County, UT." Found on <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/duchesnecountyutah/PST045219> on Dec. 14, 2023.

² "Duchesne County, UT." Found on explorer.naco.org on Dec. 14, 2023.

- Continuing weekly outreach services offered at Altamont, Tabiona, and Parkside Manor.
- Initiating a new weekly outreach service at Fruitland.
- Upgrading patron printers and staff computers; and adding patron production machines in Roosevelt (3D printer, Cricut).
- DCLS received multiple Quality Library Award recognitions by Utah State Library Division.
- Plans were initiated and bid on to renovate the old county building that the Duchesne Branch shares. The renovation will expand the History Center and allow Duchesne Branch to grow a bit further.
- Preparations for a new online library event and room reservation calendar commenced and is approaching its launch.
- Duchesne Branch suffered the passing away of its Assistant Branch Manager. A new branch manager was hired and trained as well as 5 new employees in the past two years.
- The History Center migrated its online database of county cemeteries and accompanying maps of plots to a new cloud-based system with Sunrise Engineering that was released publicly for local history research.
- The library received nearly \$138,000 in grants and reimbursements to cover purchases such as the Internet infrastructure of the new Roosevelt Library, hardware for self-checkout stations and radio-frequency identification tagging of the physical collection, circulating Internet hotspots, physical and digital collection purchases and more.
- The physical tagging and ongoing cataloging of all 80,000 physical items of the Duchesne County Library physical collection to enable self-checkout and quicker, private circulation at all branches.
- Installation of assistive door opening devices for the Duchesne Branch entrances.
- Initial discussions were held with the Duchesne County Sheriff's department about providing some offsite circulation for the long-term state inmates at the Duchesne County Justice Center.

In preparing for this 2024-2026 strategic plan, the library again released a public survey. This time the survey suggested some possible new services based on observations of the library staff and board. The survey also sought to gather any other suggestions from patrons for services that the library may have missed. Only a dozen residents responded in 2020. This round, the survey was released with a quick-response code for easier access. Responses rose greatly to 150. Over a dozen citizens also participated in a focus group to further discuss ideas and suggestions. All this increased input has directed the focus areas of this plan.

Focus Areas

This plan is considered a living document and will be adjusted as needs, opportunities, and obstacles change. It will be reviewed annually during the annual statistical review of the library each

February and progress on the goals listed for the previous year will be evaluated. This plan's selected focus areas are:

- **Community Hub of Opportunity** – As a community heart, the library is a center of safe gathering, learning, and opportunity. Information about needed community resources and agencies is distributed. Community members, organizations, and professionals can share their creative, recreational, scholarly, and other interests together. Community events large and small, library sponsored or not, can all be offered for the growth of all.
- **Lifelong Learning** – Complementing schools and post-secondary education entities, the library is a primary institution that can provide resources for continual lifelong learning and progress for all. Specifically, the library will focus on: providing access to electronic collections across the county; receiving patron requests for collection purchases; and programming for various patron age groups, learning interests, and literacy needs, including technology literacy. Collections and spaces also provide support for homeschool and personal or group study.
- **Outreach / Awareness** – Library service is not limited to the library buildings and should extend throughout the county, whether through digital or offsite services. The public, who all contribute to the funding of library services, should also be made more adequately aware of what services their investment is providing and why they matter. A greater variety of public awareness tools will be employed to do so. Collaborations with other community organizations and institutions to more synergistically provide combined services will be maintained and others will be pursued for the first time as staffing capacity allows.
- **Regional History** – Our local history and heritage—specifically comprised of irreplaceable, original documentation—is often not easily accessible and at risk of permanent loss by degradation or disasters. If not taken care of at their region of origin, these resources are often moved to distant larger collections. The Duchesne County History Center—an appendage of Duchesne Branch—has begun to meet this need. It acts as a local historical record depository and, with time, will also be a digital repository. It assists Duchesne County citizens in accessing and even contributing to these precious resources.
- **Duchesne Branch Remodel** – Duchesne Branch is part of a remodel of the South Duchesne County Building that has been bid on and will commence construction in early 2024. Anticipated completion is the end of 2024. The library's portion will include additional public space and storage for the History Center, the addition of a small meeting room, and some increased reading and gathering space in the library. These additions will enhance the capacity of the History Center, and provide new needed service in the Duchesne Branch for personal study and small group gathering. Adjustments of services in the new space is expected through the following year, particularly since the library will then be housed with the Senior Center in the same building.
- **Technology Plan: Appendix A** – A new requirement for library certification is to have a specific plan for library technology. This plan was developed and approved by the library board in late 2023 and is included as Appendix A. The plan addresses every item of hardware and software that the library utilizes for patron services and to staff support.

Goals for technology improvement and replacement are listed in the plan. Though most county residents have access to computers and the Internet, not all do; particularly low-income residents. Many other residents don't have access to other technologies, including audio and video editing, 3D printing, virtual reality, and more due to cost, physical space limitations, etc. The library will strive to provide such increased opportunities to all patrons as budget and staffing capacity allows.

Each focus area's specific goals and measurements of success are found in the accompanying progress table, followed by the technology plan.

Plan Reviewed: Jan. 16, 2024

Plan Adopted: Feb. 20, 2024

Plan Effective: Feb. 21, 2024