The Libraries in El Dorado County were one of the first library systems in the state to open their doors and have been providing direct services since early April. These early direct services included online resources and support, grocery store curbside book delivery, Zip Books mailed directly to patrons, virtual library programming (and created our own YouTube channel!), check-in phone calls to our most vulnerable senior patrons, and essential needs computer appointments*. National agencies were quick to notice, with the American Library Association being among the first.

Working very closely with our Public Health Officer and team, we have created new service delivery models to meet the needs of our communities. One of our most recent approvals is for the Friends of the Library Book Sales. This was very challenging due to the nature of our Book Sale format (indoor with close contact and touching of surfaces/books) but with the help and flexibility of our Friends, the plan was approved this month. This is vital as our libraries need our Friends help more than ever. While escaping a system wide 5% cut to our County budget funds, there was almost no library income for the months of March-August, and we are still exploring options for recovering those losses.

One revenue avenue that has been successful is the application for grant funds and programs. The State Library has awarded us grant funding for two mobile vehicles for pop-up library services in Georgetown and South Lake Tahoe, as well as $10,000 towards a new mobile vehicle for Placerville. Microsoft/Aruba provided IT equipment to get our Wi-Fi out into library parking lots so we can provide internet access even when our doors are closed. Our consortium, NorthNet, has received over $100,000 for new purchases of online books to meet the increased demand for our Overdrive/Libby books (our online library).

El Dorado County Library staff members are innovation leaders for the state in so many areas! Working with our El Dorado Hills 3-D print lab volunteer, thousands of face shield components have been printed. Our library staff have assembled and provided them to our local hospitals, health care workers, and even our voting center volunteers. We are one of few library systems that currently allow browsing or study spaces in California.

*Board of Supervisors presentation on library services, April 21, 2021: Meeting link (33:23).
Meet the New Library Director
Carolyn Brooks, MLS

Carolyn Brooks came on board late in January 2020, and had been running statewide grant programs for a couple of years at the CA State Library in the areas of Mental Health, Early Learning with Families, Community Programming, Zip Books, Veterans, and Immigration. Prior to that she was a familiar face at the Placerville and El Dorado Hills libraries where she most recently worked as the Library Services Manager and Community Liaison, and for several years as the Youth Services Librarian in EDH.

First moving to El Dorado County over 20 years ago, she immediately knew that she had found her forever home. Raising her four boys in the County with her husband Ken was everything she could have hoped for. Before coming to work for the El Dorado County library system almost 14 years ago, she successfully ran an interior design business in the county for five years and worked as teacher for 16 years in the Bay area.

Carolyn is passionate about our libraries and El Dorado County, and is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve and meet the needs of our communities.

Our Libraries

Cameron Park
Reopened: The Cameron Park Library reopened in July with regular hours on Monday thru Friday (no Second Saturdays at this time). The staff completed huge relabeling and organization projects.

Community Services: A monthly food and diaper curbside pick-up service is providing much needed resources to our community. A new voting drop-off box was installed and is being heavily used in the current election.

El Dorado Hills
Reopened: The El Dorado Hills Library opened in July with reduced hours/days. The automated book return is not allowed to be used at this time but library staff are getting the thousands of books handled every week.

Services: Staff have moved programming online, and offer a wide selection of storytimes, book clubs, and reference help. The new Early Learning Center is complete, with unveiling to come later in the coming year.

Georgetown
Reopened: The Georgetown Library was the one of the first libraries in our system to reopen and Angela and her crew led the way for the rest of the libraries!

Services: The library is offering curbside, diaper/food pick-up, online storytime, and assisting with essential needs for services. They have a computer station set up for students and had a very successful bag booksale.

Placerville
Reopened: The Placerville was the first library to open early in June with all hours fully restored and served as a test site for reopening protocols.

Services: Computer and wifi are very busy, and staff created guides for applying for unemployment. Online social media storytimes and Zoom parent support meetings are keeping staff busy, as are the tremendous number of holds/checkouts.

Pollock Pines
Reopened: The Pollock Pines Library reopened fully on July 17th. Our small library has a current capacity of 8 people and we can only offer 1 public computer but continue to offer curbside pick-up/drop-off of materials.

STEM Kit Grant: Our Pollock Pines Friends of the Library sought out a grant to purchase STEM kits for toddler, Pre-Kindergarten, and early school age kids. Apparently, the grant was only designated for the Tahoe side of the slope, however, the board who reviewed and ruled on the grants were so impressed by the application that 2 of its members personally donated $750 to fund the project. Families are very excited to use these kits during this time of distance learning.

South Lake Tahoe
Reopened: The South Lake Tahoe Library opened June 25th, and is currently operating at reduced hours. As with all of our sites, they continue to provide curbside pickup for patrons.

Services: Patrons continue to use the library’s computers and Wi-Fi regularly. Staff are offering increased assistance with unemployment applications, resume assistance, and other essential services. Our storytellers are offering online programming, in Spanish and English. We have resumed our Senior Outreach program, taking books to senior living sites in the South Lake Tahoe community. The seniors have been deeply appreciative as it reduces social isolation.
Did you know?

**Ballot Drop Off**
The South Lake Tahoe, Cameron Park, and El Dorado Hills Libraries are ballot drop off locations. Voters can drop off their ballot 24 hours a day in our locked official ballot box, located in the parking lots.

**Voting Center**
El Dorado Hills is a voting center and is open for voting the weekend prior to the election on Tuesday.

Did you know?

**Tremendous appreciation goes to our Public Health Officer, Dr. Nancy Williams, who was instrumental in helping us get our libraries open! Also, a huge "Thank You!" to Public Health's Michael Ungeheuer for visiting our sites and helping us create safe spaces and protocols for our communities.**

Did you know?

**Did you know?**

Through CARES Act funding we will be providing Tutor.com for all students in El Dorado County.

Did you know?

**THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR THE LIBRARIES**
All Libraries are open with the following conditions of entry:

- No sign of illness, including the following: cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, sore throat, short of breath or new loss of taste/smell
- Maintain 6’ Physical Distance
- Face Coverings Required
- Sanitize Hands Before/After Using the Library
- Avoid Unnecessary Touching of Surface or Materials
- One Household per Table
- 1 Hour Time Limits May Be Enforced

Did you know?

**CARES Act funding is helping us provide Hot Spots for our vulnerable students and community members.**

Did you know?

Thousands of face shields have been created and hundreds of books were delivered, right into the hands of the people that needed them!
Library staff rolled up their sleeves and got the job done for their communities.

Did you know?

**Did you know?**

Through CARES Act funding we will be providing new laptops with docking stations and digital communications centers for all six libraries.
CREATING 3-D FACE SHIELDS

Links to Media Articles from Around the County/Country


FOOD, DIAPER AND BOOK CURBSIDE

LIBRARY SERVICE DURING COVID
https://www.mtdemocrat.com/prospecting/libraries-are-a-great-value-available-to-all/
https://www.gt gazette.com/2020/05/18/georgetown-library-continues-to-serve-the-community/

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Our libraries are working closely with EDCOE to provide much needed student resources.
https://www.mtdemocrat.com/prospecting/edcoes-it-team-connects-edc-students/

And through it all, our Friends of the Library have been working beside us to provide assistance to our libraries!