



El Dorado County Library Director's Report

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LIBRARY SERVICES

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El Dorado County Library

The year of 2021 was very challenging as we worked our way through a second year of the Covid 19 pandemic, experienced the Caldor Fire, and dealt with extreme weather conditions. Evacuations, building closures, and increased need for emergency services from our communities greatly added to the workload and stress levels on our libraries and staff. And I am so proud to share that the library staff has risen to every occasion to offer support and coordination of emergency services in addition to performing our regular library functions. We are working with our Human Resources department to offer additional training in the areas of resilience, working with challenging customers, and continuing to build our skills in teamwork and collaboration.

The extreme weather events experienced throughout the county were once again unprecedented in living memory, and our library hub team in Georgetown stepped up in new ways to offer assistance. They delivered services and supplies to snowed-in seniors. We collaborated with the El Dorado Community Foundation to get needed resources up to Georgetown, including snow shovels, flashlights, gas cans, and dry clothes for the two weeks the community spent without electricity. They are working with the El Dorado, Feed El Dorado, and Placer

Food Banks to provide food and water as a resource center for the community.

The California State Library reached out to our library system to ask us to serve as Early Learning Community Hub Mentors for a cohort of libraries they are putting together. These libraries will be from all over California and have one goal...to become Community Hubs. We are honored, and the request comes with a \$25,000 grant to further our work with early learning.

Library programming has been temporarily suspended due to the increase in Covid 19 transmissions related to the Omicron variant. We hope this is just for the month of January and eagerly look forward resuming connections with all of our families. Fortunately, many of them are visiting the library so that they can engage with staff and access resources. Our library hub teams are working on mental health and resilience kits for families and new social emotional backpacks will be available soon. Hub staff are also working closely with our EDCOE partners to provide Developmental Screens for little ones so that parents and caregivers can support their growth. Our Community Hubs are also working closely with Marshall Hospital and HHSA to provide support services for at-risk families and individuals of all ages.

One year in the process and our library system is finally ready to move away from our old and outdated computer server to join the El Dorado County computer network system. This has been a monumental task involving every single staff member and their data records, as well as an entire team of IT support. Final rollout is being pilot tested in Placerville this week, and new H drives have already been set up for every staff member. This is going to allow cost savings and efficiencies of service delivery in the future, as well as providing state of the art security of information for our patrons and county. Huge shout out to the IT Department!

The El Dorado Libraries have partnered with Public Health to provide free Covid 19 at home testing kits. We distributed hundreds of them before Christmas and New Year to the public, and will begin distributing thousands more over the next couple of weeks. The new rollout of free tests through the mail will also be shared with our communities, and assistance provided for those who need help navigating online.

El Dorado County Libraries are helping keep our communities safe!



Georgetown Community Support



Thank you to our Food Banks!



Water, non-perishable food, diapers and wipes, fresh produce, and more were provided by our amazing food partners.

Feed El Dorado, Placer
Food Bank and

El Dorado Food Bank



LearningExpress
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An easy-to-use e-learning platform featuring online tutorials, practice tests and e-books to help you achieve your educational and professional goals. In addition to helping you improve your skills in reading, writing, math and basic science, LearningExpress Library offers tools and resources to help you search for jobs, build workplace skills and prepare for career certification exams. You'll also find college and grad school admissions test prep, GED® test prep and much more!

Did you know?

Our libraries have brand new online resources from the California State Library!

- ❖ **Coursera** - Helps individuals build the skills they need for in-demand jobs. Learners have access to more than 5,000 courses and certifications led by top businesses, universities, and organizations.
- ❖ **GetSetUp** - An online community for older adults (50+) who want to learn new skills. GetSetUp offers more than 40 live classes every day as well as 25 on weekends. Class subjects include: Physical Health (exercise, healthy cooking), Mental Health (stress, meditation, dementia), Social Health (book club, gardening, pets), and Vocational Health (resume writing, interviewing). Use the coupon code: **CSL-ED** while booking your class (this will waive your fee for PAID classes)
- ❖ **Skillshare** An online learning community with thousands of classes for creative and curious people, on topics including illustration, design, photography, video, freelancing, and more
- ❖ **NorthStar Digital Literacy** - Test your computer skills, build new skills in key areas, and demonstrate your knowledge by earning certificates and badges. Prepare for your future now!
- ❖ And the State Library continues to support our online resources **JobNow** and **VetNow**.
- ❖ All of these amazing online resources are available through the library website at: <https://eldoradolibrary.org/online-resources/>

Did you know? The Library Hub Teams work side-by-side with other county agencies, non-profits, and community organizations to meet the needs of the residents of El Dorado County during emergencies and the recovery afterwards.