



Inspiring Ideas, Enriching Lives, Building Communities

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031

Connect With Us!

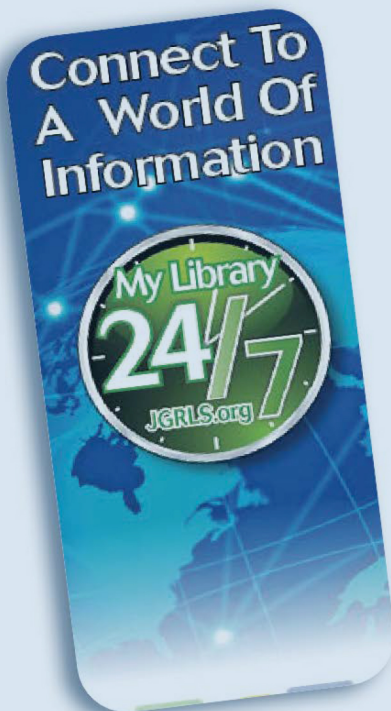


*Scan me with
your phone*

Connect with us through your smart-phone or tablet by scanning the QR code and find us on the web! You can then use all our free digital resources and materials from our website at www.JGRLS.org - just connect, sign in using your library card number, and go!

Find us on social media as well - scan this QR code for Facebook or Instagram. just look for us using @JacksonGeorge Library.

*Scan me with
your phone*



A Five-Year Strategic Framework for Growth

Inspiring Ideas. Enriching Lives. Building Communities.

Welcome

A vision for the future



Built around community impact

JGRLS serves as an educational, cultural, and technological hub for Jackson and George Counties. The 2026-2031 plan strengthens the system's capacity to meet changing community needs, expand equitable access, empower staff, modernize infrastructure, and support lifelong learning.

Three overarching priorities

- Strengthen community outreach and partnerships.
- Enhance employee engagement, development, and retention.
- Increase library usage and improve accessibility across all service areas.

Who We Serve:

A snapshot of our communities

JACKSON

GEORGE



Jackson County

A mix of suburban, rural, and industrial communities.

- Population: 143,252
- Median household income: \$69,871
- 28% hold a bachelor degree or higher
- Median age: 40
- 13% live in poverty
- 21% are legally disabled

George County

Predominantly rural, with Lucedale as a growing population center.

- Population: 24,350
- Median household income: \$54,822
- 17% hold a bachelor degree or higher
- Median age: 36
- 18% live in poverty
- 20% are legally disabled

Key opportunities

- Expand technology access and training across both counties.
- Strengthen partnerships with schools, youth organizations, civic groups, and senior centers.
- Enhance bilingual and multicultural programming and improve engagement in rural and isolated communities.

Key Community

Needs Identified

1

Technology access & digital literacy

Free high-speed internet, computers, printers, technology help, and digital resources remain essential.

2

Early literacy & youth engagement

Families want early childhood literacy, teen engagement, and family-friendly events.

3

Workforce & adult learning

Job seekers and learners need resume support, digital skills, business resources, and continuing education tools.

4

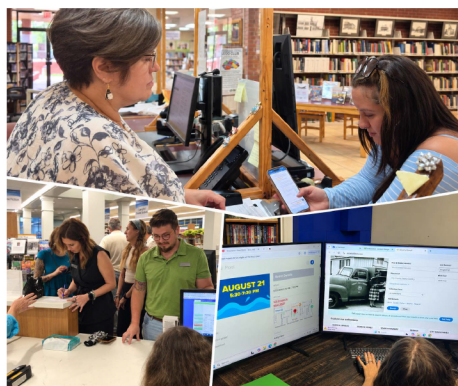
Inclusive cultural & social spaces

Libraries are valued as safe, accessible, welcoming gathering places.

5

Mobile & outreach services

Distance, transportation, work schedules, and mobility barriers can limit access to branches.



Strategic response

The plan turns these needs into actions through outreach, accessible facilities, technology investment, staff development, targeted marketing, and new service models.

Mission, Vision & Values

The service promise behind the plan

Mission

Provide high-quality, relevant, customer-centered library and information services, collections, and programs that enrich the lives of all citizens while expanding access to knowledge, lifelong learning, and intellectual freedom.



Vision

Empowering our community to discover, connect, and grow through innovative and inclusive library experiences.

Inspiring Ideas

Lifelong learning, creativity, curiosity, and innovation.

Enriching Lives

Equitable access to knowledge, technology, and cultural resources.

Building Communities

Welcoming spaces for gathering, collaboration, and connection.

Commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion

JGRLS values the perspectives and contributions of each staff member and patron and strives to create spaces where everyone feels welcome, represented, and supported.

What's New for Patrons?

Major improvements you will see

Facility enhancements

- ADA assessments and accessibility upgrades.
- Improved lighting, HVAC, seating, furnishings, safety features, and cleanliness schedules.
- Standardized wayfinding and interior signage.
- Flexible spaces for quiet study, coworking, youth activities, meetings, and digital learning.

Technology & digital inclusion

- Modernized public computers, printers, routers, and devices on a replacement cycle.
- Digital literacy classes and technology demonstrations.
- Accessibility tools such as screen readers, adaptive keyboards, large-print interfaces, and assistive listening devices.
- Responsible evaluation of AI-supported tools and stronger cybersecurity.

What's for New Patrons?

YOUTH
Engaging programs, resources and spaces for kids and teens.

COLLECTIONS
More choices in books, digital content and beyond.

IMPLEMENTATION
Planning, progress and improvements made for you.

Jackson-George
Regional Library System

More New for Patrons

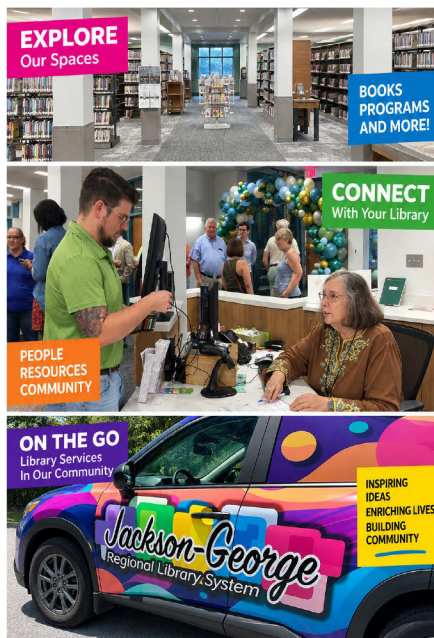
Youth, collections and implementation

Youth services expansion

- Expand early literacy and school-readiness programs.
- Add tween and teen opportunities in arts, writing, gaming, esports, and career development.
- Grow school, preschool, homeschool, and outdoor programming partnerships.
- Plan a Mobile Outreach Vehicle (MOVE) for rural and underserved communities by 2030.

Collection improvements

- Broaden diverse, bilingual, accessible, print, audio, and digital materials.
- Use circulation trends and patron input to guide purchasing and weeding.
- Promote digital collections, research tools, themed displays, and reader advisory.



Implementation milestones

2026

Foundation

2028

Growth

2031

Transformation

Appreciation &

Community Commitment

With gratitude

This plan reflects a collaborative effort rooted in community engagement, professional expertise, and organizational dedication.

Thank you to

- Library Board of Trustees
- Library administration and department leadership
- Staff across every branch and department
- Community partners and stakeholders
- Community members and library patrons



Our commitment through 2031

JGRLS will continue strengthening its role as a hub for learning, creativity, and connection through expanded outreach, modernized facilities, improved internal systems, professional development, and intentional investment in technology and innovation.

Together, we will ensure the library remains a strong, innovative, and welcoming presence for generations to come.

Find locations, services, policies, and more on-line:

www.JGRLS.org

Visit the library
on Social Media:

