Strategic Plan – 2021

Yakima Valley Libraries
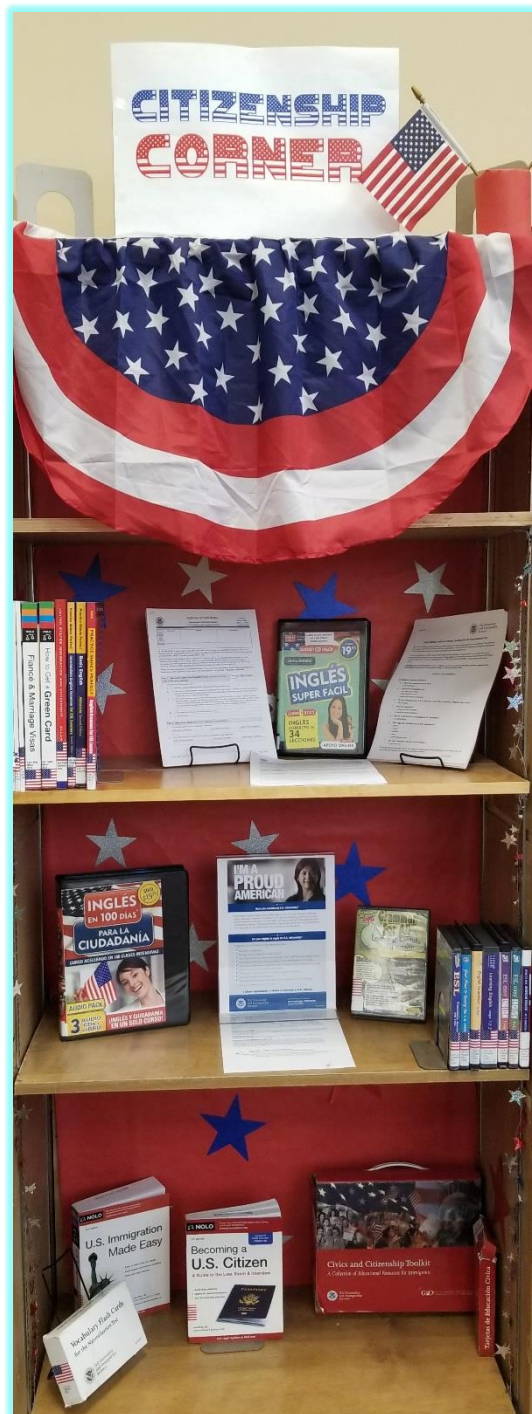
www.yvl.org

Yakima Valley Libraries

Yakima Valley Libraries is located in the beautiful, agricultural Yakima County in south central Washington State. Yakima County is 4,296 square miles and is the second largest county in Washington State. Yakima Valley Libraries serves the entire county with the exception of the City of Grandview. Yakima Valley Libraries is a junior taxing district that provides library services to the general public and is primarily supported through local property taxes.

The rural county library district was formed in 1945 and is now comprised of a central library, 16 community libraries, and an express library located throughout Yakima County. All towns or cities, with the exception of the City of Grandview, are either annexed to or contracted with Yakima Valley Libraries for library services. Annexed cities include Harrah, Moxee, Selah, Yakima (Yakima Central, Southeast, and West Valley), Union Gap, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato, and Zillah. Contracting cities include Mabton, Granger, Tieton, and Naches. Rural county locations include Buena, Terrace Heights, and White Swan. Yakima Valley Libraries

> Throughout our seventeen community locations the Library provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere. We offer hundreds of free programs every year teaming up with community partners to create and extend services and promote the joy of reading. Our collection reflects the community's interests and intellectual curiosity.

currently serves over 240,000 people in Yakima County.

In 2019 the library district was open a total of 36,011 hours and served 618,751 combined visitors. We circulated over 1,005,350 items and hosted 108,383 computer appointments using the 154 Internet computers available to the public.
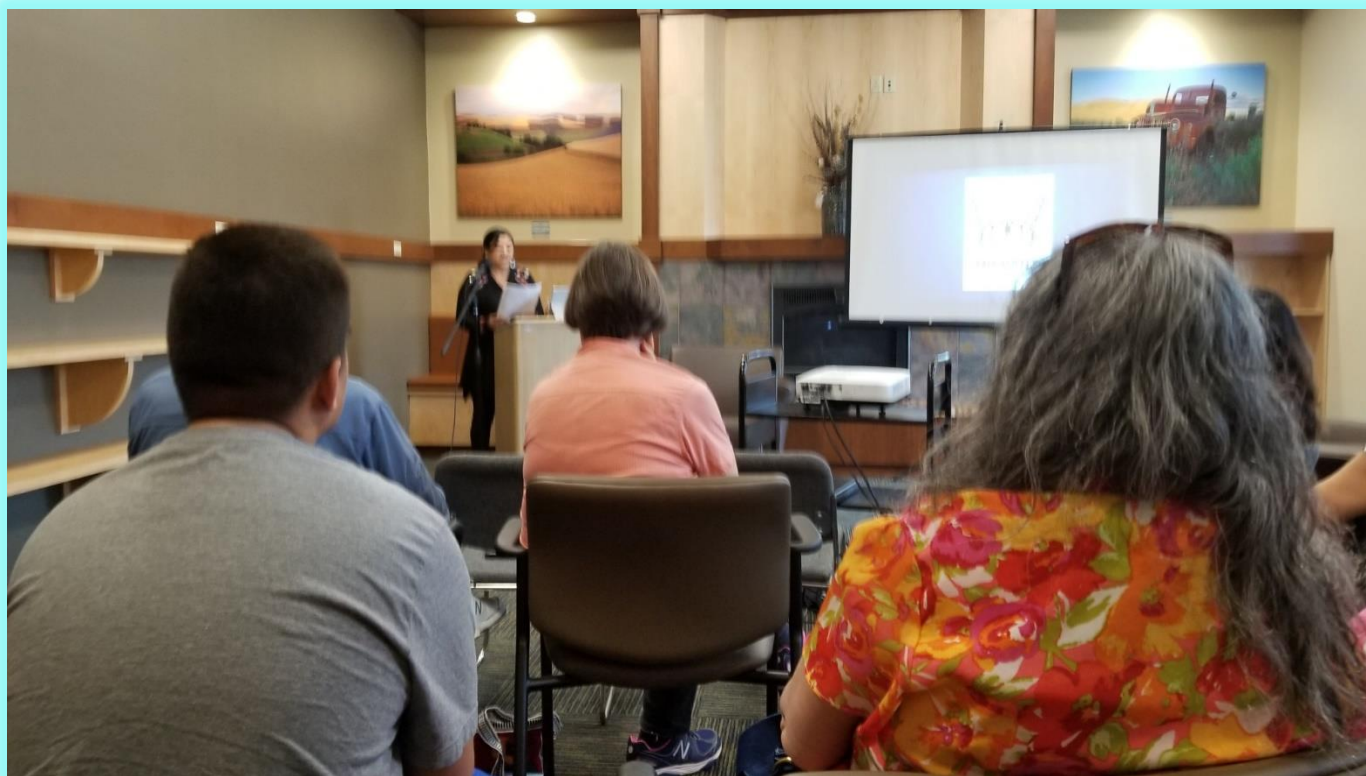
Mission Statement

"

> Yakima Valley Libraries supports lifelong learning and an informed citizenry by providing free, open, and full access to a vast array of ideas and information.

"

Adopted: August 24, 1999

Library Values

Library services in the Yakima Valley began in 1889. Citizens in one small community hoped to enrich their lives by providing a public reading room. In time, that same hope spread throughout the valley. Growing towns that established schools and libraries boasted of the culture and education they could offer new settlers and investors. Those early libraries were the seeds that became Yakima Valley Libraries.

Dynamic organizations have values, principles, and philosophies that employees exemplify to both internal and external customers. In pursuit of providing quality service to our citizens, Yakima Valley Libraries is committed to the following core values. Our approach is to consider each task, each customer, and each day as an opportunity to serve our community and our customers in a positive, helpful way:

- ***Accountability***
- ***Customer Satisfaction***
- ***Communications***
- ***Consistency***
- ***Creativity***
- ***Empowerment***
- ***Honesty***
- ***Professionalism***
- ***Self-Initiative***
- ***Teamwork***

Service Responses

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS
1

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR A CHANGING WORLD
2

PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESS TO THE ONLINE WORLD
3

SAFE AND WELCOMING LIBRARIES
4

TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY RESOURCES
5

"As champions of lifelong learning, libraries are a place to quench curiosity, access technology, and explore new ideas, hobbies, and careers. Increasingly, libraries also offer patrons a welcoming space to meet their neighbors to discuss and resolve important issues." – AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Members of communities of culture, purpose, or special interest will have programs, collection materials, and library services that address issues important to the betterment of our community.

> ❖ __GOAL__: **Develop stronger relationships with the diverse communities we serve.**

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR A CHANGING WORLD

The Library's single most valuable resource is its workforce. Well-trained and motivated librarians and library staff enable the Library to meet today's users' needs and tomorrow's rapidly emerging challenges.

> ❖ __GOAL__: **Empower staff by providing relevant training for all staff members.**

PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESS TO THE ONLINE WORLD

Patrons will have expanded access to the online world through Library provided technologies and support.

> ❖ __GOAL__: **Use technology to enhance customer access to all of our resources.**

SAFE AND WELCOMING LIBRARIES

Patrons will have safe, welcoming, and accessible library spaces where they can find a good book, connect to the online world, and exchange ideas in a safe environment.

> ❖ __GOAL__: **Safe and welcoming libraries.**

TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

Patrons will have continued confidence in Yakima Valley Libraries' stewardship of Library resources. Yakima Valley Libraries will continue to effectively manage Library resources in a transparent and equitable manner.

> ❖ __GOAL__: **Library financial resources effectively fund current work, meet community expectations, and support future growth (ongoing process).**