ALAMANCE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

(336<u>)</u> 229-3588



📀 342 S. Spring St.

Burlington, NC 27215

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Nission & Values

Alamance County Public Libraries provide learning opportunities for all members of our community to be successful in living a larger life by nurturing the heart and the mind.



Approachable and Inviting Knowledgeable and Professional Open Minded and Respectful of Diversity Supportive and Positive Resourceful and Innovative





Reflection From Our Director

Looking back on the past year has shown an amazing number of changes inside our library spaces! After learning that patrons want something different from libraries than they may have previously, we were excited to be able to adapt our spaces to meet those new needs. Not only behind the scene projects occurred to use our staff spaces smarter and accommodate new positions, but all of our physical buildings saw change.

The May Memorial Library has an additional meeting room for use, two new small study rooms, and an abundance of study areas and comfortable seating options for those who need to have a place to work privately on our Wi-Fi. The Teen section also had a major shift that allowed for the addition of a new seating area that provides a safe place for teens to hang out. And the Children's department created multiple spaces for kids and families to engage with activities and socialize.

The Graham Library moved almost every piece of furniture in the library to create a children's area that's safer for children, further from the entrance to help reduce the noise level but also prevent the youngsters from making a run for the automatic doors. The new adult space has an abundance of new tables and chairs as well as two new single booths and two private study booths, which is a first for Graham. There's also now a teen section with colorful, comfortable seating and tables.

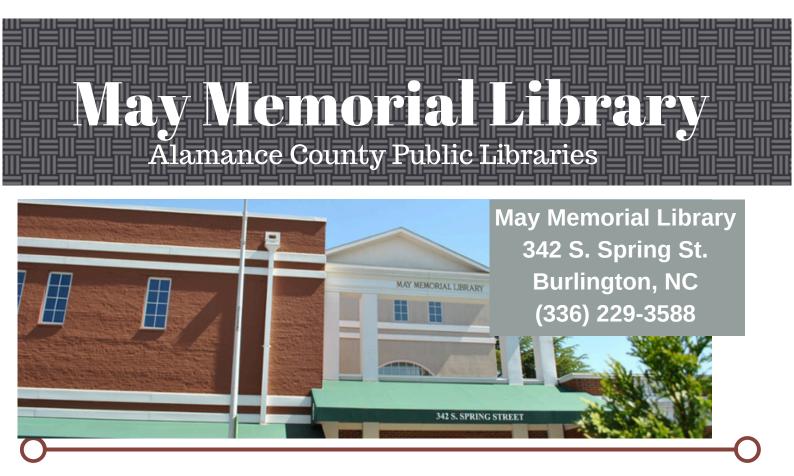
The Mebane Library rearranged and added engagement opportunities to their children's space creating separate areas for young children and elementary aged children and was also able to add a teen space to the second floor as well. The adult section on the second floor saw quite a few improvements, including sound reducing paneling in the existing meeting rooms, adding two additional meeting rooms, new tables for personal study areas, and additional comfortable seating throughout.

The North Park Library also saw an abundance of change with the addition of the Discovery Lab, a makerspace filled with multiple hands-on opportunities including sewing, tools, 3D printers, coding devices, and more!

With all of these changes we still served **299,200 visitors** and checked-out **468,820 items**. We offered **1,650 programs** that brought in **46,111 attendees**, which is a 25% increase from fiscal year 2022-2023. Creating more welcoming space also resulted in a large increase in our **computer and Wi-Fi usage with 88,781 uses** in FY 23-24 compared to 68,804 in FY 22-23. Almost all of that increase was in the Wi-Fi use which saw a 61% increase.

We welcome feedback from our patrons and are grateful to have received special funding which made implementing change possible. Offering opportunities for the community to live a larger life and nurture their heart and mind is our priority!





The first public library serving Burlington was located in Broad Street High School in the early 1920s. By 1937, the public library had moved to temporary quarters in a storefront located on Main Street. In 1938, industrialist W.H. May, Sr. and his two sons donated \$15,000 towards the purchase of the old U.S. Post Office for use as a public library. This building was constructed in 1918 and stands at the corner of E. Davis and S. Spring Street.

May Memorial Library opened for business on June 2, 1938. At that time, only the main floor fronting on S. Spring St. was in use. In 1945, a Seth Thomas grandfather clock was donated to the library by Col. Eugene Holt, grandson of textile magnate E.M. Holt. It quickly became a much-beloved symbol of the library within the community. In 1955, the basement floor with an entrance on E. Davis Street was remodeled and opened to the public.

By the 1960s, Alamance and Chatham counties had signed a formal cooperation agreement to become the Central N.C. Regional Library with May Memorial Library as its headquarters.



In 1981 a new library wing with approximately 4,600 square feet of additional space on the main floor was opened and the basement and second floor of the library were given over to staff work areas. In the late 1990s, local textile CEO Allen Gant, Jr. of Glen Raven, Inc. offered an adjacent building, the former Sears Department Store, to the City of Burlington to expand the public library. The original 1918 building and 1981 addition were linked as one wing with the 1950s Sears building as the other wing connected by a vaulted ceiling entryway and officially opened November 17, 2000.

Graham Public Library Alamance County Public Libraries



The opening of the Graham Public Library as an extension of the May Memorial Library was the highlight of library service in 1967 in Alamance County. Through a partnership with the City of Graham and the board of the May Memorial Library, the Graham Public Library opened in September 1967 in the Graham City Hall as a 3,000 square foot facility with more than 5,000 books. In 1969, the Stokes family was commemorated for the monetary gift made by the Stokes children in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Stokes, which made the Graham Library possible. In 1994, a two million dollar project was



In 1994, a two million dollar project was approved to construct, equip and furnish two new Graham facilities: the Graham Public Library and the Graham Police Department. Scheduled to be completed in 240 days, both buildings were placed south of the municipal building; the police department off of Maple Street and the library off of Main Street. The new 10,500 square foot library, which is more than three times the size of the original library, opened its doors on Monday, July 31, 1995.



In 1935 the idea that started the Mebane Public Library began with a local literary club, the Reviewers. Through their efforts in recruiting support and funds, the small beginning of the Mebane Public Library was made possible by Mr. E. M. Yoder, Principal of the Mebane Public School in 1936. Members of the Reviewers Club served as library clerks in the small room in the school. The official Mebane Public Library opened in December 1936 in the Commerical & Farmer's Bank Building, situated at the corner of Clay and North Fourth Streets.

In the Fall of 1941, the building owners offered to sell the building to the City of Mebane for the permanent home of the library. Through the efforts of local civic club fundraising, the building was purchased without the use of any tax payer funds. In 1975, the library moved into a 5,000 square foot space in the back of the Mebane Town Hall.



By the late 1990s, the windowless space at the Mebane City Hall had become cramped and library use had outgrown the space. In the early 2000s the idea to refurbish a vacant mill building revitalized the community. Built in 1919 as Durham Hosiery and changing hands over the years to become Dixie Yarns in the 30s and R.L. Stowe Mills until 2001, the renovated space offered three times the capacity for the new Mebane Public Library and opened its doors on November 7, 2005.



NORTH RA

North Park Library 849 Sharpe Rd. Burlington, NC (336) 226-7185

The North Park Community Center was built by the City of Burlington in 1978 with funds from the federal Housing and Community Development Act. Initial partnering organizations operating part-time from the new facility included the Burlington Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau, the Alamance-Caswell Area Mental Association, the Alamance County Health Department and the N.C. Central Regional Library.

On May 15, the North Park Library opened in a small room (approximately 300 square feet) of the community center and offered 'listening posts,' special programs, a story hour and a small collection of books and materials.



As popularity grew, a meeting room space was added to the library's availability, doubling the size to approximately 600 square feet. This allowed for more materials and the eventual addition of public computer space. In 2015, the City of Burlington began renovation projects in North Park. Early efforts provided new carpet and a reorganization of resources. Later efforts included a brand new entrance within the atrium of the community center. Page 9

MOBILE LIBRARY Alamance County Public Libraries

In 1938, a county bookmobile began its service in Alamance. Carrying 400 books in a converted light-delivery truck, a three-week rotation of deliveries was established.

By 1951, a second vehicle increased capacity to 1,600 books and records, making deliveries to 83 stops every two weeks. The next thirty years of continuous bookmobile service continued to grow and thrive in Alamance County until the last vehicle couldn't be replaced in the late 70s/early 80s.

In 2021, ACPL took possession of our new, high-tech Mobile Library! We then began running a designated route in October 2021, serving over 40 stops on a three-week schedule with appearances at special community events as well!

235

STOPS

4,202

VISITORS

5,393

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



350 BOOKS GIVEN OUT **20** PROGRAMS & EVENTS

> PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS & EVENTS

6,377

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BookNARK Alamance County Public Libraries

Providing free books, Internet and programs to remote and disenfranchised neighborhoods and communities around Alamance County.

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741

WI-FI USAGES

(3)

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VISITORS AT STOPS

26

BOOKS GIVEN OUT PROGRAMS & EVENTS **1,853 480** PEOPLE ATTENDED

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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24/7 Pick-Up Lockers Available at the Graham Public Library

33 REGULAR PATRONS

PATRONS PICKED UP HOLDS

2,765

6,754 ITEMS PICKED UP

24\7 Pick-Up Lockers began their operations in August 2022. Made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant through the State Library, this no contact, easy access locker system allows patrons to pick-up their requested materials with just their library card.

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE Alamance County Public Libraries

HOME DELIVERY is a service that delivers physical materials on a monthly basis to patrons with mobility issues throughout Alamance County. It also offers a Books by Mail USPS service.

PATRONS **10,498** ITEMS DELIVERED **18**

147

VOLUNTEERS

28 VISITS EACH MONTH

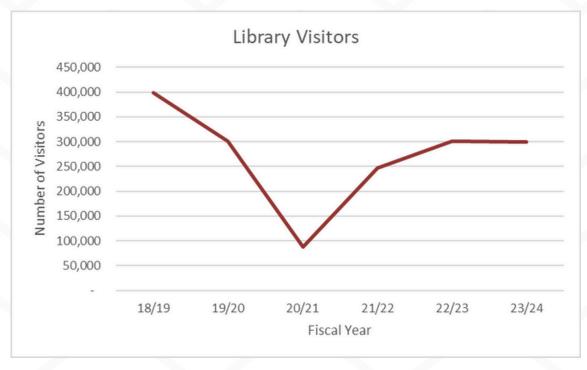


OUTREACH PROGRAMS **5,171** PEOPLE PARTICPATED IN OUTREACH PROGRAMS

55

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299,200468,820 LIBRARY VISITORS ITEMS CHECKED OUT



With this year seeing so much change in our library spaces, we are thrilled to see that our space usage has remained the same with 299,200 library visitors. We provide welcoming spaces for our community to remain for short or long periods of time to complete their work.

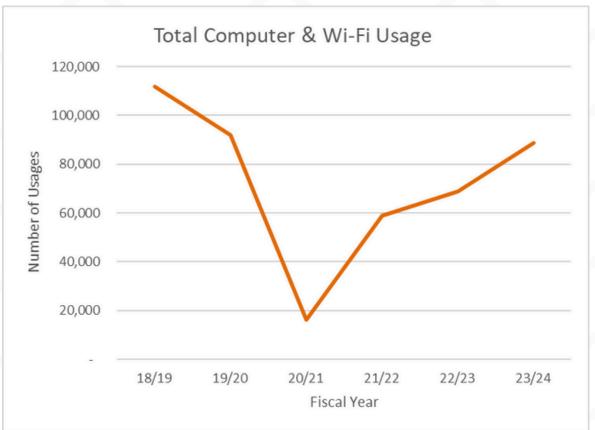


FY 2023-2024 showed a total of 468,820 items checked out. Considering there was so much movement inside our libraries as we shifted shelving, seating, and almost everything inside some branches, this high total number of items that circulated is rewarding as moments were confusing for patrons to find what they were interested in.

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38,218 & 50,563 COMPUTERS USED AND WI-FI USES



Re-doing our spaces to be more welcoming for meetings, study areas, and separate children's play spaces definitely impacted our computer and wi-fi usage. We had almost 20,000 more users on our wi-fi.

38,218- Public Library Computer Uses 50,563- Wi-Fi uses

The interest in Zoom passes and program participation saw a significant improvement as well.

ZOOM PASSES BORROWED

511

1,650 PROGRAMS OFFERED

PEOPLE ATTENDED PROGRAMS

46,111



Services & Resources

Discovery Lab

The Makerspace at the North Park Library was made possible with special project money and the Community Development Block Grant in partnership with the City of Burlington. Six learning modules are now operational, offering engagement and life skills opportunities to East Burlington.

Your Next Great Read

A personal readers' advisory service for patrons. Participants can submit their reading preferences and are assigned a personal readers' advisory specialist to select books to try.

Zoom Pass Program

ACPL and the Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries have teamed up with area attractions to make the ACPL ZOOM Pass program available.

24/7 Pick-Up Lockers

We are excited to be able to offer a new contact free option to pick up library hold materials. Available at the Graham Public Library, patrons may request their pick-up location to take place at the outside locker system.

StoryWalks

There are four StoryWalks scattered around Alamance County that feature deconstructed children's books in an activity for families that promotes literacy and physical activity.

InterLibrary Loan

Materials not owned by any of the libraries of the Alamance County Public Libraries may be borrowed via InterLibrary Loan Service.

Mobile Printing

Print from your hand-held devices to the Graham, Mebane or May Memorial public libraries. Printing charges are applicable.



Seed Library

The seed library is a free program that encourages residents to plant, share, and save seeds. The mission of the seed library is to make free seeds available to anyone in our area to grow their own food, promote gardening and seed saving, promote healthy outdoor activity, provide information, education, and instruction about sustainable organic gardening and seed saving, and more.

Local History & Genealogy

Online and in-person assistance and resources are a big part of the quest towards discovering your personal history.

JOB & CAREER Making Opportunities a Reality

Computers & Technology

ACPL is proud to offer the following to our community:

- Free Internet & Wi-Fi
- Desktop & Chromebook computers
- Hotspots for check-out from 2 providers (ensuring coverage across the county):
 - Verizon
 - T-Mobile
- LaunchPads educational tablets with pre-loaded themed content for all ages. They do NOT require wi-fi or Internet to function.



Through our online databases and NC LIVE, we offer over 146 resources providing online access to complete articles, newspapers, journals, encyclopedias, and more. All available free of charge to library patrons, both in the library and remotely with your library card.

Online Job & Career Training Resources

ACPL staff offer virtual, in-person, and pre-recorded programs. A wide variety of resources are also available to assist in writing resumes, cover letters, and prepare for interviews. Some resources include:

- Ferguson's Career Guidance Center
- EBSCO Learning Express/Prepstep
- Niche Academy
- DigitalLearn.org

Appointments



The Emerging Technologies Librarian and other library staff offer classes and one-on-one appointments on numerous technology assistance topics. Repeat topics include applying for jobs, resumes, and email troubleshooting. Appointment Statistics:

1:1s: 66; Library Programs: 10; Off-Site Programs: 67

GED Classes with ACC

GED classes are offered for students who have not completed their high school education. These classes are offered to those who need to improve academic skills in order to qualify for better jobs. Class locations vary based on need.



Storytimes

We offer a wide variety of storytime Check out some of the non-traditional print options for parents and families. materials we make available to patrons:

Weekly in-person themed programs, virtual storytimes - both live and prerecorded, stay-home lessons, and take-home storytime kits.

ACPL Connect

ACPL Connect accounts provide students with easily accessible information and educational resources. Students no longer need library cards. Instead, they can use their school ID number to access library services.

ecoExplore

Experiences Promoting Learning Outdoors for Research and Education is an incentive-based citizen science program for children in grades K-8. Developed by The North Carolina Arboretum, this innovative program combines exploration with kidscience friendly technology to foster a fun learning environment for children while encouraging them to explore the outdoors and participate in citizen science.

Book Club Kits

- Books & Story To Go Kits
- Educational Resource Kits
- Computer flash drives
- Bike locks for use when inside the library
- New this Year Board & Card Games Collection

$\tilde{\mathbb{A}}$ Every Child Ready to Read

Library of Things

Every Child Ready to Read is an initiative created by the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children to encourage parents, as their child(ren)'s first teacher, to participate in enrichment activities that create the building blocks for reading.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Studies have shown that by age three, a child's brain has reached 80 percent of its adult volume. Early experiences and interactions are a key factor in a child's brain development. We challenge parents and guardians to participate and win prizes in reading 1,000 books to their children before kindergarten.

In-Person Programs

Number of Programs

Adult programs	607
Young Adult programs	70
Children's programs	973
Total Number of Programs	1,650

Attendance at Programs

Adult attendance	5,449
Young Adult attendance	636
Children's attendance	40,026
Total Attendance at Programs	46,111

Virtual Programs

Total Programs	14
Live Views	112
Recorded Views	431



Programs by Topic

	7.4
Agricultural Programs offered	34
Agricultural Program attendance	1,163
Technology Programs offered	161
Technology Program attendance	308
Early Literacy Programs offered	472
Early Literacy Program attendance	14,455
STEAM Programs offered	114
STEAM Program attendance	2,722





PUBLIC



Alamance County Public Libraries

Library Committee

Logan Savits – Chair & Burlington Representative Courtney Doi – Vice Chair & Mebane Representative Lorna Nelson – Mebane Representative Kiah Glenn – Burlington Representative Kimberly DiMuro – Graham Representative Bonnie Whitaker – Graham Representative Jessica Simmons – County-at-Large Representative Cheryl Sandford – County-at-Large Representative Paula Hendricks – County-at-Large Representative Paula Hendricks – County-at-Large Representative Susana Goldman - Director

The functions and responsibilities of the Committee shall be as follows:

- 1. To recommend programs, policies, and regulations for the operation of the library.
- 2. To recommend a schedule of fines and charges for failure to return, damage to, or loss of library materials.
- 3. To advise the Board of Commissioners on library matters.
- 4. To advocate on behalf of the library system.

The Committee shall also keep abreast of the needs and desires of the users of all the public libraries in the county, and endeavor to fulfill these needs by recommending policies to the Alamance County Commissioners for the operation of these public libraries which are consistent with those needs.

Friends of the

Alamance County Public Libraries

The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries support the programs and activities of the Alamance County Public Libraries. Our mission is to increase interest in and to raise the level of library services in our community, to better relationships between library staff and community, to give and allow the exchange of information, and to encourage education and literacy.



Debra Scott, President Hal Vincent, Vice-President Crystal Humble, Treasurer

Jeff Tudor Debbie Mann Laura Wright Ron Oakley Kathy Oakley Debbie Gunyan David Pinson Tom Whitaker Vickie Whitaker Anne Hogan Patsy Pringle Julie Monroe Pat Shoffner Cary Worthy Linda Shirley Gay Sharpe Lauren Bradshaw Andrea Patterson-Masuka

Rosemary Lewis, Secretary Barbara Roberts, Past President



The Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries fund 100% of all programming materials for Alamance County Public Libraries. Page 22

Partnerships & Collaborations Thank you to all who have partnered with us this year

Center Alamance Achieves Alamance Arts Alamance Burlington School System Alamance Community College Alamance County Cooperative Extension Alamance County 4-H Alamance Recreation & Parks Alamance County Dental Clinic Alamance Community Foundation Animal Park at Conservators Center Authentically Alamance Farmer's Market Genealogical Society **Beaumont Apartments** Burlington Women's Club City of Burlington City of Burlington Horticulture Dept. City of Burlington - North Park Walking Track City of Burlington - Recreation and Parks Alamance ElderCare City of Graham City of Graham – Recreation and Parks City of Graham Tree Board City of Mebane City of Mebane - Recreation and Parks Crossroads SARRC & Child Advocacy Center Elon Farmers Market Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries Gardner Library Trust Gibsonville Public Library Glencoe Mills Heritage Museum Graham Historical Museum Haw River Museum Headstart Mayco Bigelow Community Center Mebane Women's Club Mebane Arts and Community Center Mebane Historical Museum Morrowtown Community Group Misty Springs Mobile Home Park Mt Hermon Community Center North Carolina Zoological Park

African American Cultural Arts & History Piedmont Triad Regional Council Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Saxapahaw Village Kids' Preschool Stormwater Smart Scott Community Health Clinic Sylvan Heights Bird Park Sylvan Ruritan Town of Elon - Recreation and Parks **Tucker Street Apartments** Walking Track at Graham Middle School Abundant Life Ministries Afro-American Historical and Age Friendly Alamance Alamance Chamber of Commerce Alamance Children's Theatre Alamance Community College Alamance County Beekeepers Alamance County Health Department Alamance Parks Alamance Partnership for Children Another Chance Treatment Center Becky Blaser (Paws for Reading) Beginning Visions Child Development Center **Benevolence Farm** Blessed Sacrament School Bridging Oceans International Daycare RCCG Restoration Church Bright Starz Learning Center Brookdale Senior Living **Burlington Animal Services Burlington Downtown Corporation** Burlington Fire Department **Burlington Housing Authority Burlington Rotary Club Burlington Sock Puppets Burlington Writers Club** Cedar Ridge Senior Living Children's Home Society of NC Children's Museum of Alamance County Christina Flaherty (Paws for Reading) Christmas Cheer

Elaine Murrin Elon First Baptist Church Elon University Eric Lane Front Street United Methodist Church The Gallery Players Hawbridge School Homeplace of Burlington Impact Alamance Iris Chapman It Takes a Village Project Jessica Embry Kernodle Senior Center Kidzu Children's Museum The Learning Center Marnie Shotwell Mary Widdis (Paws for Reading) Mebane Farmers Market NC African American Heritage Commission NC Department of Insurance NC Science Festival NC Symphony **Opportunity Alamance County** Government Paramount Theater Positive Attitude Youth Center Ralph Scott Lifeservices - Star Point Day Program Relay for Life River Mill Academy SAFE Food Pantry Salvation Army of Greensboro Saxapahaw/Haw River Ballroom Sheetz Shereá Burnette/Delta Sigma Theta **Burlington Alumnae Chapter** Slinky Kids Yoga Sockpuppets Studio 1 The Village at Brookwood Town of Green Level Triad Genealogy United Way of Alamance County

Huge thank you and appreciation to our library systems and librarians. Growing up, my mom brought us to the library all the time to participate in programming and borrow books. I'm so happy to continue those visits with my daughter. Whenever I pick up our latest haul of children's books my toddler says, "New books?! My new books!" and she gets so excited. We have to stop whatever we're doing so we can immediately start reading. We've also enjoyed the Zoom passes, and I've been happy to have a space to work in one of the study rooms when I need to leave the house.



Thank you for having public computers and laptops available. I am doing some online schooling starting in the Fall and did not know how I would tackle it not having a PC or a functional laptop at home.

Growing up my grandma used to take me to the library every weekend. I continue the tradition with my children. We are major book worms in our family.

While house hunting in Mebane I visited the library in such a beautiful old building. I checked the stacks to find all my favorite authors. Found I could also have books sent from the other branches. I believe the library sold me on the town.



VISITED THE LIBRARY ON SATURDAY WITH MY DAUGHTER AND GRANDSON. MY DAUGHTER WAS IN AWE OF THE YOUNG ADULT SECTION. SAID SHE WISHED SHE HAD THAT MANY SELECTIONS IN OUR HOMETOWN WHEN SHE WAS THAT AGE. KUDOS TO THE LIBRARY (AND LIBRARIANS) FOR MAKING IT A GREAT PLACE TO GET MANY BOOKS TO SELECT.

I HAD NO IDEA ZEN BOOTHS EXISTED, MUCH LESS WERE AVAILABLE RIGHT HERE. I'VE USED THE STUDY ROOMS TO TAKE PROCTORED EXAMS BEFORE, BUT THIS WILL BE MY GO-TO NEXT TIME! THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING THIS SERVICE!

Get Connected Our Social Media

www.facebook.com/AlamanceLibraries 5,752 Followers

www.instagram.com/alamancelibraries/ 1,798 Followers

ACPL

P

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Alamance County Public Libraries App 1,900 Users 19,557 Searches

Find us in your app store!

Android Users

iPhone Users



Alamance County Public Libraries The Alamance County Public Libraries have worked to build a community-based space for Alamance County.

We strive to provide an abundance of events and activities to our community members that bring them together through both education and enrichment. We are thankful for an amazing staff and supporters who help make all of this possible.

Thank you!



