



CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
16755 W. Vereda Solana Dr.
Surprise, AZ 85387
Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
Asante Library

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Staff Reports
- E. Library Commission Agenda:

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|--|---------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Library |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion on the Asante Library's performance and future direction and service enhancements. | Library |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion on Surprise Public Library databases. | Library |
- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
 - G. Current Events and Reports
 - H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Wednesday, April 1st, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission**

Council Meeting Date: April 9, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

Not applicable.

Objective Analysis:

Not applicable.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 031226 LAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-

**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Ave.
Surprise, Arizona 85374**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Surprise Regional Library

Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Desiree VanLoon, Vice Chair Tomasina DiCapo, Commission members Annie Ansell, Deborah Gentry and Mark McCall

Absent: Commission members Kady McCarthy and MaryAnne Riodique

Staff: Ashley Ware – City Librarian, Heather Donaldson and Sr. Management Analyst and Kelsey Lamphier – Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- Books & Baseball Month is upon us. Patrons are using their free tickets from Mayor's Literacy Challenge to go to some awesome spring training games. We have had specialty programs with baseball crafts and this weekend we have a person coming in to talk about baseball cards and trading! They donated over 6,000 cards to give out to patrons.
- Multigen has hit a slight snag and will be delaying the estimated open time from June/July to July/August.
- Out of the Park music festival is coming up and there is an offer released today for library patrons to use a special code BOOKSROCK for \$15 off! We love how Sports, Entertainment, and Culture support us in so many ways.
- We are searching for 2 new interns. They would be helping with the new processing and retro labeling projects.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the February 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the February 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner McCall 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion on Surprise Regional Library.

Kate Malstaff, Surprise Regional Library Branch Manager, provided the Commission with a presentation about the Surprise Regional Library which is the largest branch within the Surprise Public Library System. She addressed the following items:

- Building Updates
 - New automated material handler
 - New printer/copier
 - New furniture
 - Coming soon items
- Public Art
 - Vaya con Dios
 - The Learning Tree
 - Reflections of Surprise
 - The 5 C's of Arizona
- Staffing
- Volunteers
 - Adult volunteers
 - Teen volunteers
- Programs and Services

3. Presentation and discussion on Mayor's Literacy Challenge 2026 wrap up.

Tonya Stuempfl, Librarian, provided the Commission with a presentation about the Surprise Public Library System's 2026 Mayor's Literacy Challenge which is in its third year. She addressed the following items:

- Program history
- Yearly stats
- Prizes
- Partners

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Item

- Chair VanLoon proposed having a future agenda item to discuss Banned Books Week and possible ideas to promote Freedom to Read for next October. She also requested for an update on the Library of Things.

- Commissioner Gentry asked for a future agenda item to discuss the new system within the library. She also asked for an item to report about the Culture Passes with stats of how they are used, etc.
- Commissioner DiCapo asked if there could be signage around the City Campus advertising what items the Library has in the Library of Things. Commissioner Gentry asked if there has been a newspaper article advertising the Library of Things.

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner McCall asked for clarification of an e-mail the Commission received from Arts & Culture regarding The Vista event.

H. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 6:47 pm – Vice Chair DiCappo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gentry 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Desiree VanLoon, Chair
ATTEST:	<hr/> Heather Donaldson, Sr. Management Analyst

CERTIFICATION:

I, Ashley Ware, City Librarian for the City of Surprise Library Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Library Advisory Commission meeting held on March 12, 2026.

	<hr/> Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: April 9, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion on the Asante Library's performance and future direction and service enhancements.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

Asante Library is part of the City of Surprise library system and was developed to expand service coverage in response to residential growth in the area. The facility was designed with modern library concepts in mind, incorporating spaces for individual study, group collaboration, and community programming, as well as access to computers and digital resources.

Since its opening, the library has served as both an information resource and a community gathering space. Its location within a rapidly developing area positions it to play an important role in supporting new residents, families, and students. The library contributes to systemwide goals of promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and community connection.

As the community continues to evolve, the library must adapt to changing demographics and service demands. Ongoing review of usage patterns, community feedback, and operational needs will help ensure that the facility remains responsive and effective. This agenda item provides an opportunity to share updates on the library's performance and engage in discussion about future directions and service enhancements.

Objective Analysis:

Asante Library is a key component of the Surprise Public Library system, designed to serve a growing population in the northern portion of the city. As a newer facility, the library reflects updated service models that emphasize flexible spaces, technology access, and community-driven programming. Evaluating its current operations provides an opportunity to assess how effectively the facility meets

community needs and aligns with broader library system goals.

Key areas for consideration include facility usage trends, program attendance, technology utilization, and community engagement. As the surrounding area continues to develop, demand for library services may increase, requiring ongoing assessment of staffing, collections, and space allocation. Additionally, understanding how patrons use the building—whether for study, collaboration, digital access, or programming—can inform future service planning.

The presentation may also address operational strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth. Topics could include partnerships, outreach efforts, and the integration of innovative services. Discussion may focus on identifying priorities for sustaining high-quality service, adapting to changing community expectations, and ensuring equitable access to resources.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Asante Library Presentation April 2026
-

ASANTE LIBRARY

April 9, 2026

TALKING POINTS



- Staff Updates
- Community Engagement
- Building

ASANTE TEAM

MEET THE ASANTE TEAM

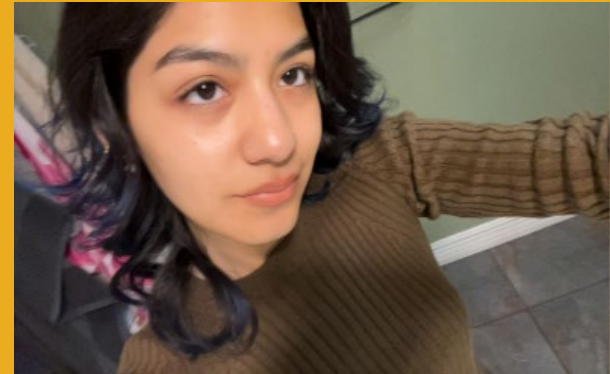


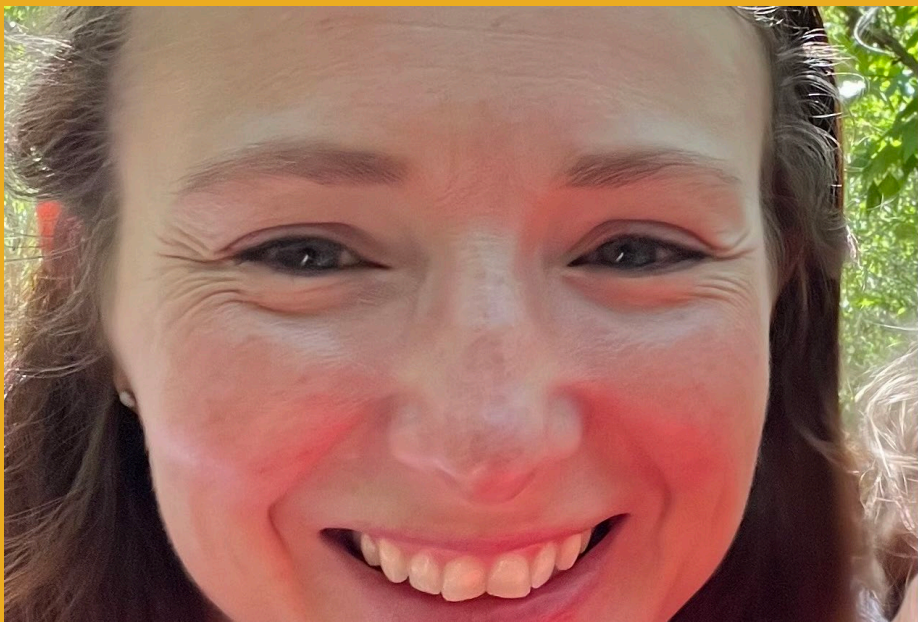
- 6 FT/2 PT
- Lizette/PT Library Aide to FT Library Assistant (Oct)
- Bella (Sept) & Breanna (Dec)

ASANTE TEAM

- Volunteers- 5 Teens & 8 Adults (Mon-Sat)
 - Summer Interns & Volunteers
 - Kathy, Nicole, & Tonya, Ash, & Kelsey
-
- 2025 = 102 volunteers, 786 hours, \$21,936.00

BELLA





BREANNA

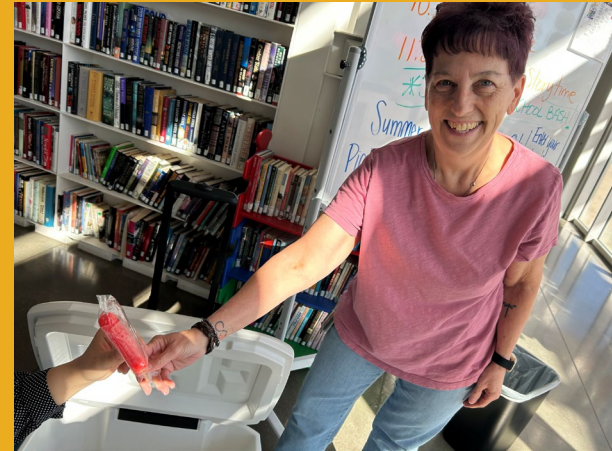
LIZETTE



MIKAELA

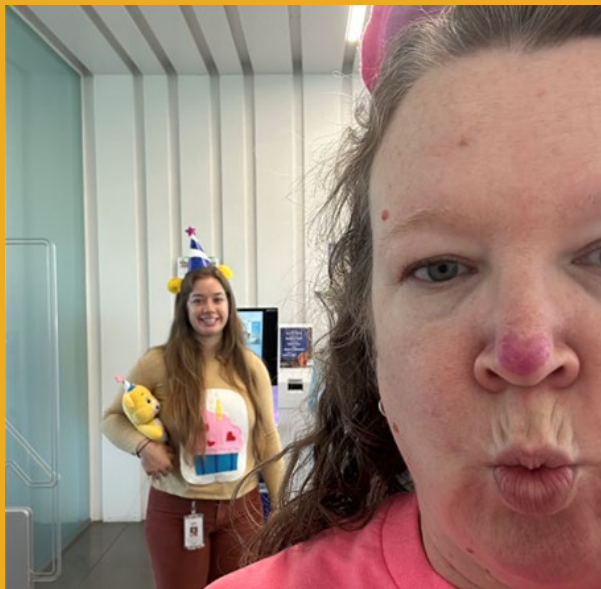


WENDY



RACHEL





JAMIE

OUR TEAM



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PATRON EXPERIENCE



- 55-65 programs/month
- 450-600/month passive programs
- 5000-7000 patrons/month

- Gate Count increased by **58%** since 2023
 - 43,498 in 2023
 - 57,347 in 2024
 - 68,490 in 2025

- Library Card Count increased by **112%** since 2023
 - 2419 in 2023
 - 5126 as of 03/26/26

- Comment Box-(patron suggestions)
- Continuous Program Feedback (surveys)
- Staff Book Clubs (professional development)

STORYTIMES

- Baby Time
 - (2x/week or 8-10x/month)
- Toddler Time
 - (3x/week or 12-15x/month)
- Preschool Storytime
 - (1x/week or 4-5x/month)
- Bilingual Storytime
 - (2x/month)
- Saturday Storytime & Art
 - (2x/month)



UNIQUE PROGRAMS



- Master Gardener* (UofA Co-op)
- Tale Trail
- MLC kick off event
- Paint n Chat
- Chair Yoga/Zumba*
- Bailey the Book Dog
- Howl-o-ween
- Gamer's Lounge
- Back to School Bash
- Star Parties
- Homeschool Hangout*



PROGRAMS



MORE PROGRAMS



EVEN MORE PROGRAMS



PILOT PROGRAMS

- Seed Library
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Shelf Talkers
- Interfiling/Re-cataloging



City of Surprise Library Department



Days to Emerge:
15 – 30 Days
Seed Depth:
½"
Seed Spacing:
A group of seeds every 12"
Thinning:
Thin to 8" – 18" apart, once the plant has grown four leaves
Maturity:
65 -75 Days

Spinach
Days to Emerge:
5 – 10 Days
Seed Depth:
½"
Seed Spacing:
¾"
Thinning:
Not Necessary
Maturity:
25 – 60 Days

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



- Asante Prep Elementary School K-5
 - School tours - 9 tours/576 kindergarten & first graders
 - Literacy Night Outreach
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Imagine, Design, Create Evening (STEM)
 - Gifted Teacher E-resource Informational
 - Shark Tank Project - *upcoming*
 - Library card sign-up month
- Desert Oasis Elementary School K-8 – School Fair
- Paradise Honors High School – gamers



TOURS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



- Asante Heritage 55 plus community
- The Grand – tech club
- West Valley Astronomy Club – telescopes & star parties
- Various City-wide Events
- Girl Scouts



GIRL SCOUTS

CITY DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIPS



- Sports, Entertainment & Culture (SEC)
 - Two-year art installation
 - Speaker Series
 - Live @Asante
 - 3rd Thursdays 6-8pm Sept-May
- Human Services & Community Vitality (HSCV)
 - Tv, flyers, programs, etc.
 - donated seeds to HSCV for programming
- Water Resource Management (WRM)
 - free seeds from Water Resource Management
- D1 Community Events
 - Every other month meetings
- Police Department Storytimes
- Fire Department Storytimes



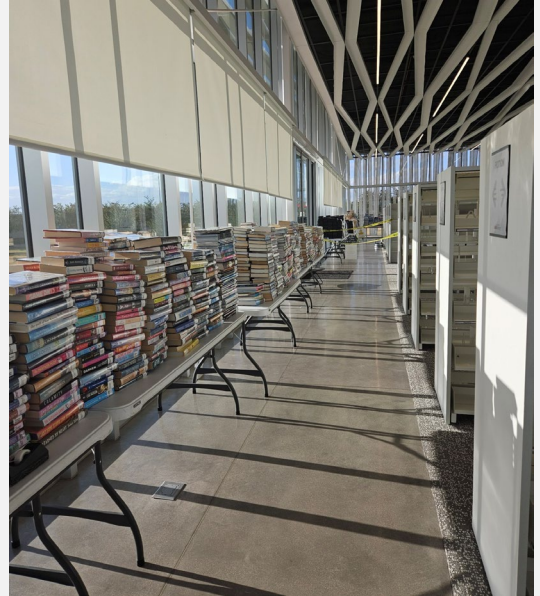
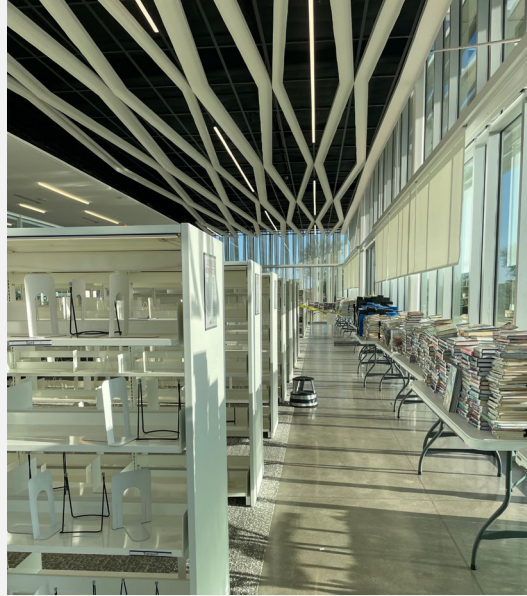
PARTNERSHIPS

BUILDING UPDATES

Building



- Heat relief station
- NEW:
 - carpet
 - blinds
 - kids' area
 - teen area
 - toys, furniture, book trucks



NEW CARPET 36,000 items moved



MONTHLY DISPLAYS



DISPLAYS



INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS



Thank you...
Bambi, Branch Manager





surprisepubliclibrary.gov

library@surpriseaz.gov





CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: April 9, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion on Surprise Public Library databases.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

The Surprise Public Library offers a variety of online databases covering topics such as academic research, career development, test preparation, genealogy, and consumer information. Many of these databases are made available through partnerships with the Arizona State Library, which helps reduce costs and expand access to high-quality resources for local residents.

These partnerships enable the library to provide statewide resources, ensuring that patrons benefit from shared investments and coordinated services across Arizona's library system. In addition to state-supported databases, the library may also subscribe to select resources directly to address specific community interests or service gaps.

Despite the breadth of offerings, database usage can be impacted by factors such as public awareness, ease of access, and perceived relevance. Libraries nationwide continue to assess how best to promote digital resources and integrate them into programming and services.

This agenda item is intended to inform the Library Advisory Commission about current database offerings, highlight the role of state partnerships, and facilitate discussion on future priorities, potential enhancements, and strategies to maximize community benefit.

Objective Analysis:

The Surprise Public Library provides access to a range of digital databases intended to support education, workforce development, lifelong learning, and general information needs for the community. These resources include research tools, educational platforms, and specialized content that may not otherwise be freely available to residents. Usage levels, awareness, and accessibility of these databases

vary, and ongoing evaluation is necessary to ensure alignment with community needs and strategic priorities.

Key considerations include the cost-effectiveness of database subscriptions, the extent to which current offerings meet patron demand, and opportunities to improve visibility and usage. Additionally, evolving trends in digital information consumption, remote access expectations, and competition from freely available online resources may influence how patrons engage with library databases. Identifying gaps in service, potential redundancies, and emerging resource needs will support informed decision-making.

The presentation will provide an overview of available databases, usage data (if applicable), and examples of how these resources are utilized by patrons. The discussion may also explore outreach strategies, staff training, and potential adjustments to the current portfolio of database offerings.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Databases_Commission_Presentation_4.9.26
-

Online Resources & Databases

Nicole Hadenfeldt

Technical Services Librarian

April 9, 2026

1. How much do they cost?
 - Free
 - Based on usage/cost of license
 - Annual fee
2. Who is paying for it?
 - City funded
 - County/State funded
 - Free
3. Demo and Testing
4. Does it need to be reviewed by Legal, IT and Security?
 - Does this resources collect PPI?
 - How secure is this resource?
 - Are there terms or an agreement they want us to sign?

Ancestry

- In Library Use only
 - Uses IP address to allow access
- Free access allows them access to do
 - Census searches
 - Vital records searches
 - Military searches
 - Immigration searches
 - City directory searches
 - More!

5,790 searches since July 2023

ancestryLibrary



Data Axle (formerly ReferenceUSA)



U.S. Businesses

119 Million Businesses
4.8 Million Closed Businesses

[SEARCH](#) | [MORE INFORMATION](#)

Canadian Businesses

2.7 Million Businesses

U.S. Healthcare

3.0 Million Physicians & Dentists

U.S. Consumers / Lifestyles

324 Million Individuals

U.S. New Movers / Homeowners

9.9 Million Records

U.S. Historical Businesses

346 Million Historical Records

U.S. New Businesses

2.1 Million New Businesses

U.S. Standard White Pages

160 Million Residents

Canadian White Pages

12 Million Individuals

Universal Search

Simultaneously search businesses and consumers

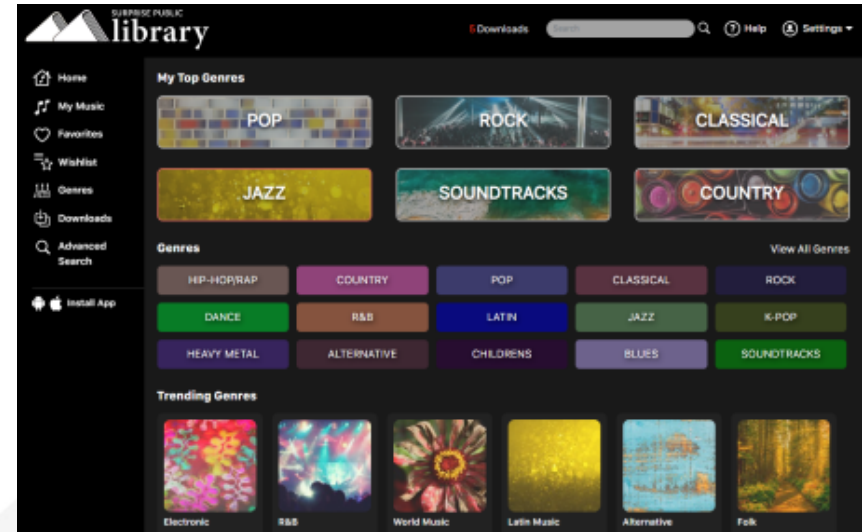
- Database of Business Profiles
- A tool for entrepreneurs, researchers, and job seekers to conduct market research, find sales leads, and analyze competition.

Freegal Music

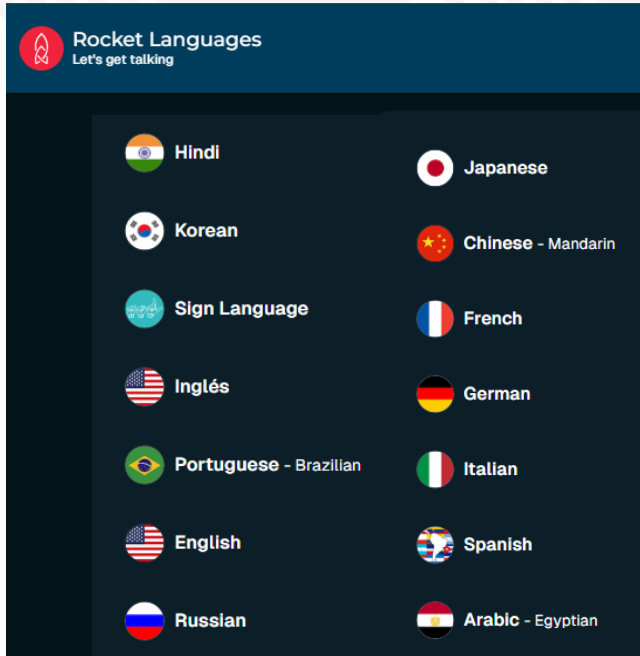


- 5 downloads a month - 60 songs a YEAR!
 - Average cost of a newer song - \$0.99 to \$1.29
 - Average cost of older songs - \$0.69
 - Low end savings is \$41.40/year
 - High end savings is \$77.40/year
- Search by trending, genre, artist,
- Create a Wishlist

Since July 2023 – 4,677 songs downloaded



Rocket Languages



- Language Learning Platform
- Learn from beginner to conversational in 14 languages!
- Top used languages
 - Spanish
 - French
 - Chinese
 - German

Novelist Plus & Novelist K-8 Plus



- Book Discover Database
- Great for personalized readers advisory
 - Discover Read-alikes
 - Search by appeal factors, genre, themes, subject, time, and place
 - See award winner information
 - Find book club suggestions
 - Research books in a series
 - (K-8) Great lists for kids!



Wowbrary



- Weekly email newsletter
 - New and coming soon items
 - Direct links so patrons can place holds
- Since July 2023 – 68,208 Page Views
 - 9,991 clicks into catalog
 - Top Pages
 - Top Choices
 - DVDs
 - Mysteries & Thrillers
 - Literature & Fiction
 - Romance

Comics Plus



- Digital Collection of Manga, Graphic Novels, and Comics
 - No checkout limits
 - Great for the quick reading kids and teens
 - No waiting on holds!



Creative Bug



- Craft Classes
 - Yarn, Sewing, Quilting, Needlework, Art & Design, Paper, Kids & Teens, Holiday & Party, Jewelry, Food & Home
- Patterns and Printables
- Live events with instructor led workshops

Reading Arizona – Libby App



- Reading Arizona is a selection of nonfiction and fiction eBooks and Audiobooks for all ages interested in Arizona topics and themes.
- This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Accessible with any AZ library card!



Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center

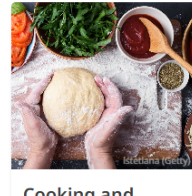
- A collection periodicals, books and videos in various hobby & craft topics



Arts and Crafts



Collecting



Cooking and Baking



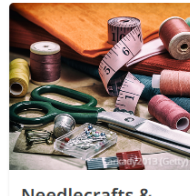
Holiday Crafts



Home and Garden



Indoor Recreation



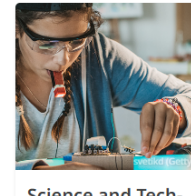
Needlecrafts & Textiles



Outdoor Recreation



Performing Arts



Science and Technology

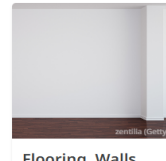
Home Improvement Reference Center



○ A collection of periodicals, books, and videos in various home improvement topics



Electrical



Flooring, Walls and Ceilings



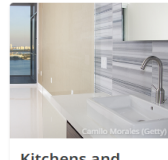
Gardening



Green Design



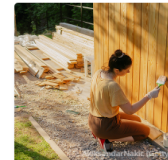
Interiors and Design



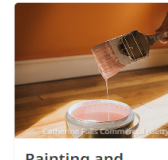
Kitchens and Bathrooms



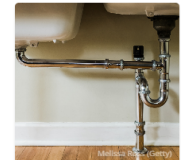
Maintenance



Outdoor



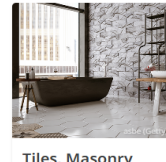
Painting and Decorating



Plumbing



Remodeling



Tiles, Masonry and Stonework



Vacation Homes



Woodworking



Workshop Reference

Britannica Library & Escolar



- Comprehensive, trusted online reference database
- Access to articles, multimedia, and primary sources
- Age-appropriate interfaces (Children, Young Adults, and Reference Center)
- Daily updates, built-in study tools, Merriam-Webster dictionary, and safe search capabilities

Gale Databases



- **Academic Onefile**
 - Full-text articles from scholarly journals, newspapers, and magazines
 - Perfect for accessing peer-reviewed, authoritative content across various disciplines like science, technology, medicine, and social sciences

- **Biography in Context**
 - Authoritative biographical

information on over 600,000 historical and contemporary figures worldwide

- **Books & Authors**

- Reader's advisory and literature database

- **Chilton Library**

- Step-by-step vehicle maintenance and repair information for thousands of vehicles from 1940 to the present

Gale Databases



- **Gale Elementary**

- A safe, kid-friendly digital resource designed for K-5 students to practice research skills and find curriculum-related information.

- **Gale High School**

- An authoritative digital database offering comprehensive, standards-aligned content for grades 9-12, including academic journals, magazines,

newspapers, videos, and multimedia on subjects like history, science, and literature.

- **Gale Power Search**

- A cross-search platform to discover across multiple Gale databases simultaneously. It acts as a one-stop, multidisciplinary research tool designed for students, educators, and researchers to find credible content quickly.

Gale Databases



- **General Onefile**
 - Offers a broad, user-friendly, and authoritative resource for researchers looking for quick information on a wide range of subjects.
- **Global Issues in Context**
 - Provides international perspectives on social, political, military, economic, environmental, and health issues.
- **Legal Forms**
 - Provides thousands of customizable, state-specific, and federal legal documents for common procedures like wills, real estate contracts, and divorce.
- **Literature Resource Center**
 - Offers full-text literary analysis, author biographies, and reviews on over 130,000 authors from all time periods.

Gale Databases



- **Onefile: News**
 - Offers access to over 2,300 major U.S. and international newspapers, including The New York Times and The Times (London), as well as over 400 newswires and broadcast transcripts.
- **Opposing Viewpoints**
 - Provides resources on pro/con viewpoints of controversial social issues that enables users to analyze multiple perspectives for persuasive essays and debates.
- **Peterson's Career Prep**
 - Current practice materials for a wide variety of tests ranging from high school through graduate level, such as AP, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT and MAT tests. It includes Pearson's test preparation books, interactive practice tests, and other review materials.
- **Peterson's Test & Career Prep**
 - Search thousands of college and graduate schools, identify scholarships, take practice tests, create resumes, and explore careers.
- **Science in Context**
 - Provides contextual information on hundreds of significant science topics.

Gale Databases



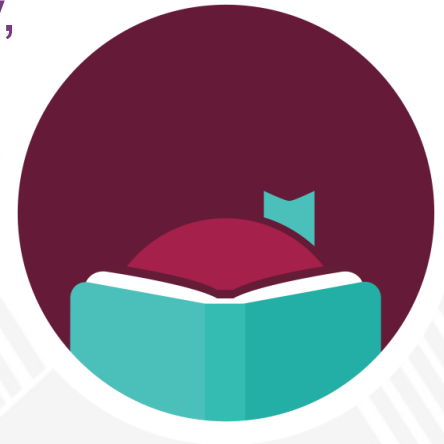
- **Scribner Writer Series**
 - Literary criticism of the works of important authors from around the world and from all time periods.
- **Twayne's Author Series**
 - Critical introductions to the lives and works of hundreds of major world, US, and English authors. It includes the full text of over 600 books from the Twayne print series.
- **U.S. History in Context**
 - Provides authoritative, curated information on significant people, events, and topics in U.S. history from pre-colonial times to the present.
- **World History in Context**
 - Provides academic journals, primary sources, biographies, and multimedia covering global history from ancient times to modern days. It helps users analyze events and cultures, making it ideal for research and school curriculum projects.

Libby

Southwest Valley Library Consortium



- Highest Digital Circulation – average 20,000 a month
- Custom curation of licenses by our librarians
- Shared with Buckeye, Tolleson, La Paz County, Parker, and Quartzsite
- Access to 10 partner libraries to share under-utilized materials
 - Increased access to patrons in quantity and availability



Hoopla



- Subscription Based – books, audiobooks, shows, movies, music!
 - Over 1 million titles available
 - No holds necessary
 - 10 borrows a month
 - Bonus borrows last week of the month
 - SPL Avg cost per circ \$1.95
 - All Hoopla Avg cost per circ \$2.20



Free Resources



- **Drive Testing**
 - MVD Practice Test and Guide
- **Medline Plus (Eng & Spa)**
 - Health Information from National Library of Medicine (NLM) by NIH
- **Khan Academy**
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing free, high-quality online education through instructional videos, practice exercises, and personalized learning tools.



surprisepubliclibrary.gov
library@surpriseaz.gov

