



## STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

**Diane McDonnell**  
County Library Director

1500 "I" Street, Modesto, CA 95354  
209.558.7801 Fax: 209.529.4779  
[www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org)

### *Stanislaus County Library Fact Sheet*

- **Mission: To foster the love of reading and open the door to knowledge.**
- Libraries are located throughout Stanislaus County in Ceres, Denair, Empire, Hughson, Keyes, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Salida, Turlock and Waterford. Each Library branch has a Friends of the Library group that advocates for and raises funds for their particular branch. The Stanislaus Library Foundation raises funds for key programs, benefitting people on a countywide basis.
- The Library Administration Office is located at the Modesto Library, 1500 I Street. 209-558-7801.
- The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors appoints the County Library Director. The County Library Director develops the annual budget and presents it to the Board of Supervisors for adoption each spring. The county operates on a July through June fiscal calendar. County Library Director Diane McDonnell was appointed in June 2014.
- Members of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors are:
  - District 1: William O'Brien
  - District 2: Vito Chiesa
  - District 3: Terry Withrow
  - District 4: Dick Monteith
  - District 5: Jim DeMartini
- The Library Advisory Board acts in an advisory role to the Board of Supervisors and the County Library Director. Members of the Library Advisory Board are:

Sheridan Beuving	Dorothy Finnegan
Sue Henderson	Lise Talbott
Josh Vander Veen, Chair	
- Stanislaus County Library is funded primarily (89%) through a 1/8-cent special sales tax, which expires in June 2018. Other revenue comes from the county, grants, fines/fees, the Stanislaus Library Foundation and Friends of the Library.
- Collection totals more than 644,000 items, including books, large print books, libros in español, books on tape/CD, classic and popular movies and educational DVDs, magazines, and newspapers. Annual circulation is nearly 2 million items.
- eBooks are offered through the Bibliotheca's Cloud Library. Search for "Cloud Library" in the App or Play Store. Customers can also check out eBooks through a PC or Mac application and transfer to a mobile device.
- eMagazines are offered through Zinio. Customers can get instant access to more 50 magazine titles through the Zinio mobile app.

- Downloadable audiobooks, movies, TV shows, music, comics and eBooks are offered through the Hoopla app.
- Video tutorials about downloading and using the Cloud Library, Zinio and Hoopla apps are available online at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org)
- Customers can learn new languages, including English as a Second Language, through the Mango Languages app. Online instruction is available in more than 60 languages.
- Electronic resources available at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org) include:  
(A library card is required to access these resources from outside the library.)
  - General One File – 98 million magazine and newspaper articles published 1980 to the present day.
  - Chilton Library – car repair manuals for most cars produced in the last 30 years.
  - Biography in Context – more than 300,000 biographies on 200,000 people.
  - Opposing Viewpoints in Context – pro and con arguments on various social issues.
  - Social Studies Fact Cards – basic social studies facts on California, designed for grades 4 through 8.
  - Career Transitions – self-paced program to guide users in preparation & employment application process.
  - Testing & Education Reference Center – search thousands of college and graduate school entries, identify scholarships, take online practice tests and use test prep eBooks.
  - Reference USA – a nationwide database of businesses.
  - Legal Forms – access to state specific legal documents for topics such as divorce, real estate & small claims.
  - Specialty databases on topics such as home improvement, health, agriculture, arts & music.
- The Foundation Center databases are searchable from within the Modesto Library. These databases provide information about grants and grantors for non-profit organizations and individuals.
- California Driver Manuals and practice tests are available through the library website to help customers prepare for the DMV test.
- Cardholders may check out and return materials at any Stanislaus County Library. Materials may also be transported between branches for more convenient customer pickup.
- Energy meters, provided by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, are available for checkout at all county libraries. Energy meters can be used to calculate the usage and cost of running household appliances, which can help consumers find ways to reduce their monthly energy bills.
- Weekly Story Times and special programs for children offered at all branches, promoting early literacy and a love of learning. Teen programs are also offered.
- Customers can search the library catalog, place holds on materials, renew items and apply for a library card at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org).
- Customers can enjoy the convenience of paying library fines and fees online with a credit card, with a secure online payment option at [stanislauslibrary.org](http://stanislauslibrary.org)
- A mobile library app is also available – look for “SCFL mobile” in the App or Play Store, or use the QR code. Customers can search the catalog and request titles, view their accounts, ask a question, view events calendars and connect with the library using popular social media.
- Informational programs are offered for adults on topics such as the naturalization process, estate planning, couponing and more.



- A Passport Application Acceptance service is available at the Modesto Library and the Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library by appointment Monday through Thursday and Saturday.
- Veterans can access information and benefits assistance through Veterans Connect @ the Library, a veterans' resource center located at the Modesto Library.
- Customers can enjoy an online exhibit highlighting materials related to Modesto's fascinating American Graffiti history.
- Customers can learn more about the experiences of veterans through the visual expression of tattoos by viewing the online exhibit, War Ink, available at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org)
- Home Delivery Service utilizes volunteers to select and deliver library materials to those who are physically unable to visit the library. Home Delivery Service was nationally recognized with an "Acts of Caring" Award, presented by the National Association of Counties. For more information, call 209-558-7817.
- The Library partners with LearningQuest – Stanislaus Literacy Centers, to train and match volunteer tutors with adults who need help with their reading and writing. For details call 209-558-4505.
- The library partners with the Stanislaus Community Foundation, Stanislaus County Office of Education, and the Children and Families Commission on the Stanislaus READS! Initiative. Stanislaus READS! aims to improve reading proficiency by Third Grade, the point at which children are no longer *learning to read*, but *reading to learn*.
- Book Club in a Box provides sets of popular titles, many with discussion guides. Book Club in a Box is available for use by all local book clubs, with individual check-out periods based on each club's meeting schedule. For more information, contact the Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library at 209-543-7353.
- Teen book clubs are offered as a reward for good behavior for youth at Stanislaus County's juvenile detention facilities. Utilizing the Book Club in a Box concept, these materials are also available for checkout by the public.
- Traveling Tales, a program originally created through a grant from the Children and Families Commission, provides storytelling kits to daycare providers and preschools throughout Stanislaus County. For details, call 209-558-7810.
- A pop-up library is offered at the WIC (Women, Infants and Children nutrition program) office on Hackett Rd. twice a week. Families can browse and check out children's books, obtain library cards, and hear stories read by bilingual library staff.

## *History of the Stanislaus County Library System*

- Small reading rooms and shared book collections existed in various towns around the county in the late 1800s. In October of 1911, the county library was established.
- On April 29, 1912 the McHenry Library was completed and it officially opened to the public on May 1, 1912, with eight-year-old Merl McHenry checking out the first book. Merl McHenry was the son of Oramil McHenry, the banker who bequeathed \$20,000 in 1906 to build a public library at 14<sup>th</sup> and I Streets in Modesto.
- The Ceres Library was the first to join the Stanislaus County Library System in 1912.
- Over the next several years, other cities joined the library system, including Turlock, Oakdale, Patterson and Riverbank, all of which were awarded grants from the Carnegie Foundation to build their libraries. Eventually, several small neighborhood libraries were located throughout Modesto. At one time, the county system had more than 20 library branches. Today, there are 13 branches located in: Ceres, Denair, Empire, Hughson, Keyes, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Salida, Turlock and Waterford.
- The first County Librarian was Miss Cornelia Provines, followed by Miss Bessie Silverthorn, from 1920 to 1951, the year the first Bookmobile was purchased. Frederick Kidder was County Librarian for a short time in 1952. In November 1954, Carl Hamilton was appointed County Librarian, followed by Martin Erlich, in 1965. In 1967, Oscar Smaalders was appointed and led the community and staff through a building project, the current Modesto Library, which opened in 1971. Judy West Ferreira became County Librarian in 1982. Upon Ferreira's retirement in 1993, Starrett Kreissman was appointed County Librarian. Denise Peterson became County Librarian in 1999. In December of 2001, Vanessa Czopek, was appointed County Librarian. The current County Librarian, Diane McDonnell, was appointed in June 2014.
- Stanislaus County Libraries have always embraced new technologies. In the late 1980s, the old card catalog was replaced by the county's first computerized catalog system. By the mid-1990s, the library began to offer information in electronic formats, such as databases and a web site. The library was among the first county departments to offer an interactive web site, and now offers free computer/Internet access, free wireless Internet access and many eResources, including eBooks, eMagazines, downloadable audiobooks, movies, TV shows and music. Customers may access their accounts through the library's mobile app and an online language learning program is also offered.