

Why are libraries and library services important in our community today?

The library provides service equally to all people, regardless of age, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, income level, or physical ability. Library staff members not only purchase, store and loan traditional library materials, they assist with online job searches, teach the use of new technologies, provide social and educational opportunities for children and teens, and provide the only *free* space where everyone in a community can continue their education, create and collaborate. Libraries are places of information and enrichment. They build community, help communities cope with the unexpected in times of crisis, as seen throughout the pandemic. They give children and adults the resources to survive and thrive in a global society.