On the Horizon:
The Kern County Library Celebrates Successes & Reopenings
A Year of Success at the Library

**JANUARY 2021**
Released the Job Seeker Toolkit & Supported Job Seekers in the Evolving Post-COVID Economy.

To aid Kern residents and support the California State Library’s workforce efforts, the Kern County Library launched an online toolkit to support job seekers, released multiple resources (including online resume support), supported job seekers with one-on-one appointments, added titles to the Kern County Library’s collection, and connected with both JobFest and Employers’ Training Resource to make community job alerts available to Library visitors.

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**NOVEMBER 2020**
Launched Wireless Printing Services.

With the support of the Kern County Library Foundation, the Library launched wireless printing services, making it possible to enjoy contactless service at a low cost. Print jobs can be submitted via a smartphone, online from a computer, or through email.

**MAY 2021**
Launched 2021 Story Tours.

To reach more residents, the Library teamed up with Community Action Partnership of Kern to bring the Bookmobile to areas affected by a lack of library services, particularly during the pandemic. The Bookmobile visited West Kern, Bakersfield, and East Kern, and specifically stopped at closed library facilities on a weekly basis.

**AUGUST 2021**
Expanded Lunch at the Library Beyond Summer with the Snacks in the Stacks Program.

To support food insecurity in Kern County, the Library expanded Lunch at the Library beyond June and July, offering both Grab-N-Go Lunches throughout the year and launching Snacks in the Stacks, a program that focuses on after-school support offering dinner and snacks to children ages 2-18.

**Kern County Library’s FY20-21 Statistics**
- **Total Materials Checked Out**: 538,300+
  - Made Possible with the eLibrary & Curbside Services
- **Awarded Grants for Special Projects**: $214,800+
  - (Does not include donations)
- **Donations**: $351,600+
- **Checkouts to Seniors Through Meals on Wheels**: 600+
- **In-Person & Virtually Events Offered**: 6,500+
- **Customers Assisted Via Phone**: 21,900+
- **Virtual Book Cafes Attended**: 650+
- **Customers Assisted Via Email**: 2,300+
- **In-Person & Virtually Events Offered**: 2021
- **Customers Assisted Via Phone**: 6,500+
- **Virtual Book Cafes Attended**: 650+

**kerncountylibrary.org/job-seeker-toolkit**

**kerncountylibrary.org/wireless-printing**

**kerncountylibrary.org/lunch-at-the-library**

**kerncountylibrary.org/lunch-at-the-library**
Impact Report

66,100+
Meals Served
April - December 2021

2,388,400+
 Reached on Social Media
FY20-21

290,300+
Participants in Events In-Person & Virtually
FY20-21

2,400+ read 18 books or for 19 hours
439,000+ minutes spent reading in the Summer
51,000+ books read over the Summer

5,900+
Books Given to Families to Build Their At-Home Libraries
2021

5,100+
Signups for the Summer Reading Challenge
June-July 2021

5,100+
Participants in Events In-Person & Virtually
FY20-21

With the support of the Kern County Library Foundation, the Library is now supporting parents and caregivers in emphasizing the importance of literacy and jumpstarting a child’s lifelong success from day one. With the 1,000 Books program, adults are encouraged to read 1,000 books with their child before they reach kindergarten; along the way, children win milestone achievement prizes, including a FREE lanyard and library card holder, benchmark buttons, and an award certificate. By reading together, family members participate in a wonderful opportunity to connect and spend time together, as well as instill a love of reading.

Contactless service just got easier with Book a Book! Library visitors no longer need to register to pick up materials or set up an appointment. This curbside, contactless service keeps our communities safe and is incredibly convenient. View your available holds through the Library’s ValleyCat app and simply let us know that you’re on your way. When you arrive, we’ll get your materials to you conveniently and quickly.

Currently, 18 of the Kern County Library’s 22 branches are open without restrictions following California Public Health’s mask mandate. Since inception, the program has connected over 600 residents with 2,300+ titles. It has allowed the Library to expand its collection through a user-driven approach, matching collection development to the needs of the community. Can’t find a title? Then we recommend using Zip Books!

Visit kernlibrary.org to view a list of all our currently open locations.

We’re expanding our current locations!

BOOK a BOOK

Read, return, and repeat with the Zip Books program! Originally launched as a pilot project, the Zip Books program quickly became a popular, FREE alternative to interlibrary loan (ILL). Library card holders in good standing can get speedy access to materials not in the Kern County Library’s collection; requested books are shipped directly to your home. Since inception, the program has connected over 600 residents with 2,300+ titles. It has allowed the Library to expand its collection through a user-driven approach, matching collection development to the needs of the community. Can’t find a title? Then we recommend using Zip Books!

We’re BACK!

JANUARY 2022
Launched the Book a Book Service.

JANUARY 2022
Zip Books Returns.

JANUARY 2022
Launched the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

OCTOBER 2021
Reopened the Buttonwillow Branch Library.

September 2021
Launched the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

October 2021
Reopened the Buttonwillow Branch Library.

January 2022
Reopened 5 Branches and Expanded Hours at 4 Branches.
## Most Popular Materials of 2021

### Picture Books
- The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson
- Change Sings by Amanda Gorman
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Stacey’s Extraordinary Words by Stacey Abrams

### Juvenile Fiction
- Dog Man: Mothering Heights by Dav Pilkey
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot by Jeff Kinney

### Adult Fiction
- The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner
- A Court of Silver Flames by Sarah J. Maas
- Dune by Frank Herbert
- The Duke & I by Julia Quinn
- Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone by Sigrid Gudanowski
- The President’s Daughter by Bill Clinton & James Patterson

### Adult Nonfiction
- Atomic Habits by James Clear
- American Marxism by Mark R. Levin
- The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
- A Promised Land by Barak Obama

### Audiobooks
- Anthropocene Reviewed by Bill Gates
- The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- Olga Dies Dreaming by Xochitl Gonzalez
- How High We Go in the Dark by Sequoia Nagamatsu
- 30 Things I Love About Myself by Radhika Sanghani

### Teen Fiction
- Lore by Ricardo Rodent
- Firekeeper’s Daughter by Angeline Boulley

### Large Print
- State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton & Louise Penny
- Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr
- The Sentence by Louise Erdrich
- Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

### eBooks
- Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir
- Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman

### eAudiobooks
- The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
- Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead

### DVDs
- Wonder Woman 1984
- Cloud Cuckoo Land
- The Sentence
- Klara and the Sun
- Project Hail Mary
A Message From Your Kern County Librarian

Happy 2022 Kern County!

Throughout 2021, the Library experienced changes and challenges as did other organizations. Over the past year, our talented library team has planned creative programs for families across the county as well as refreshing our print and digital collections to ensure residents have ample reads to discover. We are continuing to offer in-person events and activities for all ages and our residents are responding by attending our programs, checking out titles, and asking for assistance or guidance from our expert staff.

One of our success highlights from last year was the launch of our Book Talk Bakersfield podcast which is a great avenue to share news, information, connect residents to authors, promote programs and services, and introduce library staff to the public. We also implemented mobile wireless printing curbside for residents which has proved to be a convenient and popular option for customers. The Library partnered with Aging & Adult Services to bring library materials to homebound seniors for Meals on Wheels clients in the Bakersfield, Lake Isabella, and Ridgecrest areas to help ease isolation and boredom during the pandemic. Being able to assist the public through phone and email during the pandemic and helping to connect residents to their accounts, book recommendations, and digital reading platforms proved to be beneficial for County residents. We received calls and emails, and are glad the public trusted us to assist them through the phone and online during the pandemic.

The messages of kindness and appreciation from our visitors throughout the pandemic encouraged staff to continue to provide the best library experience possible through our programs, collections, and services. Our calling has always been to provide our residents with high-quality free programs and services and we welcome your ideas for how the Library can continue to be responsive and relevant.

We are in the midst of planning many exciting projects in 2022, so be on the lookout for all the new activities and programs to come. Drop in and visit your library branch to see all the wonderful activities and resources available. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Stop by and say hello.

Sincerely,

Andie Sullivan
Director of Kern County Libraries