

Trustee Report
Manske Library Board
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Regional model is under consideration for the Dallas Public Library System

Dallas is considering a new regional model for libraries and preserving neighborhood library branches after five neighborhood libraries were on the chopping block. The model would still rely on the Central Library as the base institution while creating Regional Flagship facilities out of the most frequented libraries. The model would allow all neighborhood libraries to remain open with adjusted schedules and create access for all citizens via the regional flagship libraries. The city council responded to a resounding public outcry to preserve the library system that serves neighborhoods. The five libraries that were proposed to close will remain open at least in the near future.

[Dallas is saving all its libraries — for now](#)

Library Use is on the Rise with Schools Implementing Cell Phone Bans

DISD public school libraries observed a phenomenal increase in use and book circulation within the first few weeks of the 2025-26 school year. Students are checking out books in large numbers. District-wide book circulation is up by 100,000 over the 2024-25 school year. Libraries have become a hangout place for students before and after school, since their cellphones are not their main way of connecting with other students. Hillcrest High School saw an increase in checkouts over last year, when numbers doubled in the first three weeks of school over last year. E.D. Walker Middle School has experienced an 89% increase in book checkouts. That is amazing for a middle school.

[Texas cellphone ban is leading Dallas kids back to the library](#)

Public Libraries and Airports Partner to Ease the Layover Blues

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and the Kenton County KY Library system have created small libraries in the airport for passengers to enjoy books during delays or layovers. Those with a Kenton County library card can check out books to enjoy on their trips.

The Houston Public Library has placed A Booklink kiosk outside of the security check area that resembles an Amazon locker. The kiosk has 5 shelves of books for checkout. Those with Houston Public Library cards can check out books with their card and a PIN. Books can be returned to branch libraries or the airport on their return flight.

Chattanooga, Tennessee, has a SkyLib at the airport that consists of donated books from the Chattanooga Public Library Foundation. Books can be purchased for \$2 -\$5. The success of the libraries at airports depends on communication and agreements between cities and the airport leadership.

[Airport Libraries Take Off | American Libraries Magazine](#)

Library Service is not All About Books

Dallas Public Libraries have had to adapt their concept of a library to more of a community hub and provider of technology services. People come to the library to get help navigating technology now demanded by federal government agencies, medical organizations, and utility providers. One cannot assume people know how to email, create/save passwords, or receive validation codes.

Young parents look for ways to occupy their children, which has led some branches to organize more field trips and experiences for children beyond traditional story time. Libraries are evolving into centers of community engagement for all ages. The link below discusses some of the creative ways librarians have adapted to increasingly complex community needs.

[How Dallas librarians have adapted to meet the needs of Dallas Public Library users](#)

Chicago Helps Every Child Get A Library Card

Citizens living in underserved communities often have barriers to accessing the public library. Citizens not familiar with libraries sometimes misunderstand policies, are afraid of late fees, or are uncomfortable dealing with paperwork and systems. To overcome this, the Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Public School System are allowing children to use school ID Cards to go to the library and easily get a library card. This has resulted in a 63% increase in access to the library by economically disadvantaged students. Since launching the program four years ago, 3,000 students have activated their library card accounts by using their Student IDs.

[Chicago's simple program that gives every child a library card should be the model for every city](#)