

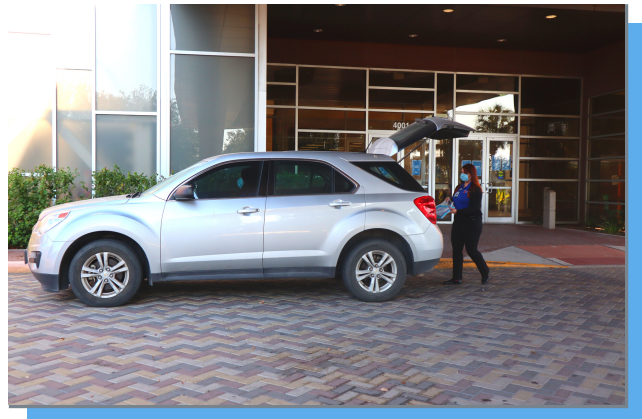


Hidalgo County Library System is a federated system of 13 Public Library members in Hidalgo County. HCLC strives to promote, coordinate and help provide full and FREE library services to all the residents of Hidalgo County.

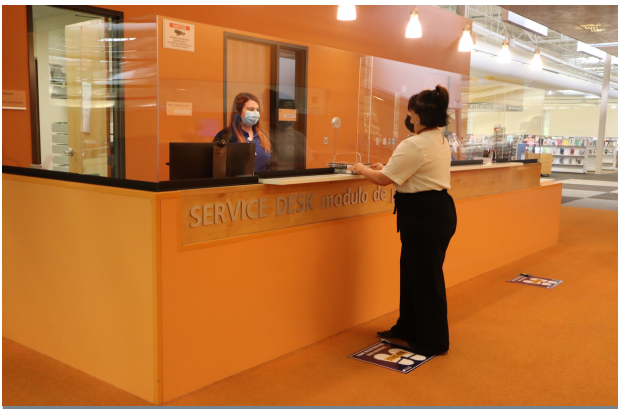
Annual County Report 2020

In this unprecedented period of COVID-19, Hidalgo County Library System member libraries have responded according to the safety levels ordered by our County Judge and our respective municipalities with the safety of our patrons and staff as the top priority. All HCLC libraries were closed at some point in March and April, with most exploring phased openings throughout May and into July. Some have since closed to the public again.

In an abundance of caution, all HCLC member libraries cancelled in-person programming in March of 2020. However, that did not prevent us from keeping our patrons engaged virtually! More than 2,000 participants registered for Summer Reading Program this year and took advantage of virtual programming for all ages. Many libraries delivered library materials curbside, even after reopening, to continue contactless service. All HCLC libraries extended the expiration dates of library cards for patrons to borrow physical and digital e-books. During this period, we saw a definite uptick in checkouts from the HCLC E-Branch, with a total of 38,424 checkouts of e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines countywide since October 2019.



The ability to check out digital materials made a positive difference in the lives of those who observed the order to shelter at home or who wanted to minimize outbound visits.



To keep our visitors safe, all HCLC libraries are requiring facial coverings upon entering the library and throughout their stay. Some libraries removed or rearranged furniture and added visual cues to encourage social distancing. Still others installed sneeze guards at service desks to protect patrons and staff. Staff practice extensive health and safety measures to ensure that high-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. All libraries are alerted to any changes in guidelines from health and government agencies to remain in full compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines. Hand sanitizer is provided to all patrons and staff, as well as PPE. Patrons and staff are encouraged to

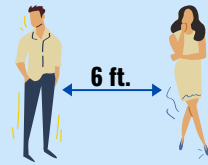
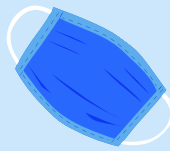
wash hands frequently, according to CDC guidelines. Libraries that offer computer lab and printing services sanitize surfaces between users.

All HCLC libraries are quarantining returned library materials before replacing those items on the shelf. The most current scientific recommendations we follow are from the Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) Project, which specifies 96 hours for materials to “rest” before being cleaned with an alcohol-based solution for re-shelving. REALM test results can be found here:

<https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/realm-happening-now.html>

continued on page 2

COVID-19 AWARENESS



From Page 1

All HCLS libraries recognize that we are in this together. The above practices may evolve as we consider the latest guidance and we will continue to offer as many services as possible, in the safest ways possible, until we can reopen fully with normal operations. Until then, on behalf of all HCLS libraries, we thank our County Commissioners and Judge Richard Cortez for your continued support, and hope you and your families are safe and healthy.

Kate P. Horan, MLS
Hidalgo County Librarian

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Hidalgo County Library System is to promote, coordinate and support full and FREE library service to all residents of Hidalgo County.

Our Mission

To engage in cooperative efforts among member and associate member libraries.

To make resources of the member and associate member libraries equally accessible throughout Hidalgo County

To research and implement resources for services and programs which meet the informational, educational, recreational and cultural needs of Hidalgo County residents.

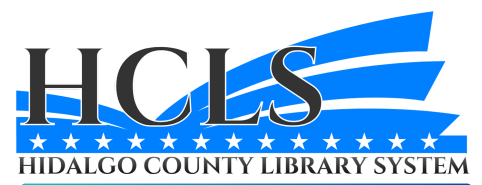
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Member Libraries

Sergeant Fernando De La Rosa Memorial Library	Laura Solis, Director
Donna Public Library	Jose F. Perez, Director
Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library	Leticia S. Leija, Director
Elsa Public Library	Hilda Molina, Director
Hidalgo Public Library	Raul Sanchez, Director
La Joya Public Library	Susana Villegas, Director
McAllen Public Library	Kate P. Horan, Director
Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library	Marisol Vidales, Director
Speer Memorial Library	Mayra Rocha, Director
Peñitas Public Library	Yenni Espinoza, Director
Pharr Memorial Library	Adolfo Garcia, Director
San Juan Memorial Library	Armandina Sesin, Director
Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library	Arnoldo Becho, Director
Lay Representative	Christine Warren

HCLS OFFICERS

Kate P. Horan - President
Yenni Espinoza - Vice President
Mayra Rocha - Secretary
Jorge L. Gonzalez - ILS Coordinator



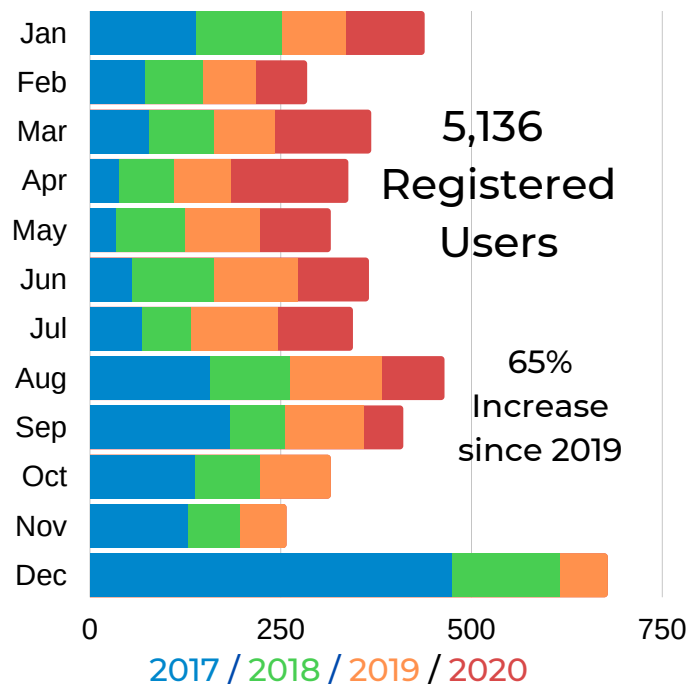
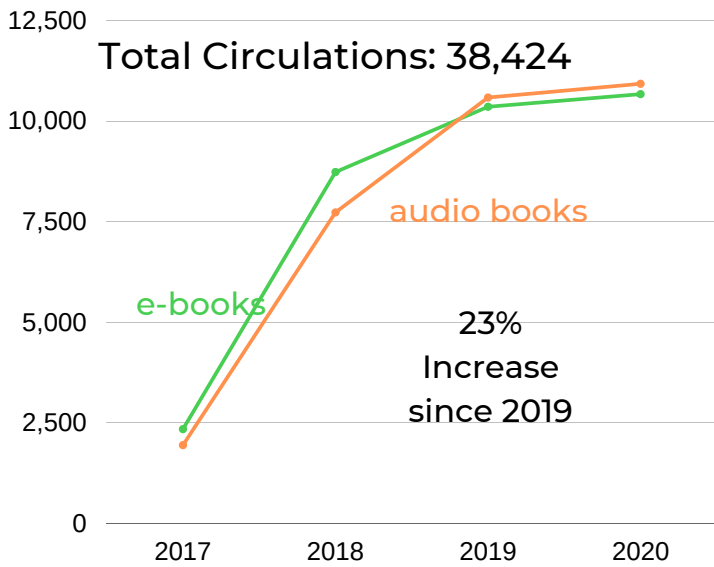
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e-branch



The HCLS E-Library is an online collection of books, audio-books, and magazines, available to citizens of Hidalgo County for free, 24/7, on their phone or device of choice. The E-Library is a major initiative to promote literacy and demonstrate a commitment to providing literacy opportunities to residents of all ages and abilities, giving them the opportunity to download and read books anywhere they can access the Internet.

Since its launch in August 2017, usage has skyrocketed. Checkouts increased by 23% and registered users increased by 65% since 2019, with an average of 100 new registered users per quarter. HCLS Libraries continue to promote the E-Library through social media, flyers, outreach events, and in-house recommendation.



Do you know what your Library offers, beyond books and media? Whether you are starting a business or investigating your family history, we can help. HCLS libraries offer programs and services to find skill-building resources, citizenship assistance, job seeking assistance, and much more.

Programs and Services



PROGRAMMING:

- ✓ Summer Reading Program
- ✓ Children's Programs
- ✓ Adult Programs
- ✓ Teen Programs
- ✓ Día - Día del los Niños/
Día de los Libros
- ✓ South Texas Book Festival
- ✓ Trick or Treat at the library

231,000+ attended over 10,000 programs offered at libraries of Hidalgo County

EDUCATION:

- ✓ GED Classes
- ✓ ESL Classes
- ✓ Citizenship Classes
- ✓ Computer Instruction
- ✓ Health & Wellness

Assisted more than 14,000 patrons with over 400 programs

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- ✓ Job Fairs
- ✓ Resume Writing
- ✓ Job Coaching

7,200 + attendance at job fairs and job coaching workshops.

TECHNOLOGY:

- ✓ 3D Printing
- ✓ Virtual Reality
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Coding

2,500+ patrons attended over 300 technology programs.

OUTREACH:

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Library Tours
- ✓ Mexican Consulate
- ✓ Day Care/Head Start
- ✓ City/County Events

Over 2,328,045 interactions with our communities