



# LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

**Lancaster County Library System**

**J. Marion Sims Foundation**

**April 2018**

# What is the Library of the Future?

“Does it have shelves with new releases and up-to-date periodicals tempting you as soon as you walk in the door?”

Is it an “on ramp” to the information highway with broadband internet access for all and book borrowing directly to your Kindle?

Can it be a place where local data is stored and shared widely so that everyone has access to important information about the future of our community? Or is it a gathering place with a coffee shop and a place for community meetings?

Is it possible that the library of the future can be all of these things at once?

**We believe so.”**

- From Op-Ed “Let’s Envision Our Library of the Future” (March 18, 2018)

# Survey Demographics

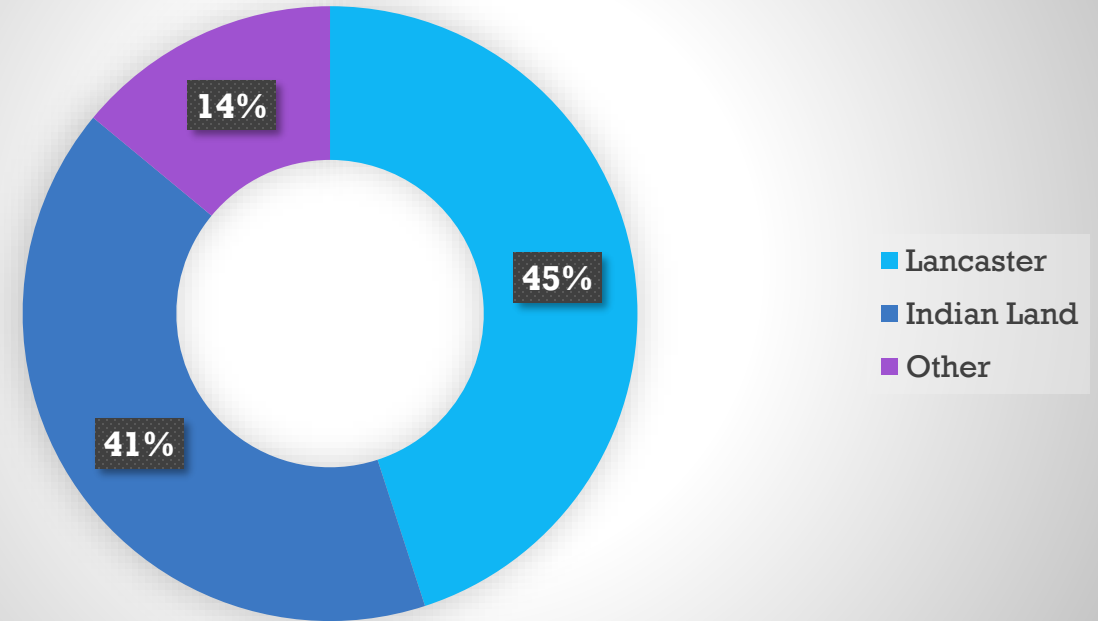
Questions regarding population concerning...

# Survey Stats

- 1,174 responses
- Open from March 19 – April 15, 2018

...area of residence

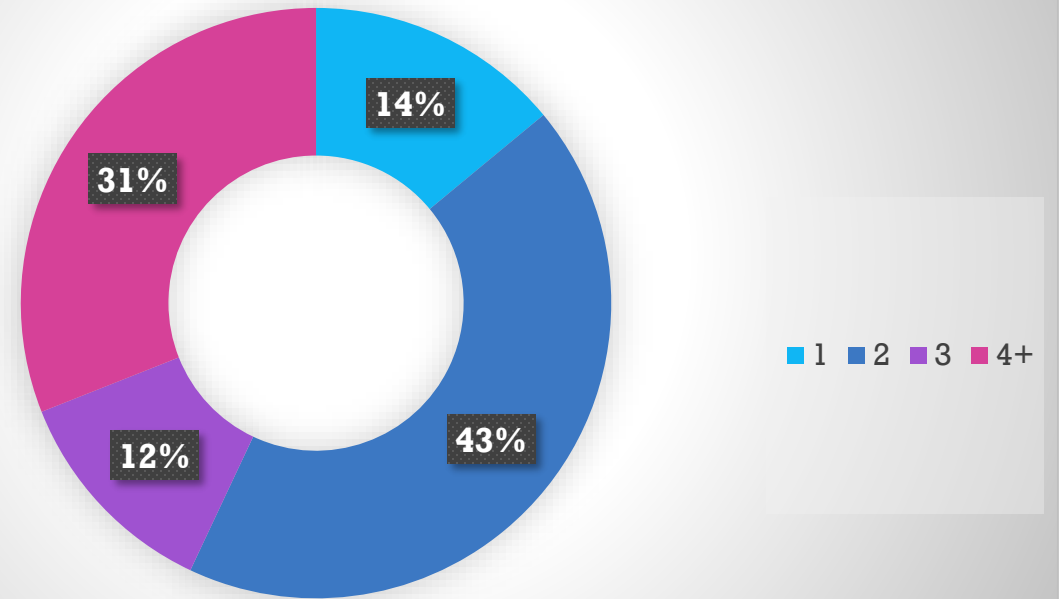
## Area of Residents



- 45% from Lancaster zip code (29720)
- 41% from the Indian Land/ Fort Mill zip code (29707)
- 14% from other areas of the county

...number of household members

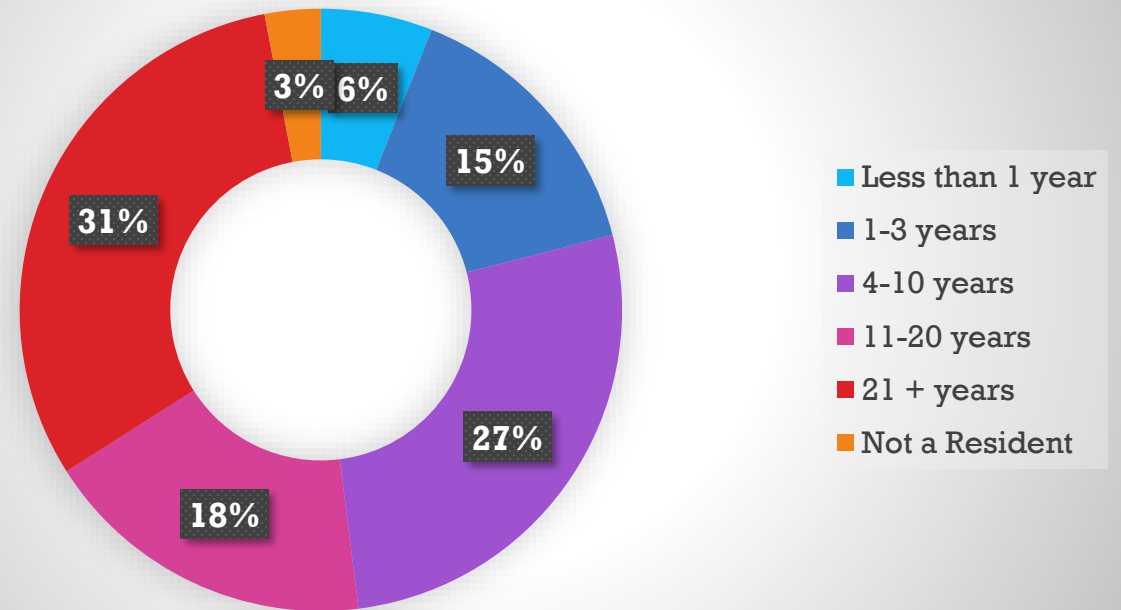
## Household Members



- 14% live in a 1 member household
- 43% had 2 members in their household
- 12% had 3 members in their household
- 31% had 4 or more members in their household

...length of residence in the Lancaster County area

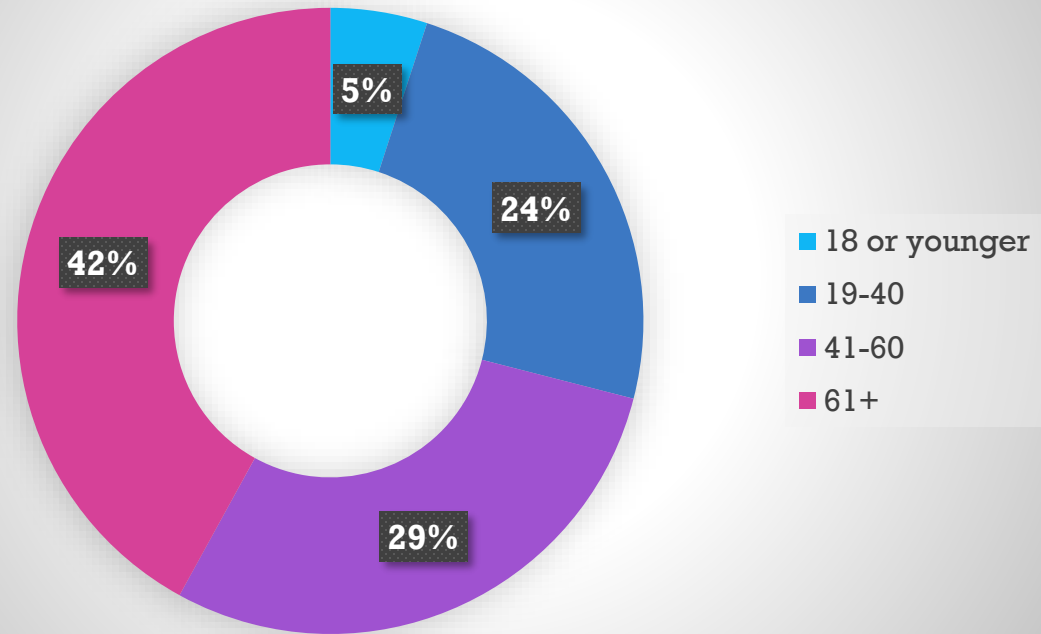
## Length of Residence



- 6% of respondents have lived in the County for less than a year
- 15% have lived in the County between 1-3 years
- 27% have lived in the County between 4-10 years
- 18% have lived in the County between 11-20 years
- 31% have lived in the County for 21+ years
- 3% do not live in Lancaster County

...age of  
respondents

## Age of Respondents

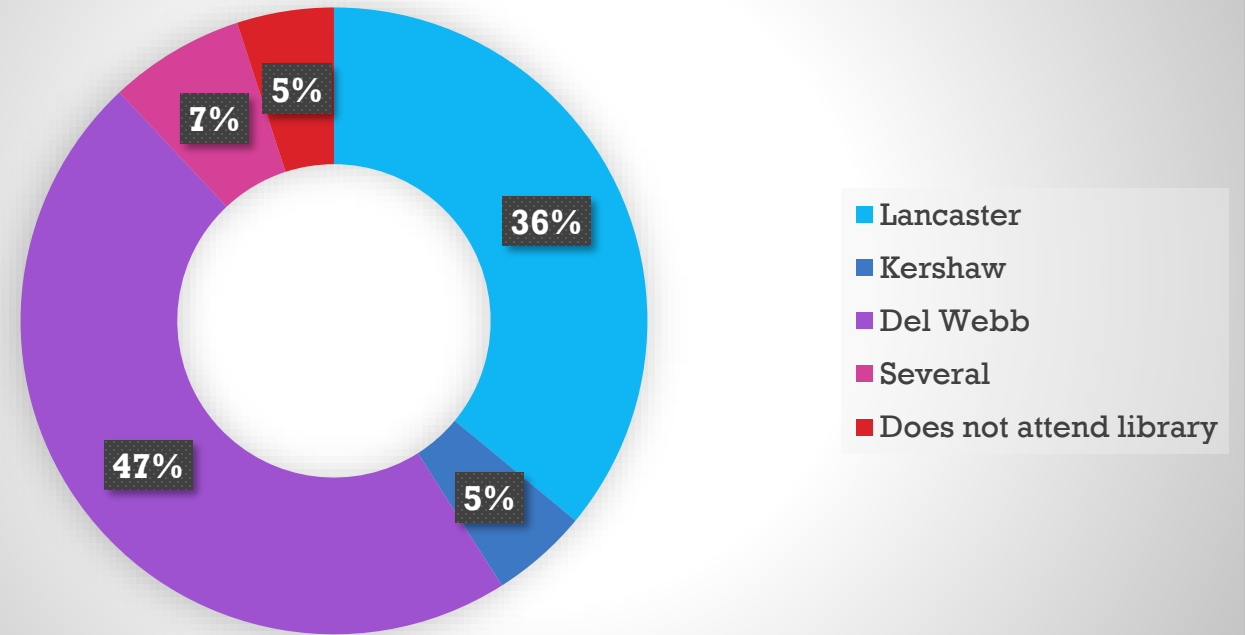


- 5% were 18 years of age and younger
- 24% were between the ages of 19-40
- 29% were between the ages of 41-60
- 42% were 61 years of age and older



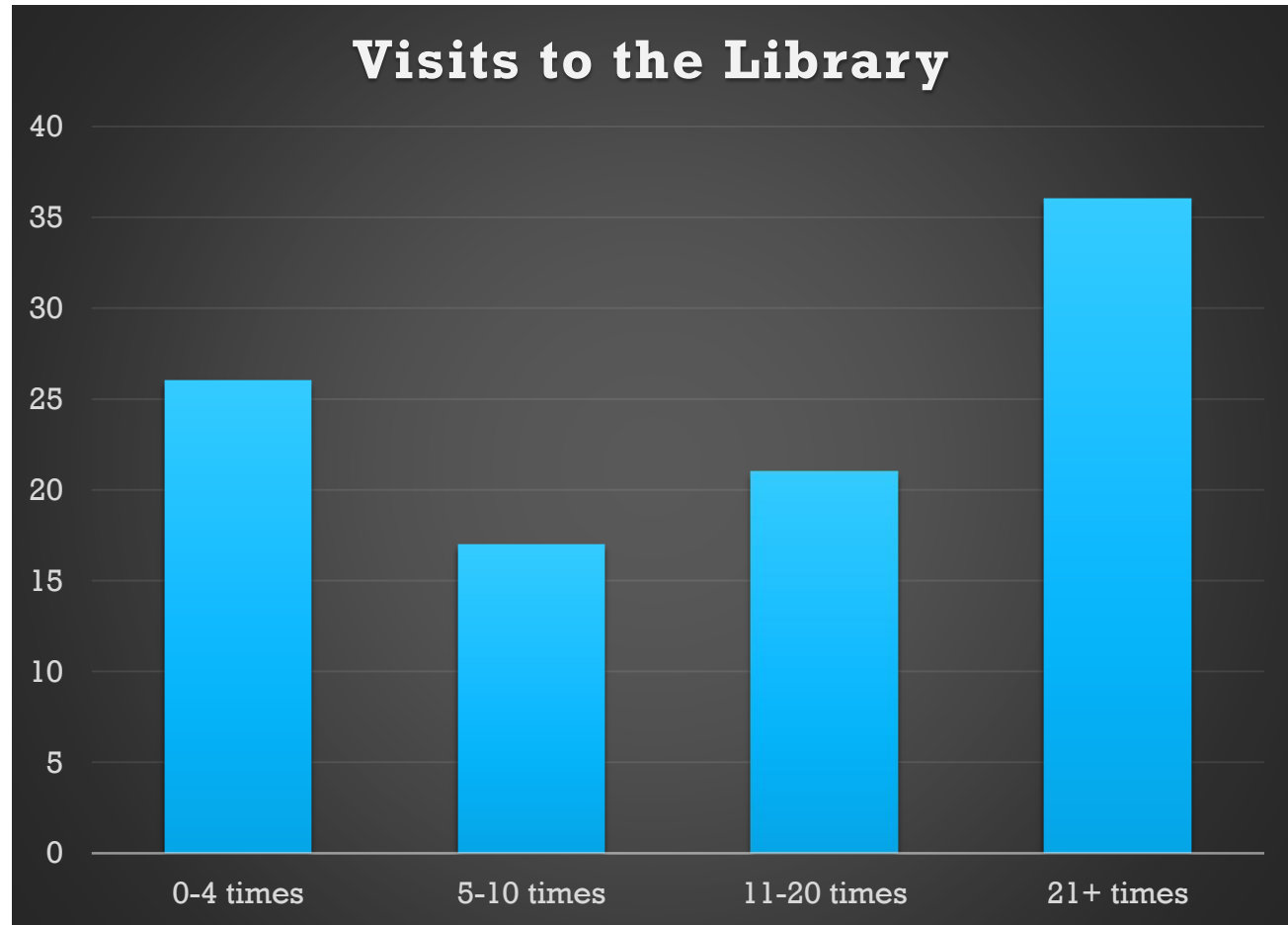
...library  
location used  
most frequently

## Frequent Library



- 36% regularly use the Lancaster- Main Branch
- 5% regularly use the Kershaw Branch
- 47% regularly use the Del Webb Branch
- 7% visit several branches
- 5% does not visit the library

...number of visits  
made to the  
library in the past  
year



- 26% have visited 0-4 times
- 17% have visited 5-10 times
- 21% have visited 11-20 times
- 36% have visited 21+ times

# Needs for Library

Study Primarily Audio Books Met Fax Feels

Library Enjoyed Videos Field Trip

Meetings Write Books

Copy Machine Check ASL Class

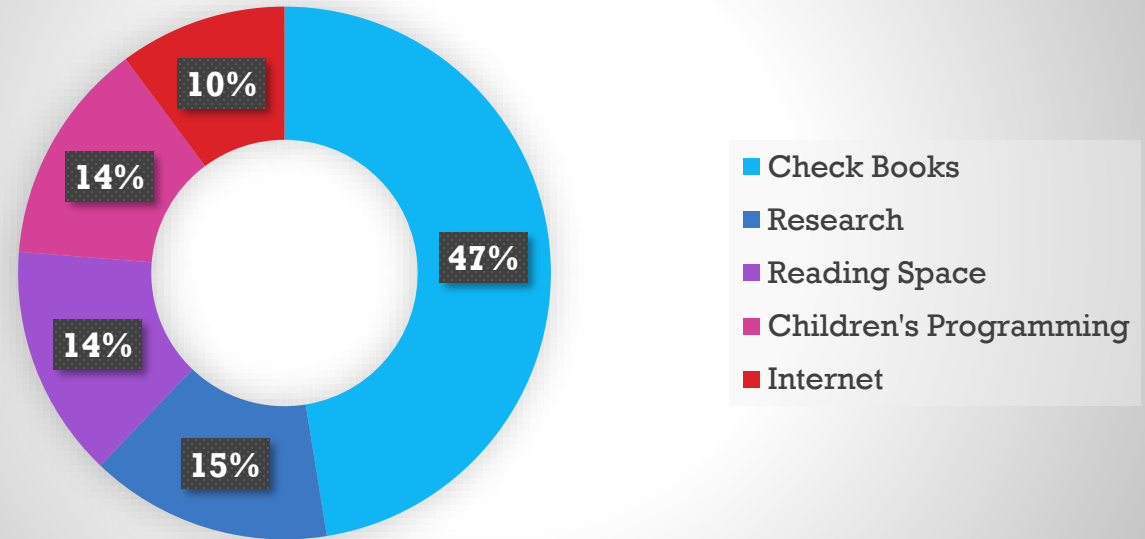
Book Sale Summer Reading DVDs Family

Friends Homeschooling Magazines Overdrive

Taxes

# Identified Needs

## Identified Needs



- 84% check out books
- 26% complete research
- 25% use it as a reading space
- 24% use the children's programming
- 18% use the internet



Purpose of  
Library

Book Sale Room Fax Audiobook Meeting Dvds

Library DVD Internet Movies

Staff to Guide Tax

Children's Programming

Audio Books

...identified the  
sole purpose of  
their visit to the  
library

- 66% to check out books
- respondents identified internet, books, DVD's, fax machine, audiobooks, and meeting space as a main highlight of their library experience

...identified main reasons for not engaging in the libraries in their communities

- 20% do their own research online
- 19% said library hours were not convenient with their schedule
- 18% do their reading online

... continued

- Respondents said they don't make time to visit the library and would like for the atmosphere to be more kid-conducive.
- The location of the libraries also seem to be a barrier—distance from the library keeps people from attending.





Needs  
Wants  
Visions

Lots Current Books Selection Big Accessible  
Variety **Staff** Stocked Friendly Reading  
Comfortable Spacious Books  
Modern **Quiet** Technology Inviting  
Organized **Welcoming** Calm Peaceful  
Lots of Books Convenient Library Bright  
Children's Section Clean Cozy

Lots Technology Access Light Bright Lots of Books  
Welcoming Programs **Staff** Peaceful  
Friendly Colorful Comfortable  
Variety **Books** Resources Quiet  
Spacious Inviting Reading Clean Internet  
Selection Safe Organized Chairs Modern  
Children

Programs Activities Variety Librarians Children  
Reading Clean Technology Quiet Modern  
Comfortable Organized Friendly  
Convenient **Books** Spacious Staff  
Stocked **Inviting** Selection Resourceful  
Location Accessible Space Welcoming Safe  
Fun

... identified words to describe their “perfect library”

Family Lots of Natural Children's Area Bar Place  
Location **Technology** Large Selection **Space**  
Parking **Library** Book Clubs **Books**  
Comfortable Seating **Programs** Self  
**Access** Fun **Meeting Rooms** Sellers  
**Internet** Tech **Resources** Convenient Hours  
Audio Books

...identified features of a “library of the future”

**...identified the  
community needs  
within the “library  
of the future”**

- **Current books and periodicals**
- **A comfortable place to read and visit**
- **Hours that are convenient to me**
- **Staff to guide me**
- **Online checkout of materials**
- **Access to internet**
- **Access to copier and scanner**
- **Programs for children**
- **Gathering/meeting space for organization**
- **Programs for respondents, or adults**

Project for Public Spaces  
(January 2009)



# How to Make Your Library Great

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Offer a broad mix of community services
- ✓ Foster Communication

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Showcase history and information
- ✓ Build capacity for local businesses

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Become public gathering places
- ✓ Boost local retail and public markets



# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Offer easy access
- ✓ Make the surrounding area  
come alive

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Feature multiple attractions and destinations
- ✓ Designed to support function

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Are designed to support function
- ✓ Provide a variety of amenities

# GREAT LIBRARIES...

- ✓ Change with the calendar
- ✓ Depend on wise management
- ✓ Catalyze community revitalization

# Lancaster County Library System 10 Year Dream Plan

A community melting pot, welcoming space for every citizen, central hub

Clean and green; well-maintained and eco-friendly

Tech savvy/ Cyber Café

Public Art, murals by local artists and students

Flex spaces

Designated quiet rooms

Natural light

Walking access

Playgrounds

Pop-ups, beyond the library walls

Visionary leaders, who are flexible and open to new ideas

Health promotion, career help/soft skills

Lots of parking

Increased funding

Updated safety measures and protocols

Closer partnerships with schools, business, and local government; include key stakeholders

Intergenerational collaboration

To be known as the #1 resource of information for the county, to be seen as an asset

Lancaster County Library System  
*Board Meeting, October 25, 2017*

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