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)

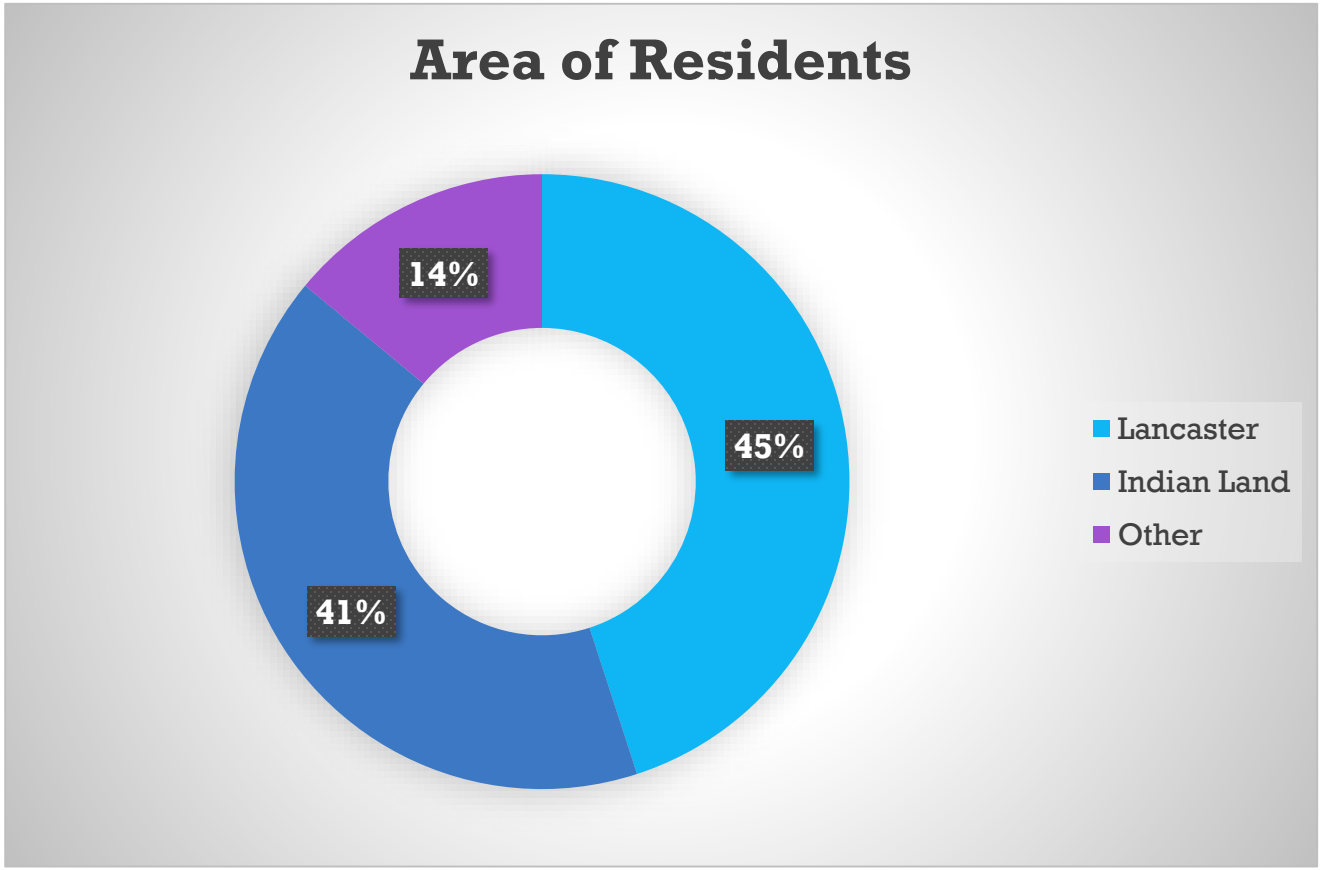
Survey Demographics

Questions regarding population concerning…

Survey Stats

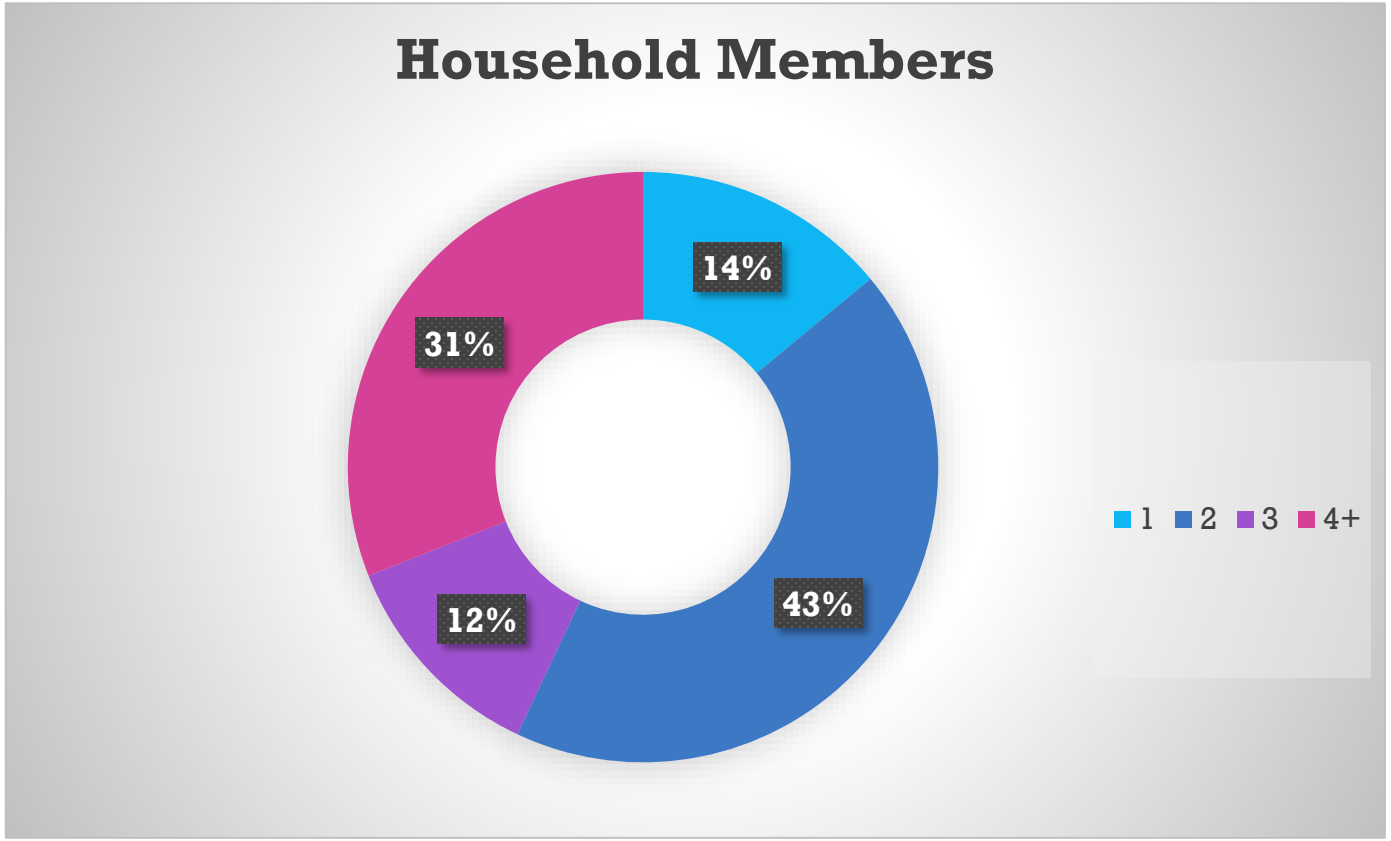
- 1,174 responses
- Open from March 19 – April 15, 2018

…area of residence



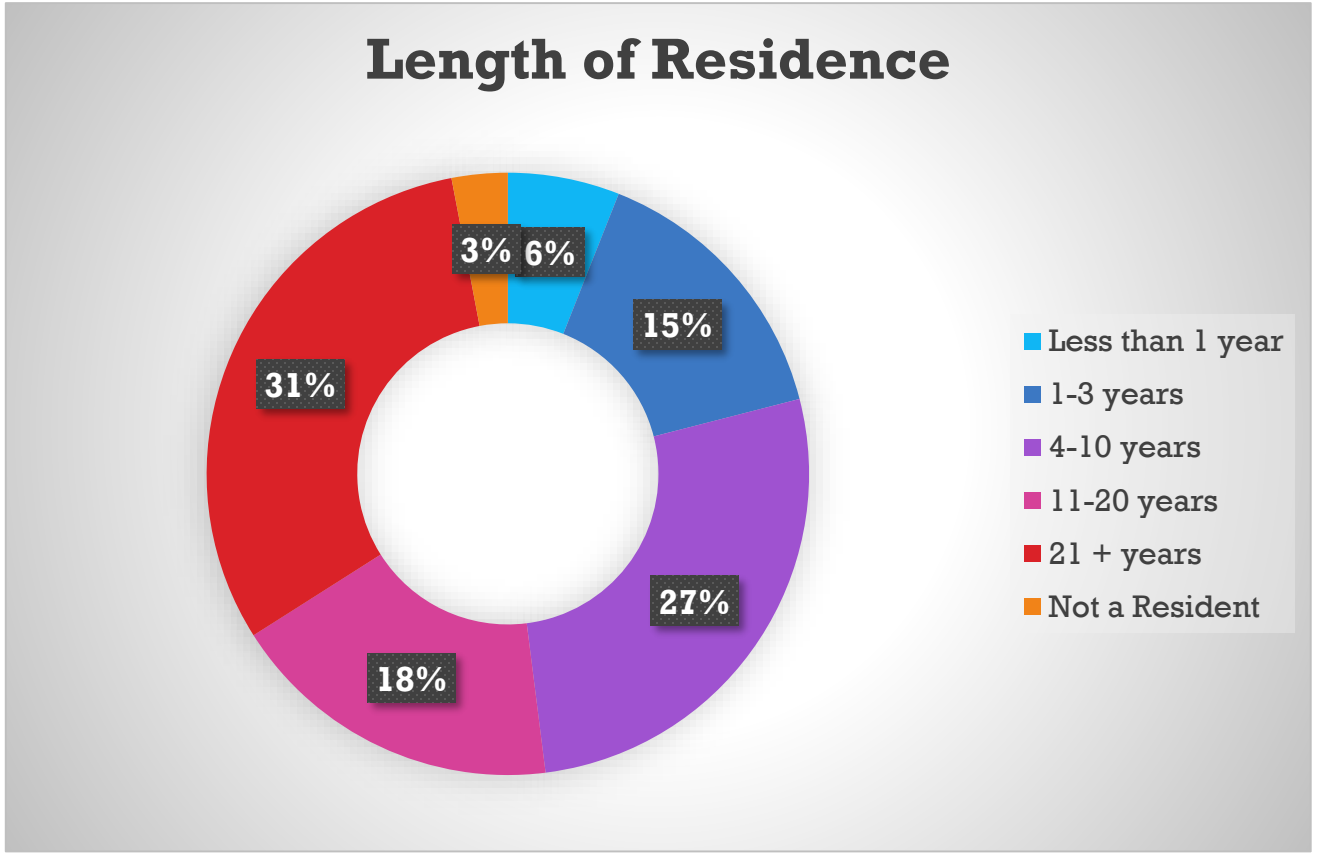
- 45% from Lancaster zip code (29720)
- 41% from the Indian Land/ Fort Mill zip code (29707)
- 14% from other areas of the county

…number of household members



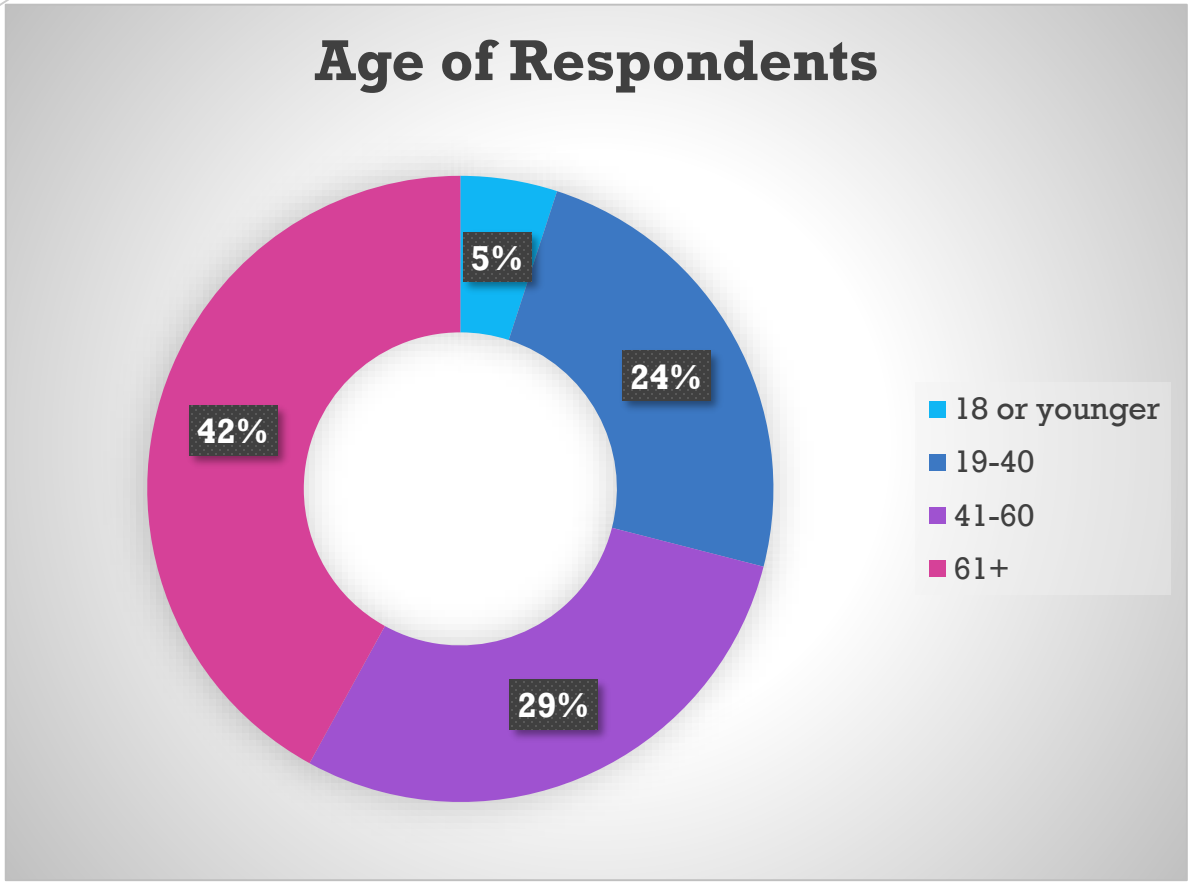
- 14% live in a 1 member household
- 43% had 2 members in their household
- 12% had 3 members in their household
- 31% had 4 or more members in their household

…length of residence in the Lancaster County area



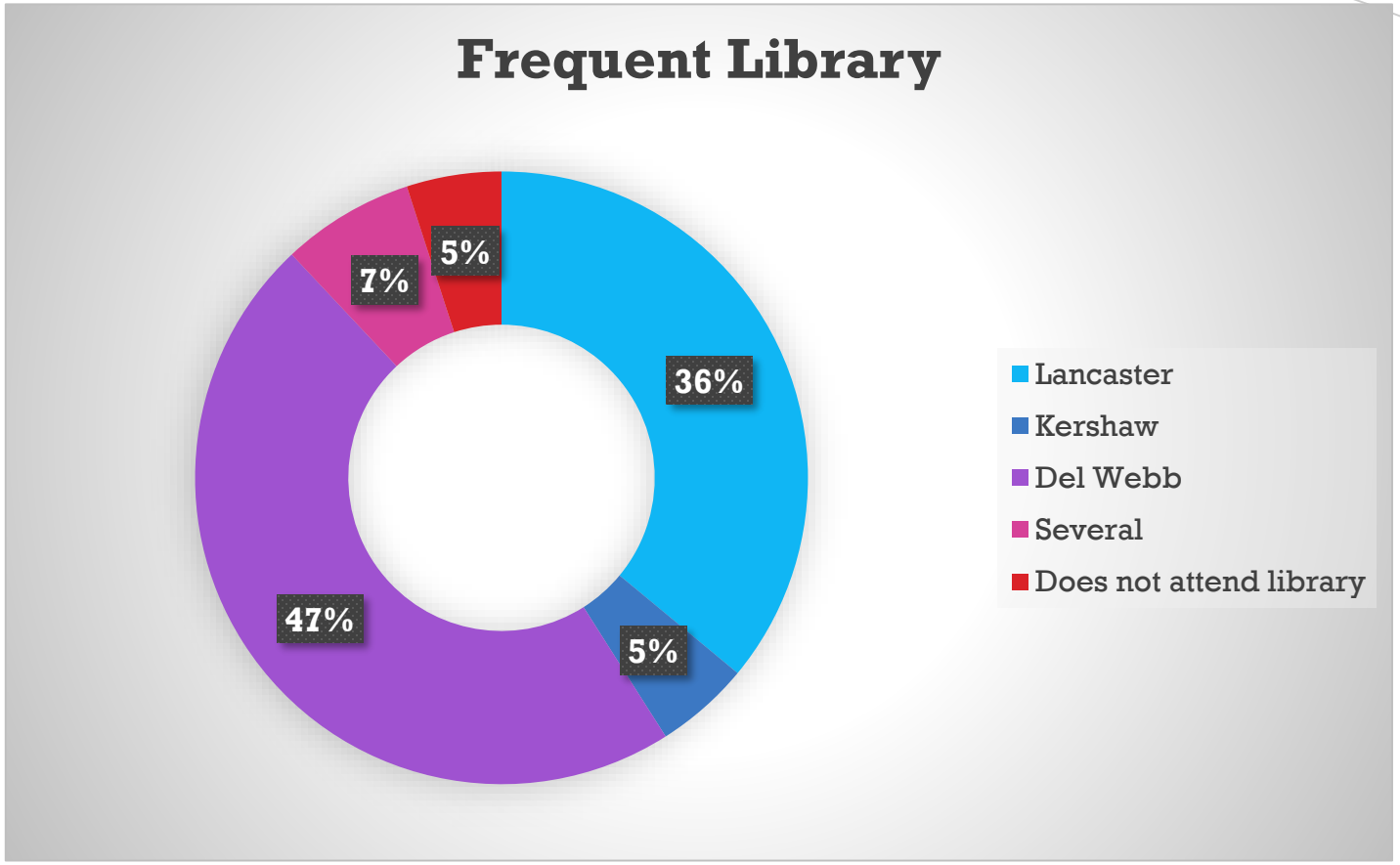
- 6% of respondents have lived in the County for less than a year
- 15% have lived in the County between 1-3 years
- 27% have lived in the County between 4-10 years
- 18% have lived in the County between 11-20 years
- 31% have lived in the County for 21+ years
- 3% do not live in Lancaster County

…age of respondents



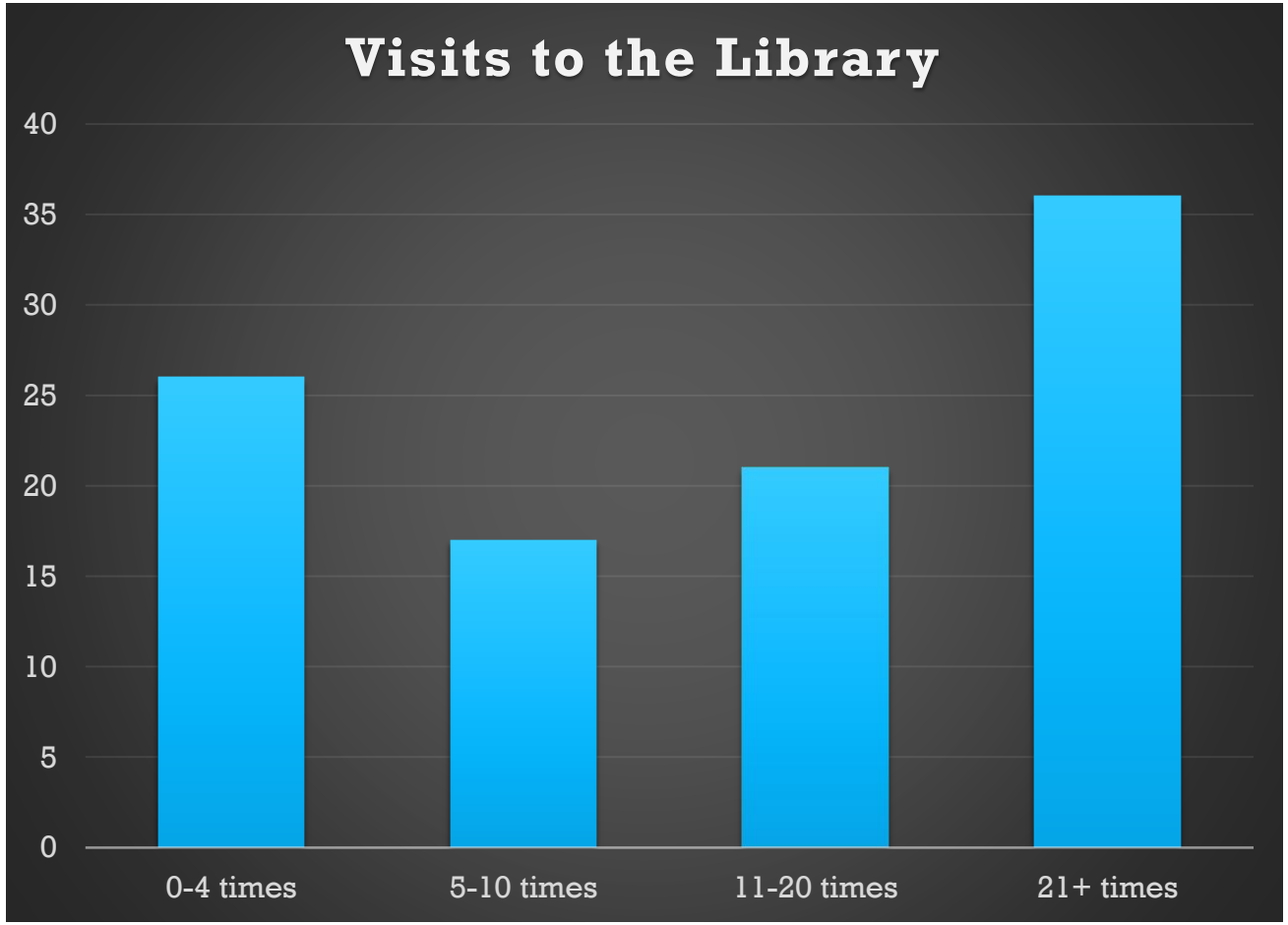
- 5% were 18 years of age and younger
- 24% were between the ages of 19-40
- 29% were between the ages of 41-60
- 42% were 61 years of age and older

...library location used most frequently



- 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

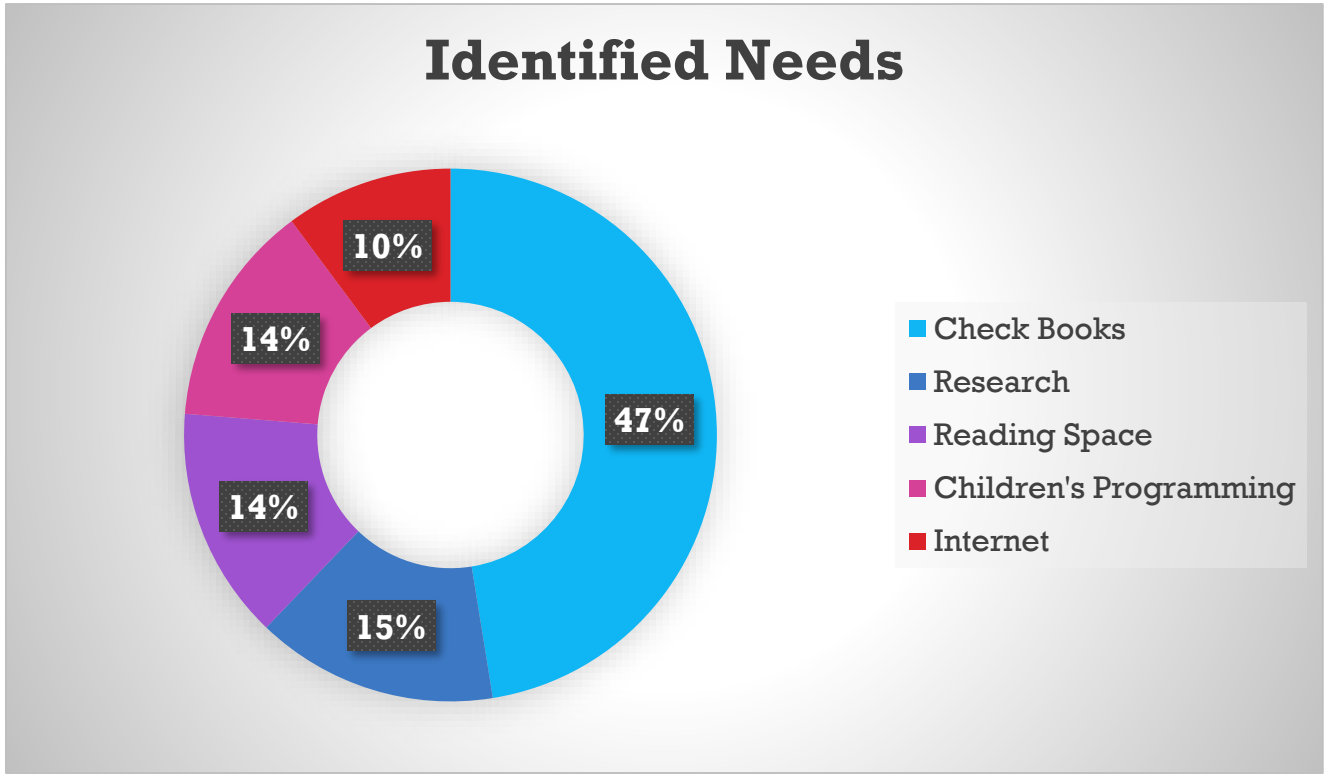
…number of visits made to the library in the past year



- 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

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

… identified words to describe their “perfect library”

…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

Lancaster County Library System
Board Meeting, October 25, 2017

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