



Thank You!

We are able to start this new year and provide continuing services to the citizens of Audrain County in part thanks to your property taxes. The library district has provided services in the county for over 100+ years.

The taxes that you pay allow us to create a strong library system and provide services by having branches in Farber, Laddonia, Martinsburg,

Vandalia and the headquarters which is located in Mexico, Missouri.

90% of the library's budget comes from the personal property taxes paid by residents and owners of property in Audrain County.

With the money received we purchase books, e Resources, newspapers, computers, media, and databases. The money helps us provide the following services: fax service, copy service, free Wi-Fi, internet access within all of our buildings, programming for toddlers, teens and adults. Plus, this allows us to pay for staffing at all of our branches.

Property taxes have been a predictable, reliable and stable source of income for libraries and other service agencies. The taxes provide many services that often go unnoticed or people take for granted. Services such as ambulance districts, road districts, sheltered workshops, and schools. All of these entities, and libraries included, often are left vulnerable by the unpredictable budget cuts or restraints.

Your local library is a common hub for information in the communities that we serve. Libraries serve as warming and cooling centers, we provide safe meeting room space, we provide free programming on topics of interest in the community.

A well-funded library can improve the quality of life and can be one of the components that attract new residents or businesses to a community.

Here are just a few service numbers from 2025 that we would like to share:

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| Digital Services circulation | 27,402 |
| Reference Questions answered | 13,528 |
| Story Time attendance | 1,538 |
| Circulation (checkout of materials from library) | 124,863 |

In 2026 the library district will receive money to celebrate Carnegie Libraries across the United States. Yes, your library has a Carnegie Library! We are proud to have moved the Carnegie Library building from its original location on North Washington Street to its current location of North Clark Street. Andrew Carnegie was a man with a vision and with the help of the Carnegie Foundation a group of citizens in Mexico, Missouri wrote them and received a foundation grant for twelve thousand dollars that had to be matched by the local community. The community had to agree that after receiving the grant that the library would be self-sustained by the residents in the community. It is fitting, that now over 100 years after the foundation gave the citizens money for building a library we are still using the building to promote education, lifelong learning and literacy. The foundation gift to libraries in 2026 is to celebrate the 250 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Libraries are still a vital part of communities as information centers. We serve with integrity, innovation, collaboration, and confidence. We appreciate the community support and we need to be sustainable so we can deliver our services to the community for decades to come.

Mexico-Audrain County Library District