



# COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

**EDUCATE - ENGAGE - ENRICH**

Five Year  
Long Range Plan

2010 – 2015

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Cooke County Public Library is to provide all persons in the community with a safe and confidential environment in which they may freely pursue intellectual, educational, and recreational interests through diverse services and resources collected in a variety of formats.

## **Vision Statement**

The Cooke County Library dedicates itself to providing an environment to increase the literacy and educational level of Cooke County in order to raise the quality of life and standard of living.

## **Current Statistics**

The public library serves a population of 35,259. The annual operating budget is \$316, 441, used as 78% wages and benefits: 13% purchase of library materials: and 7% indirect and miscellaneous costs. The collection consists of approximately 48,337 titles and 58 periodical subscriptions. Current circulation is 73,287 transactions per year. The library is open an average of 47 hours per week. Total paid staff is 5 full time employees, 5 part-time employees who work 15-20 hours per work and 2 part-time employees who work as needed on technology issues.

\*Based on figures from the 2009-2010 budget and Texas Public Library 2008 -2009 annual report.

## **Introduction to Goals**

The following goals are the priorities to be accomplished over the course of the next five years, which address key strategic issues and support our vision and mission. They are not intended to address all the issues facing the Library; rather they are designed to focus the efforts of the Cooke County Commissioners Court and library staff in providing materials and programs that meet the needs of Cooke County and surrounding communities, while striving to improve the services to our patrons. These goals will be used by the Cooke County Commissioners Court and library staff to implement the long-range plan.

## **Service Goals**

Goal #1: Enable senior citizens to continue their active participation in lifelong learning.

- Continue to develop a large print collection and audio book collection.
- Continue to offer Adult Reading Programs from 18 years old and up.
- Continue to offer basic computer classes at least twice a year.

Goal #2: Foster a lifelong love of books in children and a desire to learn that will help them live productive and satisfying lives.

- Conduct a weekly story hour for children.
- Continue to offer Summer Reading Programs for toddlers to 18 years old.
- Continue to offer Teen Read Week Program for 12 to 18 year olds.
- Evaluate ways to make the library a resource valued by teens.
- Continue to provide access to a variety of electronic resources for ages 5 and up.

Goal #3: Increase and improve the library experience for patrons.

- Continue to communicate services offered by the library through the library's website and Facebook page, newspaper articles, newspaper advertisements, announcements on the local cable channels, fliers and posters.
- Provide customer service and resource training to staff.
- Continue to make improvements to the library building.
- Continue to pursue the feasibility of building a new facility.

Goal #4: Increase and improve the awareness of Library facilities, materials and services.

- Provide professional assistance to patrons in all areas of library service.

Goal #5: Continue to respond to patrons requests.

- Provide books, and other materials preferred by patrons.
- Provide Inter Library Loan service to obtain materials the Cooke County Library does not have its collection.
- Seek out and respond to suggestions and concerns of patrons concerning library facilities, services and collections.

Goal #6: Improve technology services.

- Obtain grants or other outside funding for new technology services (ie: Wi-Fi; new computers).
- Offer computer classes to seniors and other age groups.
- Continue the current electronic resources Cooke County Library offers to the patrons (ie: Live Homework Help; TexShare databases).

Goal #7: Develop and maintain a diverse collection.

- Conduct ongoing collection maintenance activities for entire collection. All sections of the collection will be weeded every 3 years.
- Establish a method of tracking collection use and utilize results to improve the collection. This will be done through technology and will aid in the weeding of the sections every 3 years.
- Increase, strengthen and promote the popular reading/high interest collections. In order to meet this objective, 25% of the collection will be less than 5 years old.
- Examine present electronic formats and be prepared to acquire new technology as needed.

Goal #8: Continue to develop sources of public and private funding, including grants, to support and improve the Library.

- Explore all avenues to obtain grants from local, state and federal resources.
- Explore all avenues to obtain funding from private and non-profit organizations
- Continue to market to local civic groups for sponsorships and special projects.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Long Range Plan, created by the Cooke County Commissioners' Court believes the county of Cooke must seriously consider the importance of the Cooke County Library to the community. The Cooke County Commissioners' Court acknowledges and appreciates the support of the Friends of the Cooke County Library and the community. We also feel it is necessary to underscore to officials that the library requires their ongoing commitment and encourage them to continue to provide the funding the library needs to meet the maintenance of effort and maintain its accreditation status.

The Cooke County Commissioners' Court would also like to urge officials to continue to explore ways to increase funding for the important work of the library, so the Cooke County Library can continue to improve and provide high quality library service to the citizens of Cooke County.

**APPROVAL**

**COOKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

**COOKE COUNTY LIBRARY**

**LONG RANGE PLAN**

**2010 – 2015**

**Gary Hollowell, Pct. 1**

**Steve Key, Pct. 2**

**Alan Smith, Pct. 3**

**Leon Klement, Pct. 4**

**John Roane, Cooke County Judge**

**Jennifer Johnson-Spence, Director Cooke County Library**