



MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

The mission is a broad statement of the role or purpose of the library. It identifies whom the library serves and the reason it exists. All library staff should know the library's mission. It should inspire their actions and give them an understanding of what the library is working to achieve. Mission statements filter what is important from what is not, clearly state who will be served and how, and communicate a sense of direction.

Your library exists for a very specific reason and has unique attributes, and most likely its purpose is different than any other in your community.

Mission statements should be broad so that they do not need to be rewritten when new initiatives or directions are undertaken. Mission statements should be brief but powerful and easy to understand.

Example Mission Statements:

- ***We create a community of readers and empower individuals with free access to information and the universe of ideas.***

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (NC) (www.cmlibrary.org/about/strategic-plan)

- ***The mission of The New York Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen our communities.***

New York Public Library (NY) (www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/mission)

- ***Your place. Stories you want. Information you need. Connections you seek.***

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library (KS) (tscpl.org/about/mission-statement)

- ***Fayetteville Public Library's mission is to strengthen our community and empower our citizens with free and public access to knowledge.***

Fayetteville Public Library (AR) (www.faylib.org/content/about-fpl)