

# OC Public Libraries

## Annual Report 2023



Orange County, CA  
**Public Libraries**  
Open Doors. Free Access. Community.

# Where Knowledge Thrives



## A Letter from the County Librarian

This annual report highlights the innovative services and programs patrons enjoyed at our libraries in 2023. Not everyone is aware that public libraries provide free access to books, information, and fun and entertaining programs. The diverse array of services offered is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. From traditional book lending to cutting edge digital resources, the library caters to the varying needs and interests of our communities.

This year OCPL employees implemented initiatives to help the youngest members of our communities learn, grow, and reach their potential. OCPL celebrated National Library Card Sign-Up month in September to share the benefits of books and reading with our communities. For children, reading helps brain development and provides a solid foundation for language and literacy skills. There's nothing more empowering than a library card – through access to books and other library resources, educational programs, and free internet services, OCPL provides opportunities for our communities to pursue their dreams and passions.

At OCPL, reading is our business! This year record numbers of books were borrowed, and record numbers attended our author speaker series. Staff created book displays to entice patrons to pick up a book they've never previously noticed, and patrons are introduced to books through author visits, social media posts highlighting specific books, and book clubs. Our library spaces and programs bring people together and help people engage with their communities.

Library staff have always been on the front lines in the fight to protect the freedom to read and to ensure equitable service for all our patrons, and in 2023, book banning attempts surged to record levels across the nation. Libraries are the embodiment of the First Amendment and OCPL has a responsibility to create an environment in which all individuals have the freedom to explore ideas without judgment or censure. Our policies, procedures and collection reflect the fact that each library user has the right to determine what they and their children will read, view, and listen to.

OCPL's professional staff welcome you to our libraries where books are just the beginning! I encourage you to explore firsthand the services offered by our libraries and witness the positive impact OCPL has in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Quillman".

**JULIE E. QUILLMAN**

# Board of Supervisors



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Fourth District



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Fifth District

# Mission

Empower and Enrich  
Our Communities

# Vision

Open Doors, Free  
Access, Community



*There's nothing more  
empowering than  
a library card.*

*OC Public Libraries provides opportunities for our  
communities to pursue their dreams and passions through  
access to books, programs, and internet services.*

## Library Advisory Board

Chair  
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Tustin  
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Westminster  
**NamQuan Nguyen**



## Books are Just the Beginning

We are community hubs, connecting people to services and resources, providing access to the internet and digital resources, and creating communities of lifelong learners through enriching programs that explore literature, arts, civics, science, history and technology.

Over **3** million patrons visited our libraries

Over **9.47** million items in multiple languages were borrowed

Over **667** thousand patrons attended programs, storytimes, bookclubs, craft and author events

Over **2.4** million hours of internet were used



## Celebrating Every Voice

Our library spaces and programs bring people together and help people engage with their communities.

OCPL creates an environment where all individuals have the freedom to explore ideas without barriers. This includes providing materials that represent diverse points of view and that celebrate the varied interests of those we serve. Each library user has the right to determine what they and their children will read, view, and listen to.

OCPL reflects the diversity of Orange County residents, provides welcoming experiences for immigrants, fosters inclusive communities, and strengthens connections through library materials and engaging cultural programs.

## World Languages

OCPL systematically developed the largest non-English language collection in the region with materials available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Persian, and Arabic. The collection highlights native languages, encourages families to read together across generations, and helps preserve cultural heritage.

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**World language materials were borrowed**

**416,715**  
**times**

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## Preserving Heritage

Through oral history preservation and programming, **Little Saigon Stories** amplified and celebrated the voices of residents who grew up, contributed to, or have been impacted by Westminster's Little Saigon neighborhood.

**Preserving Latinx Family Heritage** highlighted family heritage through history, food, literacy, art, and cultural programming.

**Bilingual Storytimes** were conducted in Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Korean, Farsi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Russian, Ilocano, and German by bilingual staff who provided families not only language relatability, but a shared cultural experience allowing children and families to see themselves represented among positive community role models.

# Empowering our Communities



**After-school Programs:** After-school programs give children a place to spend time with their peers and engage in interactive, enriching programs like book clubs, crafts, STEAM and a variety of other fun activities.



**Storytime:** Fosters early literacy by introducing the magic of books and nurturing a love for reading. It also creates a space where families come together, strengthening social bonds and instilling a sense of community from an early age.



**Kinderpalooza:** Demonstrates essential skills needed for children to thrive in Kindergarten, while delivering a fun, family experience. Community partners enhanced the event by providing resources.



**Grab-and-Go Craft Kits and Videos:** Grab-and-go craft kits boost cognitive skills, foster creativity, help children develop fine motor skills, and enhance literacy.



**Themed Backpacks and Kits:** A curated collection of materials and resources in one, easy to carry, easy to borrow backpacks. Topics include Mental Health, Kindergarten Readiness, Binge-Ready authors, Hiking, and Book Club kits.



**Lunch at the Library:** During the summer, meals were provided to support health and wellness, while enabling learning, and connecting families to essential resources and services.



**Homework Help:** Students receive assistance with math, reading, writing, science and social studies homework through OCPL's free online tutoring and in-person homework programs.



**Teen Advisory Boards and Teen Volunteer Programs:** Helps teens develop responsibility, including leadership, critical thinking and collaboration skills, in a space of their own.

# Empowering our Communities

**TeenFest:** A yearlong celebration of all things teen. The events, which included career-advice presentations, creative hands-on learning activities, and author talks from teen favorites like best-selling author Victoria Aveyard, provided the forum for fun, meaningful interactions with other teens.



**Seniors:** OCPL's Senior Services focuses on the fastest growing segment of Orange County's population, providing programs and connections to reduce social isolation. Technology classes, book clubs, game and crafting programs support cognitive ability, healthy aging and lifelong learning.



**Discover and Go:** Explore Orange County museums and attractions through the exciting Discover & Go program which offers free and low-cost passes for museums, science centers, playhouses, theaters, zoos, and other cultural destinations.



**Comic Orange:** A festival celebrating graphic novels, cosplay and animation. The one-day event featured panels on pursuing a career in animation and comics, drawing workshops, escape rooms, crafts, life-sized board games, authors and an artist-alley where local artists displayed their work.



# Addressing Literacy



**OC READ:** Provides foundational tutoring to English-speaking adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills to further their work, family, and personal goals. With the assistance of a tutor, learners achieve life goals such as, reading to their children, reading the newspaper, registering to vote, or obtaining employment.

**Career Online High School (COHS):** Gives adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma while gaining career skills. The COHS program works to ensure student success with a flexible, anytime-anywhere online platform. Academic coaches and instructors offer assistance and the opportunity to learn new career skills along with core academics and career guidance.



**Families for Literacy:** Focuses on breaking the cycle of intergenerational low literacy by tutoring the adult and teaching them how to support their children academically. Each family receives support based on their child's age, academic level, and other related needs with the goal of becoming empowered and actively involved in their child's continued success.



## Library Excellence Rewarded

OCPL was recognized with the prestigious California State Association of Counties Innovation Award for “Lifelong Learning: Kindergarten Readiness,” which is given to the most innovative initiative in the state. The award recognized that the program contributes significantly to children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development through storytimes, activities, and instructive tutorials.

OCPL was awarded the National Association of Counties Award for “Bringing the Library to You: OCPL on Wheels”. The Mobile Library takes services beyond the physical library space to underserved communities through curated, multilingual collections, targeted early literacy storytimes, craft programs and library cards.

OCPL was recognized by The California Library Association for high quality efforts in marketing with the 2023 PReXcellence Award for the “Goodbye Bitter Late Fines, Hello Sweet Library Services” campaign. This multilingual campaign informed communities about the elimination of library fines after 100 years of service, and the rewards of having a library card.



## Fostering Partnerships

OCPL proactively seeks supplemental funding opportunities to expand on already robust programming and services. Through the competitive funding process, in 2023, OCPL was awarded and entrusted with funds from the Samueli Foundation, California Humanities, and the California State Library to fulfill our mission of long-term investment in our communities.

OCPL has formed strategic partnerships with community organizations that share in our mission to make a positive impact on the community. We proudly collaborate with member cities, Friends of the Library Groups, non-profit organizations, school districts, and county agencies. Other valued partners include PBS SoCal, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Discovery Cube, California Library Association, REFORMA, OC Department of Education, UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton. Through these partnerships, OCPL has broadened our impact, enriched staff development, and built connections.



## Reading is the Reason

OCPL's expertly curated collection of 1.7 million items can be delivered overnight for free to a patron's requested branch library. Beyond simply providing the collection, each day staff expertly introduce people of all ages to the right book at the right time.

Staff provide customized reading recommendations through the Rita Recommends Service.

Book Discussion Groups and Author Visits broaden exposure to new books and varied subject matter.

The free Books-by-Mail service provide access for those who are unable to visit the library because of a disability or lack of transportation.

Interlibrary Loan and Zip Book options provides speedy access to books that are not currently readily available in the library system.

Seasonal reading programs engage the community and motivate reluctant readers through incentive based reading challenges such as the In-N-Out Cover to Cover, and Summer Reading Programs.



## A Link to the Library

At OCPL, engagement through digital means is part of our mission. Using social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube, staff create interactive and unique content that have consistently been a link to the library.

Videos highlighting storytimes, author talks, and special events offer an opportunity to enjoy programming to those who cannot attend in-person as well as to those who wish to relive their experiences. Popular posts like #bookfacefriday and Traveling Library Card remind library users and followers that imagination is limitless at the library and with your library card, access to information is at your fingertips anywhere around the world.

OCPL launched our newsletter called 'The Check In'. The weekly newsletter is another link to the library by promoting upcoming special events for all ages, highlighting the latest and greatest databases, providing welcome messages, giving birthday surprises, and sharing the best buzz-worthy business at the library! If you're not checked in, you can find your link at [ocpl.org/newsletter](https://ocpl.org/newsletter).

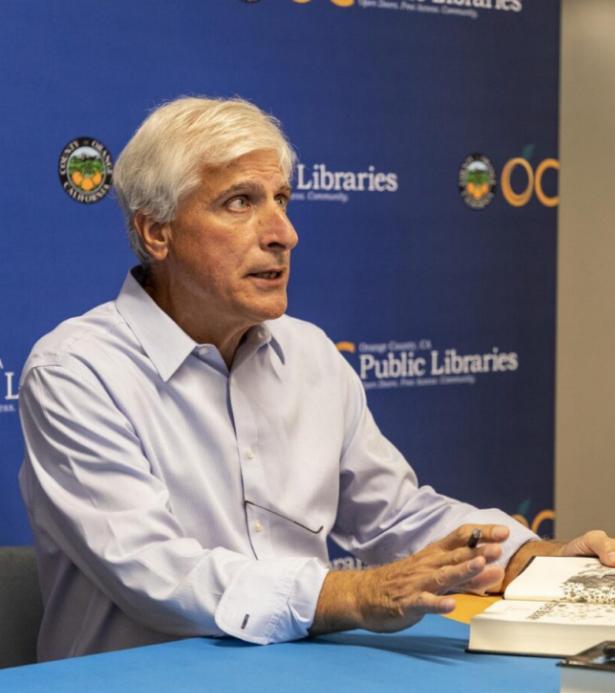
### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook:** @ocpubliclibraries

**Instagram:** @ocpubliclibraries

**X:** @ocpublib

**YouTube:** @ocpubliclibraries



# Promoting Authors, Books and Reading

OCPL had a full calendar of author events in 2023 that inspired meaningful conversations and artistic responses, promoted new discoveries, and built community connections. For many, this was their first opportunity to hear directly from an author or celebrity and the events allowed people of all ages to see themselves represented in the authors and book characters. Authors shared information about the writing process and emphasized the importance of libraries and fans were excited to take photos with their favorite authors and get books signed.

## Guest Authors

Mitch Albom  
*The Little Liar*

Katherine Applegate  
*Doggo and Pupper: Search for Cozy*

Marie Benedict  
*The Mitford Affair*

Steve Berry  
*The Last Kingdom*

Janelle Brown  
*I'll Be You*

Lucky Diaz  
*Paletero Man*

Alli Frank/ Asha Youmans  
*The Better Half*

Tess Gerritsen  
*The Spy Coast*

Chris Grabenstein  
*The Smartest Kid in the Universe: Evil Genius*

David Grann  
*The Wager*

Tiffany Haddish  
*Layla the Last Black Unicorn*

## Guest Authors

Lara Love Hardin  
*The Many Lives of Mama Love*

Jennifer Holm  
*Babymouse*

Nancy Horan  
*The House of Lincoln*

Sadeqa Johnson  
*The House of Eve*

William Kent Krueger  
*The River We Remember*

Suzanne and Max Lang  
*Grumpy Monkey*

Laura Numeroff  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

Susan Orlean  
*On Animals*

Douglas Preston  
*The Lost Tomb*

Deanna Raybourn  
*Killers of a Certain Age*

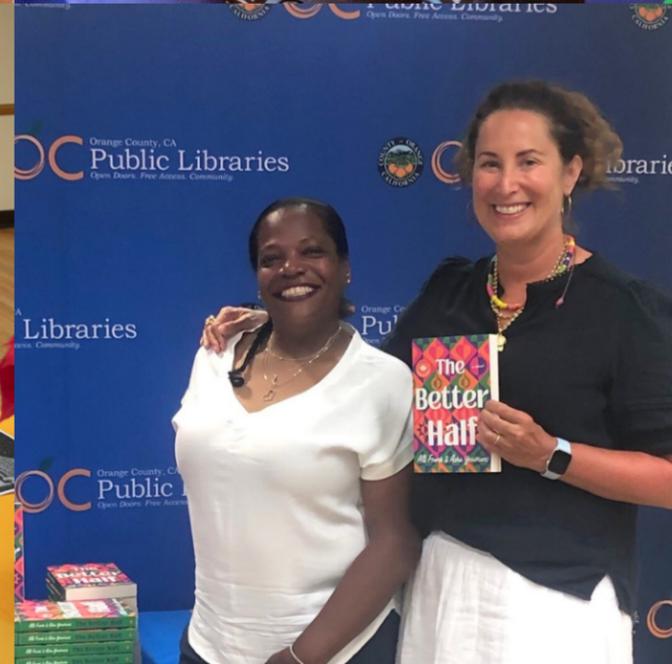
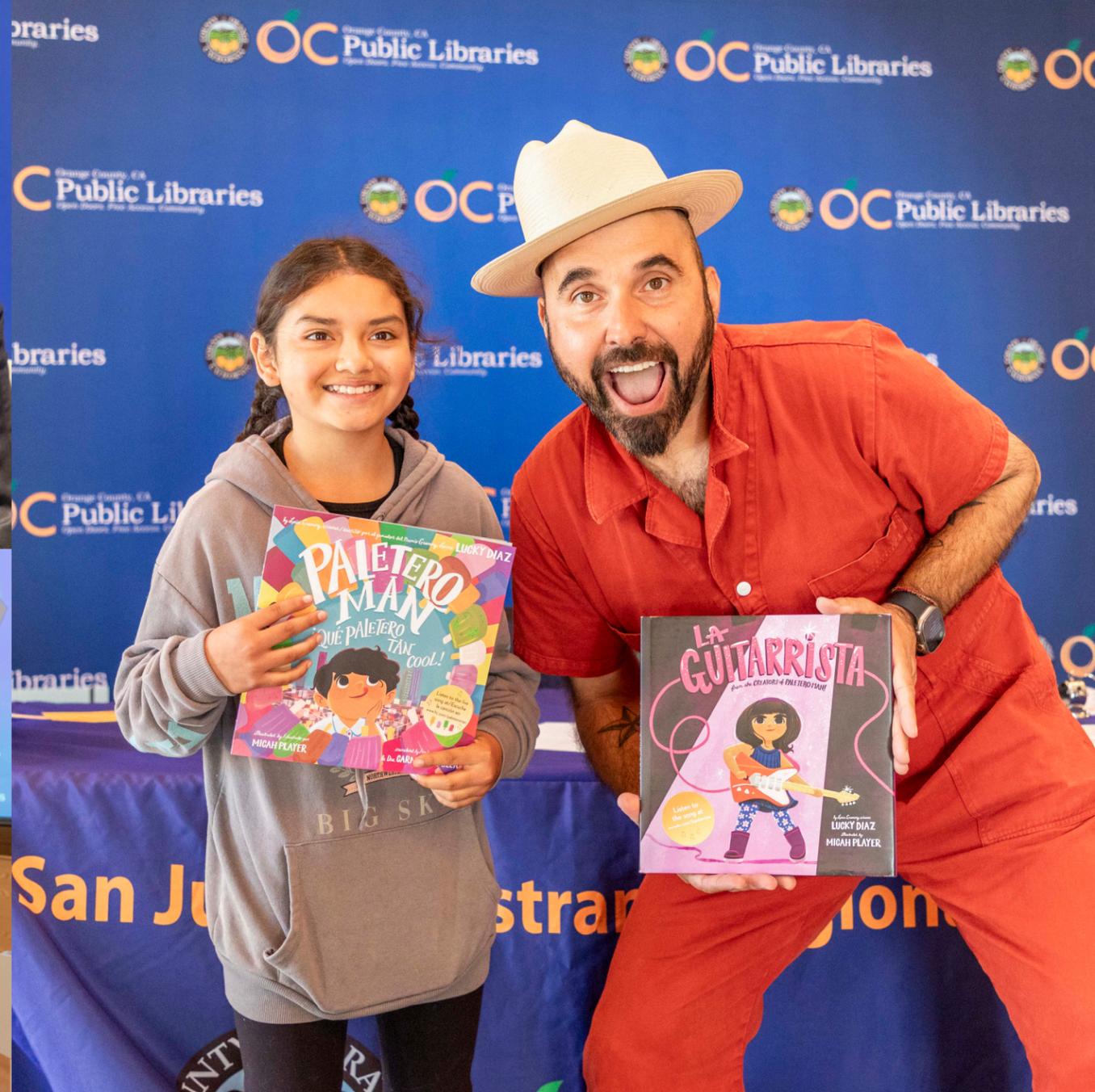
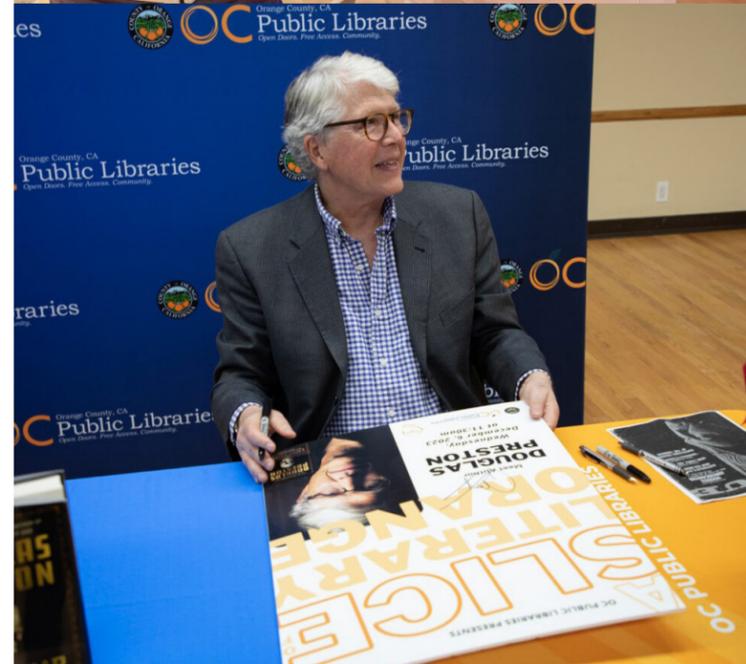
Wade Rouse/Viola Shipman  
*The Edge of Summer*

Daniel Silva  
*The Collector*

Karin Slaughter  
*After That Night*

Brendan Slocum  
*Symphony of Secrets*

Adriana Trigiani  
*The Good Left Undone*





## 2024 Goals

Create meaningful experiences through innovative and inclusive programs, services, and outreach.

Provide sustainable and welcoming spaces for the community to connect, explore and learn.

Collect, preserve and share Orange County's heritage through oral histories, photos and documents.

Provide expert assistance, curated collections, and resources free of charge to our communities.

## Thank You

OCPL would like to express a sincere thank you to our donors for their support, including estate legacy bequests, Samueli Foundation, community members, Friends of the Library Groups, and the OCPL Foundation.

- Friends of Aliso Viejo Library
- Friends of Brea Library
- Friends of Costa Mesa Libraries
- Friends of Cypress Library
- Friends of Dana Point Library
- Friends of El Toro Library
- Friends of Foothill Ranch Library
- Friends of Fountain Valley Library
- Friends of Garden Grove Libraries
- Friends of Irvine – Heritage Park Library
- Friends of Irvine – Katie Wheeler Library
- Friends of Irvine – University Park Library
- Friends of La Habra Library
- Friends of La Palma Library
- Friends of Ladera Ranch Library
- Friends of Laguna Beach Library
- Friends of Laguna Hills Tech Library
- Friends of Laguna Niguel Library
- Friends of Laguna Woods Library
- Friends of Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Library
- Friends of Rancho Santa Margarita Library
- Friends of San Clemente Library
- Friends of San Juan Capistrano Library
- Friends of the Mary Wilson Branch Library
- Friends of Stanton Library
- Friends of Tustin Library
- Friends of Villa Park Library
- Friends of Westminster Library
- Intercanyon League
- OCPL Foundation

## Branch Locations

### ALISO VIEJO

1 Journey  
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656  
ocpl.alisoviejo@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 360-1730

### BREA

1 Civic Center Cir.  
Brea, CA 92821  
ocpl.brea@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 671-1722

### COSTA MESA/ DONALD DUNGAN

1855 Park Ave.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
ocpl.costamesadd@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 646-8845

### COSTA MESA/ MESA VERDE

2969 Mesa Verde Dr.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
ocpl.mesaverde@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 546-5274

### CYPRESS

5331 Orange Ave.  
Cypress, CA 90630  
ocpl.cypress@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 826-0350

### DANA POINT

33841 Niguel Rd.  
Dana Point, CA 92629  
ocpl.danapoint@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 496-5517

### EL TORO

24672 Raymond Way  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
ocpl.eltoro@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 855-8173

### FOOTHILL RANCH

27002 Cabriole Way  
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610  
ocpl.fhr@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 855-8072

### FOUNTAIN VALLEY

17635 Los Alamos  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
ocpl.fountainvalley@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 962-1324

### GARDEN GROVE/ CHAPMAN

9182 Chapman Ave.  
Garden Grove, CA 92841  
ocpl.chapman@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 539-2115

### GARDEN GROVE/MAIN

11200 Stanford Ave.  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
ocpl.ggr@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 530-0711

### GARDEN GROVE/ TIBOR RUBIN

11962 Bailey St.  
Garden Grove, CA 92845  
ocpl.ggtr@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 897-2594

### IRVINE/HERITAGE PARK

14361 Yale Ave.  
Irvine, CA 92604  
ocpl.heritage@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 936-4040

### IRVINE/KATIE WHEELER

13109 Old Myford Rd.  
Irvine, CA 92602  
ocpl.katiawheeler@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 669-8753

### IRVINE/UNIVERSITY PARK

4512 Sandburg Way  
Irvine, CA 92612  
ocpl.universitypark@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 786-4001

### LA HABRA

221 East La Habra Blvd.  
La Habra, CA 90631  
ocpl.lahabra@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 526-7728 or (562) 694-0078

### LA PALMA

7842 Walker St.  
La Palma, CA 90623  
ocpl.lapalma@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 523-8585

### LADERA RANCH

29551 Sienna Pkwy.  
Ladera Ranch, CA 92694  
ocpl.laderaranch@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 234-5940

### LAGUNA BEACH

363 Glenneyre St.  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
ocpl.lagunabeach@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 497-1733

### LAGUNA HILLS TECHNOLOGY

25555 Alicia Pkwy.  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
ocpl.ltk@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 707-2699

### LAGUNA NIGUEL

30341 Crown Valley Pkwy.  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
ocpl.lagunaniguel@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 249-5252

### LAGUNA WOODS

24266 El Toro Rd.  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637  
ocpl.lagunawoods@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 639-0500

### LIBRARY OF THE CANYONS

7531 E. Santiago Canyon Rd.  
Silverado, CA 92676  
ocpl.lotc@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 649-2216

### LOS ALAMITOS/ ROSSMOOR

12700 Montecito  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
ocpl.lar@occr.ocgov.com  
(562) 430-1048

### MOBILE LIBRARY

ocpl.mobilelibrary@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 566-2708

### RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

30902 La Promesa  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
ocpl.rsm@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 459-6094

### SAN CLEMENTE

242 Avenida Del Mar  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
ocpl.sanclemente@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 492-3493

### SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

31495 El Camino Real  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
ocpl.sjc@occr.ocgov.com  
(949) 493-1752

### SEAL BEACH

707 Electric Ave.  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
ocpl.sealbeach@occr.ocgov.com  
(562) 431-3585

### STANTON

7850 Katella Ave.  
Stanton, CA 90680  
ocpl.stanton@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 898-3302

### TUSTIN

345 E. Main St.  
Tustin, CA 92780  
ocpl.tustin@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 544-7725

### VILLA PARK

17865 Santiago Blvd.  
Villa Park, CA 92861  
ocpl.villapark@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 998-0861

### WESTMINSTER

8180 13th St.  
Westminster, CA 92683  
ocpl.westminster@occr.ocgov.com  
(714) 893-5057

# OC Public Libraries

## 2023 Annual Report

**OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES**  
1501 E. Saint Andrew Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
ocpl.org

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @ocpubliclibraries  
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X: @ocpublib  
YouTube: @ocpubliclibraries



Orange County, CA  
**Public Libraries**  
*Open Doors. Free Access. Community.*