

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JULIE E. QUILLMAN

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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

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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.

World language materials were borrowed

416,715
times



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.

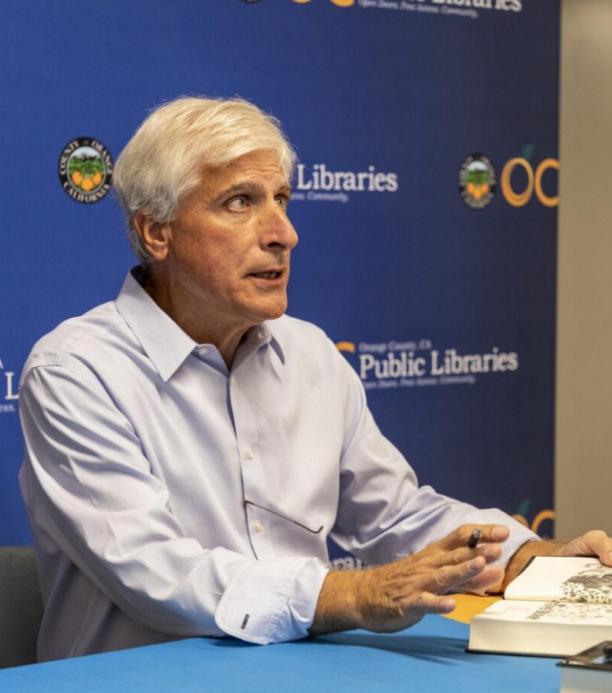
SOCIAL MEDIA

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

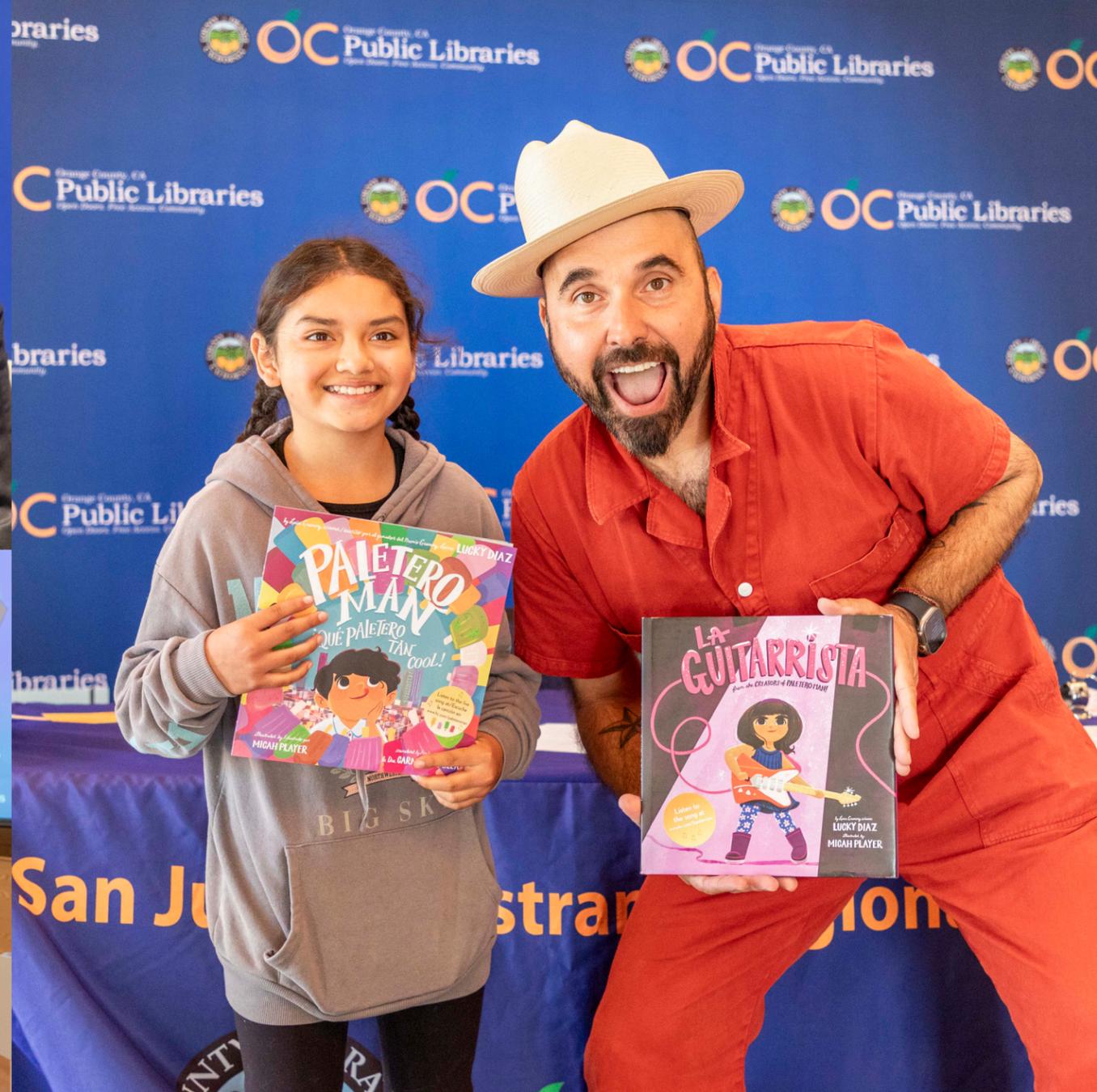
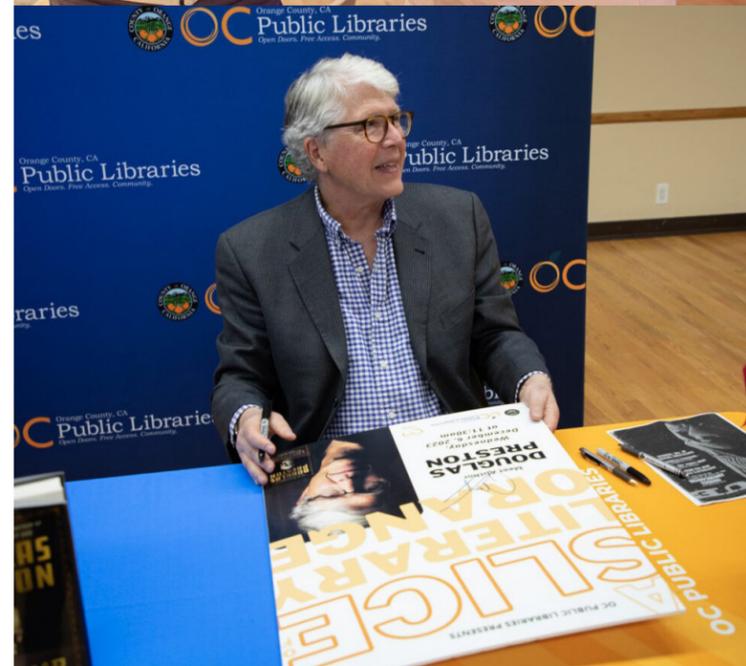
Wade Rouse/Viola Shipman
The Edge of Summer

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
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(714) 826-0350

DANA POINT

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ocpl.danapoint@occr.ocgov.com
(949) 496-5517

EL TORO

24672 Raymond Way
Lake Forest, CA 92630
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FOOTHILL RANCH

27002 Cabriole Way
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
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(949) 855-8072

FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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Fountain Valley, CA 92708
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(714) 962-1324

GARDEN GROVE/ CHAPMAN

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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

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Irvine, CA 92612
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LA HABRA

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LAGUNA BEACH

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LAGUNA HILLS TECHNOLOGY

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LAGUNA NIGUEL

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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
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WESTMINSTER

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