

Gibson County Memorial Library



LONG-RANGE PLAN 2025-2029

Date Updated/Approved by Board:

July 17th, 2025 - SM / September 9th, 2025

Vision Statement:

The Gibson County Memorial Library wants to create a level playing field for all county residents to give everyone a fair shot at the future.

Mission Statement:

The Gibson County Memorial Library strives to enrich the lives of the citizens of Gibson County by providing quality materials and services which fulfill educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming, respectful, and businesslike.

Community Profile:

As of the 2020 Census, Gibson County had a reported population of 50,429.

Economic

The median household income is 59,009. 16% of the county's households are at the poverty level, while 27% of households are at the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) level.

Race

95% of the racial make up of Gibson county has reported as White with 17% reporting as Black. 2% of the population of any race claim Hispanic ethnicity

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Age

Persons aged 65 and older make up 17.8% of the population, with those under 5 years old accounting for 6.2%. School aged children (5-18) equal 18% of the population with 58% making up the workforce ages of 18-64.

Education and Employment

Gibson County has seven independent school systems, with 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 6 high schools. 19.1% of the population hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. 20,800 people are employed in Gibson county with major opportunities including manufacturing, distribution and agriculture. The unemployment rate is 3.6%.

Other Libraries

Gibson County is also served by two city libraries, in Humboldt and Milan. These libraries are independent of Gibson County Memorial Library, but do also receive secondary financial support from the county.

Library Profile:

The library is located at 303 South High Street in Trenton, TN. The building is 5200 sq. ft. with an open main room for adult/teen collections and computers and a smaller designated children's room.

As of July 2025 the library's collection totals 21,767. There are 11 public access computers, and 3 children's educational computers. The staff includes 4 full-time positions and 2 part-time positions. Two staff members hold MLS degrees.

Service Responses:

1	New Library Building
2	Collections for all
3	Genealogical research
4	Teens and New Adults

Goal 1:

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GOAL 1: Gibson County Memorial Library would be able to positively respond to the county's need for more programs with a new facility.

<p>Objective 1a:</p> <p>The library staff will work closely with the community to raise the necessary funding for a new facility, approximately \$3.5 million by 2028.</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director and Assistant Director will attend Foundation meetings. 2. All staff will advocate for building program to patrons. 3. Donation spots will be developed around the community. 4. Director will provide information for grant writing from statistics and surveys. 5. Director and Assistant Director will work closely with the county mayor to coordinate county funding. 	<p>Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff time 2. Supplies 3. Computer Resources
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Goal 2:



GOAL 2: The community will have ready access to a wide variety of programs and materials to meet their recreational and cultural needs.

<p>Objective 2a:</p> <p>The library will promote collections and services for other languages and abilities.</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Train and inform staff of resources available through the state2. Create displays that highlight special collections3. Research and develop innovative special collections that will meet the needs of patrons.	<p>Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Staff time2. Tennessee Electronic Library3. Library for Accessible Books and Media4. Budgetary allocations from books/media line
<p>Objective 2b:</p> <p>The library will partner with at least one additional entity during the year to provide programs.</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact outside agencies to determine willingness to collaborate2. Develop programs3. Schedule presenters4. Arrange for supplies	<p>Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Staff time2. Personnel from outside agency3. Supplies4. Presenters

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Goal 3:

GOAL 3: Due to the increased interest in genealogy, patrons would benefit with these materials and archived newspapers being digitized and having them available online.

Objective 3a: Digitize Genealogy section by end of year 2026.	Activities: 1. Organize and prioritize materials 2. Scan to drive 3. Pursue Microfilm digitizing options	Resources: 1. Staff time 2. State Library and Archives 3. Gibson County Archives 4. Genealogy materials 5. Equipment 6. funding
Objective 3b: Create an online digital repository for genealogical materials by 2028	Activities: 1. Examine Cost 2. Research platforms 3. Pursue grants 4. Catalog and describe materials 5. Promote	Resources: 1. Staff time 2. State Library and Archives 3. Digitized holdings 4. Web hosting 5. Funding

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Goal 4:

In order to ensure the future leadership of the library, the library will seek to increase active participation by patrons ages 13-25 by 50% by 2027		
Objective 4a: The library will branch out into communication through the channels used by this age group.	Activities: 1. New instagram 2. Tik tok 3. Revive Discord	Resources: 1. Staff Time 2. Computer resources

<p>Objective 4b:</p> <p>The library will seek to offer programs based on the trending topics that appeal to this age group</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey to gather ideas 2. Research trending programs with other libraries 3. Develop plan 4. Outreach to promote 	<p>Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff time 2. Library blogs and social media 3. Community partners to connect with for outreach
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Review Statement:

The library's long-range plan will be reviewed by the library director and assistant director at least once annually. They will then present it to the library board with any recommended changes and updated dates for review and approval

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