

Long Range Planning 2026-2030

Winchester Public Library

Brief Description

The Winchester Public Library supports residents and families of the city of Winchester and surrounding Jefferson Township. This area covers fifty-eight square miles with a population of approximately 1,100 people. The population is aging and above the median age for the state of Kansas. Jefferson County libraries in northeast Kansas enjoy the benefits of belonging to a consortium that enables sharing of cataloged materials. This is enhanced with a statewide courier system to deliver materials between libraries easily.

Vision Statement

The Winchester Public Library strives to be a part of the educational, informational, and recreational resources of the community and works toward providing the means to enrich the lives of all who use it.

Mission Statement

The Winchester Public Library will nurture life-long learning by providing free library services to all people regardless of age, creed, gender, or race.

Values

1. **Equal Access** - We believe all people should have access to books, both printed and electronics, audiovisual materials, technology, and accurate, timely information.
2. **Community Needs** - We believe that everyone deserves a library that is an integral part of the community and one that coordinates with other local organizations, agencies, and schools to advance the needs of the library and its patrons.
3. **Life Long Learning** - We believe the role of the library is to encourage learning and good citizenship from all patrons.
4. **Cooperation** - We recognize our requirement to work with other libraries in order to broaden our resources and to provide a wide spectrum of information to our patrons.
5. **Safety** - We will foster a safe and secure environment for all our patrons and staff.

Assessed Need #1: As an information center of a community, a library is in a unique position to help in the dissemination of local information. The number of ways that people get information includes radio, television, internet, and newspapers. Today, information seekers have much more personalized avenues to access their information. The lack of consistent public relations and communications makes it difficult for the community of Winchester to become a cohesive supportive community.

Goal: Increase community awareness and support of programs and services provided by the library.

1. Increase the number of patrons.
2. Increase attendance and support for library programs.
3. Provide up to date technology, including guidance and assistance to patrons.

Assessed Need #2: State budget shortfalls and reduced valuations could shrink future funding avenues.

Goal: Improve the financial stability of the library.

1. Manage and develop an annual budget that supports the requirements and needs of the library.
2. Work with NEKLS, the City of Winchester, and Jefferson Township to ensure library programs and requirements are adequately funded.
3. Investigate and apply for available and appropriate grants.

Assessed Need #3: The requirement of a library system to have a weeding and acquisition policy tied to funding necessitates that we have a means of book disposal that the community can support. People in the community think of the library as the best place to donate their old books. The library only accepts 10-20% of all donated material.

Goal: Develop better methods for book disposal.