



509 North Main
Maryville, MO
64468-1610

Phone: (660) 582.5281
Fax: (660) 582.2411

Maryville Public Library Policy

Section A: LIBRARY HISTORY, MISSION, LAW

Subject 300: Missouri Library Law, Page 1 of 1

Last reviewed/revised: 2016

A Primer in Missouri Library Law

The State in its Constitution endorses the existence of public libraries and it promises its support to them.

Local communities are authorized to levy taxes approved for the support of public libraries.

Local libraries are supported by tax levies approved by a vote of the people served.

Though a local government levies and collects the library tax, the use of the library funds is controlled by the Library board.

Cities and counties may establish public libraries.

Library Boards are appointed by officials of general government (county courts or mayors or councils) but they are independent of those appointing bodies in the operation of a library.

A Library Board, though it exercises ultimate control over a library, is required by law to employ a librarian who manages the affairs of the library.

Local libraries may contract with one another for mutually beneficial activities.

City libraries and county libraries may merge into single units.

County libraries may consolidate with one another.

Libraries are political subdivisions of the State and as such possess a very high degree of independence from general government.

Libraries have means other than their operating levies to erect buildings.

The State Library exists to assist local libraries. It has no authority over the operations of any local library.