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## Maryville Public Library Policy

**Section A:** LIBRARY HISTORY, MISSION, LAW

**Subject 100:** Mission of Maryville Public Library,  
Page 1 of 1

Last reviewed/revised: 2017

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### Mission Statement

The Maryville Public Library exists to help Maryville citizens succeed and enjoy their lives through reading, learning, creating, and connecting.

## A Brief History of Maryville Public Library



Public Library, Maryville, Mo.

The Maryville Public Library opened its doors to the public on July 1, 1905 at its original location at the corner of Buchanan and Second Streets. The building, constructed of red pressed brick, was funded with a \$15,000 gift from the American Industrial Leader and famed philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. An annual property tax was levied by the citizens of Maryville for the purpose of maintaining the library and furnishing resources.

(Source: *Past and Present of Nodaway County Missouri*, B.F. Bowen & Company, 1910)

In 1962, the Library Board of Trustees took possession of the limestone structure that formerly housed the Maryville Post Office at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets.

A major expansion and renovation funded by private donations and grant income began in 1999 and was completed in 2001.

In 1962, 1993, and again in 2015, the Maryville Public Library asked county residents to join Maryville residents in paying a tax to support a countywide library. The proposal was defeated by out-of-town voters each time.

In 2017, Maryville voters approved the first tax increase for the library since 1962.



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**Subject 300:** Missouri Library Law, Page 1 of 1

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### 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.