



## APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 2024

### Personnel

- Ashe: Hiring an Adult Services Manager, Youth Services Specialist (PT), Library Assistant (PT)
- Watauga: Hiring a Youth Services Librarian (FT)
- Wilkes: All positions are filled as of November 18. Adult Services Librarian/Traphill Branch manager out on medical leave.
- Timeline for Annual Evaluations and Work & Development Plans
- Half Day Staff Trainings
  - Ashe, Spring 2025; Watauga, December 19; Wilkes, December 6

### Policy

- Overview of Meeting Room Policy

### Grant Updates

- NCDIT Digital Champion Grant
  - NCDIT asked us to reconsider the request to withdraw our application and suggested that we could shift the funds to High Country Council of Governments. While we were considering this possibility, NCDIT decided to offer all recipients who had been affected by Hurricane Helene the option to revise their original grant to better meet the needs post-storm. Our regional team believes this opportunity could have a significant, positive impact on all three counties. Here is our proposed plan in brief:
    - New desktops and monitors for public labs and OPACs
    - Replace Ruckus Wireless system; add two more access points
    - Replace physical server hardware and disaster recovery system
    - Replace firewall
    - Distribute laptops, cases, and information literacy materials to individuals who have been severely affected by Hurricane Helene
    - Candid database resources
- LSTA Literacy Grant 2024-25
- NC Dept. of Commerce Downtown Development Funds
- LSTA 2025-26 Grants (each county library plans to submit an EZ grant)

### Statistics

- In September, ARL had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest NC Kids Digital Library checkouts (of 135) statewide, and in October, the 12<sup>th</sup> highest.
- This October, we welcomed 4.3% more visitors, recorded 14.7% more computer sessions, and had 63.6% more WiFi users than in October 2023.