



El Dorado County
LIBRARY

Mission

El Dorado County Library provides free and easy access to ideas, books, and technology to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

El Dorado County Library currently charges fines on overdue books and charges a fee to borrow videos.

Late fines and borrowing fees prevent equal access to books and information

- They work against the mission of the library
- They create barriers and inequalities in our community
- They often impact children, families, and those on fixed income the most

How Do Fine Free Libraries Work?

The fine free model does not charge daily fines for overdue materials but charges for lost or damaged items. Any customer with an item kept 21 days past the item due date will have their account blocked until the item is returned or an item replacement cost is paid.

Fine Free Libraries Near and Far

Folsom Public Library
Sacramento Public Library
Sonoma County Public Library
Napa County Public Library
Contra Costa Public Library
Yolo County Library
Berkeley Public Library
Oakland Public Library
San Diego Public Library
San Francisco Public Library
LA County Public Library
New York Public Library
Detroit Public Library
Salt Lake City Public Library
Baltimore Public Library

and many, many, others...

The NorthNet Library System has 41 member libraries in California from north of San Francisco up to the Oregon border. Over half are fine free.

What is the total amount of fines paid each year by El Dorado County Library customers?

Approximately \$50,000

What is the total amount of video borrowing fees paid each year by El Dorado County Library customers?

Approximately \$20,000

How can we better serve our community? Part 1

In a strategic move earlier this year, El Dorado County Library replaced their proprietary integrated library system and online public access catalog software with open-source products.

This change comes with many benefits and allows the library to modify the software as needed over time, based on the needs of our customers.

It also creates an annual cost-savings of over \$50,000

How can we better serve our community? Part 2

- reduce our wireless hotspot budget
- upgrade self-checkout machines to a product included with our integrated library system software
- slightly reduce our physical audiobook budget

These actions create an annual cost-savings of approximately \$20,000

Newly fine free libraries typically see a substantial increase in returned overdue books and an increase in new library card applications.

Chicago Public Library

- saw a 240% increase in return of materials within three weeks of implementing its fine free policy.
- they also had 400 more card renewals compared with that time last year.

By adopting the proposed resolution, we gain the following:

- A fine and fee schedule that aligns with our mission statement
- A more equitable library system through the removal of systematic barriers
- A modern approach to library services
- A system that better supports children, families, and those on fixed income

Questions & Comments

Bryce Lovell – Director of Library Services – El Dorado County – 11.05.24