

Putnam County Libraries Association

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I. Description of Agency

The [Putnam County Libraries Association \(PCLA\)](#) consists of the eight libraries in the county:

[Brewster Public Library](#)

[Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library](#) (Cold Spring)

[Alice Curtis Desmond & Hamilton Fish Library](#) (Garrison)

[Kent Public Library](#)

[Mahopac Public Library](#)

[Patterson Library](#)

[Putnam Valley Free Library](#)

[Reed Memorial Library](#) (Carmel)

II. Services Provided

Each of these libraries provides high-quality programs and services to the residents of Putnam County. We provide cool spaces in the summer and warm spaces in the winter. As part of the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) consortium, consisting of 66 member libraries with 70 locations spanning five counties, we provide access to millions of physical items through interlibrary loan, as well as countless e-resources, such as ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and searchable databases.

In addition, library patrons can:

- use a computer to access the internet to apply for jobs & sign up for services
- access free wifi onsite or borrow a hotspot device for home use
- borrow unique items such as tools, a paper shredder, toys, cake pans, power washer
- get group and 1:1 assistance with technology
- attend programs for all ages (0-100)
- obtain homework help
- borrow museum passes for free and reduced entrance fees to area attractions

- apply for a passport
- have documents notarized
- participate in support groups, both online and in person
- take home free vegetable or flower seeds
- use databases to learn a new skill for work or pleasure, study for a test, etc.
- learn a language with Transparent Language
- ...and much more!

III. Mission Statement

The purpose of the Putnam County Libraries Association is to encourage cooperation among all libraries serving the public in Putnam County, and to promote public interest in and support for appropriate library service in Putnam County.

IV. Population Served

The eight libraries in Putnam County serve **all** residents, from newborns to senior citizens. Our goal is to ensure equal access to information, programs, and services, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race, religion, gender identity, national origin, or disability. With county funds, we have made information on our websites more accessible with the addition of the “Recite Me” tool, which offers a range of on-demand accessibility solutions that make each of the eight Putnam County websites user-friendly for individuals with disabilities, situational challenges, and language barriers, through customizable options. Demographics of each service area vary widely. Therefore, each library’s goal is to customize its collection and resources to best serve its community while leveraging the MHLS consortium to provide expanded access to materials, databases, and services.

V. Significant Events & Accomplishments in 2025

- County funds supported the popular local history lecture series throughout the county
- We obtained group subscriptions to three new databases for patrons:
 - [Comics Plus](#), unlimited access to thousands of graphic novels and manga
 - [Newsbank](#), the largest resource of U.S. news content from local, regional and national sources
 - [Craft & Hobby](#), the largest resource of on-demand videos for creativity

- Every library again participated in "[The Great Give Back](#)," a state-wide program where libraries and their patrons participated in meaningful service-oriented experiences to support local organizations such as *Riverkeeper, Putnam County SPCA, and local food banks.*
- We participated in the widely popular Mid-Hudson Library System "Roadtrip" - which encouraged patrons across our five counties to visit every library within the system for prizes and pride; County Executive Byrne got a stamp from every library in Putnam County!
- We addressed food scarcity in the community, partnering with organizations such as *Meals on Main Street, Cornell Cooperative Extension* and *Second Chance Foods*, to bring free seed libraries, food pantries, and frozen prepared meals to families in need.
- We participated in local and county-wide outreach efforts, attending events such as Putnam Pride and Assemblyman Matthew Slater's Senior Resource Fair.
- We collaborated on county-wide summer reading programs, providing entertainment and educational experiences for patrons of all ages.

Some other highlights from 2025:

- Library visits – **525,188 = 15% increase over last year**
- Checked out physical items – **434,304**
- Checked out electronic materials – **177,475**
- Website visits – **409,532**
- Wifi sessions – **89,318**
- Reference questions answered – **164,918**
- Programs offered – **6,945**
- Program attendance – **79,736**
- Number of public computer uses – **23,182**

VI. Staffing

- In January 2025, Donna Perolli (formerly Director of the Reed Library) became the Director of the Kent Public Library.
- In May, 2025, Denise Martens became the Director of Reed Memorial Library.
- In December 2025, Gina Loprinzo retired as Director of the Brewster Library.

VII. Sources of Revenue

Each library is funded through town taxpayer dollars. All eight libraries' tax levies are decided through a public vote. Each library strives to keep the taxpayers' burden as low as possible; county funding is crucial to assist in purchasing materials, paying staff, maintaining buildings, and providing programs which are open to all county residents. Challenges include keeping up with the continuing rise in cost and usage of e-resources. E-resources such as ebooks and e-audiobooks are not available to public libraries at the same price that individuals pay. The costs to libraries can be astronomical, even as they take an ever larger share of our materials budgets. Mandated wage increases, as well as facility upkeep, are additional ongoing challenges. The community loves our historic library buildings, but they do need constant care and upgrades.

VIII. Goals for 2026

In 2026, PCLA plans to:

- Organize and support local Rev250 events
- Strive to meet the continually rising demand for e-resources
- Offer AI programming to help educate and protect our residents
- Continue our efforts to close the digital divide
- Work with Putnam County Mental Health department on trainings to help our most vulnerable residents
- Expand food insecurity resources
- Subscribe to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), along with interactive genealogy workshops
- Work with our community partners across governmental agencies, schools, local non-profits, and others with whom our mission aligns to leverage resources and best practices to serve our communities

495	Brewster	Butterfield	Kent	Mahopac	Patterson	Putnam Vly	Reed	Garrison	TOTALS
Annual library visits	42,075	55,034	74,219	151,786	35,510	70,856	47,781	47,927	525,188
Number of programs	900	1,096	901	1,839	507	740	495	467	6,945
Total program attendance	10,131	6,004	15,414	14,686	10,577	8,552	7,406	6,966	79,736
Website visits	48,342	30,297	105,000	102,164	34,589	29,268	23,380	36,492	409,532
Wifi sessions	17,252	7,506	15,174	11,139	10,648	7,651	5,497	14,451	89,318
Circulation of all physical items	30,971	53,952	79,728	110,490	33,512	43,595	30,408	51,648	434,304
Circulation of all electronic materials	26,695	14,822	17,750	59,804	21,125	14,584	11,356	11,339	177,475
Number of reference transactions	8,327	47,250	34,522	35,415	12,087	5,610	4,243	17,464	164,918
Number of public computer users	2,203	1,206	5,717	8,979	1,653	1,003	1,369	1,052	23,182