

Test the fastest internet in town at the Anacortes Library! We're connected to the City's new high speed internet, and our broadband is a state-of-the-art learning, communication and recreational platform for all. Staff will help you use the Internet, download ebooks, listen to a local or international podcast, stream a movie, or check out the print books we all love.

**Did you know?**

In October, the library will be the launching point for experiencing what your smartphone, laptop, tablet or other electronic devices can do with safe, reliable and fast broadband. If you don't have your own gadget come and use library computers. Trained staff can connect you for your learning and delight.

The library has been undertaking a three-month training effort to improve customer service and upgrade technological skills to better meet changing community needs; hiring new staff with backgrounds in library technology. We provide ongoing learning opportunities targeted to APL's needs that will enable staff to keep abreast of emerging library and society trends.

We have new check out stations that keep up with new software releases. The APLF Manieri Endowment generously provided partial funding for this new equipment. The new technology allows cardholders the option to checkout on the CheckOut stations on the main floor and in Dr. Sylvia Maxson Children's Library while allowing staff to assist with the more involved questions that you have such as making new cards, assist with a reference question, help print a document, perform a storytime, or find a particular book! You may also pick up your Hold or reserve items right at CheckOut as well. Self-pickup Holds is a best practice in a vast majority of libraries due to technology upgrades. Have you noticed that we are busier than ever? This new technology and layout will help keep the queues manageable and assistance high quality whenever you need assistance.

Today's libraries are more than a place to borrow books. They are community resource centers that are offering more services in response to public requests. To meet those requests and to provide excellent customer service with limited resources, the library has implemented professional development programs to teach new skills, upgrade existing ones—a key step toward meeting changing community needs.

As your Library Director, I stand for innovation, customer service, and staff empowerment that supports our thriving community.

Warmly,  
Ruth Barefoot