Jefferson County’s public libraries have come a long way since the early bookmobile of the 1920s. Today, 22 member libraries — representing some 40 locations — cooperate to offer “One County. One Card” consolidated services to hundreds of thousands of people.

The Jefferson County Library Cooperative (JCLC) which linked all locally funded libraries in the county officially began in 1978. Forty years later, the JCLC offers much more than traditional books. It embraces the digital age and provides crucial services — from job-skills training, to online tutoring — for residents throughout the county.

The Homewood Public Library will host a 40th birthday bash on May 4 to commemorate the occasion. Other libraries throughout Jefferson County will feature a large traveling 40th birthday yard sign and offer birthday cake events for patrons at various library locations throughout the year.

For more information, visit your local library or go to www.publiclibrariesinjc.org.
Children’s author Irene Latham visited the Springville Public Library on March 20. More than 200 students from Springville Middle School with their teachers met with Latham in small groups and asked questions about her book, *Leaving Gee’s Bend*. The author also discussed the writing process with students and signed copies of her books.

The Springville Public Library also held a breakfast with Ramona Richards on May 23. The author of *My Mother Quilts, Devotions of Love, Legacy, Family, and Faith* talked about her book while patrons ate a delicious breakfast courtesy of Daylight Donuts and the Springfield Cafe.

Both events were scheduled to coordinate and highlight a local artist’s quilt display located in the main library.
Thirty-two attended Rogersville Public Library’s first Lego Club meeting on March 3, which was started after the library received an 2018 LSTA grant to assist in funding the program. The children’s Lego creations were on display in the library after the first meeting, and attendance has increased for each club meeting to follow as word about the club spread within the community.

Dothan Houston County Library System hosted a fencing exhibition at their main location on March 15. The demonstration was a way to gauge interest and introduce the sport to Wiregrass residents. Rylan Delap, president of the Alabama division for United States Fencing, served as one of the demonstrators. He said that interest in the sport is rapidly growing throughout the Southeast, but a lack of adequate fencing facilities are one of the few barriers to entry.
In honor of Women’s History Month, Birmingham Public Library’s Inglenook branch hosted an appreciation program on March 16. The program included a showing of *Hidden Figures*, the popular 2016 biographical drama film about African American female mathematicians who served as trailblazers while working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the 1960s Space Race.

Branch Manager Karnecia Williams began hosting quarterly programs that celebrate women about a year ago, and invites speakers to discuss various topics relating to women’s issues. Williams said the gatherings are designed to pay tribute to the hard-working women of Inglenook who juggle raising families, careers, paying bills, and other duties that leave many feeling depleted or exhausted.

In addition to the film, the Inglenook Library hosted two other events this month to celebrate women. *Spring to Action* was a program held by a mentoring group, “Girls of Promise with Purpose” on March 5. Led by Elvira Davis, the program taught young ladies how their actions can impact their lives.

The “Readers Are Leaders” youth book club also celebrated Women’s History Month on March 21 by reading and discussing the lives of women who have impacted the world.

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**TWO RESOURCES, ONE GOAL: HELPING ALABAMA SUCCEED**

*LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama*

- Online tutoring for grades K-12
- College placement resources
- Help for all ages and skill levels
- Certification testing & GED preparation
- Career resources

*Find both on our Resources & Research Links Page*
Food & fun at McGregor-McKinney

Scores of patrons gathered at the McGregor-McKinney Public Library in Hartford for “Supper with Sean” on March 22. The well-attended barbecue dinner was followed by an evening of live entertainment by musician Sean Dietrich.

Look what’s hoppening this weekend ...

With Easter just around the corner, we’d love to see what’s cracking in your local library this Spring. Just send us your photos, and we’ll be sure to include them in the next issue. Here are a few early submissions we’ve already received:

The preschool at the Dutton Community Library has Easter learning fun while practicing color recognition and counting eggs.

The Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library teamed up with other city agencies in Brundidge to host a community-wide Easter egg hunt. The event kicked off with story time inside the library, and there were also crafts, coloring, and photos taken with the Easter Bunny.
**Seeking an opinion?**
The APLS LibGuide may hold the answer.

Attorney general opinions are an extremely valuable resource for furthering your understanding of state law regarding public libraries. While the opinions are available through the Office of the Attorney General’s website, the search functionality tends to be difficult and confusing.

In an effort to remedy this, APLS has pulled all of the opinions related to public libraries and organized them in a LibGuide available at apls.libguides.com/AGO. Please note that you can download opinions directly from the guide by clicking an entry header or Adobe Acrobat icon.

APLS will continue to experiment with LibGuides as a way to make state resources more accessible to public libraries and their patrons. While our primary focus will be on APLS resources, we will also include other resources we consider useful to public librarians.

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**Book reviews wanted**

Do you like to read? Do you fancy yourself a writer? If so, you might be perfect to pen a book review to appear right here within the pages of APLSeeds.

APLS has recently received several adult fiction advanced reader copies of books yet to be released. If you can be objective and follow a set review format similar to the pages of Yakety Yak, let us know and we will send you a book to review. Writers, please remember to adequately evaluate the content. Tell us what you like/dislike without giving away too much! Book review questions should be directed to Gail Sheldon, gs Sheldon@ap l s . s t a t e . a l . u s , or Ryan Godfrey, rgodfrey@ap l s . s t a t e . a l . u s .

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**APLSeeds is seeking adult fiction book reviews, similar to the YA reviews currently appearing in the Yakety Yak newsletter**