

**KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES: PLANNING, SELECTING, & MANAGING  
COLLECTIONS – LIBS658**

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**Virginia Beach Public Library (VBPL): An Essential Pillar of the Community**

Nestled in the heart of Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Virginia Beach Public Library (VBPL) stands as a beacon of learning, community interaction, and cultural enrichment. Serving a city bustling with over 450,000 residents, this comprehensive library system ensures every individual has access to an expansive treasure trove of resources.

VBPL boasts a labyrinth of avenues to knowledge, with its collection spanning over 1 million print and non-print items. The library's physical expanse includes 11 diverse locations: from the sprawling 90,000-square-foot Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library on Virginia Beach Boulevard—a tribute to the city's long-serving mayor—to the quaint Pungo-Blackwater Library nestled beside Creeds Elementary School. This network further extends to a joint-use library in collaboration with Tidewater Community College, a dedicated public law library, the unique Library and Resource Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and even a bookmobile for early literacy outreach.

The administration of VBPL is structured meticulously, reflecting its unwavering commitment to serving the multifaceted needs of its patrons. Its army of professionals ranges from curators and librarians to outreach coordinators—all working in harmony to craft programs, manage digital resources, and hold events for the community. Their tireless efforts are exemplified in the library's varied outreach programs, from reading sessions for children to adult workshops and digital literacy campaigns.

Beyond its vast in-house resources, VBPL understands the essence of community collaboration. Virginia Beach boasts a plethora of cultural institutions. VBPL's partnerships, whether through joint events or shared resources, with these institutions amplify the cultural and educational offerings available to residents.

Additionally, VBPL extends its interaction beyond the confines of its walls by offering multiple channels—telephone, in-person, email—for patrons to seek assistance. Guided by a 13-member Advisory Board appointed by the City Council, the library benefits from city, school, and teen perspectives. Financially, while city and state funds sustain it, organizations like the Friends of the Virginia Beach Public Library provide significant backing, contributing around \$100,000 annually for various programs. The Virginia Beach Public Library Foundation further augments this support with larger initiatives, championing endeavors such as Ready to Learn and the International Language Collection.

In summation, the Virginia Beach Public Library is more than a sanctuary for book enthusiasts—it's a vibrant institution pulsating with life, dedicated to the enrichment and education of its community. A testament to its significance lies not just in its impressive infrastructure and collections but in its unwavering spirit of community service and collaboration.

## References

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