



## About the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL)

The Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) is one of Canada's largest public library systems. Celebrating its 85th anniversary in 2021, the ORL is looking forward to continuing our partnership with the 24 local governments we serve. Approximately 400,000 people spread over a diverse geographic area the size of Ireland have access to 31 ORL libraries, in-branch services and an ever-growing provision of online resources and partnerships. ORL service area includes some of Canada's fastest-growing urban areas, such as the cities in the Central Okanagan, as well as very rural and sparsely settled regions. ORL's population demographics vary, but in general, citizens tend to be older than average as the ORL includes areas containing many retirees. However, a vibrant and expanding economy, particularly in the Central Okanagan, and the continuing growth of UBCO, Okanagan College, Hi-tech firms, and other services, have drawn many younger people.

Each year, the ORL provides physical and online material. ORL connects people to the web, delivers programs and learning sessions, provide community space, offers public tech equipment and training, and assist with research and referral to other resources. The ORL is a regional library governed by a 24-member board, comprised of elected councillors and mayors of municipalities, regional districts, and First Nations directors. The Okanagan Regional Library has over 250 staff on our team working to bring services to our communities.

### ORL service highlights:

- *31 full-service branches*
- *One unstaffed pocket location within UBCO*
- *Volunteer organizations run two active book deposits*
- *24/7 access to online resources and a catalogue on our website*
- *Free adult and children programming*
- *Free membership*
- *Available maker spaces and recording studios in select branches*
- *Access to over 800,000 materials in our physical catalogue, including books, DVD's, cd's, magazines and much more*

The Library also has numerous local partnerships. It is more challenging, inefficient, and costly to service a widely spread population using many smaller points than the same population gathered in one urban area. The ORL Board is continually reviewing how the ORL distributes resources to assure local taxpayers that they are receiving at least the same amount back in local services to the tax money related to that area.