Dear Library Customer,

While the ASCPL buildings remain closed, teams of Library staff are developing plans to re-open our library buildings and restart library services in the safest way we possibly can. Your health and safety, along with the health and safety of Library staff, continue to be our top priorities.

As our state moves toward a re-opening of business based on Governor DeWine’s [**Responsible ReStart Ohio**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=f7a930672a&e=ad02836e3a), the Library’s plans feature a slow, cautious, and phased-in return to service. **For this reason, all Library buildings will remain closed until at least May 31.** We want to make sure we have the quantity and types of supplies needed and that we have developed protocols and procedures in order to conform to best practices for operating during a pandemic. Also, all Library programming has been canceled through June 30.

We plan to begin accepting returns before we open but are still researching the safest way to manage the flood of returned items we are expecting. (Our customers currently have more than 300,000 physical items on their Library cards!) Please keep your eyes open for an announcement about opening our book returns in the next several weeks.

Additionally, please remember that we have many wonderful resources and services you can use online.

* a sizable [**digital collection**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=6b3d98782c&e=ad02836e3a) of books, movies, and music, available 24-hours a day, via our website and our [**mobile app**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=f8f2fc6aeb&e=ad02836e3a)
* research databases such as [**Ancestry.com**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=241d964733&e=ad02836e3a), [**Morningstar Investment Research**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=7fc3f119fb&e=ad02836e3a), [**Transparent Languages**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=3488da1610&e=ad02836e3a), and [**Home Improvement Reference Center**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=58f590c7e0&e=ad02836e3a)
* [**assistance from staff**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=c8a3e3d548&e=ad02836e3a) including suggestions for reading, listening, and viewing; tech help; and reference questions
* virtual programs available on the Library’s [**Facebook page**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=755468a646&e=ad02836e3a), including story times, cooking, a Thursday evening readers advisory service, and Movies@Main Social Distancing Edition
* free Wi-Fi available outside all [**ASCPL locations**](https://akronlibrary.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dccca60bade4b01daded7417a&id=6db878724c&e=ad02836e3a); please observe safe practices if you visit a location to use the Wi-Fi

While we are happy to be able to serve the public in these new ways at this time, we are sad that we cannot yet open our doors. There is no substitute for the relationships we have developed with all of you, and we can’t wait to restore full library service as soon as we can do so safely.

I hope you are staying well and safe. On behalf of the staff, we miss you and can’t wait to see you again.

Pam Hickson-Stevenson
Executive Director