



17 Libraries One Library System

*How can 17 things
really be just one thing?
No, it's not magic
and it's not creative
accounting. It's us,
your Metropolitan
Library System.
Seventeen libraries—
one library system.*

A lot of people don't realize when they use their neighborhood library that it doesn't exist alone. Sure, they know that there are 16 other public libraries spread around Oklahoma County, from Harrah in the far east to Bethany and Warr Acres in the west; from Edmond up north to Southern Oaks in the south. You couldn't get too far from one of our libraries if you tried.

And we come in all shapes and sizes. Have you visited the new Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library yet?

How about our oldest library building, the Wright Library,

a vital component of Stockyard City? The Wright Library building on Exchange Avenue was constructed 83 years ago.

Did you know that when you visit one of our libraries, you are in a very real sense visiting them all? All 17 of them constitute a system. Here's how it works. Say you usually use The Village Library. Now that sounds like a library that is a function of the City of The Village, or maybe just for the needs of the citizens of The Village. We like to call it their neighborhood library, but



The Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library

it's also a part of the larger Metropolitan Library System and any MLS cardholder can use it.

How? Let's say you checked out an audiobook at Belle Isle Library. Two weeks later you've finished it, it's in your car and due, but you're in Midwest City that day. Since the Midwest City Library is part of the Metropolitan Library System, just swing by the bookdrop at the library there and pop it in. Better yet, come on in and check out another one.

Also, when you place a reserve on a book you want to read, you can pick it up at whatever library is closest to you, but the book may come to that library from one of the others in the system. A book—or DVD, CD, audiobook, or other item—may be on the shelf at any of our 17 locations.

A librarian may pull it off the shelf at Capitol Hill Library and send it to Del City Library for a customer there to check out. Our delivery trucks run every day so it won't take long for the item to go across the county and wind up in your hands.

This system works really well for the smaller libraries we call our "Extensions." We have five of these: Harrah, Jones, Luther, Nicoma Park and Wright. The folks who use those locations also

draw on the collections of the larger 12 libraries, but it isn't uncommon for an item to travel from one of the Extensions to one of its bigger cousins.

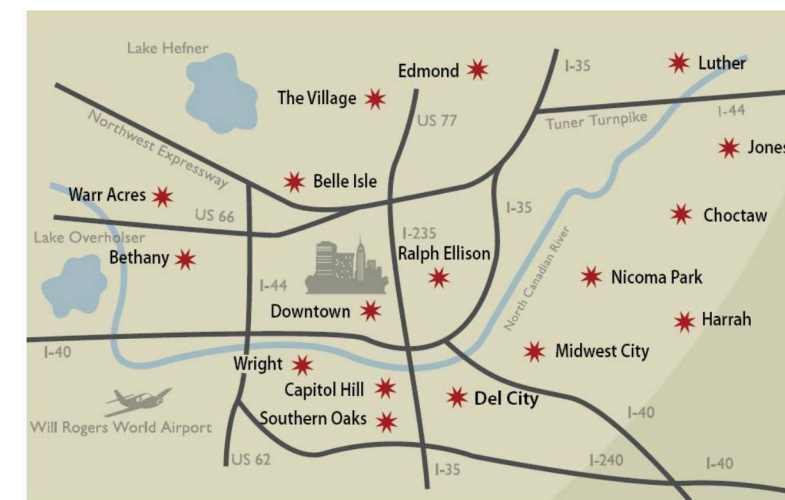
When we refer to MLS as "Your inviting, innovative link to the world," we mean that we connect you to everything beyond the borders of your everyday life—but we're able to do that because each library in our system is connected to every other library. Our libraries are linked to each other in a microcosm of the way we link you to the rest of the world.

Sounds a little like science fiction, doesn't it? You know, when library service in Oklahoma County was just one room and a handful of useful books, it was science fiction.

Now, it's just the way we do business every day.



The Village Library



Locations of all 17 libraries in the Metropolitan Library System.