Central Library
Plan of Service 2027-2031

Geneva Public Library

OWWL Library System

Purpose

As the OWWL Library System's central library, the Geneva Public Library (GPL) prepares this Central Library Plan of Service to meet the requirements of 8 NYCRR § 90.4. This plan describes how Central Library Services Aid (CLSA) supports member libraries and their patrons across the OWWL Library System from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2031.

CLSA serves two purposes under 8 NYCRR § 90.4(c):

- It funds library materials and information resources, in multiple formats, that meet the needs of residents throughout the OWWL Library System's service area.
- It supports reference and information services to residents throughout the OWWL Library System's service area.

GPL develops this plan together with the OWWL Library System and its member libraries, consistent with Education Law § 273(1)(b).

Central Library Designation

New York State designates one library in each public library system as the system's central library. OWWL designated GPL as its central library when the Regents approved OWWL's charter on March 23, 1990, following the 1989 reorganization that created the system. GPL has served as OWWL's central library since that designation and continues to meet the eligibility standards for a system central library under 8 NYCRR § 90.4.

Central Library Funding

CLSA is a distinct category of State Aid, separate from the aid and local tax support that fund GPL's own library services. Each year, the GPL Board of Trustees and the OWWL Library System Board of Trustees approve the Central Library budget before OWWL spends the funds. This budget primarily supports the purchases described in this plan and the reference and information services described below.

Reference and Information Services

GPL provides reference and information services to patrons of all OWWL member libraries, consistent with 8 NYCRR § 90.4(c)(2). CLSA supports the staff costs associated with this service. This is an ongoing part of GPL's role as OWWL's central library; this plan does not add to or expand that service.

Development of This Plan

OWWL developed this plan together with GPL and its member libraries. Development included:

- A survey of OWWL member library staff, consisting of twelve questions, with 70 responses.
- Discussions with member library directors.
- Six months of meetings of the Plan of Service Committee.

Plan of Service Integration

This Central Library Plan supports the OWWL Library System's broader five-year Plan of Service, which commits the System to supporting and strengthening member libraries and facilitating equitable access to library services and resources across the System. The purchases described below serve those commitments by extending materials, collections, and platforms to every OWWL member library and the library card holders it serves.

Central Library Plan of Service

This plan focuses Central Library funds on the following areas for 2027-2031:

1. Print and Physical Collections
2. Database Platforms
3. Electronic Book Lending Platform and Content
4. Integrated Library System Enhancement Products
5. Additional Purchases and Projects

1. Print and Physical Collections

Goal

GPL uses Central Library funds to expand and maintain the Central Library's print collection.

Activities

CLSA funds the purchase of print materials for the Central Library collection. Member library input guides this collection development, so the collection meets the supplemental needs of patrons across the OWWL Library System.

Outcomes

OWWL library cardholders have access to a diverse supplemental print collection that addresses needs that individual member libraries cannot meet on their own.

Evaluation Methods

OWWL evaluates this goal through:

- Central Library collection statistics from the Evergreen integrated library system
- The annual Plan of Service satisfaction survey of member libraries
- Feedback from the OWWL Directors Advisory Council and the OWWL Evergreen Advisory Committee

2. Database Platforms

Goal

Central Library funds are used to purchase and support database platforms that meet the research needs of OWWL library card holders.

Activities

Database subscriptions are time-limited contracts. OWWL may replace or add database subscriptions during this plan period, depending on member library needs and available funds; genealogy platforms, news databases, and similar research resources are examples of the kind of subscriptions OWWL may consider.

Outcomes

OWWL library card holders have access to research databases that member libraries could not otherwise afford individually.

Evaluation Methods

OWWL evaluates this goal through:

- Usage statistics from each database provider
- The annual Plan of Service satisfaction survey of member libraries
- Feedback from the OWWL Directors Advisory Council

3. Electronic Book Lending Platform and Content

Goal

Central Library funds are used to purchase and support an electronic book lending platform and its content.

Activities

OWWL currently subscribes to OverDrive as its electronic lending platform. CLSA funds purchase digital content for the platform, including eBooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines. This is a contracted service; OWWL may change platforms or content types during this plan period, depending on member library needs and available funds.

Outcomes

OWWL library card holders have access to a shared digital collection that expands the depth and breadth of what any single member library could offer on its own.

Evaluation Methods

OWWL evaluates this goal through:

- System and member library use statistics from the electronic lending platform
- The annual Plan of Service satisfaction survey of member libraries
- Feedback from the OWWL Directors Advisory Council and the OWWL Overdrive Collections Committee

4. Integrated Library System Enhancement Products

Goal

OWWL uses Central Library funds to purchase and support products that enhance library cardholders' experience with the OWWL integrated library system.

Activities

Central Library funds currently support Syndetics Unbound, which enhances the catalog experience for library card holders and staff across OWWL member libraries. This is a

contracted service; OWWL may change products during this plan period, depending on member library needs and available funds.

Outcomes

OWWL library cardholders and member library staff have an improved experience with the OWWL catalog.

Evaluation Methods

OWWL evaluates this goal through:

- System, platform, and member library use statistics
- The annual Plan of Service satisfaction survey of member libraries
- Feedback from the OWWL Directors Advisory Council and the OWWL Evergreen Advisory Committee

5. Additional Purchases and Projects

Goal

GPL uses any remaining Central Library funds to support additional purchases or projects that benefit OWWL member libraries and their patrons.

Activities

The scope of these purchases or projects depends on the funds available in a given year and the needs that member libraries identify at the time. The OWWL Directors Advisory Council identifies and recommends priorities as circumstances change.

Outcomes

Member libraries and their patrons benefit from Central Library resources that respond to current needs, even as those needs change from one year to the next.

Evaluation Methods

OWWL evaluates this goal through feedback from the OWWL Directors Advisory Council and, where applicable, usage data for any specific purchase or project it undertakes.

Review

The OWWL Library System Board of Trustees reviews this Central Library Plan of Service annually as part of the System's five-year Plan of Service. OWWL submits any revisions to the New York State Education Department by October 1 for the following January 1, consistent with 8 NYCRR § 90.4. This plan remains in effect from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2031, unless OWWL revises it sooner.

Approval

Approved by the Geneva Public Library Board of Trustees on September 30, 2026.

Approved by the OWWL Library System Board of Trustees on September 9, 2026.

Approved by the OWWL Directors Advisory Council on September 11, 2026