

THERE ARE A MILLION STORIES  
IN...

THE  
**BRILLIANT  
CITY!!**



Dude! The Library  
has wii gaming night!



THE  
SEATTLE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
2007

What movie  
do you want to  
watch off the  
Library's site?

"Metropolis!"



Dad, read  
"Goodnight Moon"  
again!



ANNUAL REPORT



Our mission is to become the best public library in the world by being so tuned into the people we serve and so supportive of each other's efforts that we are able to provide highly responsive service. We strive to inform, enrich and empower every citizen in our community by creating and promoting free and easy access to a vast array of ideas and information and by supporting lifelong learning and love of reading. We acquire, organize and provide relevant library materials; ensure access to other collections and information sources throughout the nation; serve our public with expert and caring assistance and reach out to all members of our community.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As a kid, I quickly discovered the best part of the Sunday newspaper – after removing all the news and advertising – was the full color “funnies.”

Reading the Sunday comics was a family tradition and continues in millions of homes around the country by children and adults alike. Comics have produced some of the most famous characters in fiction, such as Flash Gordon and Dick Tracy.

Whether it's comics you are looking for, car repair manuals, or detailed stock information, The Seattle Public Library offers an amazing range of materials and resources for all ages and interests.

No other institution in our city excites kids about reading, encourages teens to discover their potential and helps adults reach their goals like the Library.


Over the last decade, it's been wonderful to see the transformation of our libraries across the city, made possible by a \$196.4 million capital construction bond, along with private funds raised by the Library Foundation. With each grand

opening of a new or remodeled facility – 25 to date – the Library has reached out to new users, connecting them with opportunities for learning and growth.

While the larger buildings provide more space for books, computers and patrons, the Library has also initiated new services for underserved populations and added technology to meet people's information needs better, faster and more economically.

The Seattle Public Library is not only fulfilling the growing demand for its services, but is exceeding expectations. Last year the Library circulated more than 9 million books and materials – a 10 percent increase over last year. In addition, 11.6 million people visited the Library in person or virtually through [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) – a 6 percent increase from 2006.

The Seattle Public Library remains a national leader and a local treasure for everyone to enjoy because of the support and dedication of City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs and the Library Board.



Greg Nickels  
Mayor of Seattle

I ENJOY READING  
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING CARTOONIST  
DAVID HORSEY'S EDITORIAL  
CARTOONS WHEN I'M HAVING  
MY MORNING COFFEE!



MAYOR GREG NICKELS

# Dear Friends,

We suspect the format of this year's annual report – a comic book – took you by surprise! It was our way of highlighting the growing popularity of comic books to people of all ages and our commitment to staying relevant to our users.

The graphics were developed by talented local cartoonist Ellen Forney, who illustrated Sherman Alexie's young adult novel "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," a 2007 National Book Award winner.

Comics are increasingly used as literacy tools among teachers seeking new ways to promote reading to students. Many graphic novels, such as our 2006 Seattle Reads selection, "Persepolis," helped establish their status as sophisticated works of literature.

We are happy to report that locally, usage of The Seattle Public Library was at

a record high at 11.6 million visits in 2007 – up 6 percent over last year. Nationally, an audience once lost to libraries – young adults – is currently using public libraries more than ever. Of the 53 percent of U.S. adults who said they visited a library in 2007, the biggest users were aged 18 to 30 in the tech-loving group known as Generation Y, according to a recent survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

At The Seattle Public Library, we continue to draw younger users through our new Teen Blog and teen Zine Collection, gaming events, SAT preparation classes, online and in person homework assistance, participation in our Library Teen Advisory Council and programs such as the All Ages Arts night – attended annually by nearly 1,000 teens – and much more.

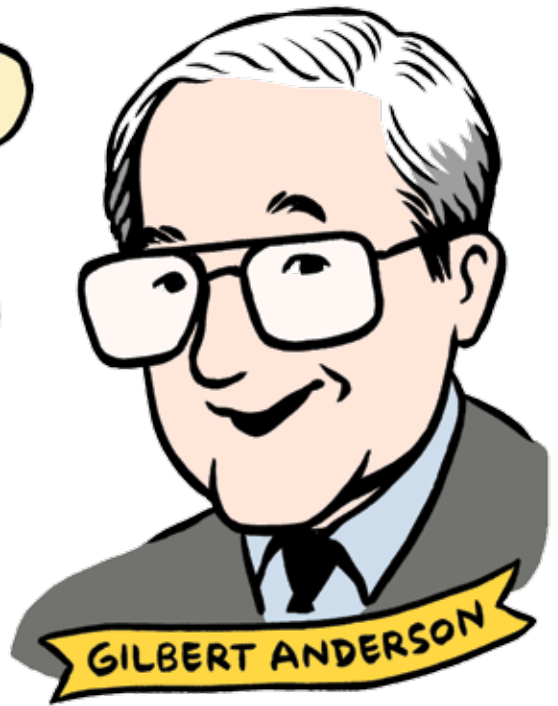
In the same way we have focused on serving teens, we are committed to regularly examining all our services and making adjustments to meet the changing needs of our patrons. This means exploring new technologies that can improve our operations, providing materials and services in a variety of formats and expanding the ways we deliver information. The



LUCKY FOR ME, I LEARNED  
FROM MY SON THAT COMICS  
BELONG IN LIBRARIES!

WHY HAVE GRAPHIC NOVELS  
GOTTEN SO POPULAR?

COMIC BOOKS WERE  
SPINELESS, AND  
GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE  
BOUND TO BE PERFECT!



information delivery business grows and evolves daily and we work to lead the way in order to remain a vital community service.

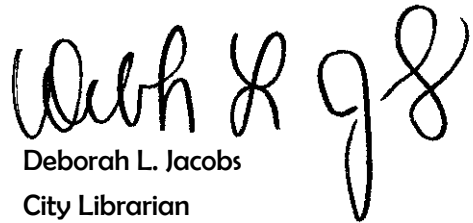
After we wrap up our 10-year building program next year – an absolutely amazing journey we are so honored to have been a part of – we will launch into a new phase of strategic planning. We will invite you to participate in this process, which will include discussions on the Library's role not only as a key player

in our community, but in an ever-changing world. These are exciting times for the Library and just as you were involved in helping create the successful "Libraries for All" building program, your voice will be critical as the Library plans for its future.

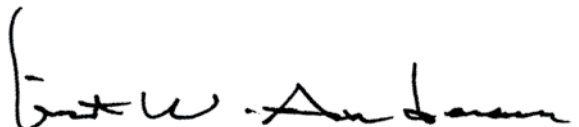
We are very grateful for the tremendous support and dedication of the Mayor, City Council, Library Board, Foundation, Friends, volunteers and staff, who all contributed to the Library's remarkable 2007.

**Library board of trustees**

Gilbert W. Anderson, president  
Eric Liu, vice president  
Marie McCaffrey  
Michael Parham  
Dr. Rajiv J. Shah



Deborah L. Jacobs  
City Librarian



Gilbert W. Anderson  
President, Library Board of Trustees

AND NOW!

I read  
"The Namesake"  
with my book group:  
the rest of  
Seattle!



2007

YEAR  
IN  
REVIEW!

I modeled in  
the hip-hop  
fashion show!

And I  
looked up  
"hip-hop"  
in the OED  
to see if it  
has a hyphen!



I read Consumer  
Reports for free  
on the Library's  
Web site!

I bought a  
great  
refrigerator!





## ★ DOWNTOWN

The Central Library scored some fabulous new artwork! Artist Lynne Yamamoto of Massachusetts installed “Of Memory,” a sculpture of antiquated card catalogs made of cast polyester fiberglass. (Ah, card catalogs!) The sculpture is located near the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room on Level 10.

## ★ 'ROUND TOWN

Branch libraries opened like flowers in 2007 – that’s 25 projects delivered so far to Library lovers under the “Libraries for All” building program.

Bigger and better – that’s what people are saying about the Southwest and Broadview branches. At 15,000 square feet, they’re two of the bigger branches. Southwest got its own meeting room (a place for exuberant kids at story times!) and a separate area for materials en español. Broadview sprouted all kinds of little and big meeting spaces and a new entrance for folks walking in off Greenwood Avenue North. They both have lots more computers for the public.

The vintage Queen Anne and University branches are historic landmarks, so the goal was to rearrange the space inside to make them easier for people to use without messing up their distinctive character.

### **Just the facts about the Broadview Branch**

- **Budget:** \$7,050,250
- **Reopened:** Dec. 8
- **Architect:** Miller Hayashi Architects
- **Contractor:** Graham Contracting Ltd.
- **Artist:** Theresa Batty
- **What’s cool:** Tired of coffee shops? Bring your caffeine and your laptop to Broadview and take advantage of free Wi-Fi.

### **Just the facts about the Southwest Branch**

- **Budget:** \$6,244,189
- **Reopened:** March 10
- **Architect:** Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects
- **Contractor:** Construction Enterprises and Contractors Inc.
- **Artists:** Katherine Kerr and Morgan Brig
- **What’s cool:** Check out the bronze hands at the entrance – the artist took casts of the hands of branch patrons to create them!

Cessa  
HEARD-JOHNSON

LIBRARY  
PATRON



HIGHLY  
RECOMMENDS



CURRENTLY  
READING

FAVORITE  
BOOK



LOVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY



ALSO LOVES:



### Just the facts about the Queen Anne Branch

- **Reopened:** Aug. 25
- **Budget:** \$908,523
- **Architect:** Hoshide Williams Architects
- **Contractor:** Biwell Construction Inc.
- **Artist:** Dennis Evans
- **What's cool:** Lost in the stacks? It's not you. The children's area is now on the west, and adults is on the east – just like when the building opened in 1914.



### Just the facts about the University Branch

- **Reopened:** Oct. 13
- **Budget:** \$996,210
- **Architect:** Hoshide Williams Architects
- **Contractor:** Biwell Construction Inc.
- **Artist:** Dennis Evans
- **What's cool:** Too broke to buy books? Take a page from history. One day during the Depression, the line of folks waiting to check out books stretched 63 feet.

### More to come!

We're hard at work on the last two projects – construction is under way on the expansion of the Magnolia Branch and the renovation of the Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch. The Library Board picked Bainbridge Island artist Kristin Tollefson for Magnolia – she works with wire, metal and glass, and is inspired by organic forms.


For Madrona-Sally Goldmark, the board chose an oil painting by Seattle artist Mary Iverson and a ceramic sculpture by Madrona artist Monad Elohim. Kudos to the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for managing our public art program.


### Thanks to the Citizen Implementation Review Panel!

The members of the Citizen Implementation Review Panel (CIRP) agreed to stay on through April 2008 to provide citizen oversight of the "Libraries for All" building program. City Council President Nick Licata extended their terms, which were scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2007.

## AWARDS

 Yippy for us! Three of our branches were named hallmarks of civic design in 2007! So says the Washington Council of the American Institute of Architects, which bestowed Civic Design Awards for 2007.

 The Douglass-Truth Branch and Schacht Aslani Architects received the Honor Award, which is given to projects that embody design excellence, creative risk-taking and problem-solving.

 Receiving Merit Awards were the South Park Branch and Johnston Architects, and the Northgate Branch, adjacent community center and park and The Miller/Hull Partnership. Civic projects earn Merit Awards by exemplifying their particular type of civic space.

# SERVICES

## ★ PROGRAMS

The Washington Center for the Book at The Seattle Public Library won the 2006 James Patterson Page Turner Award: \$100,000 over four years. Our innovative "Seattle Reads" program caught their attention – over 450 different locations across the country now host their own "One Book" programs!

The 2007 "Seattle Reads" program featured author Jhumpa Lahiri and her book, "The Namesake," which follows two generations of a Bengali family from late-1970s Calcutta to New York City. Over 2,000 people attended Library programs related to the book and her visit!

Author Sherman Alexie and cartoonist Ellen Forney packed the auditorium with more than 600 people for their presentation on their young adult novel – "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" – which also won a National Book Award.

Joyce Carol Oates, one of the most prolific authors of our times and the recipient of numerous literary awards, made a rare Seattle appearance to read from her latest novel, "The Gravedigger's Daughter."

Thomas Ricks, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and senior Pentagon correspondent for the Washington Post, spoke to a full house in the Microsoft

Auditorium about his book, "Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq."

Mountain-climber-turned-humanitarian Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time," drew overflow crowds at four public library events – some people lined up over two hours in advance! Mortenson, selected for the Library's 2007 September Project, has helped bring education to thousands of children by building schools in remote Pakistan and Afghanistan.

CHRIS HIGASHI, PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE BOOK, GOT HER BOOK SIGNED BY "BEL CANTO" AUTHOR ANN PATCHETT, WHO WROTE, "Thank you for showing me the most beautiful library in the world."

Ann Patchett, author of the international bestseller, "Bel Canto," read from her latest novel, "Run," before a full house of 275 at the Central Library. She spoke about the importance of public libraries and her involvement with her library in Nashville, a fairly new Central Library, saying "until a few hours ago, I was quite happy with my library!"

Daniel

LIBRARY  
PATRON

FAVORITE BRANCH:  
CENTRAL  
LIBRARY

LOVES BOOKS ABOUT  
HISTORY & FLIGHT

Did you know that  
Mr. Lockheed's  
name was really  
Mr. Loughhead?

USED TO GO TO  
Toddler  
Story  
Times

(NOW HIS  
4-year-old  
SISTER DOES!)



IS IN

1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

AT ST. THOMAS SCHOOL  
& LOVES SOCIAL STUDIES



CURRENT  
FAVORITE  
BOOK



PLAYS  
VIOLIN

FAVORITE  
COMPOSER:

Bach

# Ezzie

FULL NAME: Esmerelda

LIBRARY  
PATRON



FAVORITE  
BAND:  
My Chemical  
Romance

Cloris

SITS ON  
EZZIE'S  
STOMACH  
WHEN EZZIE  
LIES DOWN  
TO READ



I love to go  
to the teen section  
and just see what  
I can find on  
the shelves.

That's how  
I found one of  
my favorite  
books!



TEXT MESSAGE  
TO BEST FRIEND,  
MADDY

Don't 4get  
teen ctr  
advisrs  
2day!  
CU there!

## The Summer Reading Program

Who said kids don't like to read? Nearly 15,000 children signed up for the 2007 Summer Reading Program! They read a total of 111,881 books, and 54 percent of the children participating read 10 books or more. The Seattle Public Library's completion rate is much better than the national average of 34 percent.

Kids weren't the only ones devouring books over the summer. Over 83,000 teen materials were checked out, compared to 55,700 last year – an increase of nearly 50 percent. Teens also read and wrote reviews on more than 2,500 books!

Shannon Schinagl, librarian at the Delridge Branch, reports this story: "The Delridge Branch hosted Barquito de Papel, a bilingual performance of a story about a young boy living in the United States whose grandmother comes to visit from Mexico. He is very sad when she leaves, so he makes an imaginary paper boat to sail away to see her. After the show was over, we discovered that we had a real version of the story in the audience! A 5-year-old was there with her grandmother, who was visiting from Peru and leaving the next week. The grandmother spent time with all of the performers, thanking them for a beautiful story that would make her departure just a little easier."

## Teen Poetry Month with Luis J. Rodriguez

The Library filled every program featuring poet, author and activist Luis Rodriguez! More than 1,000 patrons attended the Library programs with Rodriguez, who for many years mentored and guided Chicago gang members and other youth into more positive lives. Rodriguez is now involved in a national



campaign to prevent gang violence and to help youth in the Latino community.

A number of the Library programs targeted Latino teens, as well as youth at risk of dropping out of school, or joining gangs. Rodriguez's publisher donated 100 copies of his book and memoir, "Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.," for our programming efforts. Fifty of the books were in Spanish. When Rodriguez signed his book for a teen in a youth detention program, the teen said it would be "the first book I have ever read."

## Children's Book Week

For Children's Book Week, the Library partnered with the Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas, author and illustrator Javaka Steptoe, musician Michael Powers, and Seattle Center for the Book Arts. The partnership developed 11 amazing programs attended by 908 people in celebration of Children's Book Week!

## Homework Help

The Library continued to support students and their homework needs through Homework Help centers and online Homework Help at [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) seven days a week. In 2007, more than 6,400 students were served by the two homework programs, and Homework Help centers expanded to a total of eight branches, with volunteers assisting more than 2,000 students!

## Early Literacy

The Library is committed to helping young patrons succeed in school – even those who aren't old enough to attend school! This year, the Library started a program to help prepare children for kindergarten. Through education events hosted by Mobile Services and children's librarians, parents learned how to prepare their children for reading. The curriculum focused on vocabulary, phonological awareness, print motivation, print awareness, letter knowledge and narrative skills.

## 2007 Global Reading Challenge

More than 1,800 fourth- and fifth-grade students from 40 elementary schools in Seattle participated in the Library's 2007 Global Reading Challenge – a 25-fold increase in participation since its pilot year in 1996!

Through a series of inter-school challenges, teams of students were tested on their knowledge of 10 books. This year's winning team, "Killer Dolphins," was from View Ridge Elementary.

At the finals, two teens – showing their support for their younger brothers competing on the Stevens Elementary team – painted their chests with the words, "Stevens! Read On!" Stevens Elementary tied for second place.



Newcomers to the U.S. can find all kinds of helpful resources at The Seattle Public Library! The Library hosted scores of programs for the Spanish-, Vietnamese- and Chinese-speaking populations in Seattle in 2007. More than 2,622 people attended cultural and literary programs, as well as workshops to improve life skills, including consumer education programs, legal clinics and citizenship classes.



The Seattle Public Library offers programs that make learning English as a Second Language (ESL) engaging and fun! Talk Time sessions – where participants practice speaking English with volunteers – drew 2,388 people. More than 2,809 people took classes where they learned English on computers, practiced typing and studied for the citizenship test. In addition, 1,738 ESL and adult literacy learners gained basic computer skills through "Wired for Learning" classes held at various branches and community sites! Thanks to a collection budget increase, ESL patrons have more resources to choose from. The ESL collection increased 21 percent from 2006!

Library staff members make sure the community knows about its ESL/Literacy programs – the outreach coordinator talked about all the Library's great services

to more than 6,100 people at community events, elementary schools, community colleges, churches and many other locations.

## MOBILE SERVICES

The Seattle Public Library is known for its great buildings, but did you know it also has a popular library on wheels? For the last 60 years, Mobile Services has been cruising along Seattle streets, stopping in every neighborhood, providing books and materials to residents unable to use their local libraries.

A cool new Mobile Services outreach van arrived in October, and patrons of local retirement residences look forward to the van's regular visits with refreshed collections. Mobile Services is also popular with kids! The first year of the "Kindergarten Readiness Program" – early literacy support for youngsters up to age 5 at child care centers – concluded with rave reviews!

In 2007, Mobile Services visited 130 adult facilities and 76 child care centers with books and materials. Nearly 170,000 items were circulated in 2007 – a 4 percent increase over last year!

LOSE TO HOME:  
SOME OF WTBBL'S  
BOOKS ARE LOCALLY  
PRODUCED AND  
FEATURE MATERIAL  
NOT AVAILABLE  
ANYWHERE ELSE!

## WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

WTBBL lends braille and recorded books and magazines, and the necessary equipment to play recorded books, to residents unable to read standard print because of a visual or physical disability. These services and equipment are free to registered users across the state.

In 2007, WTBBL circulated 512,050 items, and more than 400 volunteers contributed 22,000 service hours. "Your Gift of Time is our Greatest Treasure" was the theme that framed a week-long celebration honoring our volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

Participation in the Summer Reading Program for elementary school-age children was up 5.4 percent over last year. Interest in the Summer Reading Program has also spread to teens – this year WTBBL introduced a statewide Teen Summer Reading Program!

New inductees to the 10-Squared Talking Book Club – readers who have reached the status of centenarian – included Bernard (Barney) Chichester, Ruth Houk and Evangeline Schuler. Daisy Murphy, 107, was the oldest returning centenarian to the club's annual celebration. The 10-Squared Talking Book Club is sponsored by the Library of Congress and National Library Service.

WTBBL operations will transfer to the Washington State Library on July 1, 2008. The state had been contracting with The Seattle Public Library to provide services to the blind.

# THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Seattle Public Library Foundation secures funding to enrich Library programs, services and facilities above and beyond what the city tax base provides. These private dollars from individuals, businesses and foundations make an enormous difference in the breadth and depth of what the Library is able to offer its patrons.

Important services such as reading enrichment programs for children and teens, new technologies that provide the public with free and equal access to the latest in electronic information resources, and services for refugees and immigrants as well as those with special needs are just some of the areas funded by the Foundation.

During 2007, the Foundation received gifts from 5,272 donors, including individuals, businesses and foundations.

The Foundation's President's Circle, individuals who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2007, grew to more than 250 members.

Others in the community have made a provision for a gift to the Library in their estate plan. This year, the Foundation's Legacy Society grew to include 86 households. These special supporters gathered on two occasions during the year to enjoy literary speakers and programs presented by the Foundation.

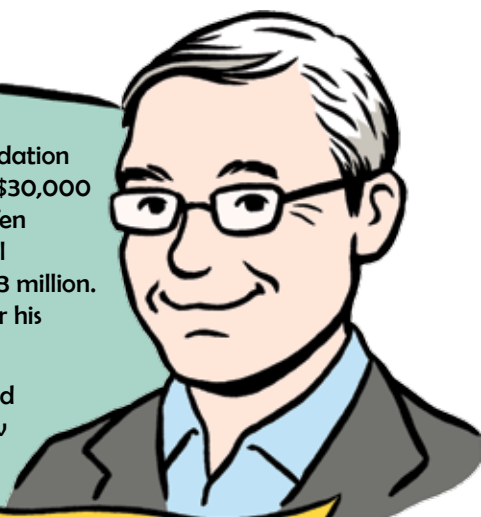
## **In 2007 The Seattle Public Library Foundation:**

- Provided \$999,150 for Library books and resources for all age groups and in multiple languages. These funds were also used to purchase materials for

When Terry began work for the Foundation back in 1989, Terry's first project was to raise \$30,000 to replace the Library's aging bookmobile. Ten years later, he led the Foundation's successful capital campaign, which raised more than \$83 million.

Along the way, Terry never lost his good humor or his absolute passion for the Library and its work.

At his retirement party, the Foundation staff performed "The Ballad of Terry Collings," complete with a slideshow of Terry's face superimposed on figures of Superman and other well-known heroes.



**TERRY COLLINGS**

opening day collections at all new and expanded branches and to rebuild the Library's collections of classic literature for adults, children, and teens.

- Supported more than 4,900 free programs for children, teens, and adults, including author readings, classes, and reading motivation activities. Programs with authors such as Jhumpa Lahiri, Greg Mortenson, Oliver Sacks, and Sherman Alexie drew huge crowds.

- Contributed \$497,500 to the Libraries for All capital construction program.
- Authorized funds for the Library to launch a pilot project on Early Literacy, working with parents and caregivers of preschool children on reading readiness.
- Bade a fond farewell to Terry Collings, who served as the Foundation's executive director for 18 years.

#### **Directors**

David C. Williams, president  
Susan Adkins, vice president  
David F. McShea, treasurer  
Patricia Akiyama, secretary  
Ross C. Baker  
Bob Carlile  
Ron Chew  
Sue Coliton  
Theodore J. Collins  
Jack Faris  
Anne Farrell  
Liffy Franklin  
Bill Fritsch  
Jodi Green  
Edward J. Heffernan  
Suzanne Hittman  
Macon L. Howard  
Gretchen Jacobsen  
Kelley Kurtzman  
Linda Larson  
Carla Lewis  
Tom O'Connell  
Glenna Olson  
Anne Repass  
Deborah Rosen  
Ira Rubinstein  
Ryan Sawyer

James Stearns  
Ina Goodwin Tateuchi  
Sandra Taylor  
Ruth True  
Jane Zalutsky

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Faye G. Allen  
Gilbert W. Anderson  
Ruthanna Bayless  
Marcella Benditt  
Arlington Carter Jr.  
Dr. David R. Davis  
Peter F. Donnelly  
Maria L. Koh  
Matthew G. Medlin  
Valerie Payne  
Chuck Riley  
Caryl Roman  
Lalie Scandiuizzi  
Steve Wolf

#### **Ex-Officio**

Deborah L. Jacobs  
Hollis Williams

#### **Executive Director**

Terry R. Collings

# VOLUNTEERS

Cheers to our wonderful 481 volunteers, including 70 high school students! The Library's amazing volunteers contributed 19,502 hours of their time in 2007 to:

- Help students with homework at the Central Library and Columbia, Delridge, Douglass-Truth, International District/Chinatown, Lake City, NewHolly, Rainier Beach and South Park branches!
- Lead "Talk Time" conversation classes for immigrants and refugees at the Central Library and Beacon Hill, Lake City and Rainier Beach branches!
- Help ESL and adult literacy learners at the Central Library and NewHolly Branch develop computer skills!
- Help patrons at the Central Library and Beacon Hill Branch learn how to use English instruction software programs!
- Teach patrons with disabilities how to use the Library's adaptive equipment and computer programs!
- Teach computer skills classes in Chinese, Russian and Spanish at the Central Library, and in Spanish at the Beacon Hill Branch!
- Conduct tours of the magnificent Central Library!
- Introduce people to all the wonderful things they can do at the Central Library and answer questions about where to eat, play and shop in downtown Seattle!
- Review books for teens, design cool displays and posters, and help with events!
- Help at lots of special events – cultural and community programs, branch openings, Washington Center for the Book events, the Global Reading Challenge, and Summer Reading Program events for children!
- Fix and clean books and other materials!
- Pack book donations for the super-successful Friends of the Library Book Sales!
- And MUCH MORE!



**A VISITOR ASKED A  
WELCOME DESK VOLUNTEER**

**WHERE THE DOWNTOWN SUBWAY WAS LOCATED.**

**THE VOLUNTEER BEGAN PROVIDING A DETAILED EXPLANATION  
OF HOW TO GET TO THE METRO BUS TUNNEL. AFTER LISTENING  
PATIENTLY FOR A FEW MINUTES, THE VISITOR SAID,  
"I MEANT SUBWAY, THE SANDWICH SHOP."**

# Lew Witham

LIBRARY  
VOLUNTEER

Once a guy asked me,  
"Where are your classic  
television DVDs?"

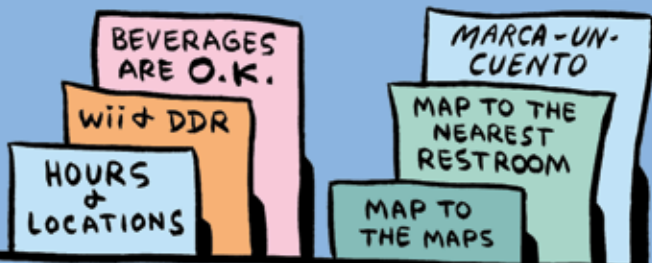
I'm an avid  
classic TV show  
collector, myself--

This guy + I  
ended up talking  
each other's  
heads off!

FAVORITE  
BOOK →

SNOW  
FALLING ON  
CEDARS  
DAVID  
GUTER-  
SON

LEW



FAVORITE  
PROGRAM →

**RICHELIE UNTERBERGER**

"His book, 'The Unreleased  
Beatles: Music and Film,'  
was fascinating for a rock  
aficionado such as myself."

FAVORITE  
HOBBY →





Thanks to the best volunteers in Seattle, the Friends had a banner year in 2007.

- Through the Book Sales at Magnuson Park and the FriendShop at the Central Library – voted “Favorite Gift/Novelty Shop” by nwsources.com – the Friends had its most successful fund-raising year ever. Both the Book Sale and the FriendShop added e-commerce options this year.
- Grants totaling \$116,000 were provided to the Library in 2007, with funds helping improve services to immigrants and refugees, expand the popular Adult Summer Reading Program and more.
- The Friends worked to raise awareness of Library service needs through meetings with elected officials, testimony at city budget hearings and other efforts. The City Council approved an additional \$2 million to the Library's materials budget.
- The Friends connected with members through its print newsletter The Bookmark, e-newsletter called Among Friends and its recently redesigned Web site, [www.splfriends.org](http://www.splfriends.org). Outstanding volunteer David Pannone, who oversaw the online and Web site improvements, was recognized as “Friend of the Year” at the Friends’ Annual Meeting.
- The Friends hosted staff parties and public celebrations for the Libraries for All branch reopenings in 2007.

- The Friends were honored when Mayor Greg Nickels proclaimed Oct. 21-27 as Friends of The Seattle Public Library Week in recognition of the support the Friends give to the Library and book lovers.

#### **Trustee Officers**

Hollis Williams, president  
Debra Godfrey, vice president  
Phil Gorsuch, secretary  
Minda Hevly, treasurer

#### **Trustees**

Stephanie Andersen  
Susan Baker  
Gary Frisch  
Betsy Graef  
Christine Haskell  
Ronda Haun  
Maria Hui  
Jennifer Johnson-Fong  
Doug Lorentzen  
Deborah Prince  
Linda Ruiz  
Thomas Seery  
Claudia Skelton  
Mimi Winslow

# The Collection

## New books and materials

More than 80 percent of Seattleites have Library cards, and they put them to good use! Helping satisfy the voracious reading, listening and viewing habits of patrons, Library shelves were filled with thousands of new materials in 2007, including 167,345 new books and 84,000 new music CDs, recorded books, and video recordings.

## Digital media

Library patrons don't always need to go to their branches to pick up movies or books anymore – Library movies and books can be downloaded onto personal computers!

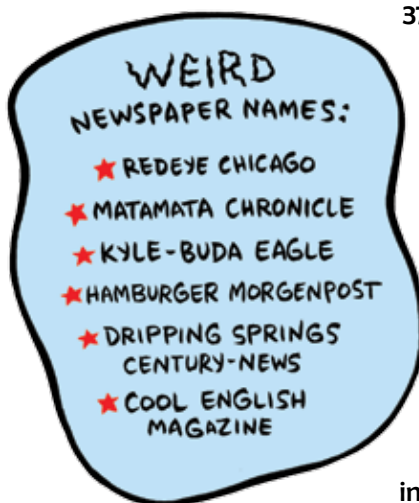
The digital media collection now provides 17,000 copies of downloadable e-books, audio books, music and video, including more than 2,400 feature films and documentaries for all ages. Over 8,000 new digital media titles were added, including a new collection of children's and teen digital audio books.

## New databases

Doing research has never been easier! The Library now offers 70 premium databases accessible any time of the day or night. Check it out: Just go to [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) and select "Databases & Web Sites." Some of the new additions include:

- Morningstar.com Library Edition, featuring investing data and reports on more than 20,000 mutual funds and stocks, as well as portfolio management tools.

- Standard and Poor's NetAdvantage, which offers industry surveys, stock reports, mutual fund reports and company profiles.
- PressDisplay, which provides hundreds of current U.S. and international daily newspapers from 70 countries in 37 languages. Newspapers remain available for 60 days, and are available in full-color, full-page format!



- Play Index, which has citations to more than 31,000 plays published individually or in collections from 1949 to the present.

- Birds of North America Online, with information on more than 700 species of birds nesting in the United States and Canada. Articles include images and video galleries showing behaviors, habitat, nests, eggs, and nestlings, as well as recordings of bird songs and calls!

## Technology improvements

- Bring your laptop to the Library and receive Internet access! Wireless Internet access is now available at 25 Library locations.
- With the reopening of the Southwest, Queen Anne, University and Broadview branches, the systemwide total of available public computers has increased to 1,134.
- More than 700 public workstations were upgraded in 2007. Time to work on that novel!

### **Facilities**

- Central Library, 26 neighborhood branches, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) and Mobile Services.

### **Staffing**

- 710 staff members (553.09 full-time equivalents)

### **Circulation**

- 3,412,551 adult books
- 1,704,450 children's books
- 4,205,917 media
- Total: 9,322,918

### **Collection Size**

- Central Library: 1,105,747
- Branches: 1,246,634
- Total collection size: 2,352,381

### **Operating Budget**

- Personnel: \$34,977,365
- Books and Materials: \$4,778,763
- Equipment: \$557,075
- Maintenance, Security and Utilities: \$2,038,259
- Supplies: \$714,985
- Other: \$2,775,005
- Total: \$45,841,452

# Library Use

### **Patron Visits**

- Central Library (door count): 2,054,631
- Branches (door count): 4,363,366
- Virtual visits (internal and external Web site visits): 5,173,131
- TeleCirc: 48,249
- Total patron visits: 11,639,377

### **Service Levels and Programs**

- 1,121,021 reference questions answered (in person, phone, fax, mail, e-mail, Live Help chat)
- 12,482,919 remote online catalog searches
- 284,028 databases searches
- 97,539 people attended 2,117 children's programs at the Central Library, neighborhood branches and Mobile Services
- 50,248 people attended 2,696 adult and young adult programs at the Central Library and neighborhood branches
- 13,487 people attended 119 programs presented by the Washington Center for the Book
- 13,007 people attended four Library grand openings
- 11,793 podcast downloads of Library programs (starting April 2007)

### **Event Services**

Managing Central Library meeting facilities and building tours

- 332 private groups rented space (a total of 18,644 people)
- Meeting room revenue: \$163,838; 33 percent increase from 2006
- 4,300 people took docent-led tours of the Central Library; 12 percent from countries outside the United States
- Supported 330 Library-sponsored events
- Coordinated 22 major meetings at the Central Library for the American Libraries Association Conference held in Seattle and supported the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference.
- Other events ranged from the Global Dialogue Conference of the Caux Roundtable to The Stranger's Genius Awards. An 11 x 15 poster of Genius Award recipient Alex Schweder – hung a few hours prior to the event – caused quite a stir among some of the regular Library patrons. (<http://www.thestranger.com/genius>)

### **WTBBL Circulation**

- 512,050 items



## THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Central Library**, 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, 98104 • 206-386-4636
- Ballard Branch**, 5614 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.W., Seattle, 98107 • 206-684-4089
- Beacon Hill Branch**, 2821 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle, 98144 • 206-684-4711
- Broadview Branch**, 12755 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, 98133 • 206-684-7519
- Capitol Hill Branch**, 425 Harvard Ave. E., Seattle, 98102 • 206-684-4715
- Columbia Branch**, 4721 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, 98118 • 206-386-1908
- Delridge Branch**, 5423 Delridge Way S.W., Seattle, 98106 • 206-733-9125
- Douglass-Truth Branch**, 2300 E. Yesler Way, Seattle, 98122 • 206-684-4704
- Fremont Branch**, 731 N. 35<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, 98103 • 206-684-4084
- Green Lake Branch**, 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N., Seattle, 98115 • 206-684-7547
- Greenwood Branch**, 8016 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, 98103 • 206-684-4086
- High Point Branch**, 3411 S.W. Raymond St., Seattle, 98126 • 206-684-7454
- International District/Chinatown Branch**, 713 Eighth Ave. S., Seattle, 98104 • 206-386-1300
- Lake City Branch**, 12501 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., Seattle, 98125 • 206-684-7518
- Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch**, 1134 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Seattle, 98122 • 206-684-4705  
(Closed for renovation.)
- Magnolia Branch**, 2801 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Seattle, 98199 • 206-386-4225  
(Closed for renovation.)
- Mobile Services**, 2025 Ninth Ave., Seattle, WA 98121 • 206-684-4713
- Montlake Branch**, 2401 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., Seattle, 98112 • 206-684-4720
- NewHolly Branch**, 7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., Seattle, 98118 • 206-386-1905
- North East Branch**, 6801 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, 98115 • 206-684-7539
- Northgate Branch**, 10548 Fifth Ave. N.E., Seattle, 98125 • 206-386-1980
- Queen Anne Branch**, 400 W. Garfield St., Seattle, 98119 • 206-386-4227
- Rainier Beach Branch**, 9125 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, 98118 • 206-386-1906
- South Park Branch**, 8604 Eighth Ave. S., Seattle, 98108 • 206-615-1688
- Southwest Branch**, 9010 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., Seattle, 98126 • 206-684-7455
- University Branch**, 5009 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, 98105 • 206-684-4063
- Wallingford Branch**, 1501 N. 45<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, 98103 • 206-684-4088
- Washington Talking Book & Braille Library**, 2021 Ninth Ave., Seattle, 98121 • 206-615-0400
- West Seattle Branch**, 2306 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.W., Seattle, 98116 • 206-684-7444

DOES "BIANNUAL"  
MEAN TWICE A YEAR,  
OR ONCE EVERY  
TWO YEARS?

ARE THERE STILL MILKMEN  
THAT DELIVER MILK?

IS IT REALLY...  
THE YEAR OF  
THE RAT??

WHAT WAS THE  
NAME OF THAT  
BIG EARTHQUAKE  
IN 2001?

WHAT KIND OF GIFT  
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO GIVE  
ON SOMEONE'S EIGHTH  
ANNIVERSARY?

ARE THERE TWO  
CUPS IN A PINT,  
OR TWO PINTS IN  
A CUP?

WHAT DOES  
"LESCHI" MEAN?

WHEN WAS THE  
TERM "A WHOLE  
'NOTHER THING"  
FIRST DOCUMENTED?

ASK QUICK INFORMATION!

1) BIENNIAL IS TWICE A YEAR, BIENNIAL EVERY TWO YEARS. 2) SMITH BROTHERS FARMS IN KENT DELIVERS MILK TO HOUSEHOLDS. 3) IT IS THE CHINESE YEAR OF THE RAT. 4) NISQUALLY EARTHQUAKE. 5) TRADITIONALLY, BRONZE, COMMON MODERN GIFTS ARE LINENS OR LACE. 6) TWO CUPS IN A PINT. 7) LESCHI IS A PROPER NAME FOR CHIEF LESCHI OF THE NISQUALLY TRIBE, WHO WAS WAR CHIEF OF THE MEDICINE CREEK NATIONS DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRIBES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON. 8) THE DICTIONARY OF SLANG QUOTES STAN CUTLER IN THE 1980'S.