In 2012, Seattle voters improved access to critical educational and literacy resources for every resident by passing a seven-year, $123 million Library levy. The levy is helping restore core services drastically cut during the prolonged recession. The levy supports better Library hours, books, technology and building maintenance.

It also protects a bold vision that Seattle voters approved in 1998 called “Libraries for All,” which resulted in the world-renowned Central Library and new and renovated branch libraries across the city.

The Seattle Public Library board of trustees and City Librarian Marcellus Turner are proud to report our progress after three years of levy funding.
We promised to keep libraries open when patrons need them

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
• Retained 6,000+ new open hours systemwide
  - Open 52 weeks a year
  - All locations open Sunday
  - 7-day service at Columbia and Northgate branches
• Offered over 10,000 classes, workshops, outreach and other events systemwide
• Issued nearly 15,000 new and replacement Library cards in partnership with Seattle Seahawks
• Launched Book Bingo, a summer reading program for adults
• Partnered with Woodland Park Zoo for Summer of Learning for children and teens

We promised to provide a robust collection of books and materials

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
• Added 41,500+ new titles to print books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs
• Added nearly 33,000 new e-book and e-audiobook titles
• Bought 36,700+ more copies of popular materials to shorten wait times
• Digitized 5,350 Seattle Collection items to provide greater access to city’s history
• Launched self-publishing platform for local e-book writers

We promised to improve computer and online services

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
• Increased memory for all public Internet-enabled computers
• Began installation of new self-checkout stations
• Installed widescreen television monitors in meeting rooms at four branches
• Began circulating mobile hotspots to allow patrons to borrow the Internet
• Added accessibility software to all public computers for low-vision and blind patrons

Love, love my libraries. I use three on a regular basis. One near work, one near home, and the online library.
-Library patron survey comment

My library card is the most important card in my wallet. I am very grateful for all the services the library provides, especially the ability to download e-books.
-Library patron survey comment

I can’t express enough my appreciation for the braille and other assistive technology at the library. It is so extremely valuable to me.
-Library patron interview