



Sioux City Public Library Annual Report

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Library offers a unique environment in which to be inspired, informed, empowered or transformed. From the Library's three buildings and the Online Branch, our skilled staff find the best resources to meet the learning and leisure needs of our patrons at a time convenient to each customer.

Library connections provide instant access to trusted information and enable patrons to broaden perspectives and make informed decisions. Library resources allow individuals to pursue passions and interests in an environment unlike any other.

With access to millions of dollars worth of written and recorded information and countless hours of entertainment and enrichment, **the entire community can thrive at the Library.** We remain deeply committed to creating and serving a literate, self-reliant population and enhancing the quality of life in Sioux City, as you will see from this annual report.



Betsy Thompson
Library Director

STATS AT A GLANCE

The Sioux City Public Library houses 238,500 books and recordings in The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, Morning-side Branch, and Perry Creek Branch Library.

419,000 visitors, up from 408,000 last year, checked out 584,104 books, magazines and recordings and used an additional 166,000 items inside the Library buildings. Checkouts are down 1.1% from last year.






Visitors logged into the Library's free Internet computers 72,172 times for online job applications, social networking and research. Others used their own laptops to tap into the Library's wireless connection. Staff proctored 82 tests, a record high, for distance learners during the year.

Sioux City Public Library has 33,085 active library card holders, 40% of Sioux City's residents. Of those active card holders, 10% or 3,300 used their cards to access online resources exclusively and did not physically check out any Library items.

Individuals and organizations booked the Library's two public meeting rooms 393 times, attended by 7,607 people. Find meetings in the online calendar at www.siouxcitylibrary.org.

During the year, staff cataloged, stamped, stickered and readied 25,390 new items for public use and withdrew 20,408 outdated or damaged items.

2009-2010 HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

-  In support of **reading for personal enrichment**, the Library sponsored summer reading for all ages, took the lead on the One Book One Siouland community reading initiative, hosted read-to-me dogs, and supported the Booked on Crime and Open Book discussion groups.
-  Upgrades to the underlying infrastructure enhanced patrons' ability to use multimedia-rich Internet content and increased Internet bandwidth. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, **technological advances** made wireless and color printing available at The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library.
-  The Library ramped up **reader services** with Book Browse, an online tool to connect books and readers, joined the statewide consortium offering thousands of downloadable audio book titles to Library patrons, and expanded the Large Print collection with funding from the Friends. Staff selected, purchased and processed 18,500 new books to add to the Library's collections.
-  The **Online Branch** debuted myth busters to correct misconceptions about library use and introduced a weekly Library News feature to keep patrons informed of library happenings. The web team began to redesign the books and reading page to make it more inviting and interactive.
-  As a **partner in learning**, staff collaborated with the Community Action Agency of Siouland to host Generations Online, a computer training program for senior citizens at the Morningside Branch; with Iowa Workforce Development to cross train on resources; and with the Social Security Office to help citizens file for benefits online. Staff completed the three-year Literacy for New Iowans grant with Early Head Start, helping parents understand why reading to their children is important.

(Continued on back)

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS...continued

Staff provided **resource lists** to the WITCC Lifelong Learning book club, to Siouxland Aging Services, the Tri-State Graduate Center, Siouxland Y, and more.

Partnerships were many and varied, from cosponsoring City initiatives like Juneteenth to celebrating All Iowa Reads, Iowa Prairie Heritage Week, the Bard of Avon centenary and National Library Week. Downtown Rotary began purchasing an honor book for each of their speakers. The Library partnered with Washington Elementary PTA to bring author Kristin Kladstrup to the Library for an afternoon presentation. In collaboration with area colleges, the Library brought actor Duffy Hudson to Siouxland as Edgar Allen Poe.

Monthly outreach visits included storytimes for 24 classes at 11 childcare sites and book deliveries to 17 classrooms at nine sites. Staff explained the importance of getting and using a Library card to 13 classrooms in the fall. In May, staff took a summer reading message to 15 classes in five schools and the entire Leeds Elementary student body, and volunteers promoted summer reading in the Morningside Days Parade.

New paperback spinners and display racks, courtesy of the Friends, **improved the ambiance** at Morningside. At the Perry Creek Branch, books on tape were removed to make room for more books on CD and a new book return was installed. New "open" signs graced both locations.

The Library joined *The Sioux City Journal's* My Siouxland Voice and launched a Facebook page to further develop connections with **online social networks**.

The Library's two **puppet shows**, comprising 23 performances of *The Three Little Pigs* and *Island Jack & the Vine Stalk*, entertained 981 children and 287 adults.

Delivering Library books to shut-ins, entering data in the *Sioux City Journal* Index, or working the book sale (which brought in \$25,000 for the Friends of the Library), a total of 156 **Library volunteers** donated 2,796 hours supporting Library services. In April, staff purchased a book in honor of each volunteer.

Celebrating *Get Caught Reading* month in May captured faces both solemn and silly as Derek (right) and Gerald (below) will attest.



Proof once more that the Library supports learning and leisure pursuits at every age and life stage.

COMMUNITIES THRIVE @ THE LIBRARY

We can get information about anything we want and information is power. ~Duane Kraayenbrink

Libraries help me thrive because books can take us on a mental trip without paying the "passage." As I turn the pages of a book, the content pulls me in. I can be an historian, traveler, detective, child, adult, anyone I want to be. ~Jane Morrissey

Libraries are important to my family and me because they are a resource to find information about other parts of the world and other times in human history. The perspective this information provides is helpful to me in understanding other peoples, today's issues and tomorrow's challenges. ~John Meyers

Libraries are the first step for a life journey and are a place to live your own adventure. ~Lillian Rodriguez

Having access to a library gives me the benefit of an entire research team behind me. All the information I will ever need is there. Libraries help me travel the world without ever leaving the comfort of my own living room. ~Captain Lisa Claeys

We are able to read a variety of books, magazines, and newspapers plus watch DVDs and listen to music that we would ordinarily not be able to afford on our own! IT'S LIKE BEING RICH! ~Anonymous

The Library offers countless resources for families living on a budget: menu and budgeting books, reading and other activities (free!) for the children, PLUS inspirational stories found in biographies and autobiographies. ~Katie Colling

Libraries help us thrive because they tell us in thousands of ways that the joy of learning never ends. ~Marcia Poole

LIBRARY BUDGET SUMMARY

	(not audited)
City Adjusted Budgeted Amount	\$2,665,991
Expenditures:	
Personnel	\$1,930,606
Materials	\$320,855
Plant/Operations/Equipment	\$323,138
Gifts & Grants Received	\$140,182
Including major gifts of \$63,905 from the Sioux City Public Library Foundation, \$48,733 from State of Iowa funds, and \$24,545 from the Friends of the Sioux City Public Library.	

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2009-2010

Cathy M. Perley, *President*

Jay E. Denne, *Vice President*

George E. Duchossois, *Secretary*

Barbara Benson

Lisa M. Kroger

Janet Plathe

Mary Ann Schuldt