

ask begin read refresh renew relax research listen learn
 awaken ponder **imagine** improve find enjoy explore experience
 participate ponder **discover** decide savor grow think
 consult **connect** create communicate collaborate

Sioux City Public Library Annual Report

2011-2012

Connecting people and ideas to empower and enrich our community



principal architect with FEH Associates, Inc., the leadership of Lance Howe with H & H Builders, and the skilled tradesmen in our area, the project was completed within budget and on an extremely tight time-frame. The Sioux City Public Library Foundation Board of Directors raised the needed private funds to leverage the City capital improvement dollars to successfully complete the building renovation.

Library staff continue to refine procedures and develop new services that connect Sioux Cityans with learning and leisure-time resources to, as the Library's mission states, "empower and enrich our community." Along with the usual statistics for this unusual year, you'll find highlights of specific services and programs that add so much to the quality of life in Sioux City.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Wilbur Aalfs Library building underwent a dramatic change this year. We use words like revitalized learning spaces, dazzling lights and customer-focused service points to describe the renovation. We use words like imagine, discover, connect, relax, refresh, learn and grow to describe how libraries change the people who rely on us every day. What words describe your library experience?

The renovation occupied one-third of our time and much of our energy this year. Thanks go to all Library staff who enthusiastically jumped into the "other duties as assigned" part of their jobs. With the well-planned design by Matt Basye,



Betsy Thompson
Library Director

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

- As a community **partner in learning**, the Library collaborated with the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership and Morningside College, hosting a second installment of *Mom's Night Out for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*, a hands-on program designed to inspire the next generation of scientists. The Library invited nonprofit grantwriters to *Grantseeking Basics with Foundation Directory Online* by Kief Schladweiler, Coordinator of Cooperating Collections at The Foundation Center. From Head Start classrooms to the Siouxland Center for Active Generations, the Library remains a valued partner.
- Iowa Workforce Development installed software on Library project computers giving patrons access to job leads and online filing, and Iowa Department of Human Services Child Care Provider Training Registry staff used the Library's wifi network to train providers, both using the Library as a connection point for **eGovernment**.
- The Library took the lead role in *One Book One Siouxland*, the community-wide **reading initiative**, where 324 participants attended initiative-sponsored events like Dr. Adam Frisch's keynote presentation on Ray Bradbury held at The Wilbur Aalfs Library.
- An after-hours event, *The Hunger Games, Library Style*, helped **bring the book to life** for young teens who earned points with Wii Archery and other "survival" challenges. Staff helped 193 children and adults in Beyond the Bell programs explore new ways to tell familiar stories using simple props like puppets and a shadow box.
- Whether introducing reading readiness skills to 2,002 preschool attendees at family storytime, or strengthening beginning reading skills for 351 participants at 25 read-to-me story dog sessions, the Library worked year-round **preparing children for success** in school and in life.
- Staff shared a libraries and **literacy message** with area book clubs and service groups, explaining the latest brain research on reading fiction and the Library's role in enhancing the reading experience.
- The Library implemented a new materials management system to enhance service and empower patrons, offering open holds shelving and **self-service checkout** at The Wilbur Aalfs Library.

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STATISTICS

310,634 visitors checked out 494,132 books, magazines and recordings. Checkouts are down 12% from last year, due in part to a 4-month service interruption during the Main Library renovation.

The Sioux City Public Library houses 212,581 books and recordings in The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, Morningside Branch Library, and Perry Creek Branch Library.

Sioux City Public Library has 30,811 active library card holders. Of those active card holders, 10.7% or 3,304 used their cards to access online resources exclusively and did not physically check out any Library items.

Patrons who discovered the Perry Creek Branch Library while Main was closed continued to use it when Main reopened. Checkouts from January to June 2012 remained 22% higher than in 2011 and the gate count at this branch was 1,497 (11%) higher.

During the year, staff cataloged, stamped, stickered and readied 18,696 new items for public use and withdrew 22,095 outdated or damaged items.

Individuals and organizations booked the Library's two public meeting rooms 200 times (299 last year), attended by 5,037 people.

Whether delivering Library books to shut-ins, working the book sale (which brought in \$25,000 for the Friends support of the Library), or taking shifts at the Perry Creek Branch Library, a total of 135 Library volunteers donated 2,376 hours supporting Library services.

Visitors logged into the Library's Internet computers 50,167 times for online job applications, social networking and research. Others used their own laptops to tap into the Library's wireless connection. Staff proctored 44 tests for distance learners during the year.

LIBRARY BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (not audited)

City Adjusted Budgeted Amount	\$2,764,705
Expenditures:	
Personnel	\$2,010,795
Materials	\$296,307
Building/Operations/Equipment	\$435,313
Gifts & Grants Received:	
Capital campaign pledges and donations	\$181,902
State of Iowa funds	\$31,326
Friends of the Sioux City Public Library	\$8,542
Other	\$761

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2011-2012

Jay E. Denne, *President*
 Janet Plathe, *Vice President*
 Lisa M. Kroger, *Secretary*
 Derek Albert
 Melissa Cain (partial year)
 Amanda Clark (partial year)
 Mary Ann Schuldt
 Daniel Smith

THE RENOVATION

We knew that closing the doors to Sioux City's biggest and busiest library would disrupt service. To minimize the inconvenience, staff moved the most popular collections—DVDs, books on CD, current magazines, paperbacks, and all new items—to the Morningside and Perry Creek Branch Libraries. We extended the hours at both branches and the Library scheduled additional staff there to handle the workload.

All through the renovation, staff maintained the Library's outreach programs to schools and daycare centers. In an effort to keep patrons supplied with books, staff pulled as many as 200 books a day from the storage facility to fill patron requests for specific titles.

The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library closed its doors to foot traffic on August 30, 2011 and a beautiful, state-of-the-art Library opened Thursday, January 5, 2012. Of the \$1,700,000 project, \$600,000 came from grants, state program funds and private donations with \$1,100,000 appropriated by City Council as a capital project.



Library staff and volunteers challenged spectators at the Morningside Days parade to awaken their imaginations and Dream Big at the Library.

HIGHLIGHTS continued

- Staff launched the next generation **Online Branch**, placing downloadable eBooks, eAudio and full-text resources front and center on a home page more closely aligned with the City's masthead and color scheme.
- As part of the grand reopening celebration, the Library offered a one-time **Fresh Start Fine Free Week** (February 27-March 3) creating patron goodwill and the return of \$1,645 worth of overdue items.
- In January readers checked out a record number of **eBooks** from the Library's download service through the statewide consortium—621 titles by 361 unique patrons.
- Youth Services added three new storytime locations and four new book van delivery locations, despite having the Library's outreach van cut from the budget, generating 136 **outreach events** attended by 3,325 children and adults.