

Hours and Locations

Central Library

M - T 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
W - Sa 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Su Closed
Annual Hours: 2,598

Barkley Branch

M Closed
T - Th 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
F Closed
Sa 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Su Closed
Annual Hours: 816

Fairhaven Branch

M Closed
T - Sa 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Su Closed
Annual Hours: 1,012

Total Annual Hours: 4,426
Difference vs. 2009: -180
Difference vs. 2008: -794

FRIENDS OF THE BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends had another amazing year, volunteering 11,500+ hours and pledging over \$90,000 in support of library projects, including:

- new book trucks • barcode duplicators • music CD shelving • eBooks
- Summer Reading Program • Summer Reading yard signs
- book club kits • \$30,000 for Children's collection • holiday music CDs
- Whatcom READS! • teen gaming equipment • NextReads subscription

THANK YOU, FRIENDS!



FRIENDS OFFICERS 2010

President, Kathie Wilson
Vice President, Ruby Larive
Treasurer, Brigid Wilson
Secretary, Vicky Marshall
Fairhaven Friends Liaison, Faye Hill



Use Increases Despite Hours, Materials Cuts

Budget cuts necessitated the elimination of most evening hours at the Central Library, Sunday library service, and several days at the Barkley and Fairhaven branches. All told, the public lost the equivalent of two and a quarter weeks of library service in 2010.

The library materials budget was also hit hard. The new book shelves were reduced by half, a visible reminder that spending was down 15% compared to 2009 and down 32% compared to 2008.

Despite these limitations, the library's annual circulation increased to 1,619,257. In other words, when people came to the library in 2010, they stocked up on books, CDs and DVDs in record numbers. We averaged 365 checkouts per open hour in 2010 compared to 250 in 2006.

Online activity also increased dramatically (17%), as people discovered they can download audiobooks and eBooks from the library website.



Bellingham Public Library

2010 Annual Report



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We started the year by celebrating the re-opening of the Fairhaven Branch Library. A few wet and windy winter storms made us thankful that the branch is now watertight.

These days we are especially grateful for grant support and individual donations. With funding from our amazing Friends of the Library, staff established a downloadable eBook collection, and updated several Children's collections. The library also received a grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation for research materials to support non-profit organizations, and the Whatcom Genealogical Society provided funding for genealogy databases. Thank you to everyone who provided an extra boost to the library in 2010.

Congratulations to all parents and caregivers who recognize the important role the library

plays in language development and reading readiness. Early literacy programs are a library priority, and we saw a 9% increase in attendance at our eight weekly story times this year. We are building readers for the future!

Adults are using the library in record numbers as well — 225 local clubs are registered users of the Book Club Kit program. Reading and discussing great books and ideas is a sustaining value of public libraries, especially in Bellingham!

Throughout the year, our hard-working staff rallied to keep up with increased business, and 2010 ended with a record-breaking number of checkouts, 1.6 million items.

Our library is governed and supported by an active Library Board. This year we welcomed a new trustee, Whatcom Literacy Council Executive Director Rachel Myers. Working together as a board and staff, our goal is to

provide the best possible library service for the Bellingham community.

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees and the entire library staff, thank you for your support in 2010. Happy Reading!

Pamela Nyberg Kiesner
Library Director

2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Edelstein, Chair
Faye Hill, Vice Chair
J. Gordon
Marilyn Mastor
Rachel Myers
Pamela Kiesner, Library Director
Michael Lilliquist, City Council
(not pictured)



2010 Statistics

CARDHOLDERS

47,025 borrowers
7,658 new cards
80,885 city population

COLLECTION

239,904 total holdings
\$4.77 spent per capita
465 print subscriptions
21 licensed databases

CIRCULATION

1,619,257 checkouts
A new record!
We checked out 20 items per capita in 2010. March was the busiest month, with over 140,000 items. That's 5,100+ items a day!

VISITS

858,308 visits
481,591 website visits

PROGRAMS

457 total programs held
17,608 attendees

STAFF

42.2 FTEs

Library Budget

2010 REVENUE

General Fund	\$2,892,499
Library Fines & Fees	\$144,864
Intergov. Svcs.	\$136,325
Room Rental	\$22,115*
Gift Funds	\$66,755
Misc. Revenue	\$22,867
Grants	\$2,229
Capital	\$9,814

Total \$3,297,468

2010 EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,194,132
Library Materials	\$386,080
Other Oper. Exp.	\$717,256
Capital Exp.	\$9,814

Total \$3,297,468

* Hours reductions at Central Library limited meeting room use.

The 2010 library operating budget was 14% less than 2009, reflecting cuts of \$520,000.

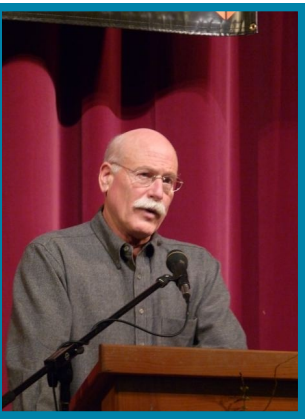


One Card Accesses All Area Libraries

In September, Secretary of the State Sam Reed joined BPL Trustees and directors from every public and academic library in Whatcom County to launch the One Card program. One Card allows anyone who lives, works, or attends school in Whatcom County to check out materials from every local library. Many BPL cardholders have been thrilled to discover they can now access Western Washington University's library collections, at no charge. Borrowers can return materials to any participating library, and library couriers will make sure that items get back to their "home" libraries.

One Card provides better stewardship of public dollars by sharing library resources with the entire community.

Grants Support Adult Programming



Bellingham Public Library was the lead agency for the 2010 Big Read: Whatcom READS! program, funded this year by a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Renowned author Tobias Wolff visited Bellingham in February to talk about his novel *Old School*. In all, partner libraries held 33 events, released 600 copies of the book "into the wild" and checked out the book over 400

times during a six-month period.

This Fall, staff member Suzanne Carlson-Prandini was awarded a national fellowship for "Transforming Life After 50". Suzanne received extensive training to begin planning ways to reach baby boomers with quality library services and programs. Congratulations, Suzanne!

Children's Department Builds on Strengths

Over 40 years ago, Children's Department staff had an idea: coordinate a Children's Craft Fair for children to market various homemade craft projects. This year, Helen Scholtz and the entire Children's staff were honored with a Mayor's Arts Award for establishing and continuing to offer this much-loved family event. Their enthusiasm and support of our children's creative and entrepreneurial talents is laudable. Thanks go to everyone who has bought a hand-make necklace, balloon animal, or pet rock over the years.

Another time-honored tradition is the Children's Summer Reading Program. In 2010, thanks to the Friends of the Library, each child who met his or her reading goal received a yard sign proclaiming, "A Summer Reading SUPERSTAR Lives Here". This prompted a 51% increase in children completing the Summer Reading program. Kids of all ages proudly staked the signs in their yards, and entire neighborhoods soon showed their support of Summer Reading. The signs reinforce good reading behavior and remind others to use the library.

