

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

In 2012 three staff members were appointed to statewide steering committees for library service. Library Director Pam Kiesner represents municipal libraries on the Library Council of Washington, Beth Farley is on the Executive Advisory Committee for the Washington Digital Library Consortium and Bethany Hoglund is on the Sasquatch Award Committee of the Washington Library Media Association.

All share their expertise with colleagues from across the state and serve as excellent representatives for Bellingham Public Library.



LIBRARIAN RETIRES

Public Services Librarian Jane Lowrey retired in June after 33 years. Among her many projects was establishing the Whatcom Information Network, the precursor to 2-1-1. She worked at the Fairhaven Branch Library and in Outreach Services. Jane also planned annual "Name That Book" competitions, combining two loves: trivia and libraries.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library never cease to amaze. In 2012, the Friends pledged over \$110,000 to the library! A large portion (\$50,000) was directed to the Bellingham Public Library Capital Fund at the Whatcom Community Foundation, getting this fund off to a great start.

The Friends also established a Continuing Education Fund to support library staff members pursuing advanced library education and to supplement staff training.

The Friends raise funds through memberships and the sale of used books. Thank you, Friends!

FRIENDS' OFFICERS 2012

Kathie Wilson, President
Karen Hannah, VP
Ann Therkelsen, Treasurer
Faye Hill, Secretary



Key Projects in 2012

- Summer Reading
- Storytime Collection
- Raise a Reader
- Lecture Room Tech Upgrades
- Whatcom READS!
- Adult Fiction and Large Type



Bellingham
Public Library



2012 Annual Report



STATS AT A GLANCE

CARDHOLDERS

44,897 borrowers
81,360 city population

COLLECTION

236,979 items
\$4.69 per capita
455 print subscriptions
19 databases
9,577 eBooks

CIRCULATION

1,638,730 items checked out
3,198 items borrowed via Interlibrary Loan

VISITS

842,242 visits (down 2% vs 2011)
654,497 website visits (up 4%)

PROGRAMS

818 programs
25,207 attendees
4,440 Summer Reading participants (all ages)

STAFF

45.5 FTE

Planning for the Future

Bellingham Public Library

Connecting our community with each other and the world

READ • LEARN • MEET • DISCOVER

This year, the focus has been on Strategic Planning as we worked to map out our direction for the next five years. With assistance from Brian Burton, Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Western Washington University, we convened a group of 40 local stakeholders to look at trends in library services and to update our library mission statement (see it above!). We conducted an online survey and analyzed responses from over 3,300 community members! We followed up with phone calls to 134 people and held two Open Houses to get a better understanding of what people want from their library in the future. Keeping all of this input in

mind, we crafted a plan that develops library services that represent our community's dreams. The 2013 - 2017 Strategic Plan is now available on the library website; please take a look and let us know what you think!

- Pamela Nyberg Kiesner
Library Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Edelstein, Chair
Faye Hill, Vice Chair
J. Gordon
Marilyn Mastor
Rachel Myers

Pamela Kiesner,
Library Director

Stan Snapp,
City Council Liaison

2012 BUDGET

REVENUE

General Fund	\$3,229,594
Library Fines & Fees	\$148,354
Intergov. Services	\$143,506
Room Rentals	\$28,956
Gift Funds	\$55,733
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$20,611
Grants	\$0
Capital	\$0

TOTAL **\$3,626,754**

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,450,302
Library Materials	\$381,874
Other Oper. Exp.	\$794,578
Capital Expenditures	\$0

TOTAL **\$3,626,754**



Mayor Kelli Linville updates her library card.

Finding Joy in Reading

The number of children who completed the Children's Summer Reading Program this year increased by nearly 40%, to 1,602! Thanks to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, every finisher received a free book - rewarding reading with...more reading! To finish, children ages 5 to 12 were required to read 15 hours over the summer. That's a lot of pages! Staff conducted 103 programs, including 70 storytimes, weekly movie matinees, the Children's Craft Fair, and co-sponsored events with five community organizations.

At the end of the year, we opened the Dodson Room as an Early Learning and Literacy Center for families with young children. Whenever the room is not in use for a storytime or other children's program, families may gather there to read board books, do puzzles, and play with toys aimed at increasing early literacy skills. We anticipate further upgrades to this space in the coming year.



The excitement of a first library card!



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: 2,606

Barkley Branch

M 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
T - Th 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
F Closed
Sa 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Su Closed
Annual Hours: 1,004

Fairhaven Branch

M Closed
T - Sa 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Su Closed
Annual Hours: 1,020

Total Annual Hours: 4,630

Online Branch

www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org

Library Connections

- BTC Connection
- WCC Connection
- WWU Connection

Community Drop Boxes

- Barkley, Meridian, Sehome Haggen
- Comm. Food Co-op Cordata

CATALOG FACELIFT

In June we introduced BiblioCommons, a user-friendly overlay to our existing library catalog which allows people to search by keyword, make lists of future titles to read, and follow links to suggested titles in similar genres and formats.

Overall, public response has been very positive, with many patrons excited about the ability to keep track of "recent returns" - a boon for those leading hectic lives.

COLLECTIONS BUILD CONNECTIONS



Best-selling mystery author Elizabeth George signing books as part of the Whatcom READS! program in February.

Whatcom READS! a Whodunnit

Fans of genre fiction got a thrill with the 2012 Whatcom READS! selection, *In the Presence of the Enemy* by Elizabeth George. In addition to several presentations by the author, events related to crime scene investigation, police dogs, and how to write mysteries were well attended.



KITS SIMPLIFY BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Savvy readers know the easiest way to line up multiple copies of the same book for a book club discussion is to reserve a Book Club Kit online from the Bellingham Public Library website. In 2012, we offered 165 different kits with titles representing various genres, fiction and nonfiction. The kits checked out 722 times last year - at 10 books per kit that's over 7,000 copies circulating! We're grateful for the continued support of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library for purchasing new kits, and to 13 book clubs who donated titles to share with others.

The year's most requested kit? *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.