

LAKE FOREST LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2010

FY2010 saw the impact of the economic downturn: record circulation, patron visits and number of new library cards issued. A 2010 Harris Interactive poll showed a decade long trend of increasing library use continued and accelerated during recent economic hard times. The number of Lake Foresters who have a library card was 76%.

The spring of 2009 saw a 28% increase in circulation in the Children's Library because of the renovation and reopening April 1. But as the spring and summer progressed, the increases were in adult circulation (15%) and patron visits (22%). Computer use increased, and even with the addition of 10 public workstations, all the seats were often in use. While the economy continued to recover at the end of FY10, Staff hope that many new patrons will continue to use their library cards instead of their credit cards for books, DVDs, audio books, video games, magazines, newspapers, Internet, e mail access and downloadable e and e audio books.

Measures of electronic services were flat, except for hits on the web site, which tripled. Interlibrary loan activity, materials borrowed from other libraries for our patrons stayed the same, but items loaned to other libraries increased 28%. While the Library's funding has remained positive, with less than 1% of the budget from the state in the form of the annual Per Capita Grant, cuts in state funding for library systems will impact the cost effective regional interlibrary loan delivery system.

Added to the many electronic services offered was Tutor.com, a live interactive tutoring site for children and teens. Tutor.com also provided career resources and real time resume help. Staff continued to work closely with the Career Resource Center in an effort to coordinate resources. To reach the demographic that uses social networking sites, Lake Forest Library can be found on *Twitter*, *Facebook* and a book discussion blog.

The Library began leasing computer equipment in 2006; a second three year lease with new computers was begun in 2009. Leasing allows the Library to offer new equipment without the capital outlay and equipment is replaced every three years instead of every five years. Fiber access has increased bandwidth to accommodate the variety of uses patrons make of public computers. With careful planning, the parking lot was repaved in August, after all the summer reading programs finished and with months of notice to patrons.

Lake Forest Library's Summer Reading programs have become so popular, with certain programs attracting hundreds of children and parents, causing the Activity Room to be overcrowded. For safety reasons, and with guidance from the Lake Forest Fire Department, Staff started to limit attendance. After much discussion and deliberation, tickets will be required at some of the most popular events. The popular Young Adult Summer Reading Program for teens saw its successful fifth year. Adult Services Staff began a Summer Reading Program for adults in the summer of 2008. The popularity of all three programs continued to grow, thanks to generous funding by the Friends of the Library.

The Friends moved their successful fall book sale to the gym at the Recreation Center. The inside location gave the sale comfortable temperatures, paved parking and easy overnight security. Special thanks for their willingness to try this venture to Recreation Director Mary Van Arsdale and her supportive Staff. With another financially successful sale, Friends continued their generous support of three Summer Reading Programs, seven book discussion groups, year around children's programs, and art awards for two area teen art shows. Friends funded the restoration of the shed and two exterior lanterns, landscape restructuring on the east side, a new book drop and the fine addition of a Franklin McMahon painting, *Ernest Hemingway's home in Key West, Florida*.

Detailed information of the year's activities and statistics are included in the attached department annual reports and statistical charts.

Kaye Grabbe, Administrative Librarian