Community support for the Library System

In 2011 Friends of the Library groups from 18 libraries contributed \$81,400 for library needs. These volunteer organizations are instrumental in supporting and promoting libraries.

Pierce County Library Foundation awarded \$222,959 for library programs in fiscal year 2011-12. Gifts from a caring community

helped put more books in the hands of children, gave job seekers the resources and skills to compete in today's job market,

and enhanced places to learn for children and teenagers in the Lakewood and University Place Pierce County Libraries. Library programs such as Summer Reading, book discussion kits, early learning, Job + Business Centers and Pierce County READS were strengthened thanks to the generosity. The Foundation's Board of Directors raises and allocates charitable gifts to support library services beyond tax-based sources and directs funding where it is needed most.





Fast Facts

- Established in 1946.
- ▶ 1,773 square mile service area: unincorporated Pierce County and the annexed cities and towns of Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Edgewood, Fife, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Milton, Orting, South Prairie, Steilacoom, Sumner, University Place and Wilkeson.
- ▶ Serves 544,477 people.
- ▶ 18 libraries.
- ▶ 24/7 access with downloadable e-books, audiobooks and songs; online homework help; and e-sources.

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Connecting communities learning opportunities enriching lives



7()||

Pierce County Library System's **Annual Report** to the Community



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Opening new libraries:

more space, books, computers, seating



"This library is very

necessary. It gives

me a connection to

my community and I

get knowledge and

happy place."

entertainment and I see

my neighbors all in one

- Amanda Love,

mother of six



In 2011 communities celebrated the opening of three libraries —

two relocations/expansions and one new library. The Library System created the services and features in each of the libraries based upon extensive input from residents.

With the annexation of the City of Fife to Pierce County Library, the Library System opened the first library in Fife. **Fife Pierce County Library** is the first of the 18 Pierce County Libraries designed entirely as a browsing library.

Opening day feats:

- >> 780 visitors
- >> 1,566 items checked out
- >> 143 cards issued



Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library

opened in a new, centrally located, easily accessible place in Surprise Lake Square. The library created quiet spaces for work and study and separate areas for noisier activities to engage children and teenagers.

Opening day successes:

- >> 1,300 visitors
- >> 1,964 items checked out
- >> 75 cards issued



University Place Pierce County Library opened in a centrally located, larger space in the University Place Civic & Library Building. The library boasts spaces and places for people to learn, study and connect with features including the high-tech Adriana and George Hess Conference Room; a children's area that stimulates learning and exploring and includes the Edgar and Betty Larson in honor of their children and arandchildren Children's Computers; Tacoma Narrows

Rotary Club Teen Area; Job & Business Center; and Karen Bellamy Reading Lounge.

UP Library is the first Pierce County Library to attain sustainable building practices at Leadership in the Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification level.

Thanks to the University Place Library Campaign the new library shined with innovative features including more books, resources and technology from gifts and pledges totaling more than \$550,000.

Opening day achievements:

- **→** 4,541 visitors
- >> 4,150 items checked out
- >> 255 cards issued

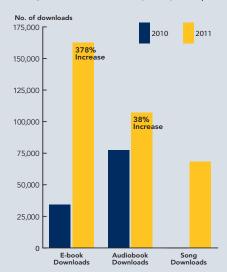


Pierce County Library System is the community's choice for reading, learning, connecting, and discovering!

Download services continue to soar

Download use is off the charts, showing significant gains comparing 2011 with 2010.

Downloading songs was a new service in 2011. People can download three free songs a week and they may keep them.



Fifth year maintaining levy pledges

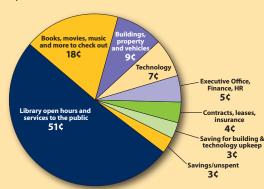
In September 2006, voters gave a 56% approval to re-authorize the Library's levy, which allowed the Library to maintain current services and provide new offerings. The Library continues to deliver these pledges and evaluate its ability to maintain them for the six years as promised:

- hours by 20%.
- Expanded variety of books and materials.
- Increased services for children and teenagers.
- Upgraded services and technology for customers.

Good steward of taxpayers' dollars

In 2011, property taxes funded approximately 96% of the Library's services. The Library System's operating revenues totaled \$29,111,096. The expenditures for the Library totaled \$28,303,924.

\$1 in taxes =



2011 marked the second year that the economic downturn showed an impact on the Library's budget, with assessed property values down throughout the Library's service area. Also, consistent with recent years, the Library continues to project that multi-year declines in revenue will further affect library services.

Library managers continue to build on efficiencies and savings to address budget shortfalls. Managers rigorously evaluate operations to ensure the Library System provides customers with valued services.

Full budget @piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/administration/finance

"Our library is great for research or entertainment. The staff is always very helpful, courteous, and polite — always eager to help everyone in either big or small tasks."

- David

Pierce County

Library	Ind	ex of
Service	for	2011

8,534,808 Books and other materials

2,631,464 Visits to 18

libraries.

2,926,874 Visits to website.

1,316,309 Books, CDs, DVDs and

other materials offered.

checked out.

250,290 Cardholders.

66,352 Hours children read during summer reading.

63,536 People attending

events.



Thanks to our Donors...

Every gift counts!

The Pierce County Library Foundation recognizes the generosity of its growing family of donors. Every gift from every donor helps to sustain and strengthen indispensable literary, learning and outreach programs freely offered to the community. Our grateful thanks to the following individuals, businesses and foundations that contributed in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

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