

OVERVIEW OF PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY

- Established in 1946.
- Includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.
- Served approximately 602,000 people through 20 locations and with mobile and online services.
- Operates as an independent taxing district and reports to a volunteer board of trustees.



FAST FACTS 2017

18 million	Minutes read in Summer Reading
6,615,212	Books/materials checked out:
5,063,258	From shelves
1,136,342	From online e-books and audiobooks
415,612	From online databases/e-sources
5,631,475	Visits:
2,097,680	To 20 libraries
3,533,795	To websites
322,744	Cardholders
110,000	Event and class attendance

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PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

2017 Annual Report to the Community

Sparking success for you



 **Pierce County
Library System**
Information & Imagination

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LEARNING • ENJOYMENT • COMMUNITY

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2017 marked the first year Pierce County Library System delivered services under its Strategic Framework, which the Library created based upon input from more than 20 community leaders and 12,000 responses from individuals. The Strategic Framework guides service through Learning, Enjoyment and Community initiatives.

As the fourth largest library system in Washington state, the nationally recognized, award-winning Pierce County Library is serving 602,000 people in fast-growing suburban and rural Pierce County. In 2018 the Library is having important conversations with residents about how it can best meet communities’ needs as costs to run the Library System are higher than revenues.



LEARNING

YOUR Library supports growth and curiosity, so children enter kindergarten ready to learn and you can navigate the real world and meet your goals.

Boosted STEM skills.

From Science to Go with books and activities for children to 3D printing classes for all ages, the Library System offered a variety of in-library classes and online resources to bolster science, technology, engineering, and math skills and interests. More than 4,000 people attended events to learn more about the celestial event of the century—the solar eclipse.



Helped people get jobs.

Job+Business Centers with computers, expert assistance and resources as well as 118 workshops and 1:1 support helped improve job skills for 1,470 people.



Prepared young adults for life after high school.

Dozens of Life after High School workshops presented young adults with information and resources about going to college, financial literacy, building job skills and starting a career.



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ENJOYMENT

YOUR Library helps you enjoy your free time, so you discover outlets to offset the pressures of daily life and relax.

Motivated summer readers.

With books, e-books and events, thousands of children, teens and adults were motivated to read in the Summer Reading program.



Instilled the love of reading.

- Babies and toddlers made 48,000 visits to the Library's 2,000 story times and early learning classes.
- The CarMax Foundation awarded Pierce County Library a grant which brought KaBOOM! Imagination Playground™ to children in Pierce County. While playing with the giant blocks, children built math, literacy and science skills.
- Lucky Day gave people choices of best sellers and other popular books and movies without waiting. People checked out 188,000 Lucky Day items.



COMMUNITY

YOUR Library connects and strengthens your communities, so you are engaged in your thriving community and are optimistic about its future.



Connected community.

A total of 1,400 builders, engineers, artists, and all makers and do-it-yourselfers explored, built, created, crafted and coded through displays, demonstrations and hands-on activities at MakerFest.



Launched Pierce County Conversations.

Throughout the county people participated in a series of new events called Pierce County Conversations—becoming part of empowering conversations about current topics. The informative discussions provided people with the knowledge they need to communicate their ideas effectively and participate actively in democracy.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

CORE SERVICES

The Library System is committed to strengthening its core services for you.

In 2017 we...

Made the e-book and online audiobook million checkout club.

Pierce County residents love their e-books and their high checkout rates reflect that, earning Pierce County Library a prestigious place in the e-book million checkout club. Pierce County Library was one of 58 library systems to make the list out of 38,000 library systems in the U.S., Canada, Singapore and New Zealand. Pierce County residents checked out 1,023,610 e-books and online audiobooks, which averaged more than 2,800 a day!



Improved movie browsing.

Made finding and getting movies faster and easier for the public in four libraries by moving movies from vending machines to shelves. In 2018 all libraries will have movies on shelves versus inside vending machines.

Upgraded furnishings.

Upgraded restrooms in Eatonville and Summit Pierce County Libraries, and carpet in the Lakewood and Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Libraries' meeting rooms which were very old and worn. Made University Place Pierce County Library Help Desk more accessible.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN YOUR LIBRARY SYSTEM

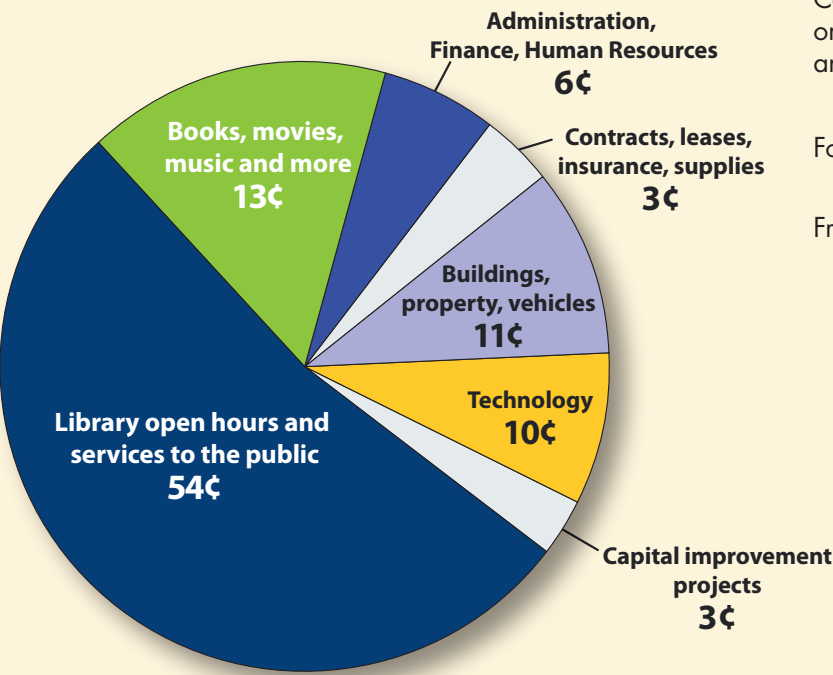
Property taxes provide 94 percent of the funds for the Library System. By state law, library systems may collect up to 50 cents per every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.

In 2017 the Library System collected 46.70 cents per every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value, and in 2018 the rate dropped to 42.97 cents.

In recent years, costs to run the Library have been increasing by 4-7 percent a year, while revenues have been increasing at a rate of 1-3 percent. Growing communities have outgrown and high use has worn many library buildings.

Total revenues: \$30,771,221.

Total expenditures: \$30,769,488.



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



Foundation and Friends contributions:

The Foundation supported many important programs including Pierce County READS and Summer Reading, keeping thousands of students and adults reading all summer. The Foundation also supported Baby Books to Go, ready-to-go bags filled with board books and activity sheets, to further help children on a positive path for growth and curiosity.

The generous contributions from thousands of individuals, corporations and private foundations to Pierce County Library Foundation and Friends of the library organizations help to further support learning, reading and community services.

Foundation donations: \$353,629 from 1,088 donors

Friends' donations from 17 organizations: \$109,225

LIBRARY SYSTEM'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

In 2018 we are focusing on...

Reading Community:

- Personalized reading recommendations for you
- Pierce County READS and author events
- E-newsletters featuring books and movies specific to your interests

Growth and Curiosity:

- 3D printing and STEM classes
- Microsoft certification

Engage in community:

- MakerFest and Pierce County Conversations
- Teen summer volunteer opportunities and job-skills training
- Mental Health First Aid training

Core services:

- Easier public meeting room booking
- Mobile app for easier access to services and library catalog
- Improved how you recommend books you want the Library to buy

