

WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Library found a lot to celebrate in 2006. With our Phase I remodeling project behind us, a revived and refreshed first floor was available for community members to browse, read, and relax. New colorful and comfortable furnishings were complemented by the addition of several works of art created by talented local artists for specific locations within the building. We received word that the Library was once again ranked among the top libraries in the United States.

I hope that you continue to find value and pleasure in visiting the Library and using its collection and services. Thank you for valuing what a public library contributes to a community, and for supporting the Waukesha Public Library!

Jane Ameel
Director, Waukesha Public Library

"In a library, you can find small miracles and truth...
I have found sanctuary in libraries my whole life...Libraries are like
mountains or meadows or creeks: sacred space."
Anne Lamott, author

2006 BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,471,793** Total number of items loaned to citizens.
- 333,162** Number of items in Library's collection.
- 9,808** Number of items checked out January 3, the largest circulation day of 2006.
- 102,362** Number of customer electronic requests for specific items filled by Library.
- 5,815** Number of new customers who registered for a library card.
- 70,934** Number of citizens with active cards.
- 493** Number of Children's programs.
- 22,495** Number of customers attending Children's programs.

EXPANDED SERVICES

- ◆ "Bookleggers": a new cooperative venture with the School District of Waukesha was made possible by a grant from the Waukesha Kiwanis Club.
- ◆ "Bookletters": our book review newsletter is now offered in an enhanced electronic format.
- ◆ Expanded Computer Classes: 37 classes were offered in 2006, including one designed especially for customers with hearing disabilities.
- ◆ Teen Zone Events & Programs: featured live music by Hayward Williams, award-winning author Chris Crutcher during 'Stories Jubilee', and the popular Milwaukee Bucks 'Read To Achieve' project.
- ◆ Outreach Success: a record breaking 5,000 visits were made to community members who are homebound or in health care facilities.
- ◆ Movie Programming: a new agreement with 'Movies Licensing USA' made it possible for the Library to present diverse feature films.

TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Free Hot Spot: wireless access at the library was initiated. WI-FI is very popular and here to stay!
- ◆ SelfCheck Technology: usage continues to grow. Customers checked out 68% of their in-house materials via the Library's five self-service machines.

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"It is with a good book as it is with good company."
Ralph Waldo Emerson