

Olathe Public Library

2008 Annual Report



Letter From the Director



The new year began as OPL continued to plan for the future. Having gathered information from the community and the staff during 2007, the plan was starting to take form as a useful tool for a fast growing community. The "Twenty Year Master Plan" would make its debut and be approved by the library board in May. In the meantime the library helped to celebrate both the library's and the city's earlier times by hosting a reception in February to honor the Ladies Reading Circle and the generosity of Comcast. A sesquicentennial boot inspired by the literary pursuits of the Ladies Reading Circle had been on display outside the library and was now being donated as a permanent piece of art to the library by Comcast. This event recognized the library's early supporters and its current corporate supporter.

Summer brought increases in participation in all of the library's reading programs. Children's Summer Reading Club increased its reach by more than 34 percent enrolled. Paperback book handout grew 15 per cent as more children turned in their reading folders! The support of the Olathe Public Library Foundation, Comcast and Olathe Reads was instrumental in the success of keeping children interested in reading during the summer.

Another type of planning also took place in 2008. As the library's centennial year, 2009, moved closer, library staff started to cover the many aspects of recognizing the library's 100th birthday, August 2, 2009. Behind the scenes, new landscaping replaced old at the main library and the branch would get some touching up as well. The library also worked with Luminous Neon to create a new logo that would serve for the future and the centennial year. Interior and exterior banners would go up late in 2008 to announce the upcoming birthday year.

The library was fortunate to receive and use grant funds from generous organizations. Olathe's newest Wal-Mart gave two grants for children's programming, the Kansas Humanities Council supported the library's fall offering for families, Prime Time Family Reading Time and ALA granted another year of Great Stories Club for teens. Comcast funds continued to help with summer reading expenses. Both the OPL Foundation and the Friends of OPL made grants supporting Summer Reading Club, program assistance for the OLATHE READS concert and Prime Time Family Reading Time, and new equipment such as the second UbiDuo for the branch library.

It was a busy and successful year because the library staff, the OPL Board of Directors, the OPL Foundation, the Friends of OPL and numerous volunteers worked together to serve Olathe. As with pieces of a big puzzle, no one piece could make a picture without the others. Congratulations to all of you on another year of service to our community!

Emily Baker

Board of Directors



Pictured from left, Darryl Ashley, Wes McCoy, Dana Campbell, Tom Hutcheson, Cathie Bennie, Rodney Birch and Jack Hansen

Library Board Members (as of May 2008)

Wes McCoy, President
Tom Hutcheson, Vice-President
Jack Hansen, Secretary
Cathie Bennie, Treasurer
Darryl Ashley
Rodney Birch
Dana Campbell
Michael Copeland, Mayor
Cliff Tatham (OPL Foundation Chair)
Peggy Ingle (Friends of OPL President)
Emily Baker (OPL Director)

Adult Services Year in Review

January through mid-April AARP provided tax preparation assistance for low income and retired persons.

During 2008, the library added several databases with remote access. The first was Value Line Investment Survey, a comprehensive source of information and advice on approximately 1,700 stocks, more than 90 industries, the stock market, and the economy. Second, the library added Research Library, a general magazine database for searching a variety of popular academic subjects. Finally, the library added Wall Street Journal full-text online from the world's leading financial newspaper.

Adult services led the way in launching a library in the 3-D virtual world of Second Life. The OPL Second Life branch is visited by people every week, including those from other countries.

In 2008, more computer classes were offered. This year included classes teaching Basic Computers and email. These classes were taught in both English and Spanish. The department also offered all day eBay classes where students are taught how to buy and sell on eBay. Classes were also offered on how to use Microsoft Word and Excel.

Some other programs included Digital Photography, Knitting, and two Genealogy Lock-Ins were held where customers could use resources when the library was closed. The library also held an after hours Job Search for customers to use the resources when the library was closed.

Statistics			
	Main	Indian Creek	Totals
Reference Questions	31,637	35,259	66,896
Telephone Reference	12,936	5,277	18,213
Email Reference			217

Children's Year in Review

The Children's Department continued to offer numerous programs throughout the year. Some of the more popular programs included Family Chess Night, a chance for the family to come and test their chess skills with others. Read to a Dog was continued this year. This program provides the child the opportunity to read to a trained dog out loud to enhance their reading skills. Let's Learn Spanish for Preschoolers was popular this year. Throughout the year preschool craft programs were held.

This year staff members traveled to Daycare Centers telling stories for the Daycare Storytime Outreach Program.

In addition, the department continued to offer Rhyme Time, Time for Two, and Preschool Storytime during the Spring and Fall. During the summer, the department offered storytime in the park.

In June, weekly movies were presented for kids. The movies included: *Bee Movie*, *Nancy Drew*,

A Bug's Life, *Enchanted*, and *The Spiderwick Chronicles*

In August, a bilingual Imagination Station was introduced to the children's department at the main library..

In September, live caterpillars were in the department for children to see the transformation into butterflies before they were released.

Stats			
	Main	Indian Creek	Totals
Telephone Reference	2,660	1,574	4,234
Reference Questions	30,328	43,936	74,264
Board Books	61	47	108
Game Computers	3,794	6,656	10,450
Tours	12	12	24
Participants	128	151	279
Storytimes	106	248	354
Participants	2,014	4,497	6,511
Programs	79	58	137
Participants	4,036	1,575	5,611

Teen's Year in Review

Again popular programs continued to be offered. The department offered Afternoon Rush at both libraries. This is a program where teens come together to use the computers, play console games, or just hang out. The Teen Library Club (TLC) is a group of local teens who assist the department in ideas for program offerings. In addition the library continued the highly popular Baby Sitting Class



w/CPR. The Olathe YA Anime Club continued to meet to watch anime and discuss manga.

In June , the department held a Game Day & Pizza Taste Off where teens sampled local pizza and voted on their favorite.

The department held two events based on books that have been made into popular movies. The first was *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, an event where teens watched the movies while doing crafts. The second event was

where the teens gathered to discuss *Twilight* before the movie was released.

On August 18, 2008, a young adult librarian, in an effort to educate the public on the libraries many offerings, provided a demonstration of the library's electronic databases to Olathe South High School parents and staff. The same presentation was offered in a Homeschooling Program for homeschooling parents

Held a "Biting Movie" event at Indian Creek on Oct. 16th and a "Biting Dessert Contest" at Main on Oct. 17th in celebration of Teen Read Week - "Books with Bite."

Library Foundation



The Olathe Public Library Foundation celebrated its eighth anniversary in 2008. Foundation supporters attended the sixth annual dinner, "A Taste of Literacy," held at the Olathe Holiday Inn. Speaker Joe Posnanski, *Kansas City Star* Sports Columnist and Author entertained the audience with his childhood and career stories.

OPL Foundation Chairman Cliff Tatham, awarded grants to benefit the library. This year's grants were awarded as follows:

\$5,000 - Children's Summer Reading Club

\$1,400 - computer station

\$2,000 - UbiDuo for the Indian Creek Branch Library

In addition, the foundation pledged \$5,000 for the 2009 Summer Reading Club. The foundation donated \$250 to the Hazel Hall Memorial Fund.

Foundation Board

Clifford Tatham, Chair

Bob Wilhelm, Vice-Chair

Emily Baker, Secretary

Jim Silvers, Treasurer

Dana Campbell

Micki Holliday

Peggy Ingle

Bob Shands

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Olathe Public Library is an active support organization for the library. The Friends book sales continue to be huge fundraisers for the group.

In 2008, the Friends hosted six “mini” book sales in the Indian Creek Branch meeting room. The popular Ella Mae Memorial Book Sale was held in April at the Center of Grace Gymnasium. Total proceeds for all the book sales were \$15,088.

Seventy people attended the popular annual soup supper held at the Indian Creek Community Church. Well-known author Cathy Maxwell talked on “Everything I Know About Love, I Learned in Olathe.”

Listed below are some of the areas the Friends funded

Movie Licensing USA - \$1,500
OPL Foundation - \$2,000
Olathe Reads Concert - \$1,200
Baby Board Books - \$921
DearReader.com - \$500
Prime Time Reading - \$300
Library Magazine Covers - \$493
Safe Babysitting Classes - \$575

The Friends sponsor the Baby Board Book Project, giving out book packets to all Olathe newborn parents. Included in each packet is library information and a hardcover baby board book. In 2008, 108 packets were distributed.

Friends Board

Linda Schoonover, President
Sharon Markey, Vice-President
Peggy Ingle, Secretary
Pat Pieper, Treasurer
Membership Chairperson, Carlotta Belcher
Newsletter Chairperson, Cindy Miller



Friends Summary of Financials

Summary of 2008 Income/Expense Items

2008 Balance Sheet

Income:

Book Sale Receipts	15,088
Membership Dues	1,489
Book Bag Sales	556
Interest	273
Misc. Income	247
(Donation & Special Events)	
Library Consignment.com	3,062

Total Income **\$20,458**

Expenses:

Donations to Olathe Public Library	10,450
Book Sale Costs	2,806
Misc. Expenses (Insurance, Memorial, Postage, Book Bag Costs, Program Events & Membership Expense)	1,593
1025	

Total Expenses **\$14,849**

Net Change **\$ 5,609**

	Dec. 31, 2007	Dec. 31, 2008
Assets:		
Checking Account	\$5,960	\$11,782
Cash Account	0	0
Bank CD	6,816	7,072
Total Assets:	\$12,776	\$18,855
Liabilities:	0	0
Net Worth:	\$12,776	\$18,855
Net Change:	\$ 2,938	\$ 6,079

Volunteers

	Number of Volunteers	Number of Hours
2004	538	9358
2005	426	7589
2006	369	7487
2007	465	7513
2008	377	7139

The library staff is fortunate to help the assistance of a strong volunteer base. In 2008, 377 volunteers donated 7,139 hours to the two libraries. Their duties are varied - from shelving to working the book sales, helping or presenting programs to doing photocopying. Wherever the need, the volunteers stepped up to the challenge.

The highlight of the year was the opportunity to thank the volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Reception held at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church. A dinner was served to 88 attendees.



The Nancy Quinlisk Chandler Award was presented for the fifteenth year. This year recipients were Dana Campbell and Carolyn Hardin.

The first recipient, Dana Campbell, has devoted much of her time and energy to promote the Olathe Public Library and the Olathe Public Library Foundation. She was appointed to the library board in the summer of 2002. By the next year, she was leading an effort to produce a DVD that told the library's story. She was asked to join the foundation board in 2005 and became deeply involved in the group's ice cream social and Lobster Fest. Dana also served as co-chair of the Facilities Task Force to help determine future library locations. She is viewed as "always positive and passionate about her hometown library!"

Carolyn, the second recipient and an Indian Creek Branch Library volunteer, was nominated by two staff members from the branch. As part of her weekly duties, Carolyn shelved materials, organized and weeded piles of possible donations, selected, delivered and returned library materials to Homebound customers and helped with book sales. Staff referred to her as "having a quiet yet sunny disposition that permeates the work room and is a careful and thoughtful worker at every turn."

Financial Summary

Expenses

Personnel	\$2,792,927
Books & Materials	595,494
Utilities	69,920
Supplies	89,081
Building	179,012
Automation	243,129
Copiers	7,813
Insurance	32,893
Equipment	69,109
Staff Development	29,382
Library Vehicle	3,963
Printing	8,994
Professional Services	35,674
Miscellaneous	49,298
Programming	19,866
Capital Improvement	21,487

Total Expenses **\$4,248,042**

Income Received

Tax Revenue	\$4,163,482
Interest Income	210
Fines, Copier, Misc.	167,797
Contributions	30,761

Total **\$4,362,250**

State Aid Received and Expended

State Aid	\$77,835
Interlibrary Loan Development Grant	6,626

Total **\$84,461**

Community Outreach

The library staff is so grateful for the Olathe community that provides support, volunteer assistance and numerous grants and gifts. That being said, staff is pleased to “pay it forward”.



The 2008 United Way campaign raised \$7,107 through library employee contributions with an additional \$745 earned from a cookout at each library and the sale of treats to staff. Total raised for United Way was \$7,852.

The on-going used cell phone collection for Safehome raised \$487 in 2008. Since this collection effort was started a few years ago, a total of \$4495 has been raised and 2037 used cell phones, 135 batteries and seven pagers have been collected and recycled.

Last year, a small group of staff members raised \$1322.31 in 2008 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The relay is the ACS signature fundraising event. Funds are used for research for new treatments, support services, etc.

And lastly, it has become a tradition at both libraries to adopt two families through the Salvation Army to assure a terrific holiday season for those in need.