

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“I just love issuing kids their first library cards. To watch them come back week after week, learning how to find and check out books on their own, is great. In no time at all, they’re even “helping” their parents check out. You can just see the pride and sense of ownership they have for the library. Their enthusiasm is genuine—and it’s contagious.”

MEG SCHMAUS  
CIRCULATION SERVICES

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# CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



# A BRIGHT SPOT

In a difficult year, the Champaign Public Library stood out as a bright spot at the center of our community. When many people found fewer doors open to them, our doors were open to all—and nearly 2,500 people came through them every day. Our library was there to address crucial community needs and provide the kind of enriching experiences that are more valued than ever:

- Giving all children equal access to support for success in school
- Helping job seekers and others looking to build skills or make a fresh start
- Supporting families with free activities and books to enjoy together
- Providing satisfying reading, learning, and cultural experiences

Library visits last fiscal year exceeded 819,000, up 11% from the previous year—and up 25% from the year before our new library opened. Close to 2.5 million items were checked out; that’s nearly 40% more than in the old library.

Our new building accumulated a growing list of awards. And we were ranked among the top public libraries nationwide when we earned three stars in *Library Journal* magazine’s first “Star Libraries” ratings. But comments from our community continued to show that what library users appreciate most is the responsive and caring service provided by our staff. Inside this report, a few of our staff members talk about this service and its impact. We also share highlights of the year and express our appreciation for the critical support provided by our Friends, Foundation, and donors.

In a year full of problems, it’s been our privilege to be a source of solutions.





MARSHA GROVE  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

ITEMS BORROWED	<b>2,492,033</b>	<b>+26%</b>
PATRON VISITS	<b>819,229</b>	<b>+17%</b>
COMPUTER USES	<b>167,551</b>	<b>+72%</b>
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	<b>61,955</b>	<b>+14%</b>

MEETING ROOM USES	<b>6,841</b>	<b>+205%</b>
ITEMS IN COLLECTION	<b>361,343</b>	<b>+2%</b>
LIBRARY CARDS	<b>40,458</b>	<b>+4%</b>

COMPARED TO PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR

## A BRIGHT SPOT FOR LEARNING



**C**an there be too many toddlers in the library? No—but there were too many in our popular storytime programs. So we added new storytime sessions to our busy schedule of free events designed to stimulate the imagination. We built up our collections of books to support schoolwork and satisfy curiosity, and we promoted digital downloads, available 24/7 through our website.

Librarians spent more than 100 hours in classrooms, and school assemblies by popular authors Jennifer Holm and Rick Riordan extended their impact beyond the library. Classes for adults ranged from computer basics to *Tech Talks* about new gadgets, while Parkland College instructors shared their expertise through the *Lifelong Learners @ the Library* series.



**ITEMS BORROWED 2,492,033**  
**PATRON VISITS 819,229**  
**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE 61,955**



“Last week, a first grader—who appeared to be approaching our desk by herself for the first time—told me that someone from the library had visited her classroom, and she wanted one of the books the librarian had told her about. We figured out the book title and identified the librarian, who then came out to present the girl with the book she’d chosen. Our book talks in the schools encourage children to think carefully and decide for themselves what they want to know about. These children see that the library and the community consider their search for knowledge important. This is how lifelong learners are born.”

**MIKE ROGALLA**  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

## ESSENTIAL HELPING HANDS

Library Friends—passionate about books and generous with their time—are the driving force behind the success of the FriendShop used book store, on our lower level. Twice a week, Friends meet in the shop to sort and shelve books. The Friends also host special membership events. Revenue from the shop, plus membership dues, allowed the Friends to give the library \$39,435 this year. In addition, a bustling workforce of hundreds of teen and adult volunteers has been key in allowing us to keep up with increased business, helping with a range of tasks including home delivery, children’s events, and getting items back on the shelves.

## FRIENDS GIFTS WERE USED IN SUPPORT OF:

- Optimal Résumé subscription
- “Lifelong Learners @ the Library” series
- Summer reading programs for kids, teens
- Year-round reading clubs
- “Read Me a Future” program
- Teen materials, language learning materials, travel guides, college handbooks, and DVDs
- “BabyFest” concert and workshop
- “Juneteenth Celebration”
- Holiday decorations for new library
- Volunteer recognition
- “The Big Read” events
- Douglass Branch local history project

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EX-OFFICIO

Sandra Jones





FRIENDS GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY **\$39,435**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS **12,492**



“Our home delivery service supports homebound residents by providing a regular point of contact and making the world more accessible to them. Last year, 60 patrons received more than 7,000 library items. Volunteers are key to our success. Our office volunteers carefully choose materials based on each customer’s interests and requests, then package them for delivery. Our delivery drivers take the time to build personal relationships with customers. Many customers call or write to tell us what a difference the service makes in their lives. In the middle of one phone call, one man exclaimed, ‘You at the Champaign Public Library! You have given me so much.... You’ve been such gracious people.’”

MARIE BLEUS-FRANÇOIS  
ADULT SERVICES

## A BRIGHT SPOT FOR LIVING



**I**n ways ranging from the life-changing to the intangible, the library gave a big boost to everyday life in our community. Close to 7,000 events and meetings held in library spaces made us a center of community interaction. As more information and communication moved online, we became a lifeline for people without computers. *The Big Read's* invitation to read *The Maltese Falcon* brought people together for the fun of reading the first detective novel—and viewing the classic film on the big screen. *Consumer Reports*, *Mango Languages*, and the *Optimal Résumé* tool expanded our online offerings of free learning tools to help people succeed at work and in pursuit of personal interests. And along the way, our staff served as friendly guides, ensuring that library users always had help at hand.



**QUESTIONS ANSWERED 147,482**  
**COMPUTER USES 167,551**  
**MEETING ROOM USES 6,841**



“I remember one gentleman who was told by his supervisors that he could receive a promotion to shift leader, if he would just apply for it. But he had never touched a computer in his life, and the company only accepted online applications. He was understandably frightened and frustrated. We were able to help him through the process, and he left not only having applied for the job, but also having accomplished what was initially an overwhelming task. To see the look in someone’s eyes change from panic to calm satisfaction—that’s one of my favorite days at work.”

**LAVANA HAWKINS**  
**ADULT SERVICES**

# CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

## SUPPORT TO ENSURE AN OUTSTANDING LIBRARY

Our July 2008 dedication of the new library provided another occasion to cheer for the \$3 million in private gifts that helped to make the new building possible. Engraved patio pavers were completed, recognizing some of those gifts. New names appeared on our glass donor wall, honoring gifts of \$10,000 or more. This year, the Foundation also launched The Burnham Society to encourage planned gifts and focused on building an endowment—a Fund for Excellence for the future.

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

Memorials were made in memory of:

Marjorie Barrick  
Betty Blixen  
Gertrude Bryan  
James Carter  
Lois Costello  
Sara Gatewood

Martha Z. Hecker  
Roy and Anabel Helfinstine  
Margaret Fisher  
Frederick C. (Fritz) Fliegel  
Jane C. Kelly

Margaret, Pat and Tim Kennedy  
Marjorie Kuhne  
Allison Niswonger  
Jack Riley  
Jon A. Robinson  
Robert S. Shierry

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Gerald J. Schweighart  
Rusty W. Freeland  
Robert Shierry  
R. Bruce Hinely  
Donna Pittman,  
Development Director



FOUNDATION REVENUE **\$259,092**



"A gift from Stuart and Mary Cravens allowed us to fly in Rick Riordan, author of one of the top-selling teen book series. His first stop, right off the plane, was Franklin Middle School. He greeted students like old friends, signed books, then whipped out a spellbinding presentation for an audience of 300.

That night at the library, he met with fans both before and after a packed program. I'll never forget the face of one young lady with a huge smile, literally jumping up and down as her turn came to have her pile of books signed. Getting students excited about reading can be challenging at times, but Rick Riordan made it easy."

BETSY SU  
ADULT SERVICES

# LIBRARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 08–09

## INCOME

Local Government, City of Champaign (property taxes) . . . .	\$5,793,077	91.2%
State Government . . . . .	115,791	1.8%
Federal Government . . . . .	36,861	0.6%
Other (endowment, interest income, gifts, fees, etc.) . . . . .	410,001	6.4%
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$6,355,730</b>	

## EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages, Benefits . . . . .	\$4,579,483	67.9%
Operating Expenses . . . . .	1,227,682	18.2%
Materials (books, etc.) . . . . .	888,440	13.2%
Capital Outlay . . . . .	51,462	0.7%
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$6,747,067</b>	

## GRANTS AWARDED

### TOTAL: \$169,602

- **\$91,042** Illinois State Library Per Capita Grant Program, for books and other library materials
- **\$15,600** Rotary Club of Champaign, Joseph H. Cannon Memorial Fund, for “Read Me a Future” packets given to parents of newborns
- **\$15,000** Community Foundation of East Central Illinois and the Marajen Stevick Foundation, for third and fourth grade reading initiative at Garden Hills Elementary School
- **\$14,000** Illinois State Office of the Attorney General, for the purchase of compact discs
- **\$12,000** The National Endowment for the Arts, in support of a community reading program featuring *The Maltese Falcon*
- **\$12,000** Illinois State Library, for Project Next Generation middle school mentoring program
- **\$5,500** Lincoln Trail Library System, for testing of WorldCAT Direct
- **\$3,000** Franklin I. and Irene List Saemann Foundation, for children’s programs and collections
- **\$1,250** Illinois State Library Share of Family Literacy Plus, for children’s books and storytime materials
- **\$210** Illinois Arts Council, for storyteller performance





"I love that I can get to know so many of the patrons who come in to the Douglass Branch Library every day. Seeing their smiles, being able to greet them by name, and having them reply in kind helps build the relationships that make the Branch such an important part of the community. When patrons, whether old or young, know there are people at Douglass ready and willing to help them to find that movie, learn how to use that website, or read that book with them, their eagerness to visit and use the Branch grows."

AMANDA RAKLOVITS  
DOUGLASS BRANCH LIBRARY

## LIBRARY FOUNDATION DONORS JULY 1, 2008–JUNE 30, 2009

These donors recognize the special role that private funding has in securing the future of excellent library service in our community. We are grateful for each of their gifts, received between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

Dick Adams and Pat Januszki	Champaign Public Library Staff	Sharon Fabert	Michael Haney
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Epsilon Epsilon Omega Chapter	Sohail and Aysha Chaudhry	Faith Methodist Church Discovery Sunday School Class	Connie Harbaugh
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