

**ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF
TRUSTEES
ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
REPORT
TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 2006**

2006 has been a very good year for the Adams County Library System. The Library System moved forward on a number of projects. Some of these projects are:

**Accomplishments
2006**

- Objective: **Complete the Bookmobile project.**

The new Bookmobile was delivered May 2006. It has been operational since then. This project is complete. The new Bookmobile allows the service to expand to areas which the older Bookmobile could not access because of its size. A number of day care centers have been added to the schedule and service to the school districts of Adams County continues.

- Objective: **Increase Library Awareness.**

The library has targeted advertising toward local media. In addition, the library has taken part in a number of community based programs such as South Mountain Fair, Chamber Business Expo, Farm City Day, Gettysburg Halloween Parade, and a number of community events with the Bookmobile.

- Objective: **Harbaugh/Thomas/Biglerville Project**

The Library System has worked cooperatively with the Harbaugh/Thomas Foundation the past year in the design and implementation of the library plan. Construction has begun and the Library System has developed a business plan for the library to be implemented in summer of 2007.

- Objective: **Library Reorganization of Service**

The Library System's reorganization plan continues. In 2006, the Gettysburg Library completed the reallocation of space to fully implement our teen area. In addition, the Gettysburg Library has a fully realized

Media area for the display of DVDs, Videos, and Music CDs. An additional service desk in the Gettysburg Library has been implemented to provide more customer service to patrons looking for materials. A wireless network has been fully implemented in all library facilities to create more opportunities for patrons to access the library system's high speed Internet Access.

- Objective: **Expand Outreach**

The library has seen extensive increases in its use in the past year. This increase places pressure on the buildings in the system to adequately provide service. Therefore, we have begun to provide our services throughout the community to meet this growing demand.

- Objective: **Community Partnerships**

One such program that the library successfully completed this year was a Youth Leadership Training program. This program was funded with a Federal grant and was carried out in partnership with the Littlestown School district, Penn State University and a number of Littlestown community service groups and businesses. It provided more than a dozen middle school students with activities to develop leadership skills.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

Objective: **Harbaugh/Thomas Library**

The current plan is that the Harbaugh/Thomas Library will open in the summer of 2007. The Library System will be planning on the opening day collection and the outline of services offered in the library. This facility will work in conjunction with the Arendtsville Library and the Bookmobile to provide service to the residents of Upper Adams.

Objective: **Complete a New Five Year Plan**

It is time for the Library System to update our five year strategic plan. The Library will be using the planning process developed by the Public Library Association called Planning for Results. The planning process is community based and will provide the goals and objectives which the Library will use as our guide for services through 2012. One other project which will be impacted by this process is that the East Berlin Community Library has begun the process of looking at a Building Plan for their library. A consultant has been hired to provide the Library with a Building Needs Assessment.

Objective: **Increase and Take advantage of Efficiencies**

As computer technology and customer needs evolve the Library System is looking for ways to improve the service we provide to our customers. We are looking at ways to increase the electronic delivery of service to our residents. We have subscribed to a number of electronic databases which provide access to the US Census, World Book Encyclopedias, Rosetta Stone Language courses and allow patrons to download audio books to their MP3 players both at the library and through remote access. Additional services which take advantage of these technologies will be studied and implemented where appropriate.

Objective: **Continue Library Reorganization of Service**

The Library System continues to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided and is committed to extending those services most popular and to eliminate those programs which are no longer cost effective.

Objective: **Work on a fully integrated Marketing Plan**

We are looking at ways to determine and accelerate the implementation of services patrons want throughout the system. A marketing plan is being developed to determine how we can identify these needs quickly.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

JANUARY 1, 2006– OCTOBER 31, 2006

- 26,000 INTERNET USES AT THE LIBRARY TO DATE THAT IS A 24% INCREASE OVER 2005.
- 1,500,000 HITS ON THE ACLS HOMEPAGE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB!
- 53,000 COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE VALID LIBRARY CARDS, 58% OF THE COUNTY
- 1,250 RESIDENTS HAVE TAKEN FREE COURSES IN OUR COMPUTER LAB
- 3,559 RESIDENTS HAVE REGISTERED FOR NEW LIBRARY CARDS THIS YEAR TO DATE.

MATERIALS

- LIBRARY HOLDINGS AS OF October 31, 2006
ADULT: 109,125
CHILDREN: 68,221
- NEW MATERIALS ADDED IN 2006 TO DATE: 16,679
- OUTDATED MATERIALS WITHDRAWN: 11,094
- COLLECTION SIZE HAS GROWN BY 3% YEAR TO DATE

CIRCULATION

- SYSTEM WIDE CIRCULATION HAS INCREASED BY 3.3% YEAR TO DATE
- 473,000 ITEMS HAVE BEEN LENT BY October 31, 2006 THAT IS 15,000 MORE ITEMS YEAR TO DATE

CUSTOMERS USING THE LIBRARY

- 162,000 CUSTOMER VISITS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE GETTYSBURG FACILITY BY OUR "PEOPLE COUNTERS" SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. THIS IS AN AVERAGE OF 540 VISITS PER DAY!

RETURN ON INVESTMENT 2006

Adams County Library System Service: How Much Is It Really Worth?

In 2006 Commonwealth Libraries commissioned a study through a grant from the Federal Libraries Services and Technology Act program to determine what the real return on investment from an economic point of view was for public libraries in the state.

This research project was carried out by a joint research team from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of North Carolina. The study looked at all of the impacts that a public library provides to the community through their existence such as services provided, attraction of customers to local businesses, services to tourists, salaries, and business expenditures.

The study concluded that Public Libraries in Pennsylvania return **\$5.50** for every **\$1** spent in tax money.

This mirrors other statewide studies carried out in Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina in recent years. More details will be coming as the full report is released early next year.