



Community Services Department • Library Services Division

“Working Together to Build Strong Communities”

Winnipeg Public Library

Annual Report 2006



winnipeg.ca/library

Message from Community Services



Rick Walker (Manager of Library Services) & Clive Wightman (Acting Director of Community Services, City of Winnipeg)

The past year has brought many new and exciting opportunities for the Community Services Department, Library Services Division. Building on the successful grand opening of the Millennium Library in late 2005, the City of Winnipeg library service is growing and changing to meet the needs of our users.

In 2006, the Library continued to expand its services, collections and programs. New online resources were introduced and materials were added to the system as the result of a Council increase of \$50,000 to the materials budget. In addition, a French interface to the catalogue has made for easier access to our French-language resources. The Library also continued to reach out to the community through initiatives such as our Conversation Circles, established in partnership with the International Centre to help new Canadians improve their English-language skills.

Programming has become a significant part of how the

Library Services Division meets the informational needs of the community. Library programs for adults ranged from genealogy sessions to author readings to composting workshops to computer instruction.

Also in 2006, the Millennium Library hosted the first annual Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival with over 1,800 young people experiencing the skill of storytellers from around the world. Spirit Saturday in

June provided an opportunity for the Millennium Library to connect with the Aboriginal community through storytelling, dance and music. New exhibits at the Millennium Library highlighted the tragedy of Hiroshima, the history of Hong Kong and the art of China, and helped promote the rich cultural heritage of Winnipeg.

Throughout the year, the Library Services Division has continued to benefit from the dedication and hard work of its key stakeholders. The Winnipeg Library Foundation continued to move closer to a record \$7 million fundraising goal with creative fundraisers like the Da Vinci Dialogues. The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library sponsored our Spring Break children's

programs, and the Winnipeg Public Library Board provided advice on library matters as well as financial support for the Writer-in-Residence program and the annual Jack Montgomery Community Outreach Award. In 2006, the award went to the Sir William Stephenson Library for its unique program aimed at young people in the community.

As the year drew to a close, there were many exciting projects on the horizon, including the provision of wireless Internet service throughout the library system, the construction of a new West End Library, and the launch of e-book technology. We are proud of the Library Services Division's continued commitment to the residents of Winnipeg.

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."

Henry Ward Beecher

Facts and Figures		
Indicator	2006	2005
Total population served	648,600	647,600
Library cardholders	413,529	424,348
New patrons registered	23,783	18,780
Annual visits	3,500,000	2,290,000
Items in collections	1,678,418	1,696,838
Items borrowed	5,532,720	5,069,843
Reserves placed	527,375	521,092
Questions answered	292,632	238,363
Computer bookings	431,783	344,299
Website visits	987,368	822,318
Programs offered	5,985	5,575
Program attendance	70,369	60,642

Highlights



Starlight Jazz performing at the first-year anniversary celebration of the Millennium Library.

Family literacy

Every year, Winnipeg Public Library promotes Family Literacy Day as a unique opportunity to support literacy initiatives in our community. The Library donates all the fines and fees it collects on that date to the Winnipeg Foundation's Literacy for Life Fund. By encouraging people to return their overdue materials and pay off any fines, the Library made a contribution of \$4,324 to the Literacy for Life Fund. In return, the Library receives grant money for the purchase of various collections for branches, with a focus on parent-child literacy programs.

Bilingualism and multiculturalism

Winnipeg is often described as a multicultural city with a strong bilingual element, a city where differences are respected and celebrated. To better meet the needs of Winnipeg's francophone community, Winnipeg Public Library in 2006 produced a French language version of our

catalogue. In addition to doubling our investment in books in languages other than English and French, the Library provided public access to Rosetta Stone, an online language learning service.

The Millennium Library hosted a variety of exhibits that strongly appealed to different segments of the community: the International African Inventors Museum travelling display; the Odense City Museums travelling exhibit on Hans Christian Anderson; the Hiroshima - Nagasaki exhibit; the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural & Community Centre unveiling of "The Chinese Railway Workers", a large bronze sculpture by Prof. Wang Guan-Yi of the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute of China; and the Heritage of Hong Kong travelling exhibit.

Storytelling

The Millennium Library was selected as the main site of the inaugural Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival, organized through the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba. The festival included storytelling in English, French and Ukrainian as well as a Deaf Storytelling Program and an outreach component. It involved hundreds of participants and more than 40 tellers from across Manitoba, including Winnipeggers Joe McLellan, Sierra Noble, and Jamie Oliviero as well as Christopher Mark Welsh (Ontario), Laura Simms (New York City), and Liz Weir (Belfast). This unique festival

was a valuable and exciting addition to the rich cultural life for which Winnipeg is known.

Festivals

In June, Library staff welcomed over 650 visitors to the Super-Hero, Super-Reader tent at the Winnipeg International Children's Festival held at The Forks. Ideal weather provided the setting for families to take part in story time, book-making and face-painting.

In July, we welcomed 800 visitors to the Great-West Life Story Time Tent at the Winnipeg International Friendship Festival in Assiniboine Park. Many thanks to Great-West Life for generously sponsoring this activity and to the Winnipeg Foundation for supporting the Library's activities through the Literacy for Life grant.

Summer reading

Throughout July and August, 3,400 children kept up their reading thanks to the TD Summer Reading Club, with Quest for Heroes as this year's theme. The program highlight was the annual visit by Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball players who read stories and shared with participants the fun and importance of reading. Our thanks to the Goldeyes who donated four free game tickets to each branch!

Our 74 Read Aloud Program teen volunteers gained valuable volunteer experience by providing reading support to children during the summer holidays. All told, 788 sessions with

Donors

young readers were held in several branches of the Library.



Writer-in-Residence

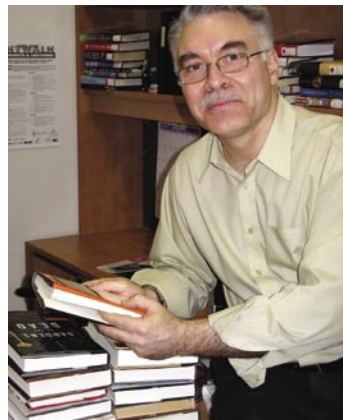
John Weier concluded his successful residency in the spring and Chandra Mayor (above) took up the reins in the fall as part of the Library's ongoing assistance to new, emerging, and established writers. John held 160 consultations, nine workshops and 15 events, including panel discussions, school visits and various readings. Chandra continued to provide clients with valuable information to help them grow and develop as writers in community with other writers and professionals.

Concerts and lectures

The Millennium Library presented 20 weeks of informative lectures and entertaining concerts, which were attended by 2,730 people. Highlights of 2006 included lectures from University of Winnipeg instructor Jino Distasio, who discussed *Winnipeg Neighbourhoods with Soul: Elements of Greatness* and *The Long Dark Hallway: Snapshots from Winnipeg's Fringe Hotels*

and *Rooming Houses*. Prof. Hinton Bradbury entertained with his talk on *New Yorker* magazine's couch cartoons and Emma Alexander Mudalier riveted the audience with her talk on Ghandi.

Concerts rocked the Library with a stellar lineup including Juno-nominated Nathan, virtuoso Oleg Pokhanovski on violin and piano, Sister Dorothy performing Mennonite hymns, the Ron Paley Jazz Trio and Sierra Noble. Eli Herscovitch gave us Montreal klezmer music and Jay Stollar wowed the audience with his African drumming.



Millennium Library

In November, the Millennium Library celebrated its successful first year of operation, during which close to 1½ million visitors dropped by the facility. To mark the occasion, the Library provided birthday cake and refreshments. Starlight Jazz ensured musical entertainment and Mr. Mark put on a great show for children of all ages.

The Library wishes to thank the following donors:

Abs, Helen
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Thompsett, Mr. W. Les
Tsang, B.Y.
Winnipeg Public Library Board
Yudcovitch, Jason

Partnerships in Action

The Library extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Winnipeg Library Foundation and the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library for their support over the past year. It's a great pleasure working alongside people who translate their belief in the value of libraries into action by helping make our Public Library a better place for all Winnipeggers.



Carol-Ann Leschasin, Best of Friends Gift Shop Coordinator

"With our fundraising events (Books & Brunch, Craft and Book Sale) and the operation of the Best of Friends Gift Shop, we are committed to helping the Library to promote its branches as an important research, educational and cultural asset to the community."

**Susan Fraser, President,
Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library**

"Congratulations to the staff of the Millennium Library on their very successful first year of operation; the Winnipeg Library Foundation is proud to continue its financial support of the Library as part of the great community effort that has gone into making the dream of the Millennium Library a reality in downtown Winnipeg."

**Karen Keppler, Co-Chair,
Winnipeg Library Foundation**



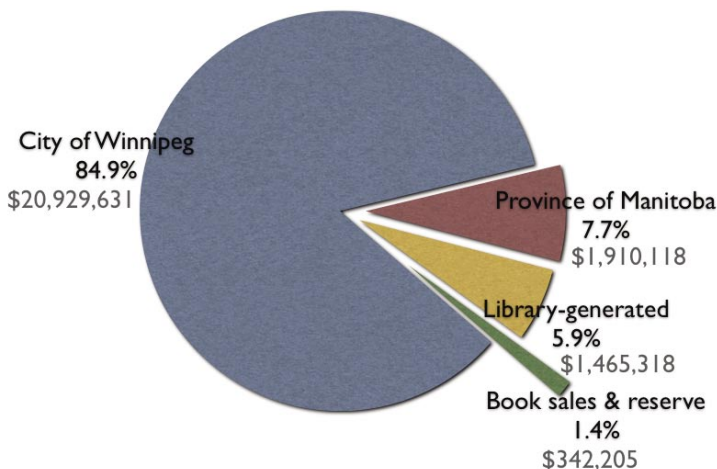
"The Winnipeg Library Board is proud to support the Library through advocacy, the sponsorship of the Writer-in-Residence program, the administration of a user survey and the management of community outreach grants, all of which are designed to enhance public awareness of library services."

**Dianne Zuk, Chair,
Winnipeg Public Library Board**

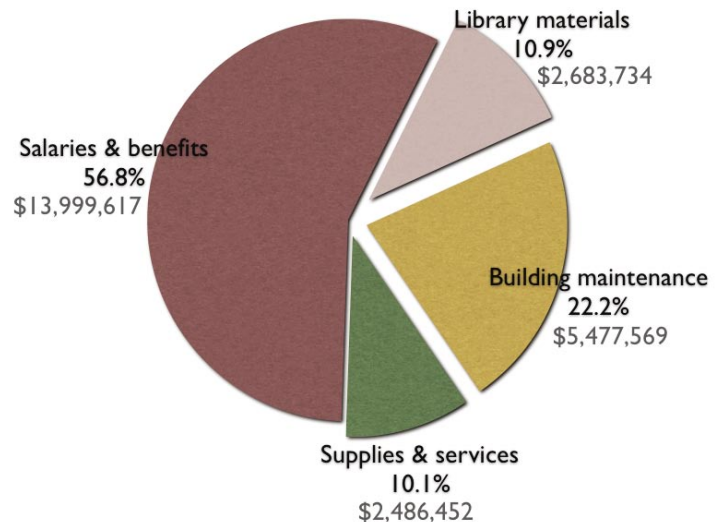


Financial Overview

Revenue: \$24,647,272



Expenditures: \$24,647,272*



* Does not include capital expenditures

Looking Ahead

The New Year will bring some exciting new programs and services to library patrons. Here is a glimpse of some of the projects that we will be working on in the coming year.



Youth Advisory Council

Ten years after the inception of web services at Winnipeg Public Library, our website ranks as one of the most heavily used municipal government sites. The generous financial support of Great-West Life now allows us to further our goal of

improving services to young people. With the help of a web designer and a Library Youth Advisory Council (left), we will transform the teen pages of our website into a new and interactive online destination. The new Library teen website will be launched in 2007.

Wireless Internet Service

Next year, the Library will make a wireless Internet service available at all branches. The new service will make it possible for citizens, business people and visitors to Winnipeg to access the Internet using their wireless enabled equipment. Wireless Internet should appear in libraries in the early fall of 2007.

West End Library

The City of Winnipeg has announced the relocation of the West End Library to the renamed Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. The new library will offer significant improvements in services and amenities to the West End

community. From increased study and reading space to improved collections, from joint programming opportunities and additional computer workstations to a universally accessible layout and increased parking, the new library will better meet the needs of library patrons and members of the community who use the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. Construction will start in 2007 and be completed in 2008.

E-books and audio books



In partnership with the Public Library Services Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, the Library will unveil e-book services in late 2007. This new virtual collection will make materials available to the public from home and work in a downloadable format for ease of use on laptops and other PDA devices.

“We get most of our information in shallow, pre-digested sound bites and headlines. Whenever we want, or need, to look a little deeper, to think a little more seriously, libraries are our most effective source.”

Larry Beinhart

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