

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Judith Simon
Chair thru June 2008

Lucille Adin
Served thru June 2008

June Burton
Elected Chair July 2008

Paul Davis
Resigned August 2008

Fred Lokken

Al Stoess

Dianne Drinkwater



2008 was certainly a “Year of Change and Challenge.” In January, the Library System migrated to a new online catalog and check-out system. Soon after that, we were required to reduce our budget by 15%, which led to extended vacancies and, unfortunately, the closure of the Mendive Community Library after 12 ½ years of service to the East Sparks area. On a more positive note, in July all of our employees began taking customized training in

customer service and database searching, in order better serve you, our clientele. Another positive change was in our ordering and receiving of library materials, where new ideas and processes reduced the average turnaround from two months to about seven days. Finally, in May I was appointed as the permanent Library Director. I look forward to building on the many new and improved services that came into being under the leadership of our former director, Nancy Cummings.

With economic conditions as they are, the Library System, like other County departments, will need to continue finding ways to deliver needed services with a reduced budget. My goal as Director is to ensure that, whatever the level of our funding, our libraries will always connect you with the resources you need to enrich your life, and be true “destinations for discovery.”

Arnie Maurins



Downtown Reno Library patrons take advantage of early voting in the 2008 general election.

WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

Operating Budget
\$13.876 million

Number of Employees
202

Items borrowed
2,241,410

Library Visits
1,668,336

Cardholders
171,775

Program Attendance
82,834

Public Computer Use
408,841

Internet Library (website)
Use
738,716

WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY'S MISSION AND VISION

WCLS Mission

The Library is a cultural center, offering lifelong enrichment opportunities through access to ideas, information and the arts.

WCLS Vision

We will:
Reach out creatively with innovative services
Connect people and resources
Be a destination for discovery

YOUR
DESTINATION
FOR
DISCOVERY!



WASHOE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
www.washoelibrary.org

2008 LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Summer Reading Program broke all records with 7,867 registered participants (up 16%) reading a total of 2,974,280 minutes (a 36% increase over the previous year)
- WCLS librarians visited 64 elementary schools and delivered library information to nearly 5,700 third graders.
- More than 1,900 library books and other materials were delivered to community homeless shelters and child welfare agencies, and over 7,400 books were donated to 16 local government agencies and nonprofit agencies.
- More than 1,500 individuals were helped with a variety of literacy, educational and employment needs via the Library's Community Resource Center. The center enrolled 126 participants in the Online GED program.
- A total of 3,182 individuals received free income tax help at six libraries, provided by AARP and VITA volunteers.
- During the 2008 primary and general elections, nearly 42,000 citizens took advantage of the opportunity to vote early at one of the eight libraries that offered this service.
- South Valleys, Spanish Springs, North Valleys, Northwest Reno and Sparks libraries began offering wireless internet access; seven WCLS branches now provide this service.
- The text-based Dynix automated system was replaced with Unicorn, a graphical-interface system built around an industry-standard, relational-database architecture.
- Patrons now have easier access to DVDs and CDs, thanks to the new 3M Red Tag Disk Security System, obtained via library gift funds and the Friends of Washoe County Library.
- A consultant provided a "Value Delivered" study that demonstrated the value of WCLS services in relation to budget revenues. The report calculated a 309% return on funding investment. The study was funded by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant.
- Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts provided 25 programs between March and June 2008.
- Through our partnership with Nevada Humanities, six Chautauqua and Young Chautauqua performances were presented at our libraries in June 2008. In March (Women's History Month) three libraries hosted special Chautauqua presentations provided by the Nevada Women's History Project.
- More than 500 people heard presentations by Holocaust survivors Ela Weissberger and Stephen Nasser at Washoe County libraries in July.
- "Metamorphosis" was the theme of the Teen Art Contest sponsored by Spanish Springs Library during Artown. Area teens submitted 58 entries in various media.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Watch for the new WCLS website, which will debut in Spring 2009! The new site will have an attractive, user-friendly design including separate pages for children, teens and seniors, and you will be able to search the library catalog from any page on the site.
- Speaking of the catalog, a new version will go online in early spring, offering improved searching capabilities, including a Google™-type search that will scan the catalog, the Library's research databases and the website all in one step.
- Selected public computers at several branches will be outfitted with adaptive technology (wheelchair-accessible workstations, touch screens, software for scanning, magnification, and reading, Braille embossers, etc.) to help disabled individuals use them more effectively.
- A greater number of variety of downloadable audio-books from OverDrive™ will be available through the online catalog.



Get Caught Reading! Michele Walsh, Coordinator, Northern Nevada Reads.

**"A Year of
Change and
Challenge."**



Holocaust survivor Ela Weissberger shares her experiences with a rapt audience at Spanish Springs Library.