



Wilmette Public Library
 1242 Wilmette Avenue
 Wilmette IL 60091

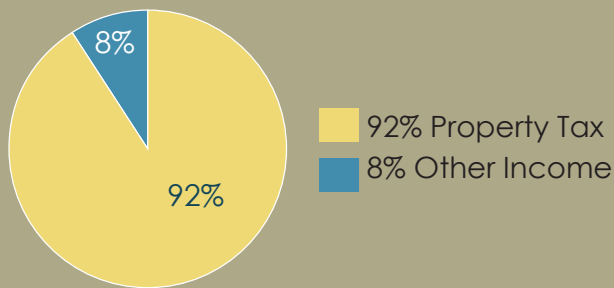
Non-profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Wilmette IL 60091
 Permit No. 51

POSTAL PATRON

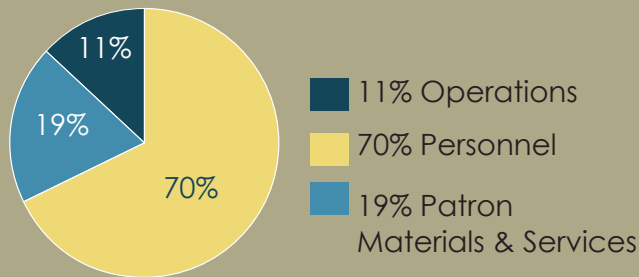
By the Numbers...

Our Finances

Sources of Income



Annual Expenses



By the Numbers...

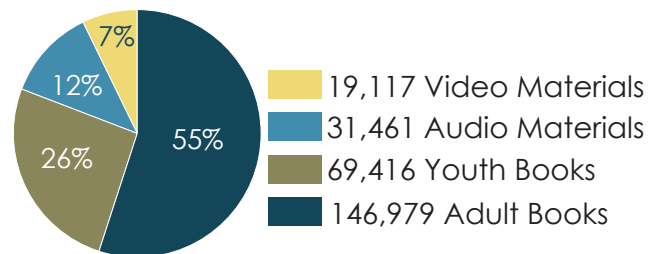
The Community

- Library funding is **less than 5%** of your annual tax bill
- **346,000** visits to the Library
- **146,000** online visits to the Library via wilmettelibrary.info
- The Library issued **1,900** new library cards

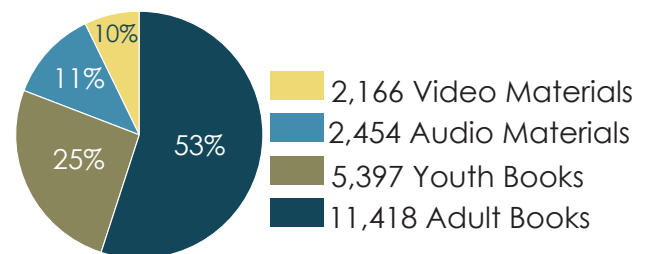
By the Numbers...

The Collection

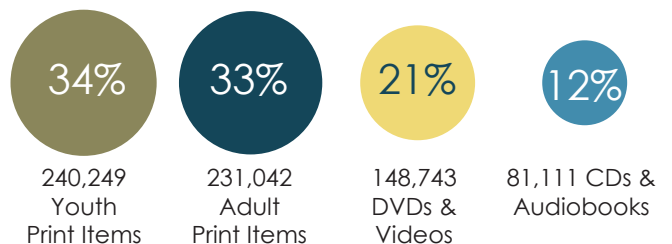
266,973 Total items in the collection



The Library added **21,448** items



The Library circulated **709,093** items



All numbers cover the period from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

Take a peek at some of the progress our construction crews have made on our big renovation!



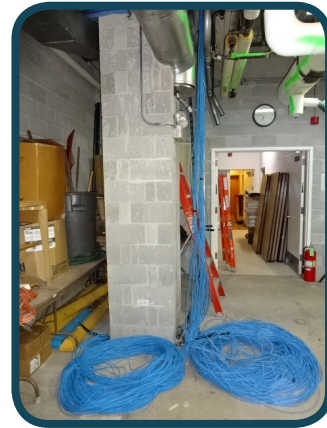
A colorful reference desk, kid-friendly furnishings, and a long window seat are highlights of the renovated YS department.



One of the biggest challenges of the renovation was moving the picture book collection to the Current Periodicals room temporarily. Happily, it was a great success!



Updating the HVAC system required new ductwork, new boilers, and holes drilled into the roof to connect the system to the roof top units.



It takes thousands of feet of wire to keep the Library's data access up to date.



Giant drills dug wells 500 feet into the ground to install these thin pipes, which will be connected to the building and provide eco-friendly heating and cooling to a portion of the Library.



Little ones loved getting to peek in on renovations during Phase 1, when the demolition of the old interior skylights was particularly exciting.



Wilmette Public Library

2014-2015

Annual Report

1242 Wilmette Ave
Wilmette, IL 60091
847.256.5025
wilmettelibrary.info

A Letter from the Library Director

These are exciting times at the Wilmette Public Library. As our 2014-2015 Annual Report illustrates, neither extreme weather nor construction inconveniences kept our patrons from making use of books, movies, classes, computers, or special speakers and programs. Our goal is to keep it that way.

As many of you are aware, the Library is in the middle of a year-long project designed to keep our building safe and comfortable for everyone. In addition, we are updating our Youth Services department, our study rooms, and some of our seating – all to make sure that the Library remains a central resource for the community. When the project is complete in the spring, we look forward to sharing with you:

- A Youth Services department that has brighter colors, special spaces for different age groups, and an improved program room;
- A refurbished reading room for magazines and newspapers with new, comfortable furniture;
- Six new study rooms for use by small groups;
- Renovated, state-of-the-art restrooms that are brighter and more accessible to all our patrons.

In addition, an up-to-date heating and cooling system will improve our energy use and keep the building comfortable all year.

We look forward to sharing the new features of this renovation project with you in the coming months. We appreciate your support!

Ellen B. Clark
Library Director

The Wilmette Library Board of Trustees

Kathleen O'Laughlin, President
Lisa McDonald, Vice-President
Jan Barshis, Secretary
Stuart Wolf, Treasurer
Virginia George • Ronald Rodgers
Michael Levitan



Photo credit Christine W. Porter

Planning a Major Renovation Project

In January, the Library began to move forward with our long-planned renovation project. The Library board, staff, and an architect team from IDEA worked to put together a project that would address some necessary building modernization while also finding ways to meet goals from our 2013 strategic plan.

The physical changes to the heating and cooling systems were dictated by 25-60 year old equipment that was inefficient and in need of an increasing number of repairs. The restrooms, installed in 1988, were out of code for accessibility standards and badly in need of rejuvenating.

In addition to updating the physical building, the Library used feedback on service priorities identified during the 2013 strategic planning process to establish goals for public service improvements for the project. Additional community input was solicited during meetings and Q&A sessions, and through publicity in local media.

Thanks to careful planning and budgeting, the Library will be able to pay for the entire project through the capital fund, and the construction team designed a schedule for the project that would allow the Library to stay open for the entire span of the work.



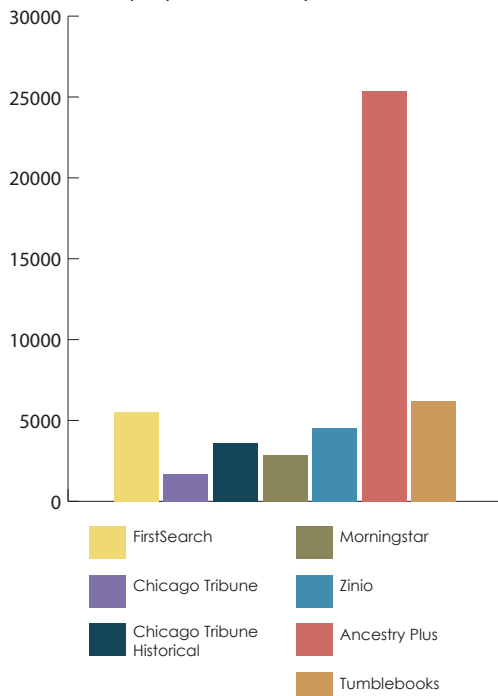
Did you know?

45,792

books, audiobooks, movies, albums, and tv shows were downloaded or streamed.

Online Resource Use

The most popular library databases



Improving Access to and Knowledge of Technology and Virtual Services

Library staff have been working hard to make it easier than ever to access resources online and from home.

- In the early fall of 2014, the Library introduced Enterprise, a new online catalog. This catalog was designed to be more user-friendly, and offered a host of new features for better access to Library materials.
- In January, the Library added *hoopla*, a new library resource that allows patrons to download or stream free digital movies, music, and more. Along with other downloadable and streaming content providers such as My Media Mall and Zinio, *hoopla* is a great addition to the Library's ever-expanding collection of emedia.
- The Library offered a range of classes and tutorials on electronic materials. Covering software, tablets, databases, and downloading, these classes served nearly 300 patrons. Additionally, there were more than 500 checkouts of ereaders and iPads for home use over the course of the year.

Did you know?

24,488 patrons attended

920 Library sponsored programs, including:

479 Adult programs

441 Youth programs

Creating a Culture of Literature and Music

The Library is proud to be a cultural center in the community, and that commitment continued over the past year with a packed calendar of events, many sponsored by Friends of the Library.

- One Book, Everybody Reads remains a highlight of the annual programming calendar, and this year's 10th anniversary celebration was no exception. Author Jane Smiley spoke about her book *Some Luck*, and the main speaking event was accompanied by a full month of cultural and literary programs. Additionally, the Library hosted author Ron Suskind in the fall, and Lee Child, creator of the Jack Reacher series, in the spring. Our librarians hope to continue hosting these major literary events in future years.

- Starting with a concert by Marisa Buchheit, opera singer and Miss Illinois 2014, the Library calendar was brimming with concerts throughout the year. The successful Friday Night Jazz series continued to grow, and the Sunday Classical series hosted piano prodigies, professional opera singers, concert flautists, and more.

Despite the limited calendar availability caused by construction, the Library was pleased to continue to be able to welcome the community into a wide range of musical and literary programs.



Expanding Services to Teens and Tweens

The Library's commitment to improving and expanding services for teens and tweens continued with programming in the fall. It's important to strengthen our ties with our older youth patrons as we work to help them become lifelong learners, and we love finding new ways to build on our relationship.

- Tween-specific programming exploded, with so much interest in the Halloween makeup program that a second session was added. The transition from story-time age to adult readers can be tricky, and these tween programs encourage younger teens to stay involved with the Library.
- The elusive teen demographic also became more involved with the Library, in ways big and small. More than 500 local teens attended study nights during finals week, and the Teen Room became a hub for high schoolers, providing a home for the Teen Activity Board as well as offering grab-and-go crafts for busy teens to do at their leisure.

Thank You to Our 2014-2015 Partners

The Friends of the Wilmette Public Library • Mallinckrodt Community Center • Wilmette Park District • Go Green Wilmette • The Writer's Theater • School District 39 • The Village of Wilmette

Instilling an Early Love of Literature

Despite challenges presented by the renovation, our Youth Services department maintained a nearly full slate of programming this year, continuing to grow the department by leaps and bounds. Here are just a few of the early literacy accomplishments from the YS department this year:

- YS provided families with nine weekly storytimes in the fall and winter. When construction began, the picture book collection and story time area temporarily moved to the Current Periodicals room, where librarians still hosted five weekly story times. Undeterred by the new location, little ones loved storytime in the window-lined Current Periodicals room.
- Storytimes continued to grow outside the Library as well, with the expansion of the successful StoryWalk series at Vattmann Park. Now in the 4th StoryWalk book, this is a new tradition the Library is excited to continue.
- Family book groups flourished, with both the Boys and Books and Mother-Daughter book groups providing opportunities for inter-generational reading fun.

As the Youth Services-based renovations wrap up, our librarians are more excited than ever to expand programming, storytimes, and opportunities to create new readers.



And We're Off! Renovations Get Under Way

The Library's renovation project kicked off the first week of March, with the first two phases getting underway during the 2014-'15 fiscal year.

- **A brighter, more modern Youth Services** The first two phases of the renovation were largely focused in the Youth Services department. Many of the upgrades improved the physical environment with new furnishings, paint finishes, and carpet. Other updates included greater access to computers, expanded areas for the collections, and a dedicated junior high room.
- **More efficient heating and cooling** Beginning with the first phase of construction, the crews got to work updating the Library's outmoded heating and cooling. New boilers were installed, and each renovated area received new ductwork that will make the building more comfortable and temperate.
- **Geothermal wells** In June, crews began the process of equipping a portion of the Library with a geothermal heating and cooling system. Geowells were dug in the front yard, and the process of connecting them to the building and renovating the front yard continued through the summer.

As the renovation extends into the 2015-'16 fiscal year, the project will continue to make improvements to restrooms, the heating and cooling system, and, wherever possible, upgrade Library systems to be more eco-friendly.

Did you know?

In spite of construction,
nearly 1,000
people visited the Library
each day