

## A Note From Our Director

As our 2015-2016 Annual Report reflects, this was an exciting and gratifying year for the Wilmette Public Library. Our year-long renovation project concluded in March and provided us with beautiful, welcoming and functional spaces that are kept comfortable by up-to-date heating and cooling technologies. We are grateful to everyone in the community who tolerated the occasional inconvenience and cheered us on each step of the way.



The successful completion of the project allowed for the enthusiastic resumption of programs and activities that have become a staple element in the Library's offerings to the community. Almost as soon as they were reopened, the Youth Program Room, Auditorium and Small Meeting Room were filled with cultural, educational and entertainment programs for all ages. Activities to encourage individual and group exploration were available and well used throughout the building. The energy and excitement among the staff and our community of users already has resulted in a list of potential programs and speakers for next year that is longer than the days we have available.

As many of you know, this will be my last annual report to you. I will be retiring from the Library at the end of December. I leave proud of this institution and confident that the future holds continued growth and engagement with the community.

Best wishes,  
Ellen B. Clark



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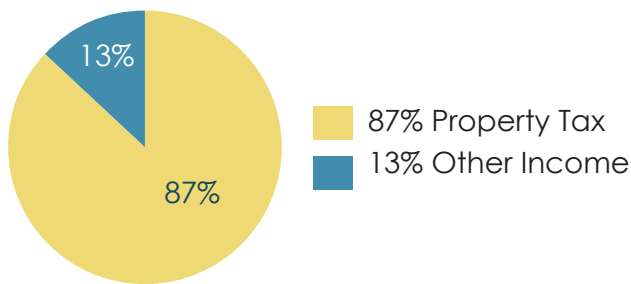
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 Wilmette IL 60091

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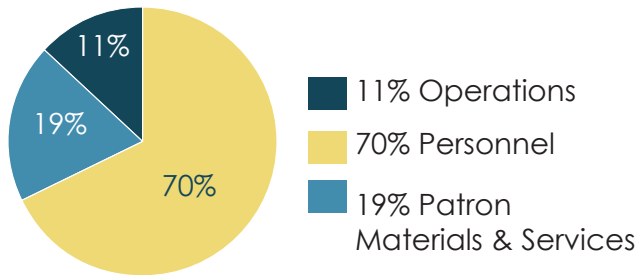
## POSTAL PATRON

### The Library By the Numbers

#### Sources of Income

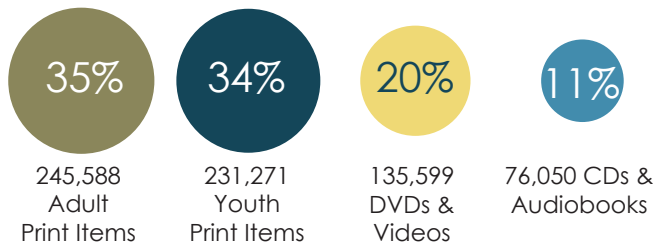


#### Annual Expenses



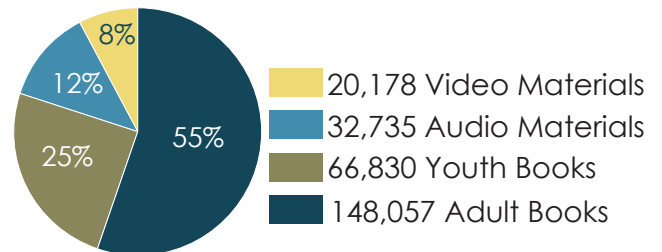
**Library funding is less than 5% of your annual tax bill**

The Library circulated **688,508** items

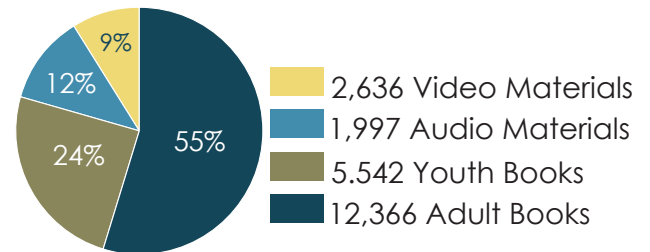


**The Library issued 1800 new library cards**

**267,800** Total items in the collection



The Library added **22,541** items



**The Library renovation was finished on budget at approximately \$6 million**

*All numbers cover the period from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.*

# Learn. Explore. Discover.

2015-2016

## Annual Report



Wilmette  
Public  
Library

[www.wilmettelibrary.info](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info)

The Library added 19,414 books to the collection **688,508 items circulated from the collection** The Library website had 120,820 unique visitors



## Growing into our New Spaces

As each phase of the renovation project came to a close, Library staff and patrons eagerly began making the most of the new spaces.

- After more than six months of intensive renovations, the Youth Services department took full advantage of every new area, including the new youth program room, exciting places for play and study for young children through tweens, and updated office spaces to allow librarians to plan programming and collections.
- The new furnishings in the Current Periodicals Room and Small Meeting Room provided comfort and utility to patrons of all ages. These spaces have seen increased usage since reopening, as quiet areas for work and study are always of interest.
- New study rooms on the second floor and lower level allow for additional spaces for work and meetings. They are in frequent use, and a new initiative to allow advance reservation of the lower study rooms is another opportunity for small businesses to take advantage of library resources.
- An overall modernization made the Library brighter, more accommodating, and more energy efficient. New lighting makes it easier to find books, an improved heating and cooling system saw the Library through a warm summer, and renovated restrooms make it easier for patrons with disabilities and families to take advantage of the facilities.

With the on-budget and on-time conclusion of the renovation in early March, the Library successfully moved into full programming and collection-building mode, and happily welcomed patrons back to a fully-functioning building, in good shape to serve the community for decades to come.



**Librarians answered 72,233 reference questions** The Library hosted 817 programs for adults, teens, & children **106 Adults & teens and 1,471 kids took part in a Summer Reading Club** *21,488 guests attended a Library program*



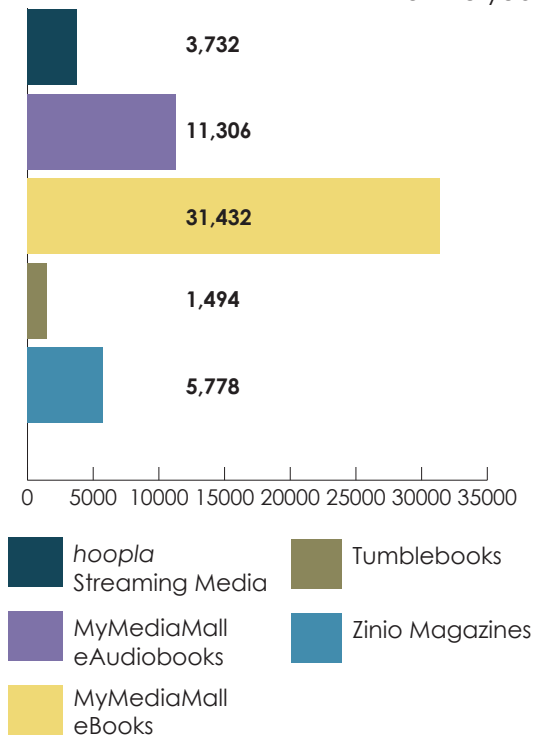
## A Portal to your digital Universe

The Library's online presence is open 365 days a year, come rain, snow, or construction. And the numbers show that the Library's online offerings only continue to grow.

- Streaming & downloadable media grew in popularity (see box), while online resources such as Ancestry.com, Chicago Tribune, FirstSearch, and Morningstar provided research help to thousands of patrons.
- Librarians used chat to answer nearly 600 questions online, providing answers about everything from reference questions to program inquiries.
- Staff continued to offer computer and device classes throughout the year, ensuring that every patron can access the online world, whether in the Library, at home, or on the go.
- Patrons visited the catalog more than 300,000 times, finding books, movies, and more at WPL and libraries around the North Shore.

### Downloadable & Streaming Media

Patrons downloaded and streamed more than 50,000 items over the course of the year.





## Celebrating Culture & Community

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Despite the renovations, Library programming was down a mere 25% from 2013-2014, the last full year before work on the building began.

- The Library welcomed noted author Richard Russo as the One Book, Everybody Reads speaker, and featured a full slate of related programs.
- Concerts, including the Petra van Nuis Jazz Trio and tenor Brett Potts, attracted capacity audiences to the renovated Auditorium.
- Bookgroups for all ages, from Boys & Books to the long-running Evening Book Group, provided an opportunity for stimulating discussion in a relaxed, inviting atmosphere.
- From foreign films and fiber arts to veterans and support groups, our ongoing series and meetings encouraged members of the Wilmette and Kenilworth communities to get to know each other over shared interests and experiences.

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## Exploring the World Around Us

Through books, technology, and programming, the Library works to serve as a portal to explore the world around us.

- Armchair Travels, a favorite weekly series with a loyal following, continued running right through construction and beyond. In January, we thanked longtime monthly speaker Foil Miller at his final presentation, and boldly moved forward with new speakers and exciting areas of the world to explore.
- New spaces in Youth Services, such as the fort and the new art installation "Who are We," provide areas for exploration within the Library's walls. These additions encourage creative play from our younger patrons, who are now able to explore the worlds within books at weekly storytimes, and the worlds of their imagination throughout the department.

## Committing to a Greener Tomorrow

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The Library has long been committed to being as green in its operations as possible, and the renovations were a big step forward in that regard.

- Energy efficient heating and cooling, low-flow bathroom fixtures, and timed LED lights all work towards creating a smaller environmental footprint.
- New water fountains encourage use of reusable water bottles, and recycling bins throughout the building make recycling the easy choice.
- Programming, including the long-running Greener Choices series, supports the environmentally-friendly mission.

### Thank You to Our 2015-2016 Partners

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 of Wilmette • Mallinckrodt Community Center •  
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