

Wilmette Public Library

2013-2014

Annual Report

A Letter From the Library Director

I am delighted to share with you the 2013-2014 Annual Report for the Wilmette Public Library. As our recent community survey confirmed, the Wilmette Library is a well-loved and well-used institution. We consistently see an average of more than 1,000 people each day in our building. People come to read, study, use computers, attend programs and, of course, to borrow books, music and movies. In addition, we know many of our patrons are using the Library from their homes or offices through the expanding number of online products we offer that can be downloaded to personal computers or devices.

But there is always room for improvement. Last year the Board conducted a community survey to inform the creation of a new strategic plan. The new plan has four areas of focus for our services:

- Providing updated, flexible and comfortable spaces for patrons;
- Creating young readers through early literacy initiatives;
- Providing services for 5th through 12th graders;
- Increasing knowledge and use of new technologies and our many virtual or online products.

In addition, the plan calls for structural maintenance of the building, a coordinated marketing plan, and continued use of environmentally sustainable practices.

As the following information demonstrates, our creative, dedicated staff members are already working toward these goals as we strive to remain a first-class library. We look forward to your next visit and invite your comments on how we are doing.

Ellen B. Clark
Director

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wilmettelibrary.info



Sharing a Love of Reading

Our Staff
Answered

85,856
Patron
Questions

Expanded Book Groups for All Ages

The Library expanded book groups in 2014 to include five ongoing book groups for children and adults. Adult book groups have been structured to provide more depth with theatrical performances and other special events, and our new **Online Book Group through Goodreads.com makes book discussions easy** for even the busiest schedules. For the first time, kids are getting in on the book group fun, with strong attendance for Mother-Daughter and Boys & Books groups. The kids' book groups proved so popular that they continued straight through summer vacation.

Continued Growth of One Book, Everybody Reads

In its ninth year, OBER continued to be a highlight of the Library calendar. Featuring the novel *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat, this year's series prompted vibrant discussions as the Wilmette community explored Haitian society and culture. More than **500 members of the community** attended the 2014 OBER events.

More Storytimes to Fit Your Busy Lifestyle

In 2013-2014, Youth Services librarians offered **9 weekly early childhood programs** from September to mid-May. In addition, we have offered occasional weekend and evening storytimes and programs for little ones, including rhyme time and pajama storytimes. Whether you're a regular at Thursday babytime or an occasional drop-in, our librarians have worked hard to ensure there's a program to meet your needs.

Exploring our World Together

Grant Funds Helped Us Explore Other Cultures

Thanks to a joint grant from National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, the Library hosted the series "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys" and created an accompanying Muslim Journeys bookshelf. The Wilmette and Kenilworth communities have **embraced lifelong learning**, and the Library has seized upon opportunities like the ALA grants to provide even more opportunities for intellectually stimulating events.

Expanded Programming for 5th-8th Grades

This year, our librarians have developed new and exciting programs to help introduce middle grade patrons to the world around them. Whether they are learning basic childcare skills in a babysitting workshop, becoming junior chefs in a cake decorating class, or learning to work together in our newly formed Kids Library Council, the Library welcomed lots of new faces in this hard-to-reach age group. In the past year, **attendance for this group more than doubled** from the previous fiscal year, with 364 attendees compared to just 152 in 2012-13.

Discovering Exciting New Worlds in Math, Science & Art

The Youth Services department continued to provide an exciting array of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) programs for learners up to grade 8. Toddler Art helped teach little ones motor skills and creativity, while **Fun with Science and Fun with Math events attracted nearly 200 children and their families**. Lego, Scratch, and hands-on science and engineering programs showed that learning these skills can be fun and exciting.

By the Numbers

Library Programs

28,114 People attended

1,119 Library Sponsored Programs, including:

593 Children's Programs

526 Adult Programs

Building Your Technology Toolbox

Computer Classes to Meet All Needs One of the Library's newest, and largest, roles is in helping residents learn how to take advantage of the many tech tools around them every day. Over the past year, we **provided nearly 400 patrons with instruction** on topics ranging from Windows basics to getting the most out of your iPad. As technology becomes more varied and omnipresent, our librarians remain committed to helping you use the technology available to you every day.

Integrating Tech for Our Youngest Patrons

Youth Services librarians have been integrating computers and tablets in ways that make sense for developing brains. iPads and early literacy stations feature games and apps appropriate for toddlers through 8th graders. Additionally, librarians have incorporated iPads and devices into select programs, such as a Boys & Books storytime, where **children and their parents used iPads together** to explore the Giza pyramids in 3-D.

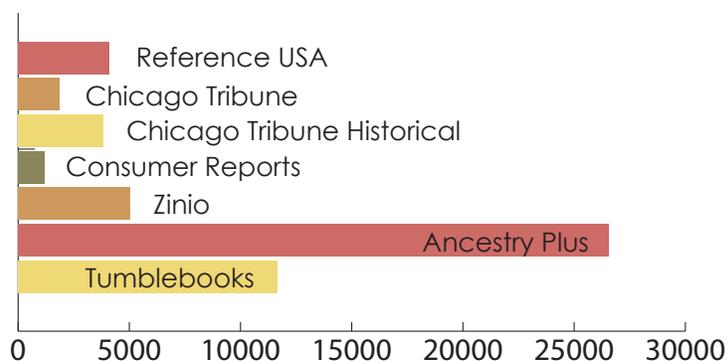
Making Technology Available in Your Home

In addition to leading classes, the Library in 2013 began offering iPads that may be checked out for home use. The Library's website has also become an increasingly important portal for patrons, who are able to access online tutors, chat with a librarian, and renew and place holds on items from the comfort of their home. The downloadable book collection has grown as well, now offering **more than 63,000 ebooks and eaudiobooks** that can be checked out instantly from home.

By the Numbers

Online Resource Use

The most popular library databases



On Average

1,050

People Visit the Library Each Day

Creating a Welcoming Environment

Programming That Meets Your Family's Needs We strive to ensure that our programs are available to everyone, regardless of ability or age. This past year, we brought back **sensory-friendly programs for children with special needs**. These events, which feature softer lights and lower noise levels, and allow children to roam and speak freely, make it possible for families to attend programs that would otherwise be too difficult.

Improvements to Our Building This spring, when we replaced our aging air handling units, the Library took the first step toward making the building a more modern, comfortable place to spend time. These new, modern machines will ensure the building is comfortably temperate for years to come. Updating our equipment helps us maintain our commitment to being an **environmentally responsible** part of the community.

The Library Is Open
76 Hours
Each Week

Thank You to Our 2013-2014 Partners

The Friends of the Wilmette Public Library • The Village of Wilmette
The Wilmette Park District • School District 39 • Go Green Wilmette



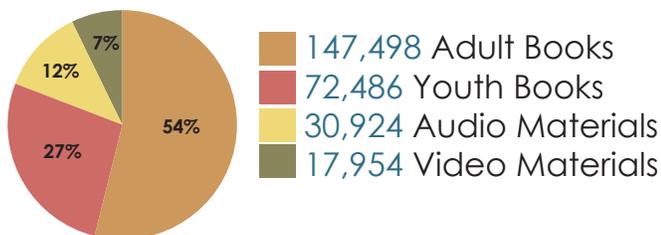
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Wilmette IL 60091

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POSTAL PATRON

By the Numbers

268,862 Total items in the collection



The Library collection added **22,458** items



The Library circulated **735,568** items



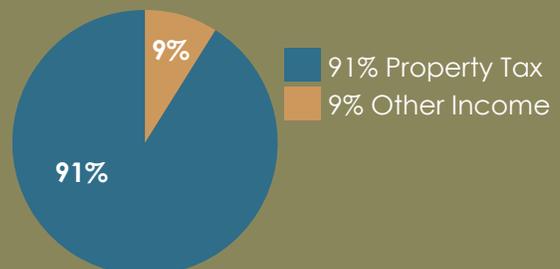
An additional **115,052** books were checked out online via My Media Mall, Recorded Books, and TumbleBooks.

All numbers cover the period from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.

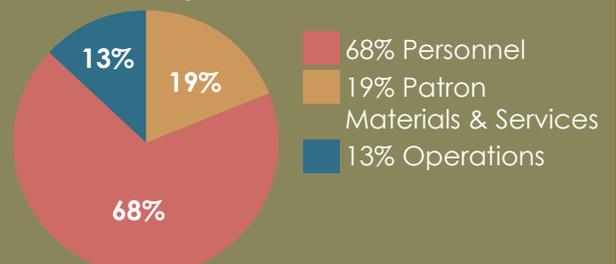
- Library funding is **less than 5%** of your annual tax bill
- **370,000** people visited the Library
- **150,000** visited the Library online via wilmettelibrary.info
- Nearly **18,000** residents of Wilmette and Kenilworth have Wilmette Library cards

2013-2014 Financials

Sources of Income



Annual Expenses



* For a full breakdown of the Library budget, please visit www.wilmettelibrary.info