



Give yourself a hand! Like the one on our “Helping Hands” sculpture. Many hands help to make Mead Public Library a vital service to the community — volunteers, donors, customers, supporters, and staff. Whether checking out your books, decorating the Great Tree, or clapping at a storytime performance, your hands keep Mead Library thriving.

# A Mead Public Library 2008 Annual Report



# Services



Customers checked out 819,218 items from Mead Library during 2008, an increase of 23,650 over 2007.

A record 100,060 requests were filled at Mead Public Library for items requested by customers at other libraries in the Eastern Shores Library System.

The declining economy created an opportunity for programs to assist residents with financial issues. Topics included employment, starting a small business, and consumer issues.

MP3 audiobooks were introduced, offering customers several technological advantages at a lower cost to the library.



All aspects of library service were affected by the migration in October to a new integrated library system, Polaris. Most visible to customers was a new appearance and new services for EasiCat, the shared catalog of the Eastern Shores Library System.

Movie programs for children and teens were well-attended. With its new movie site license, Mead Library was able to show many popular films.

More than two-third of items are checked out by customers using one of the library's four self-check units. The number of self check-outs was nearing two million at year's end.

Nearly 24,000 new items were purchased, cataloged, and processed during 2008, an increase of 6.5 percent over 2007.

More than 4,000 book reports by 750 young people were submitted to the Acuity Cool Picks summer teen reading program. The library's Teen Advisory Group assisted with planning and programs.



Visits to the library increased by more than 8 percent over 2007, while checkouts increased 2 percent for adult items, 14 percent for young adult items, and almost 4 percent for children's items.

# W hat's New

A federal grant funded the purchase of a Wii gaming system and accessories that were the highlight of many popular programs for children, teens, and even adults!

Another successful Summer Reading Program attracted 2,088 children. The Friends of Mead Public Library and Thrivent Financial again provided funding to provide a free book to keep for each child who read at least five hours.

The Mead Public Library Board re-elected Bernard Markevitch as president, and Marilyn Toepel as vice president. Maeve Quinn joined the board, replacing Nancy Moudry who did not seek reappointment.

Mead Public Library hosted the "Big Read" featuring the book "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. This federal grant-funded program included a distribution of free books, school events, discussion groups, programs with scholars, a spelling bee, and a speech by Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

A federal Library Service and Technology Act digitization grant added more local history documents that can be accessed through the library's web page. These include several books on local history and also furniture company catalogs.

A new web site, [www.meadpubliclibrary.org](http://www.meadpubliclibrary.org), was planned and developed to replace the previous site which launched in 2001. The new site was created to provide customers with more efficient navigation and more timely information.

Planning began to improve the library spaces for teens. A consultant helped develop the proposal, with the aid of local focus groups, that will result in an area of the second floor to be remodeled in 2008, funded by the Hazel Hansen bequest. It will add 12 computers for teens. Another teen space, in an unused area of the third floor, will be built in the future, named for the donor, Dr. Jerome M. Maas.



# F riends of Mead Public Library



Friends of Mead Public Library is a non-profit, tax-exempt membership organization open to all. Its 230 members provide funding and volunteer support for materials, equipment, and services, as a supplement to City appropriations.

Proceeds from the fourth annual Dinner with Friends were matched by funds in the Friends' treasury to purchase new items for Mead Library's collections. Bernie Markevitch led a group of volunteers to create a New Orleans-themed dinner in the library's Quiet Study Room.



The BookStore surpassed its previous record for profits from a single book sale. A total of \$2,492 was earned over three days in July. New this year was a separate table of antique and collectible books manned by Fred Zimmerer.

The Friends continue to support Mead's summer reading programs by donating money for prize incentives for Acuity Cool Picks for teens and ReadFest for adults. The Friends also purchased a new paperback book to keep for each child in the Summer Reading Club who read for at least five hours.



Max Yela, head of Special Collections at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting in April. His illustrated presentation was about the rapidly expanding discipline of artists' books.

Nancy Stephani and Mary Ann Neuses joined the Friends board. Pat Mahlendorf was elected president, replacing Audrey Kruger who became vice president.

The Friends donated books as memorials or in honor of persons associated with the group. The Friends also continued to pay for BookPage, a newsletter available at the Library.

The Friends provided the required local funding for the library to host the "Big Read" program.

# Mead Public Library Foundation, Inc.

The Mead Public Library Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1989 and dedicated to providing financial support to Mead Public Library. Its mission is "To benefit the community by raising, managing, and distributing funds to enhance the services, collections, and facilities of the library and to increase public awareness of the library's needs and services." Contributions to the Foundation supplement, but do not replace, public funding.



The Foundation hosted its annual reception in December in 2008 for members of the Renaissance Society. The Great Tree in the Quiet Study Room was a special feature of the evening. It was decorated by members of the library's Teen Advisory Group and also the Friends of Mead Public Library. Eleven members achieved a higher cumulative gift recognition category.



The ACUITY Charitable Foundation, Inc. continued its sponsorship of a major Mead Public Library program with a large contribution through the Foundation to Mead's teen summer reading program, Cool Picks. A total of 751 teens joined the program in 2008.

Sharon Quicker and Mary Ann Windsor, both long-time Foundation directors, retired from the Board at year-end. Barbara Knauf and Sandy Mai were elected new directors.

A plaque in honor of Dr. Jerome M. Maas and his wife, Henrietta A. Landwehr, was dedicated in January and installed on the third floor. Family members participated in the event. The couple are major contributors to the development of youth services at the library through the Mead Public Library Foundation. Some preliminary planning work has begun for the Dr. Jerome M. Maas Teen Learning Center which will be constructed in unused space on the library's third floor in the future. Earnings from investment of the Maas Fund will pay for this project.





## Mead Public Library Board of Trustees

Bernard J. Markevitch, President  
 Marilyn Montemayor  
 Thomas J. Peneski  
 Sharon R. Quicker  
 Maeve Quinn  
 Marilyn Toepel, Vice President  
 Mary Liz Towne  
 Edward Wackowski Jr.  
 Martha Wortche  
 Samuel Zelpel  
 Sharon L. Winkle (ex-officio),  
 Library Director

## Mead Public Library Facts and Figures

City of Sheboygan population	50,650
Population served	69,400
Items in collection	357,599
City of Sheboygan cardholders	38,583
Items checked out	819,127
Reference questions asked	36,425
Library visits	336,090
Program attendance	15,227
Website average daily visits	1,435

### Revenues

City of Sheboygan	\$2,651,435
Sheboygan County	548,885
Ozaukee County	6,798
Other	319,307
Prior year balance	827,198
Everhard-Forrer Fund	45,789
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,399,412</b>

### Expenditures

Personnel	\$2,507,758
Library materials	456,482
Information technology	30,233
Other	337,921
Everhard-Forrer Fund	34,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,367,188</b>

### Fund Balance

Unreserved	\$212,910
Automation reserve	116,799
Building equipment reserve	150,000
Personal Services reserve	160,500
Working Capital	277,272
Other reserve	103,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,021,229</b>

## Friends of Mead Public Library Board

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 Judy Born  
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 Mary Ann Neuses  
 Sharon R. Quicker  
 Donna Mae Ringel  
 Nancy Stephani  
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## Mead Public Library Foundation Inc. Board

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To read the complete Mead Library Annual Report, go to [www.meadpubliclibrary.org/about/annual](http://www.meadpubliclibrary.org/about/annual)