

10 Reasons Mead Library Celebrates Its Growth

Since 2000...

1. Items checked out at Mead have risen from 714,237 to 902,701 annually.
2. Membership in Cool Picks, the teen summer reading program, has more than doubled to 799.
3. The Mead Public Library Foundation established the Renaissance Society in support of an endowment fund, the earnings from which are contributed to Mead Public Library.
4. Mead Library offers the public 52 Internet-equipped computers, 13 laptops, and WiFi service, up from a total of 13 public access computers.
5. The number of items available at Mead Library grew from 390,000 to 1.2 million due to EasiCat, the shared catalog service of the Eastern Shores Library System.
6. Two mural projects and six sculptures, numerous other artworks, and an Art-o-Mat have enhanced the beauty of the library building.
7. More than 2.4 million items have been self-checked by library customers.
8. "Sheboygan Reads" has been established as a biennial community reading program.
9. The number of City of Sheboygan residents with library cards increased from 30,952 to over 39,000.
10. Unfinished spaces in the building have been completed for current magazines, quiet reading, a vending cafe, plus a new area for teens, all with donated funds.

A Mead Public Library 2009 Annual Report



Services



The number of items checked out by Mead Public Library customers rose dramatically over the previous year with 902,701 checkouts, up 10 percent. Books and other items checked out by young adults showed an annual hourly increase of more than 28 percent.

Mead Library expanded its outreach to children with summer programs at selected playground sites presented by three AmeriCorps/VISTA associates assigned to the library for eight weeks. The total outreach attendance was 1,447. Free bus rides to the library also are offered to youngsters in the summer, funded by the Friends of Mead Public Library.



Self-check continues to be popular. About two-thirds of all checkouts are done by customers, totaling over 2.4 million items since the inception of self-check in 2005.

More than 62,000 requests for materials by Mead customers were fulfilled by other library-members of the Eastern Shores Library System through its EasiCat shared catalog system.



More than 25,000 new items, an increase of 4.8 percent over 2008, were received, processed, and cataloged.

A total of 2,130 children joined Mead's Summer Library Programs in 2009. The Friends of Mead Public Library and Thrivent Financial funded a program to give "a book to keep" to children who read, or were read to, for five hours.

Responding to an increasing demand for library services to aid employment searches, Mead Library expanded Internet services and instruction opportunities. Librarians also purchased additional books and recommended digital resources about job-hunting and careers.

W hat's New

Four new computer stations with bilingual learning games for ages 2 to 10 were purchased with gift funds.

The Myrtle and Hazel Hansen Teen Library Center opened in November on the second floor. Funded by a bequest, the area offers 12 Internet computers, comfortable seating, and books and magazines for young adults. A spiral staircase leads to the third floor Maas Teen Learning Center which will be available for some teen activities in 2010.

A new website was launched in January providing new features, like reading suggestions from staff members and a calendar of events. Customers also now have the ability to see a listing of Rocca Meeting Room programs and apply to schedule their own events online. Over 200 events were scheduled using the online request system in 2009.

Digital mini billboards were installed on the first and second floors to help customers learn about Mead Library services and programs.

Despite being closed for a furlough week due to budget constraints, the number of visitors to Mead Library in 2009 increased over the previous year. The average number of visitors per hour went up 8.7 percent.

Customers may now check out a Kindle digital reading device, and may request a laptop for use in the library, as the library continues to expand digital options for its customers.

New programs focusing on literature offered a poetry circle, and play readers' group and additional book discussion group options. A drop-in opportunity to play chess also was offered to adults.

One of the most successful programs ever was a visit from Star Wars costuming organization members. Parents, children, even babies met and were photographed with their favorite Star Wars characters. Over 400 people attended.



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 of \$1,200 were realized from the fourth annual Dinner with Friends, with a menu featuring “The Great Wisconsin Harvest Dinner.”

The BookStore, located on the library’s first floor, and two large book sales in the Rocca Meeting Room generated over \$5,000 for the Friends treasury from the sale of used library items and donated books.



The Friends continued to support Mead’s summer reading programs by donating \$3,900 for prize incentives for Acuity Cool Picks for teens and ReadFest for adults and for a new paperback book for each Summer Reading Club member who read for at least five hours.

A much-needed infusion of \$5,000 was given by the Friends to the library’s fund for programs in 2010. Lower interest rates have caused a decline in the Everhard-Forrer Fund income available for programs for all age groups.

The group’s annual meeting featured the dedication of four pieces of sculpture installed at Mead Library. Delores Panzer was elected to the Friends board.

The Friends sold copies of the Sheboygan Reads title, “The Green Steed” donated by the author, longtime Friends member and library supporter Betsy Michael.



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.

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 a Yuletide Gala on Dec. 11 for members of its Renaissance Society. Seven new members were welcomed and six achieved a higher cumulative recognition category.



"Sheboygan Reads" was funded by income from the Foundation's Endowment Fund and featured "The Green Steed" by Betsy Michael. Several programs and a presentation and reception with Mrs. Michael were well-attended by Sheboygan area residents. The Board has agreed to financial sponsorship of the 2011 program as well.

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 799 teens joined the program, reaching a new high in participation.

Nancy Z. Schreiber, a long-time Foundation director and chair of the Endowment Fund Committee; Linda Bosman, 2009 President; and Sandy Mai, a former Library Board member, retired from the Board at year-end. Alan Goldman and Eleanor Jung were elected to the board.

Income from a major gift of Dr. Jerome M. Maas was given to Mead Library to fund professional services and construction of the first phase of the Maas Teen Learning Center on the third floor of the library.





Mead Public Library Facts and Figures

City of Sheboygan population	50,650
Population served	69,320
Items in collection	357,397
City of Sheboygan cardholders	39,240
Items checked out	902,701
Reference questions asked	37,165
Library visits	358,267
Program attendance	15,843
Website average daily visits	1,050

Revenues

City of Sheboygan	\$2,629,075
Sheboygan County	551,638
Ozaukee County	6,599
Other	448,928
Prior year balance	860,729
Everhard-Forrer Fund	40,490
Total	\$4,537,459

Expenditures

Personnel	\$2,588,316
Library materials	435,349
Information technology	57,536
Other	550,817
Everhard-Forrer Fund	127,058
Total	\$3,759,076

Fund Balance

Unreserved	\$33,342
Automation reserve	109,484
Building equipment reserve	150,000
Personal Services reserve	160,500
Future Capital	177,715
Other reserve	200,567
Total	\$831,608

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Member listings current as of Dec. 31, 2009

To read the complete Mead Library Annual Report, go to www.meadpubliclibrary.org/about/annual