

## Top ten fascinating facts from 2004

- Most requested and circulated book: *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown
- Most requested and circulated DVD: *Shrek 2*
- Offered 1.2 million books, CDs, DVDs, talking books and other materials.
- Circulated 5.5 million books, CDs, DVDs and other materials.
- Issued 42,000 library cards, for a total of 220,000 registered card holders.
- Presented 1,600 programs for children and 120 programs for adults to more than 55,000 people.
- Opened 779 hours per week and 24/7 via the Internet.
- Took books and other materials to people who can't get to libraries: approximately 110 child care visits, 1,315 bookmobile stops, 65 homebound visits and 20 adult care facilities.
- Received 4,700 hours of volunteer time from people in communities.
- Accommodated 2.3 million visits.

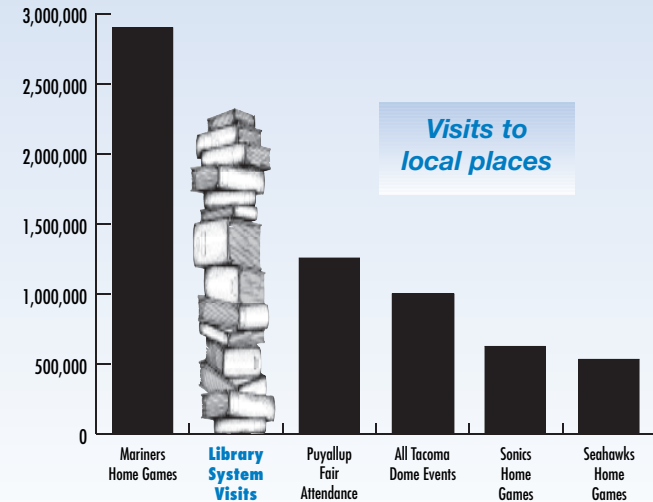


Photo by Steve Turner

In 2004, libraries offered 1,600 programs for children

## Friends and Foundation

*Pierce County Library System thanks the Friends of the Libraries organizations and the Pierce County Library Foundation for their gifts and tireless support.*

- Tremendous support in volunteer time and financial contributions benefit the Library System.

### Friends

- All 17 of the library branches have Friends organizations, which are volunteers that support and promote their individual branch library.
- In 2004, Friends organizations donated more than \$40,000 to libraries for books, materials, furnishings and other assistance.

### Foundation

- Gifts to the Pierce County Library Foundation provided necessary funding for highly regarded literacy and outreach programs including Explorer kids bookmobile, Early Learning services, Summer Reading program and the Diverse Communities project.
- In 2004, the Foundation raised more than \$185,000 and awarded approximately \$142,000 for library programs.



# Pierce County Library System

## 2004 Report to the Community



Pierce County Library Foundation  
 PROMOTING QUALITY LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ALL.  
 (253) 536-6500, ext. 103  
[www.pcl.lib.wa.us/foundation](http://www.pcl.lib.wa.us/foundation)



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*Pierce County Library System enriches lives, strengthens communities and provides children and adults with opportunities to discover and exchange information and ideas.*

### Overview of the Library System

- Established in 1946.
- Service area spans 1,600 square miles.
- Serves 500,000 people.
- 17 branches, two book-mobiles, Explorer kids bookmobile serving low-income neighborhoods and one adult care facilities van.
- Serves all of unincorporated Pierce County and the annexed cities and towns of Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Edgewood, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Milton, Orting, South Prairie, Steilacoom, Sumner, University Place and Wilkeson.

Miles of books and other materials

### Key successes in 2004

- **To serve the geographic needs of people throughout the county**, the Pierce County Library System opened the DuPont Pierce County Library in May 2004.
  - Issued library cards to more than 1,600 of the 4,000 people estimated to live in DuPont.
- **To serve the culturally diverse communities of the county**, the Library System offered 14,500 books, videos and other materials in its world languages.
  - Provided programs to celebrate the communities' cultural diversity, including Korean Heritage, Posada and Fiesta.
- **To serve low-income parents**, the Library System educated 405 at-risk parents and 240 child care providers about the importance of reading to children.
- The Library System is a leader in Early Literacy services, which gets infants to kindergartners ready to read, kindergartners through third graders learning to read, and third grade and beyond reading to learn.
- Studies show that when children read 20 minutes a day, they develop good reading behaviors and can gain good reading habits to help them succeed.
- **To serve young readers**, involved 21,000 children in the Library System's Summer Reading program.
- **To serve disadvantaged children**, Explorer kids bookmobile visited low-income neighborhoods, where approximately 800 children checked out more than 18,000 books, CDs and other materials.



DuPont Library opened May 1, 2004

### Financial picture in 2004

- Washington State Auditor's Office recently recognized the Library System for 23 consecutive years of good audits.
- Established under state law, the Library System is an independent municipal corporation and a junior taxing district, primarily funded from a separate property tax levy.
- \$16.7 million budget to operate, maintain and improve libraries, provide books, CDs and Internet access, as well as many educational programs for children and adults.
- Costs to run the 17 branches continue to increase at a higher rate than revenues; the Library System has made efficiencies and cut costs:
  - Reduced staffing, particularly in management.
  - Cut back on bookmobile service to some areas.
  - Purchased fewer books, CDs and other materials.



Photo by Steve Turner

Computers at all libraries and Explorer

### Library programs and materials for all

- From story times for children to delivering books and other materials to homebound people and adult care facilities, Pierce County libraries have something for everyone.
- All 17 branches have computers with Internet access and online databases with subscription magazines and encyclopedias, which can also be accessed from home.
- Helpful librarians can give people answers and teach them how to research and find answers.

*People find Pierce County libraries welcoming to browse book shelves, use the Internet, read, study, relax and hang out, in comfortable, friendly and clean places.*



Korean Heritage Day



Explorer kids bookmobile

Photo by Steve Turner



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Early literacy programs