...Fiscally fit

- Property taxes fund approximately 97% of the Library’s services. In 2009 the Library System’s total revenues were $28.4 million. The Library’s total expenditures were $27.1 million.
- The Library’s Board of Trustees approved a $28.6 million operating budget for 2010. As with most governments and businesses, the recession hit Pierce County Library.
- In recognizing the affects of the downturned economy, the Board of Trustees did not approve its legal authority to collect 1% more in tax revenue than it did in 2009, thus reducing costs to taxpayers.
- In addition, to manage a $1.5 million shortfall for 2010, managers significantly reduced spending starting in summer 2009. The Library had a shortfall because costs to run the Library are higher than revenues.
- The Library’s Board of Trustees put the taxpayers, who pay the bill for library services, at the center of its decision for the 2010 budget.
- Full budget @ www.piercecountylibrary.org, search site: budget.

...Supported by donations

In 2009 Friends of the Library groups from 17 libraries contributed $44,650 for library needs. These volunteer organizations are instrumental in supporting and promoting libraries.

In 2009, Pierce County Library Foundation awarded $202,535 for library programs that included helping people with job searches, preparing children to read, summer reading and the University Place Library Campaign. The Foundation’s 20-member volunteer Board of Directors raises and allocates charitable gifts to expand library services beyond tax-based funding.

Pierce County Library
Index of Service for 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Retail Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,865,324: Books and other materials checked out.</td>
<td>$1,349/person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,646,693: Visits to 17 libraries.</td>
<td>$28.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,556,507: Visits to website.</td>
<td>$202,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,302,764: Books, CDs, DVDs and other materials offered.</td>
<td>$28.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240,629: Card holders.</td>
<td>$1,349/person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92,945: Hours children and teens read during summer reading.</td>
<td>$1,349/person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91,967: Children attending events.</td>
<td>$1,349/person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,592: Adults attending events.</td>
<td>$1,349/person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009, on average, residents in the Library’s service area invested $51 in their library. Check out the comparison of that investment to average annual retail costs for the same annual service:

- Retail Cost
  - High speed Internet: $720
  - 6 new hardback books: $150
  - 12 new paperback books: $ 60
  - 24 movie rentals: $ 24
  - Computer (averaged over 3 years): $250
  - Magazine subscriptions: $ 25
  - 12 downloaded audios/audiobooks/e-books: $120

Total Annual Retail Costs: $1,349/person

$51 vs. $1,349

Board of Trustees:
J.J. McCarten, Chair • Budd Wagner, Vice Chair
Steve Albers • Paul Chasco • Eugene Matsuoka • Allen Rose
Library’s Executive Director, Neel Panik

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2009 Annual Report to the Community

To request this document in an alternate format, call 253-536-6500, ext. 140 at Washington Relay 711.

Pierce County Library System
3005 12th St., E., Tacoma, WA 98446-2215
www.piercecountylibrary.org - 253-536-6500

Photos by Chris Tumbusch

www.twitter.com/piercecolibrary

Pierce County
Library System & Foundation

serving you and your neighbors!
Your Library is...

...Busier than ever

People joined up, visited, checked out and logged on at Pierce County Library in record numbers in 2009.

- **Website visits:**
  - 2008: 1,549,299
  - 2009: 2,556,507
  - 65% increase
- **Items checked out:**
  - 2008: 6,616,850
  - 2009: 7,865,324
  - 18% increase
- **Library visits:**
  - 2008: 2,299,338
  - 2009: 2,646,693
  - 15% increase
- **Number of card holders:**
  - 2008: 212,831
  - 2009: 240,629
  - 13% increase

...Maintaining pledges from voters’ investment in re-authorized levy

In September 2006, voters gave a 56% approval to re-authorize the Library’s levy, which allowed the Library to maintain current services and provide new offerings.

1. **Levy Pledge:**
   - Expand open hours
   - Open hours
   - 2006: 737
   - 2009: 918
   - 25% increase

2. **Levy Pledge:**
   - Increase services for kids and teenagers
   - Checkouts of youth materials
   - 2006: 949,240
   - 2009: 2,358,493
   - 148% increase

3. **Levy Pledge:**
   - Add new books, materials and faster service
   - Downloadable audiobooks/e-books
   - 2006: 0
   - 2009: 54,836
   - 100% increase

4. **Levy Pledge:**
   - Upgrade services and technology for customers
   - Public computers
   - 2006: 197
   - 2009: 325
   - 64% increase

In 2010, the Library will continue to maintain these services.

...Bringing you new opportunities: New in 2009

Library serving Fife residents

- Fife voters passed a measure with a 69% approval for the City of Fife to annex to the Library for services. The annexation means people in Fife may now use all library services.
- In early 2010 the Library began serving residents directly by taking the bookmobile to Fife.
- In 2011, the Library plans to open a full service library in Fife.

Pierce County Library 2030: Facilities Master Plan

The Library collaborated with more than 5,000 people to create Pierce County Library 2030, a facilities master plan. The plan outlines library services and buildings to meet community needs during the next 20 plus years.

Key recommendations in the report include:
- More space to read, learn and bring people together.
- Additional seats for people to study and work.
- More books and materials.
- Increase number of computers and improve technology.

Recommendations in the plan call for expanding all of the current libraries and adding one new library in the Frederickson area.

The Library will continue to work with communities to determine when the timing is best to fund the plan.

...Serving people hit by economic downturn

On average, 150 people a day asked the Library for help with job-related issues. The Library increased its online and in-library resources to help people with every stage of the job search.

Fast Facts

- Established in 1946.
- 1,773 square mile service area: unincorporated Pierce County and the annexed cities and towns of Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Edgewood, Fife, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Milton, Orting, South Prairie, Steilacoom, Sumner, University Place and Wilkeson.
- Serves 554,035 people.
- 17 libraries.
- 24/7 access with downloadable audiobooks and e-books; online homework help; and e-sources.

2009