In 2010 Friends of the Library groups from 17 libraries contributed $32,971 for library needs. These volunteer organizations are instrumental in supporting and promoting libraries.

In fiscal year 2010-11, Pierce County Library Foundation awarded $338,147 for library projects and programs that included helping people apply for jobs, preparing children to read 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 and help enhance greatly needed services.

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 559,561 people.
- 17 libraries.
- 24/7 access with downloadable audiobooks, e-books, and songs (new in April 2011); online homework help; and e-sources.

Board of Trustees:
J.J. McCament, Chair, Steve Albers, Vice Chair, Linda Ishem, Allen Rose, Budd Wagner
Library’s Executive Director, Neel Parikh
Helping build people’s job skills and start small businesses

Job and Business Centers help improve people’s job skills, offer tools to search for and get jobs as well as provide resources to start and retain small businesses. Dedicated spaces in six libraries:

- Gig Harbor Pierce County Library
- Lakewood Pierce County Library
- Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library
- South Hill Pierce County Library
- Sumner Pierce County Library
- University Place Pierce County Library (opened February 2011)

All libraries provide job and business resources.

- Computer classes taught: 381
- Workshops and presentations: 32
- Interactions with customers: 6,792

Generous contributors helped fund the centers:

- FRIENDS of Lakewood Library
- Lucky Seven Foundation
- The Norcliffe Foundation
- Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
- Pierce County Library Foundation
- Renew Washington grant program, administered by the Washington State Library and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Offering e-books and more

Library increased its offerings of downloadable audiobook and e-book choices:

- 53% increase in audiobook titles for a total of 39,238.
- 312% increase in e-book titles for a total of 23,249.

People responded with off the charts downloading:

- Downloadable audiobook checkouts: 77,168 – 68% 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. In 2010 the Library continued to maintain the levy promises:

- Expanding access to staff, resources, materials, and facilities with increased open hours.
- Adding a wide variety of books and materials.
- Increasing services for children and teens.
- Upgrading services and technology for customers.

Being a good steward of taxpayers’ dollars

Property taxes fund approximately 97% of the Library’s services. In 2010 the Library System’s total revenues and expenditures were $28.6 million.

In 2010, on average, residents in the Library’s service area invested $132 in their library. Check out the comparison of that investment to average annual retail costs for the same annual service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retail Cost</th>
<th>Library Investment to public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High speed Internet:</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 new hardback books:</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 new paperback books:</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 movie rentals:</td>
<td>$48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer (averaged over 3 years):</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine subscriptions:</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 downloaded audiobooks/e-books:</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*$59.581 people in service area, 2.56 people per household.

The Library’s Board of Trustees approved a 2010 operating budget of $28,639,318 and $3,708,211 for capital improvements. In 2010 the economic downturn showed an impact on the Library’s budget, with assessed property values down throughout the Library’s service area. Also, consistent with recent years, the Library continues to project that revenue will not keep up with the cost to run the Library System.

Full budget @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/administration/finance

"Online audio e-books is a phenomenal addition to the library up-keeping with current technology and trends. Thanks goes to the foreign language services. It is my sincere hope that both these services and more continue to be offered and expanded.”

--Robb

Pierce County Library Index of Service for 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,738,850: Books and other materials checked out.</td>
<td>2,682,141: Visits to 17 libraries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,955,758: Visits to website.</td>
<td>1,293,155: Books, CDs, DVDs and other materials offered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>244,650: Cardholders.</td>
<td>73,167: Hours children read during summer reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56,441: People attending events.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>