Pierce County Library
INDEX OF SERVICE
FOR 2012

• 8,161,990: Books and other materials checked out.
• 2,507,596: Visits to 18 libraries.
• 2,644,376: Visits to website.
• 1,269,709: Books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials offered.
• 251,034: Cardholders.
• 75,450: Hours children read during summer reading.
• 56,610: People attending events.

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 555,285 people.
• 18 libraries.
• 24/7 access with downloadable e-books, audiobooks, and songs; online homework help; and e-sources.

2011-2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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• Robert Allen
• J.J. McCament
• Library’s Executive Director, Neel Parikh

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Pierce County Library System's
Annual Report
to the Community

Photos by Chris Tumbusch; Noga Ailer, volunteer photographer; Wesley Burk, volunteer photographer; and staff.
To request this document in an alternate format, call 253-548-3426, or Washington Relay TTY 711.
2012 marked the third year that the economic downturn showed an impact on Pierce County Library System’s budget, due primarily to an estimated reduction in revenue from property taxes, which is the Library’s main funding source.

Last year, the Library closed a $1.9 million budget shortfall, while making the Library System run better and leaner. The Library System did not reduce service or cut hours at libraries.

At the beginning of 2012, the Library System significantly reduced its traditional bookmobile service to rural and remote areas. With less than 1 percent of all books and other materials checked out from bookmobiles, in late 2012, the Library System stopped all bookmobile service.

In 2013 the areas that were served by bookmobiles continue to get service in libraries, online, and with the Library System’s partnerships in schools.

In 2012, property taxes funded approximately 97% of the Library’s services. The Library System’s operating revenues totaled $27,509,605. The expenditures for the Library totaled $26,722,640.

From 2010-2013, the Library’s budget has been reduced by a total of $6.4 million.

The Library estimates a budget shortfall of $700,000 to $1 million for 2014. The shortfall is anticipated primarily due to past declines in property taxes and use of cash reserves to pay for 2013 operations.

Pierce County Library will continue to seek and respond to the needs of communities. It will continually change operations to work more effectively and provide the services and programs most valued by customers and communities.

The Library makes sound decisions in the best long-term interest of taxpayers, customers, and employees. It used responses to a public opinion survey to help inform decisions about services of value.

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