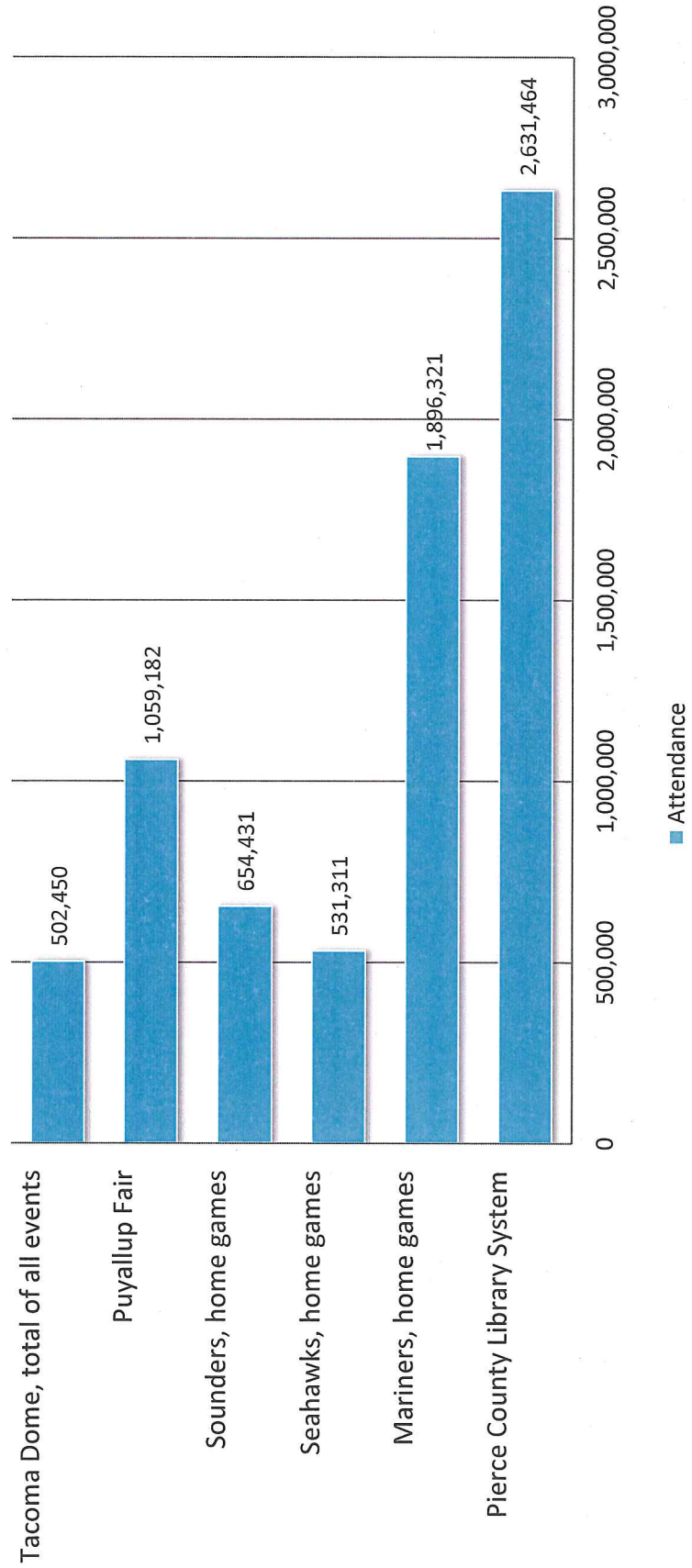


Annual Attendance Comparison

In 2011, there were 2,631,464 visits to Pierce County Library System branches.
Compared to 2011 attendance at other locations:





UNIVERSITY PLACE PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY

University Place, Washington

HAS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
IN THE LEED GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM™ AND VERIFIED BY THE GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE.

LEED FOR COMMERCIAL INTERIORS

SILVER

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

S. RICHARD FEDRIZZI, PRESIDENT & CEO
U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

May 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Templeton".

PETER TEMPLETON, PRESIDENT
GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

LTE
TNT

LIBRARIES: Should city, county systems merge?

Letter by Delores L. Reagan, Tacoma on Aug. 24, 2012 at 12:24 pm

Re: The 2011 Pierce County Library System's Annual Report to the Community.

I was very impressed by the facts and figures in the report. It would be nice to see the Tacoma Public Library produce such a report. In fact, has anyone given thought to combining the two library systems since Tacoma's system has to make big budget cuts and there seems to be a duplication of services?

This may be a politically charged issue but should be evaluated and acted on if it is feasible and would benefit the taxpayer.

I love both library systems and hope our community continues to have a cost-effective, quality library system to serve our neighborhoods.

Comments → 5

1. *truthbusterguy*

Aug. 24, 2012 at 4:20 pm

Like the internet and e-mail are bankrupting the Post Office the I-Pad, Kindle and on line reading have made libraries obsolete. Libraries have become the hang out for the homeless and going there is nothing but scary anymore. Merge, consolidate, privatize, whatever. Just stop hanging on to these 1950 style governed services.

OK, I am ready for my attack from the status quo liberals. I can take it, you just can't deal with the truth.

2. *hgeorge*

Aug. 24, 2012 at 4:33 pm

truthbusterguy,

Have you been to the Pierce County Library in UP? Every time I go in there it's filled with a mix of families and individuals who are checking out books and movies or using the computers for job searches and research. I've also been to the library in Graham and I've heard good things about the one in Fife. While I agree with your overall point that we have to take a hard look at traditional government models, the truth – as you put it – is many of our libraries are still terrific public assets.

3. *alindasue*

Aug. 24, 2012 at 11:09 pm

hgeorge,

My visits to the Moore library in Tacoma have been pretty much the same as the scene you describe at the Pierce County libraries. They are actively used by families reading books and using the computers.

truthbusterguy,

Maybe you need to put your I-Pad or Kindle down long enough to actually walk into a library and see what's really going on there. They are still a wonderful community asset.

4. *A321196*

Aug. 25, 2012 at 10:23 am

I frequently go to the Fern Hill and Moore Branches of the Tacoma System. I've never seen the activity 'truthbusterguy' describes, although I will acknowledge the experience at the Main Branch may be different during the winter months. Not everyone likes to read books with the latest electronic devices.

The county and Tacoma have a reciprocal system in place. Residents of both system may apply for a library card from the other.

5. *alindasue*

Aug. 25, 2012 at 7:41 pm

I have seen homeless people in the main branch downtown during the winter, but there was nothing "scary" about them. They pretty much sit in the library doing what everyone else does. They read books and use the computers. Only their slightly unkempt appearance and bundle of belongings set them apart from anyone else who was using the library.

I was aware that books could be ordered between systems, but I was not aware the library systems allowed reciprocity for the library cards as well. That's good to know.