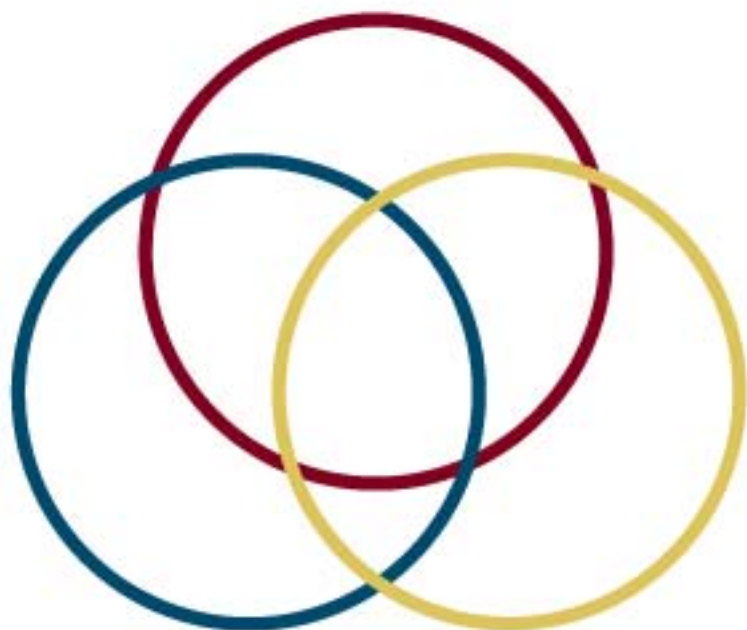


The Birmingham Public Library Annual Report 2005



Connecting People and Information

Barbara C. Sirmans
Director

Irene S. Blalock
Associate Director

Pamela Lyons
Associate Director

Letter from the Director



I am pleased to share with you some of the highlights of the Birmingham Public Library System for this past year, 2005. Before I reflect on our accomplishments, I want to look to our future and introduce a new slogan – “Birmingham Public Library: Connecting People and Information.” We are not replacing our mission statement or our attitude of “Service Excellence.” Simply stated, “Connecting people and information” is what we do.

In order to connect people and information, we need the assistance of every BPL staff member. It does not matter if staff is at Central or in one of the 20 branch locations. We need everyone. To illustrate, I’ll borrow the phrase, “It takes a village,” because this past year, it certainly has taken all of us to accomplish the monumental tasks we achieved.

Barbara C. Sierman
Director

Birmingham Library Board

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Mr. Roderick Royal



Programs & Outreach

Citizens of Birmingham can connect with information throughout the library system. In fact, 2,572 programs, including storytimes, lectures, musical performances, etc., were held for children, adults and teens at our 21 library locations - 354 more than last year.

Summer Reading

- 5,293 students registered for *Funtastic Reading*, the summer reading program for children, and *Readiculous*, the summer reading program for teens



read-iculous

- BPL issued 3,331 summer reading certificates, a 63% completion rate
- 350 programs were presented to an audience of 18,190 young people who read 45,560 books!
- 1,074 children registered at the Library's programs at Birmingham City School's *Reading Rally* at Fair Park

Children's Author Visit

- Children's author Donna Washington hosted 15 story sessions in a single week reaching an audience of 1,206 children



BPL @ Your School



- 3,000 books were placed in 99 classrooms via the new initiative *Birmingham Public Library @ Your School* to support the Alabama Reading Initiative

Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership

- 525 Birmingham City School students participated in the BCAP program at the Central Library's Southern History Department and Archives

Library Card Initiatives

- 134 kindergarten classrooms, 135 first-grade classrooms, 99 sixth-grade classrooms, and 3,257 ninth-grade students in the Birmingham School system received packets of back-to-school materials in the *Off to a Great Start* program



- 15 Birmingham elementary schools enjoyed the *Licensed to Read* program and 978 received new library cards

- 401 new library cards were issued through the *Between the Lions* program for Head Start



- 5 Birmingham high schools enjoyed the *WILD Card* program that netted 364 new library cards



Programs & Outreach continued

Annual Fishing Rodeo

- 2,000 children and parents visited BPL's booth and participated in the book walk

Boo At The Zoo

- 5,000 children and their families participated in the library's activities at the annual *Boo at the Zoo* festival

Read It Forward



- 500 copies of the book "The First Part Last," by Angela Johnson were purchased and freely distributed throughout the City. Teens were invited to read it forward by passing their books on to other teens wherever they traveled. One book traveled as far as Alcalá, Spain. This program concluded with book discussions during Teen Read Week

Parent Support

- 9 emergent literacy workshops were held for parents teaching them how to develop and motivate the reading habits of their young children

Brown Bag Lunches

- BPL hosted 47 lunchtime programs on a variety of topics at the Central Library – with a combined audience of 1,872



Use of Library Resources

- BPL patrons checked out 1,434,350 books, videos, CDs, and works of art
- BPL has 148,644 library card holders, an increase of 2.24% over the previous year
- 1,571 people on average enter the Central Library each day, 47,839 each month, and 574,070 for the year making it the most visited cultural institution in Jefferson County
- The library's free public access computers were used by 671,537 people
- Library meeting rooms were used for 2,482 community meetings

Special Collections

- 1,945 researchers received assistance in the Department of Archives and Manuscripts — a new record and an increase of 3.5% over the previous year
- Researchers in the Archives used 87,788 files, scrapbooks, architectural drawings, photographs, and other historic documents — an increase of 22,990 over the previous year
- Researchers came from 5 different countries and 33 states to use these resources



Respect for the Past, Foundation for the Future A Project in the Southern History Department

To insure proper security and accessibility of all valuable resources, BPL began the task of conducting a complete inventory of the world-renowned collection of the Southern History Department and Rare Book Room. During the past year, the staff has addressed the following issues:

- Reconfigured the department so that books and other materials are shelved in an organized and accessible layout
- Updated the online catalog to match existing holdings
- Cataloged 1308 additional items and bound over 1300 loose periodicals
- Inventoried 1800 pamphlets purchased between 1979 and 1989 and determined approximately half not found in any other library
- With permission from the *Birmingham News* and *Birmingham Post-Herald*, moved forward the project to digitize the library's clipping files dating from the early 20th century. These resources now viewable on the library's web site
- Replaced 2100 reels of severely deteriorated microfilm of local newspapers covering the years 1888-1975
- Spent over \$250,000 to preserve local history and genealogy materials
- Initiated Historical Voices, a new project to capture the oral histories of Birmingham citizens
- Produced a report on this project and presented it to the Birmingham Genealogical Society and other local groups



Self Service Initiative

- Began allowing library patrons to reserve books and other items using the online web catalog
- Reserved items now placed on accessible shelving where patrons may retrieve the requested material at their convenience
- Coin-operated, print-release stations established at Central and the four regional libraries
- Library Book Store now self-service, open the same hours as the library, and allowing payment at the front desk when bookstore volunteers and staff not available
- Initiated self checkout at the Central Library, and at the Five Points West and Springville Road branches



Technology

Today's library depends on tools that would astonish users only a couple of decades ago. Improvements to these resources are ongoing and in the past year included the following:

- Upgraded the computer network operating system using the latest Microsoft Active Directory configuration for better security of staff and public PCs
- Replaced Internet filtering software with the newest generation
- Added SPAM filtering for all incoming staff e-mail
- Installed 167 new PCs throughout the county and installed 21 new PCs in the Regional Library Computer Center bringing the total inventory countywide to 1,022 computers
- Rewired and upgraded network equipment in the Central Library East Building
- Installed wireless access (WiFi hotspots) for the public in the Central library
- Adapted public PCs to allow use of USB flash drives
- Identified and began training 75 Computer Services Liaisons (CSLs) among library staff to assist in keeping hundreds of PCs up, running and available for the public
- Bright House Productions installed free cable connections at all BPL locations for data transmission



Telling The Library's Story

The library makes sure that the citizens of Birmingham know about its resources and services. In 2005, the Public Relations Department designed and developed more than 600 pieces of promotional literature. The library also worked with partners to distribute the information to all the citizens of Birmingham.

Birmingham Public Library Presents

A partnership with Bright House Productions resulted in 48 half-hour programs highlighting library services and local history on Bright House Cable Channel 4

**bright
house**
NETWORKS



Welcome to the Community

Information packets introduced new neighbors in the Park Place development to the library

Welcome to Birmingham

BPL provided literature to the Chamber of Commerce to include in welcome packets for visitors and new businesses to our area

Birmingham Weekly Magazine

Membership in the Downtown Business Association brings opportunities for the library to promote services and resources each week

The Reader

Library programs are advertised throughout the county in the Jefferson County Library Cooperative's quarterly newspaper



Shelter from the Storm

BPL developed a brochure to provide a list of resources to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina

Family Expo

BPL partnered with Birmingham City Schools Family Focus to provide information to every household with school-age children

McWane Center

BPL partnered in a statewide initiative *The Einstein Challenge* – a program and exhibit highlighting the life and works of Albert Einstein

Season's Readings

Produced BPL's 13th edition of Season's Readings



Building & Renovation Projects



Ensley

After a long delay, Ensley's residents now enjoy their newly renovated library



Smithfield

A new 20-space parking lot was completed at the Smithfield Branch, thanks to the City of Birmingham



Central

- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the East Building
- Replaced the roof of the East Building and installed ADA-compliant electric doors at the parking-lot entrance
- Received a facelift for the Automation Department with new carpet, paint and workstations



Five Points West

A new ramp was constructed and the rear parking lot was paved



Building & Renovation Projects *continued*



Springville Road

- Reopened to its patrons with new spaces designed for the Circulation Department, the Youth Department and the Adult Services Department
- Patrons were also pleased with the addition of a computer room where computer classes can be taught



Avondale

Renovation continues with a move scheduled early in 2006



Eastwood

Moved November 2005 from Eastwood Mall to the Shops on Montevallo



West End

Project for a new facility for the West End community is ongoing



Maintenance

- Placed lawn care for all BPL facilities under the Public Works Department – Horticulture Division
- Spent \$8,500.00 to replace broken windowpanes system wide
- Started planning interior renovations to the Wylam Branch thanks to a contribution of more than \$20,000.00 from the Wylam Neighborhood Association
- Replaced the adult services desk and the interior circulation desk at North Birmingham Regional Branch
- Replaced HVAC units at Pratt City, North Avondale and Wylam Branches

Grants, Donations, Gifts & Awards

- Received \$112,000.00 from neighborhoods, organizations and individuals for library programs and renovations
- Central Library named “Top Tourist Attraction” for the City of Birmingham according to the Birmingham Business Journal’s Book of Lists
- Archives Department named a repository for the Library of Congress Veteran’s History Project
- BPL’s Archivist assisting in the development of an online encyclopedia – *Encyclopedia of Alabama*
- Received First Place for the Department of Youth Services *Youth First* initiative; First Place in the Government category for *NCCJ’s Walk As One* campaign; and Third Place for the Department of Youth Services *Feed the Need* campaign
- Staff was recognized for increasing their giving to the United Way by 42.4% over the previous year



Alabama Library Association Convention

Hosted the annual convention of the Alabama Library Association with the highest attendance of any previous convention



The Central Library

The Birmingham Public Library

2100 Park Pl
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-226-3600

*Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.,
Sunday 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.*

24/7 Branch

www.bplonline.org

*24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
365 days a year*

Literacy Branch

Literacy

730 8th Ave West
Birmingham, AL 35204
205-322-6731

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., 1 p.m.- 3 p.m.



Regional Branches

Avondale Library

509 South 40th St
Birmingham, AL 35222
205-226-4000

Five Points West Library

4812 Ave West
Birmingham, AL 35208
205-226-4013

*Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.,
Sunday 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.*

North Birmingham Library

2501 31st Ave North
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-226-4025

Springville Road Library

1224 Old Springville Rd
Birmingham, AL 35215
205-226-4081



Community Branches

East Lake Library

#5 Oporto-Madrid Blvd
Birmingham, AL 35206
205-836-3341

Pratt City Library

1100 Hibernian St
Birmingham, AL 35214
205-798-5071

Southside Library

1814 11th Ave South
Birmingham, AL 35205
205-933-7776

Eastwood Library

4500 Montevallo Rd
Birmingham, AL 35210
205-591-4944

Smithfield Library

#1 8th Ave West
Birmingham, AL 35204
205-324-8428

Titusville Library

#2 6th Ave Southwest
Birmingham, AL 35211
205-322-1140

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday (Eastwood only) - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Neighborhood Branches

East Ensley Library

900 14th St, Ensley
Birmingham, AL 35218
205-787-1928

Slossfield Library

1916 25th Crt North
Birmingham, AL 35234
205-322-1222

Ensley Library

1201 25th St, Ensley
Birmingham, AL 35218
205-785-2625

West End Library

1241 Tuscaloosa Ave Southwest
Birmingham, AL 35211
205-226-4089

Inglenuok Library

4100 40th Ter North
Birmingham, AL 35217
205-849-8739

Woodlawn Library

5709 1st Ave North
Birmingham, AL 35212
205-595-2001

North Avondale Library

501 43rd St North
Birmingham, AL 35222
205-592-2082

Wylam

4300 7th Ave, Wylam
Birmingham, AL 35224
205-785-0439

Hours Vary By Location

Powderly Library

3301 Jefferson Ave Southwest
Birmingham, AL 35221
205-925-6178



In Appreciation

Birmingham Library Board

Past Library Board members:

Alma P. Dennis

Minnie C. Booker

Marie C. Bracy

Friends of the Birmingham Public Library

The Mayor and City Council, City of Birmingham

Our Friends and Partners

Barnes & Noble

Birmingham Adult Education

Birmingham City Schools

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

Birmingham Division of Youth Services

Birmingham Historical Society

Birmingham Jewish Federation

Birmingham Museum of Art

Birmingham Neighborhood Associations

Birmingham Public Television

Birmingham Recreation Centers

Birmingham Sister City Commission

Bluff Park Art Association

Bright House Networks

Chick-Fil-A

Downtown Business Association

Experimental Artists of Alabama

Fox 6

Girls Scouts

Junior League of Birmingham

McWane Center

Operation New Birmingham

Pepper Place Farmer's Market

Pizza Hut

Rally's

Tutwiler Hotel

Watercolor Society of Alabama



And all those who walk
through the library's doors,
visit the web site, and
use our services



Birmingham Public Library

Connecting People and Information

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www.bplonline.org