



Timberland Regional Library

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights of 2006

2006 was a year of many great accomplishments and the development of partnerships. From building a library, to joining with a school and college to provide an innovative new service, to assisting with small business start-ups, Timberland Regional Library met the information needs of an ever increasing number of people in the five-county area.



New Westport Timberland Library

Westport Timberland Library used to be the smallest library in our 27-library system.

Now a fine new library, three times the size of the old one, opened for service on December 5, 2006.

The new library is attracting more people to use library services. In addition, a community room is now available for meetings and the library's public programs. Prior to the new building the 3,500 cardholders in the South Beach area checked out 40,000 items each year and attended about 300 individual computer classes, all in just 950 square feet. The new 2,880 square foot library has the space and equipment to conduct all that business.

The organizing and fundraising work of the Friends of the Library and the Friends' LEAP (*Library Expansion Action Program*) Committee was key to getting the beautiful and spacious new library built. And the support of community groups, businesses, individuals and the library system brought it to completion. The total building cost was \$400,000 and the land was donated by Victor Druzianich.

Chehalis Timberland Library Capital Campaign

New Library to Open in early 2008

The Chehalis Timberland Library has been housed in its current location since 1910. The Library was built with an Andrew Carnegie grant to accommodate a city of 6,000 people. The building needs to be brought up to date to meet the needs of a much larger population.

A fundraising campaign is underway to raise the funds to build a new library. In late 2006, it was announced that former Chehalin Orin Smith had made a major donation and he hopes to encourage others to contribute to a new library in recognition of the value of the library in the lives of people in the Chehalis area.

It is expected that the City of Chehalis will begin construction of the new larger library starting in 2007 and it will open in 2008.

South Bend Library Lift

The South Bend Timberland Library celebrated the library's new lift and entryway making the library accessible to all.

South Bend's historic Carnegie library building was constructed in 1913 with 13 steps leading to the only entrance. The lift, makes it possible for people with mobility challenges to get from the street level into the library.

"The lift opens a lot of doors to a lot of people," said JoAnn Rucker, South Bend's Community Library Supervisor. "Even though we still have the '13 steps to learning' that many Carnegie libraries are known for, people who can't take the stairs any longer don't have to give up easy access to their library."

The project was paid for by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant, a Timberland Regional Library partnership grant, and funds raised by the Friends of the South Bend Timberland Library. The cost totaled \$95,000.



Kiosks Serve Library Patrons in Rochester and Hawks Prairie

In 2006, Timberland Library provided a new innovative library service at the Rochester Community Center and at South Puget Sound Community College's

Hawks Prairie Center. Equipped with two computer stations, library kiosks provide information services and convenient new locations for people to pick up and drop off Timberland library books, movies, CDs and other library materials. Each of the in-house designed kiosks cost less than \$5,000.

TRL cardholders can use the computers at the kiosks to search the catalog and reserve materials. They can also contact reference librarians to ask reference questions.

One kiosk is located at the Rochester Community Center, 10140 Hwy 12 SW, Rochester. It is a partnership of Timberland Regional Library, the Rochester Weed & Seed community program, and the Rochester School District. The kiosk is staffed by volunteers and is open a limited number of hours per week.

The kiosk at the Hawks Prairie Center serves both students and residents in the Hawks Prairie area of north Thurston County. The Center is located at 1401 Marvin Rd. NE, Suite 201, Lacey, in the Hawks Prairie Village Mall. The kiosk is open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with limited hours during college vacation periods.

Timberland Reads Together *The Highest Tide*

In 2006, the district hosted its second district-wide Timberland Reads Together, featuring one of western Washington's own bestselling writers, Jim Lynch, and his novel, *The Highest Tide*. Over 600 people flocked to five events to hear Lynch read from and discuss his luminous novel about a teenage boy growing up on Puget Sound.



Reading the same book as the rest of the community is a powerful experience. Timberland Reads Together programs are satisfying an expressed wish for literary-based community discussions with depth and for presentations designed around ideas and issues that matter.

Electronic Newsletters

Timberland Regional Library has a new free service—newsletters about books, writers and the library, sent to subscribers by email. Newsletters include summaries and reviews of fiction and nonfiction books in various categories as well as audio books, author interviews and more. There are 27 newsletters; and people can subscribe to as many as they like.

The e-newsletters not only provide a convenient way to find out about new books, but most titles reviewed include links to the library's catalog. There, cardholders can reserve a library copy of the book and have it sent to their local Timberland library for pickup.

Downloadable Audio

Library cardholders can now download audio books from the library's Web site and listen to them on their home Windows PC computers or portable audio devices.



A wide range of fiction and nonfiction is available. To use the service people must download free software provided on the library's Web site at www.trlib.org. The software does not support all devices. Audio books can be downloaded to a home PC or transferred to a portable audio device. Some titles can be burned to CDs.

Family Read Aloud Month

In March, the Timberland Regional Library Family Read-Aloud Month initiative encouraged family reading fun and early literacy. In partnership with the South Sound, Twin Harbors and Lewis County Reading Foundations, Timberland encouraged family members to read aloud with their children every day, in every room of their homes.



According to parents and kids who participated, reading together in unusual areas in the house and at different times of the day was a huge part of the fun.

"Decades of research show that young children who are read to daily will perform better in school— in all areas of learning. Reading

together nurtures family relationships and sends children a strong positive message about the value of reading," said Ellen Duffy, TRL Youth Services Coordinator.



New Board Members

The seven-member Timberland Regional Library Board of



Trustees is appointed by the commissioners of Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason and Pacific counties, with a trustee from each county and two additional trustees filling at-large positions. The Board makes policy decisions and provides direction for the five-county library system. Three new Trustees were appointed in 2006.

Peggy Johnson

The Mason County Commissioners appointed Peggy Johnson of Shelton to the Timberland Regional Library Board of Trustees in April 2006. Her term continues through December 2010. During her three terms as State Representative for the 35th Legislative District in the 1990s, Johnson served as a member and then as chair of the House Education Committee. She was the prime sponsor of the resolution that launched the State's Year of the Reader in 1997. A substitute teacher for over 20 years, she currently works and manages a family farm with her husband.

Bob Hall

The Pacific County Commissioners appointed Bob Hall of South Bend to the Timberland Regional Library Board of Trustees in May 2006. His term continues through December 2007. A graduate of the University of Washington, Mr. Hall taught at South Bend Elementary for 34 years. He also served on the South Bend City Council for 24 years beginning in 1981. He is active on the administrative board of North Pacific County Emergency Medical Services, an ambulance service.

Judy Weaver

The Thurston County Commissioners appointed Judy Weaver of Rochester to the Timberland Regional Library Board of Trustees in March 2006. Ms Weaver has 32 years experience in the banking and real estate industries. She is co-owner and manager of Dream Weavers, Inc., a family real estate business.

2006 Statistics

- ▶ Library cardholders: 352,032
- ▶ Timberland Library Cards can be used at over 200 libraries in the State of Washington.
- ▶ Visitors to Timberland libraries: 2,738,589
- ▶ Computer use in the 27 libraries: 217,765 hours
- ▶ People accessed the TRL web page 2,972,905 times.
- ▶ Online reference database sessions: 256,015
- ▶ Reference questions answered: 479,358
- ▶ In-person and online library visits: 5,165,862

Circulation

- ▶ Cardholders borrowed 4,636,311 items.

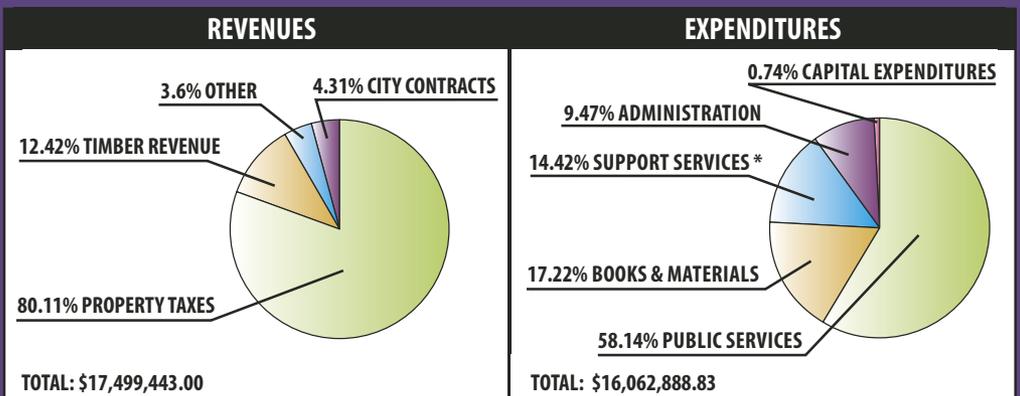
Collection

- ▶ Timberland added 203,481 books, magazines, DVDs, talking books, music CDs and more for a total of 1,600,875 items.
- ▶ Withdrawn from the collection: 150,269 items.

Programs and Attendance

- ▶ 1,775 programs for children, with 43,791 children in attendance.
- ▶ 1,103 programs for adults and families with 21,106 participants.
- ▶ 198 programs for young adults with 2,028 attendees.

Revenues and Expenditures



* Includes selecting and buying books, getting them ready for lending, delivering holds to patrons' libraries, borrowing from other library systems, and mending.

Libraries Change Lives



Olympia

For the past three years, Olympia staff have been offering marketing/business

reference orientation to groups of students from Enterprise for Equity, a nonprofit organization that helps low income people start their own businesses. Staff provide comprehensive library and research oriented resources for the participants.

Many of the people have never been in the library or used many of the standard research tools available in public libraries. The emerging entrepreneurs learn vital information about their business environment, their customers, their competition, important statistics about their market and much more.



Tenino

The staff of Tenino Library received a big thank you from a very proud mother. Her son, a local high school

senior and regular library user, received full tuition and housing costs along with paid summer abroad studies for four years due to his grades and SAT scores.

This young man checked out nearly every SAT book in the TRL catalog. Library staff also introduced him to TRL's LearnATest database to help him focus his studies. He felt that using the practice tests and getting books from other libraries really improved his score.



North Mason

A patron who lives out of town and only has dial up Internet access, made it a point to let staff know what

a "great thing" TRL's Wireless Internet Access is for him and his family. He said, "This has been great to be able to come to the library and download programs like National Public Radio broadcasts and others that the family can then listen to later."



Hoquiam

Library staff helped a fellow with some vehicle repair questions, looking

in Chilton manuals and showing him TRL's Auto Repair database. Another patron, who was checking out materials, piped up with how great the Auto Repair database is and how you can use it from home. The original patron, hearing this, decided it was worth getting a library card in order to have future access at his fingertips.

Data & Dessert Night at the High School

Capital High School in Olympia hosted a unique collaboration between local school and public librarians. Librarians from Olympia Timberland Library, Jefferson and Marshall Middle Schools and Griffin School District came together to promote library literacy to entering 9th graders at Capital High School.

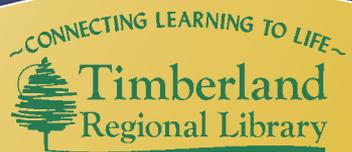
The students and parents were sent on a scavenger hunt in the school library that would introduce them to the databases and services offered on the Capital High School web site and the Timberland Regional Library web site. After finishing with the "data," they gathered for the "dessert!" A fun and informative evening for all.

Timberland Mission Statement

Timberland Regional Library provides information, resources, services and places where all people are free to read, learn, connect and grow.

Timberland Vision Statement

For every reader, the best book
For every question, the best answer
For every need, the best resource
For every encounter, the best experience
For every library dollar, the best value
For every person, a place to belong





Message from the Director of Timberland Regional Library

Jodi Reng

Libraries are all about learning. Here at Timberland, we are working to develop partnerships with other organizations in our five-county District, to enhance learning opportunities for all ages. These partnerships enable the Library to bring library services to more individuals and organizations and to make a difference in their lives.

These are a few examples of partnerships built by Timberland Library staff this past year:

In Aberdeen, we helped to develop the Everybody Reads Partnership. Its goal is to find ways to give every child in kindergarten through grade three a book of their own. The library hosts events and shares information on the importance of reading to early learning. The Everybody Reads Partnership consists of the Aberdeen School District, Twin Harbors Reading Foundation, Timberland Regional Library and the Friends of the Aberdeen Timberland Library.

Our Timberland Reads Together project gives us the opportunity to partner with bookstores, colleges, news media outlets, and theatrical performance groups and venues to deepen the understanding of the book.

Our new Library Kiosks were established with community partners to provide some library service in areas where a library building would not be fiscally possible.

These joint ventures enable the partners to share their expertise to develop cost effective solutions and stretch shrinking resources. By working together we can do so much more.

Message from the President of the Timberland Board of Trustees

John Braun



Timberland libraries are places of opportunity, self-help and life-long learning where we can find what we need for our health, school, job and families.

As President of the Library's governing board, which makes policy decisions and sets the budget for the Library District, we are pleased to provide excellent library services to a population of almost half a million people living in an area of nearly 7,000 square miles. The library district serves both urban and rural residents with the same high quality service.

The benefits of a multi-library district include shared reference services and centralized ordering and cataloging of all books and materials. These items are shared among the 27 libraries and are available upon request to any cardholder.

As taxpayers like yourselves, the Board is ever mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of your tax dollars.

As Timberland Board members, we encourage you to attend our Board meetings to share your ideas and opinions on Timberland services. The Board's regular meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call (360)704-4636 or 1-800 562-6022 to confirm the date and location. The meeting locations are rotated to libraries throughout the five-county Timberland Regional Library District.



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www.trlib.org