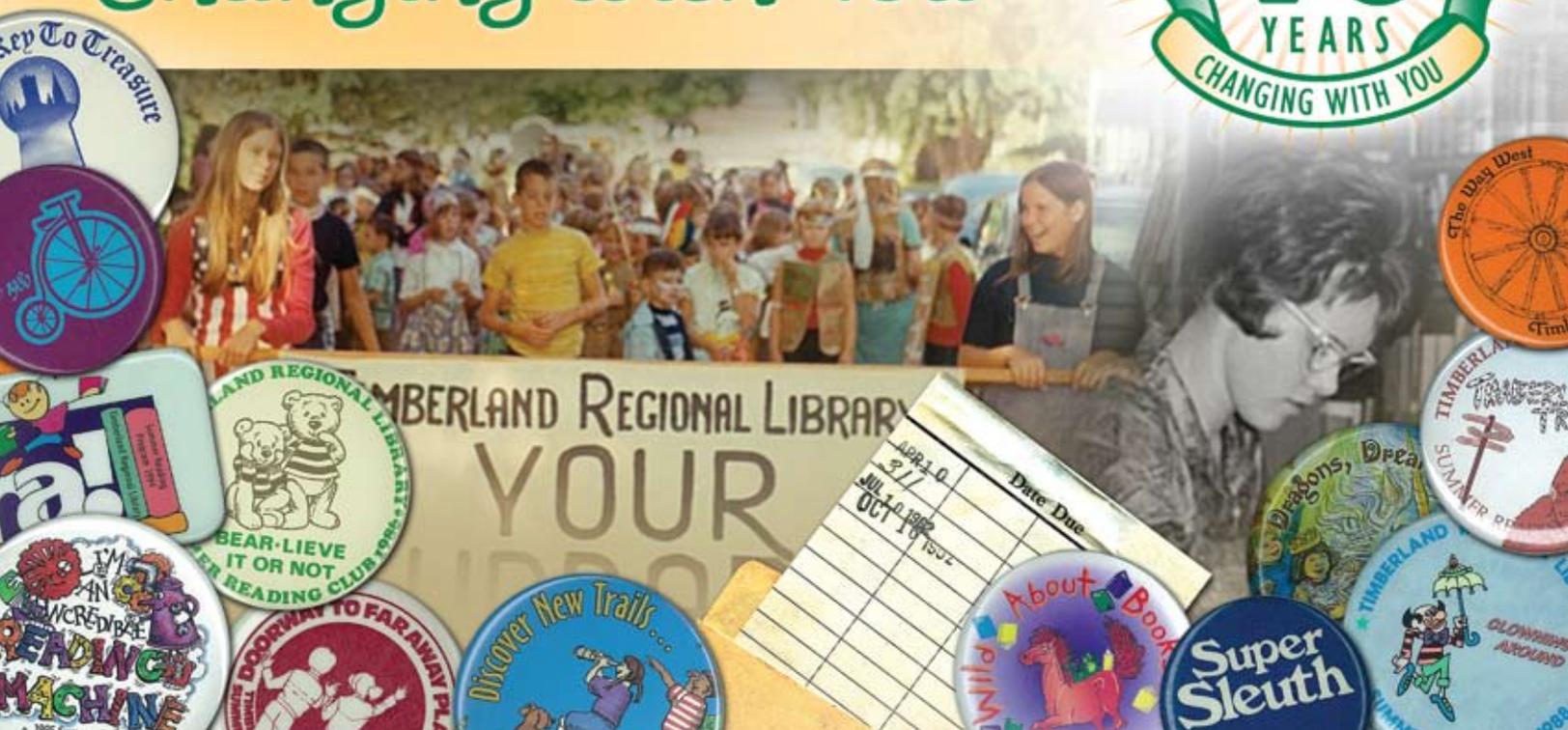




2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY:
Changing with You



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Changing With You! The Timberland Regional Library (TRL) has focused on you and your changing needs these past 40 years.

Like you, the public library continues to change. New technology allows for more convenient services. New programs for all ages are developed to meet the needs of each community, and libraries are moved or remodeled to enhance patron access and usage.

Timberland communities saw dramatic changes in 2008. Wonderful change occurred in Chehalis in October as residents celebrated the grand opening of the new Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library. The new Carnegie-inspired library was built primarily from donations by current and former Chehalis residents. The new library features dramatic architecture, unique landscape elements and a comfortable place for patrons to read a book, ask a question, do their homework or even pick up items on hold from the new drive-through window.

Other positive changes included Power Search, a quick and easy search tool that combines multiple databases in a single search. TRL also increased our collection of downloadable audio books and added downloadable music and video.

Like you, and most individuals and organizations, TRL struggled with the current challenging economic conditions. With limits on revenues from property taxes, and timber harvests at historic lows, the library district needed to reduce expenses to lessen an expected budget shortfall. Several cost-cutting decisions were made, including instituting a hiring freeze, eliminating Sunday hours and reducing the budget for the purchase of materials.

The presence of a library in your town makes it a better place to live. From programs for all ages to providing the information you need to achieve your goals, TRL is not only part of your community, we are part of you. Stop in at your local Timberland library and see how we are changing to serve you better.



JODI RENG

*Executive Director
Timberland Regional Library*

In 2008 Timberland libraries experienced:

- ▶ **Increased library visitors**
- ▶ **More library cardholders**
- ▶ **Increased website visits**
- ▶ **More computer sessions**
- ▶ **Additional volunteers**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Timberland Regional Library has a long history of delivering world-class library services to the people in the five counties we serve. My role as President of the TRL Board of Trustees is to lead fellow trustees in making critical decisions that impact library services that thousands rely upon every day. Your trustees work together to be fiscally responsible, protecting the investment taxpayers have made in library services.

My commitment to you as a trustee on the Board is to make decisions that use our public funds wisely so every patron receives the best value possible. We all benefit by focusing on supporting libraries that enhance people's lives and make communities stronger.

We appreciate the work of the TRL Foundation and the ongoing efforts that Friends of the Library groups make by donating thousands of hours each year to make their library and community a better place.

Please consider attending an upcoming Board Meeting and share your ideas and opinions about Timberland services. The Board's regular meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month. Call (360) 704-4636 or 1-800-562-6022 to confirm the date, time and location. To give every resident in our five counties an opportunity to be heard, we rotate meetings among our libraries each month.



JUDY WEAVER

*President, Board of Trustees
Timberland Regional Library*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Front row (left to right):

Dick Nichols - Thurston County

Edna Fund - Lewis County

Bob Hall - Pacific County

Back row (left to right):

Stephen Hardy - Mason County

Jo-Ann Andrews - Grays Harbor County

John Braun - Lewis County

Judy Weaver - Thurston County



YOUR TIMBERLAND LIBRARY: *Changing with You*

NEW: POWER SEARCH SAVES TIME, GIVES BETTER RESULTS

Power Search, a new search tool for the Timberland Regional Library online Reference Databases at www.TRL.org, finds information in multiple resources as well as the library catalog with a single search. Power Search makes finding complete information in the databases much faster and easier. Search results are categorized and can be e-mailed or saved.

Regularly checked for accuracy and updated, TRL Reference Databases provide full-text articles, standard reference information, car manuals, practice school and career tests, and a variety of business, school and personal interest information.

NEW: A GUIDE TO REACHING YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

Materials that help people make sound financial decisions are available at all Timberland libraries in print and CD formats and on the TRL website. Seventy-five clear and concise modules comprise a complete course on making people's money work for them, their families, and their future. The initiative continues in 2009 with

Your Money

A Guide To Reaching Your Financial Goals

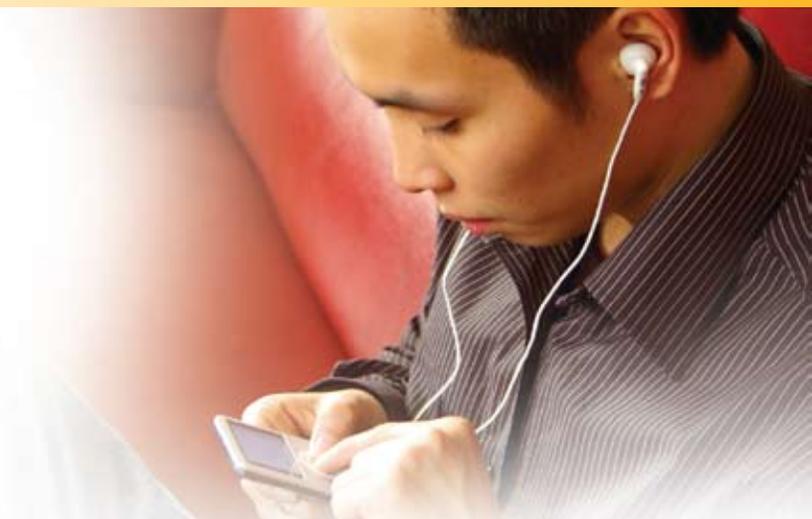
the development of video and information targeting young people just entering the workforce. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) is funding this two-year financial consumer education initiative.

NEW: DOWNLOADABLE MOVIES AND MUSIC

In December 2008 Timberland added videos and music to its popular catalog of audiobooks that people can download for free to their Windows-compatible computers and portable digital devices. Also, some audiobook titles became available in MP3 format, which is compatible with popular iPods and iPhones. The "TRL Download Collection," is accessed at the library system's website.

NEW: EARLY LEARNING PROJECTS

A series of ten new early learning library programs for families with children ages 3 to 8 was introduced in the fall. With a grant from Target, TRL staff developed literature-based Math Play, Science Play and Nature Play programs. Each includes quality picture books and hands-on activities and experiments. Pleased with the results, Target awarded TRL another grant to develop Block Play programs. Research shows that when parents and young children build structures together, children develop cognitive, literacy, math, science and social skills.





2008 INITIATIVES



Timberland Reads Together:
Ursula K. Le Guin's "A Wizard of Earthsea"
Timberland Regional Library's fourth one-book-one-community program, Timberland Reads Together (TRT), provided the public in all five counties opportunities to read and discuss Ursula K. Le Guin's fantasy novel, *A Wizard of Earthsea*. At two rare public

appearances, the legendary author read from her novel, responded to questions and signed books.

Further enriching the reading experience, Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre gave four performances of its original adaptation of the novel, created especially for TRT. The National Endowment for the Arts provided major support with a \$20,000 grant.

ADULT WINTER READING WARMS UP WINTER

Each winter adults are invited to read and turn in lists of completed titles along with their comments. In 2008, 1,180 participants read 15,515 books and audiobooks. Prize winners drew getaways to Washington resorts or baskets full of books and other treats for readers and dozens of other prizes from "literary lattes" to gift certificates. Businesses and Friends of the Library groups donated all prizes.

FAMILY READ-ALoud

The growing success of this initiative is reflected in the 32.4% increase in participation from 2007 to 2008, when 1,624 families and classrooms with 6,061 children, joined in the delight and general wackiness of reading aloud together in every room, nook, cranny and corner of their homes, classrooms and daycares, all for the purpose of connecting reading with fun. The greatest immediate result is the positive message it sends about reading. The longer term result is children entering school better prepared to learn to read.

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Once again, Timberland Youth Services librarians planned a summer Reading Program that children will remember with delight for many years. In 2008, 33,380 children and teens along with parents and other caregivers read and participated in programs designed to help children "Catch the Reading Bug" and teens to grow and experience "Metamorphosis." Good fun accompanied program goals of language development and a love of reading.



BUILDING PROJECTS DELIVER MODERN PUBLIC LIBRARIES



CHEHALIS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW LIBRARY

The magnificent new public library that donations built, the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, celebrated its grand opening with the sun beaming, the fountain splashing and music playing as hundreds of delighted Chehalins welcomed the new library into their community on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

The new Carnegie-inspired library is a fully ADA compliant building featuring 9,000 square feet of space, a large community room, a cozy electric heat fireplace with comfortable seating, the state's first drive-through library window with two drive-up book drops, study rooms, inviting areas for kids, teens and adults and plenty of computer stations for all ages.

The new library, called the cornerstone of Chehalis and a symbol of community revitalization, is named the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library in honor of the mother of former Chehalis resident, Orin Smith, the new library's chief donor and retired CEO of Starbucks. Smith donated \$1 million to launch the project.

OLYMPIA INTRODUCES REMODELED LIBRARY

A major interior remodel was completed at the Olympia Timberland Library in the fall of 2008. After two months of being closed (except the meeting room, which was open to pickup items put on hold), the library re-opened to the public on Monday, December 15 with a progressive and more functional design.

The City of Olympia, owners of the building, replaced the carpet as part of the facility's scheduled maintenance, while the rest of the remodel was funded primarily from the interest on bequests left to the library along with private donations.

The remodeled library features new carpet and fresh paint, beautiful new service desks and new furniture in the bright and welcoming central atrium. The updated layout of space has helped to improve the flow of traffic. Olympians' beloved otter sculpture is now in the atrium, below the pyramidal skylights, where people can relax under a burst of sunshine.

ILWACO TIMBERLAND LIBRARY RECEIVES COMPLETE RENOVATION

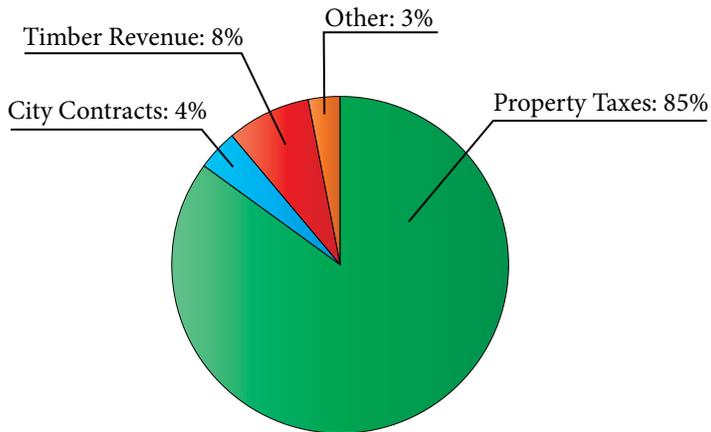
The Ilwaco Community Building, which the library shares with PACE (Pacific Aging Council Endeavors), was in the midst of a complete renovation in 2008. Site preparation and utility work were followed by construction concluding in the spring of 2009.

Ilwaco's renovated library will feature nearly 1,000 square feet of additional space for computers, new materials, more electrical outlets and wifi access for laptops along with upgraded heating, lighting, windows, paint and carpet. Restrooms will be fully ADA accessible and the library will share a large meeting room. The library will also display a mural in the children's area by renowned muralist Dorothy Danielson.

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

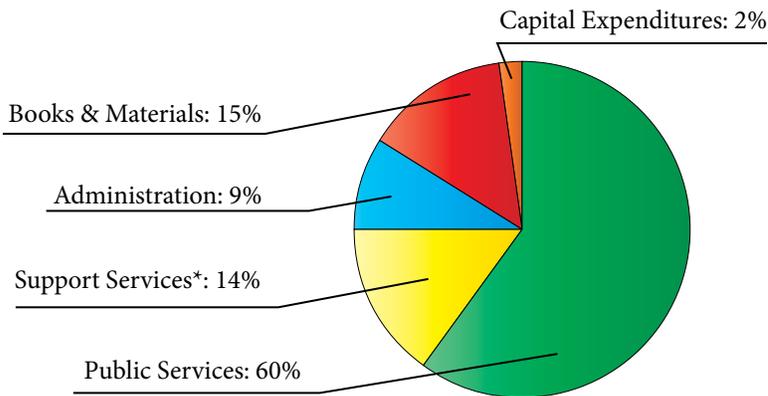
2008 STATISTICS

REVENUES



Total: \$18,136,159.47

EXPENDITURES



Total: \$19,477,325.58

Withdrawn from Cash Reserves in 2008 to balance the budget -
\$1,341,166.11

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

Library cardholders: 318,964

Visitors to Timberland libraries: 2,734,419

Computer use in Timberland libraries: 700,297 sessions

Visitors accessing the TRL webpage: 6,404,888

Online reference database sessions: 185,344

Reference questions answered: 524,426

CIRCULATION

Cardholders borrowed 4,841,244 items.

COLLECTION

Timberland added 183,288 books, magazines, DVDs, talking books, music CDs and more for a total of 1,620,837 items.

Withdrawn from the collection: 186,288 items.

PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE

Children and family programs:
2,623 with 54,258 in attendance.

Adult programs:
439 with 3,566 attendees.

Young adult programs:
1,259 with 13,113 participants.

VOLUNTEERS:

Timberland received incredible volunteer support as 2,314 volunteers gave more than 15,591 hours of their time toward making library services better. Thank you, volunteers, for your dedication and commitment.

Mission Statement

Timberland Regional Library provides
Information, Resources, Services, and Places

Where all people are free to
Read, Learn, Connect, and Grow

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