Timberland Regional Library:
Making Connections, Transforming Lives

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The early learning program, “Family Read and Sing Aloud,” reached more children and families than the previous year. This program encouraged families to read and sing together in every room of their home.

OLYMPIA GARDEN TOOK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO A NEW HIGH
Olympia Timberland Library teamed up with Garden Raised Urban Bounty (GRuB) to build three raised garden beds. The Friends of the Olympia Timberland Library provided funds for the project and first-year harvests were bountiful. Library staff agreed the project met year-one goals by:
- Building sustainable relationships with several local organizations
- Providing food to Thurston County Food Bank
- Raising awareness about the Urban Farm Movement
- Providing a teaching garden for six educational programs

ADULT WINTER READING CONTEST
The Adult Winter Reading contest kicked off 2015, building excitement for reading and offering prizes that included overnight getaways and gift bags filled with reading materials and specialty food items. A total of 1,389 people submitted 3,265 entries into the contest, amounting to 16,325 books read between January 1 and March 14.

TIMBERLAND READS TOGETHER (TRT): ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY
The 2015 TRT book selection was “Timberland Writes Together” an anthology of short fiction by authors from the TRL region. The book was published by TRL expressly for this program. Nearly 200 local writers submitted their stories, of which 15 were selected for the publication, along with cover art created by a resident from Thurston County. S97 people attended 61 events held around the library district this past October. These events included book discussions, writing and publishing workshops, and a visit by Washington’s Poet Laureate Elizabeth Austen.
The past year saw many physical improvements to our community spaces. Here are the highlights:

- The City of Hoquiam received a $704,666 Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to renovate the historic Carnegie Hoquiam Timberland Library. Repairs will be made to the roof, flooring, elevator shaft, heat and lighting systems, sidewalks, parking garage, doors and windows.
- The McCreary, Montesano and Yelm Timberland Libraries received new carpeting.
- The Tumwater Timberland Library received improvements to the lighting and the electrical system.
- The Olympia Timberland Library replaced the dated carpet with new carpeting, along with new windows, doors, and a new rain screen.
- The Tumwater Timberland Library received improvements to the lighting and the electrical system.
- The Olympia Timberland Library unveiled a new exterior sign, custom made by local artist Ira Coyne.
- The Oakville Timberland Library replaced the dated carpet with new carpeting, along with new windows, doors, and a new rain screen.

**COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Items checked out: 3,909,715
- Downloads of music, videos and books: 1,136,287 (312,675 in 2014)
- Print items purchased and cataloged: 92,655
- Interlibrary loan (allowing patrons to borrow from US and Canadian libraries) 686 (19,763 requests in 2015 (18,743 in 2014)

TRL has Washington State's second highest number of users of the Microsoft IT Academy, a suite of online, technology learning programs. Library staff members, therefore, were delighted when the Washington State Legislature voted to continue funding these programs. Recently renamed the "Microsoft Imagine Academy," the programs provide instruction in more than 20 languages in basic computer use, MS Office, and advanced technology training for IT professionals.

**TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Internet speed throughout the district was upgraded to better support streaming services and an increasing number of wireless users.
- All libraries received projectors and televisions, installed for easy use.
- Online library card registration became available.
- The OverDrive download collection was integrated with the library catalog, resulting in better, faster service.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

TRL added three more social media sites to reach and communicate with people across our diverse communities. They included:

- Linked In
- Instagram
- Teen Instagram

In Old English, the word "welcom" means a guest who's arrival is pleasing. Everyone who visits a Timberland library is a welcome. It's that sense of hospitality that inspires library employees to call their buildings "community living rooms," a term that testifies to the welcoming spirit of public libraries.

After the warm welcome comes the service. Patrons' needs become our assignments: early learning programs for a child, vital services for a family in need, materials for a work or school project, resume writing help, the perfect vacation book. Skilled and dedicated library staffers take every patron's needs personally, creating personal and professional connections.

Timberland libraries transform lives. We've learned this from hundreds of service stories, testimonials and photos we receive along with the results of surveys conducted throughout the year.

As an example, in 2015, for the second consecutive year, TRL participated in the Library Impact Survey, a product of the University of Washington's Information School. This survey evaluates how Timberland library patrons use and value technology resources TRL provides through its libraries and website. With 2,567 people responding, the findings indicated that libraries change lives in positive ways.

**LEADERSHIP NOTES: HOW LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES**

- A new partnership between TRL and Grays Harbor Transit allows for the sale of bus passes in the county’s eight libraries. This convenient option boosts the points of purchase from only 3 sites to 11 across the county.
- In November, Raymond city residents voted by a 79% majority to annex three existing library services to TRL. Prior to that vote, the City of Raymond, which owns the library building, paid for library services through its city budget. Beginning in 2017, taxpayers agreed to pay for library services through their property taxes.
- Library hosted Business Forums attracted entrepreneurs as well as local business people in Lacey, Raymond, Aberdeen and Ocean Park. The two-hour programs highlighted library resources to help business people, community planners and researchers do their work more easily and profitably. A video of the forum in Lacey is now on TRL’s YouTube channel.
- Library staff supported job seekers through a partnership with county WorkSource offices, helping people learn about the many tools and services available online and at Timberland libraries.
- Library staff partnered with Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) and state agencies to help transitioning service men and women prepare for civilian life. Monthly “Boots to Business” workshops taught military job seekers how to retrain for non-military jobs.

**PROMOTING MONEY-SAVING SERVICES**

TRL created its first video to promote several money-saving entertainment services available to card holders: online magazine subscriptions, streaming and downloadable movies, television shows and music. The result can be seen on TRL’s YouTube channel. This opportunity was provided free of charge by Thurston Community Television (TCV).

**PARTNERING TO SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT**

- The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) awarded TRL the Employment Pipeline Award for participation in Customer Service Boot Camps that provided 204 people with job-related library resources.
- TRL Director Cheryl Haywood was appointed to the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council Board. With this position comes responsibilities and decision-making powers that will contribute to a stronger employment environment in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, Mason and Thurston counties.

**ECONOMIES**

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- 94% found library technology very helpful
- 112 of those responding used library technology resources to apply for jobs; 66 were granted interviews and 38 were hired
- 147 respondents learned about exercise/fitness; of those, 122 made a change to their exercise habits.

These results represent a fraction of the positive connections made each year with people and our communities. Thanks to everyone who turned to a Timberland library to find answers, entertainment and connections.

From TRL and the Board of Trustees, thank you for another wonderful year!
Timberland libraries provide their communities free and open access to print publications of every kind and digital learning, creativity and innovation through technology based classes, databases and networks, along with thousands of downloadable books, magazines, music and video.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS
- Items checked out: 139,037
- Downloads of music, videos and books: 1,116,287 (312,073 in 2014)
- Print items purchased and catalogued: 35,049
- Physical audiovisual items purchased and catalogued: 30,243
- Internet speed throughout the district was upgraded to better support streaming services and an increasing number of wireless users
- All libraries received projectors and televisions, installed for easy use
- Online library card registration became available
- The OverDrive download collection was integrated with the library catalog, resulting in better, faster service
- The City of Hoquiam received a $754,661 Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to renovate the historic (Carnegie) Hoquiam Timberland Library. Repairs will be made to the roof, flooring, elevator shaft, heat and lighting systems, sidewalks, parking garage, doors and windows.
- The McGivy, Montaine and Yam Timberland Libraries received new carpeting.
- The Turnerwood Timberland Library received improvements to the lighting and the electrical system
- TRL added three more social media sites to reach and communicate with people across our diverse communities. They included
  - LinkedIn
  - Instagram
  - Teen Instagram

There is only one place in any community that freely welcomes absolutely everyone. There is only one place dedicated to meeting the needs of every person who comes through the doors. Schools teach. Social services help. Theaters entertain. Clubs provide a sense of hospitality that inspires library employees to call their buildings “community living rooms,” a term that testifies to the welcoming spirit of public libraries.

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LIBRARY MISSION
Timberland Regional Library invites discovery and interaction with our vibrant collection, services and programs for learning, enrichment, and enjoyment for people of all ages in our diverse communities.

LIBRARY VISION
For those who seek – a connection
For those who question – a dialog
For those who create – a palette
For those who seek – a connection
For all – a place to belong

2015 ALL LIBRARIES:

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Support Community Engagement Through Culture, History and the Arts

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