

REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FY14 was another active year for The Wellesley Free Library (WFL) as it continued to provide superior library services and strengthen its role as Wellesley's community gathering place and cultural destination for our citizens. Circulation and usage at both the main and branch libraries has continued to increase. Attendance at free programs and classes has been strong, and meeting/program space at the main library continues in high demand. In the face of an increasingly tight budget, the efforts of our supporting organizations and the dedication of the library staff allows the WFL to continue to set and meet high goals for standards of service to the residents of Wellesley.

Budgeting

The Library Trustees begin the budget process every year by an examination of the needs of the community based on statistics and other collected information available to them. The use of RFID technology has allowed the Library to continue to serve patrons well even though the budget for the Library has remained relatively flat in the past few years. Would you say something about RFID allowing staff to be redeployed into areas of need as an example? It seems a little random without something more

Sources of Funding

The Wellesley Free Library received roughly 80% of its funding from the Town with the remainder coming from supporting organizations and grants. The Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries continues to fund almost all of the programs at the Library and the museum pass program. The Centennial Fund supports the purchase of materials that enhance the collection of the Library. This includes specialized databases, eBooks, and downloadable audio books. The Wellesley Free Library Foundation has a broader mission, supporting general enhancements to WFL offerings that enable the WFL to continue to meet community expectations, such as the ESL classes, technology enhancements/programs and the operations of the Branch libraries. In FY14, the Foundation began funding the WFL's computer training facility, providing \$50K for new Apple equipment (through a grant from the Wellesley Media Corporation) and funding of our technology classes.

Facilities

The Branch Library Chimney Wall renovation project was completed in May, 2014 and was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting at Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend. FY14 also saw the completion of space at the Main Library into a dedicated High School Room. Formerly known as the Local History Room, the High School Room is now outfitted specifically for the study needs of Wellesley's teens and is reserved after school and during exam periods for their use.

Serving the Public

There are 65 full and part-time employees working to serve the public at the Wellesley Free Library. In FY14, we successfully concluded union negotiations resulting in a staff contract through FY16. This new contract includes provisions for our part-time, staff with regular hours. The Libraries expert staff was assisted in

FY14 by 230 volunteers who donated 12,405 hours to shelve books, teach in our ESL program and do other important support activities.

Library Usage in FY14

Total Main Library circulation once again increased in FY14 to 758,179, a 2% over the previous year. These circulation statistics only describe one piece of the picture in measuring library use. Other statistics of interest for FY14 are:

- 403,890 visits to the Main Library
- 96,876 reference questions answered by phone, email, and through the website
- 2,003 children attended 562 children's programs
- 7,040 people attended 608 general interest programs and computer classes
- 713,827 visits were made to the Library' website
www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org
- 17,809 Wellesley residents with library cards.

The Library's Collection

In FY14 total library holdings are as follows:

- 225,318 books
- 20,334 eBooks
- 20,334 audio cassettes and CDs
- 20,942 DVDs

The library also offers access to 6,327 audio titles in a downloadable format from the website, 271 magazines and 56 databases.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann-Mara Lanza
Board of Library Trustees