

## RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY

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The Ralph Ellison Library is located in one of Oklahoma's historically Black neighborhoods. The library serves as a community center for an economically depressed, but culturally vibrant neighborhood. Customers rely on the library to find basic information about voting, taxes, tutoring, government assistance, and a variety of other fundamental needs. In addition, the library serves a dynamic population of motivated young adults, college students, business people, authors, and community leaders. Our collection and programs are geared to meet the needs of all age groups, including, children, teens, adults, and elders. Our Black History Collection highlights the achievements of Black Americans in politics, business, social activism, literature, and the arts, and also provides a rich history of the Black struggle in America from slavery to present.



### Ralph Ellison Library

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**Metropolitan  
Library  
System**

## RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY

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### 2013-2014 Service Plan



Once you learn to read, you will be forever free—**Frederick Douglass**

**YOUR INVITING, INNOVATIVE  
LINK TO THE WORLD**

405-424-1437

# Our Focus

**Goal:** Residents see their library as a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interests.

## Executive Summary:



The Ralph Ellison Library Service Plan is designed to meet the Metropolitan Library System's Strategic Plan objectives. Our focus for this service plan is to ensure that "Residents see their library as a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interests." In order to meet these objectives, we pledge to put our customer's needs and interests first. In the following pages, the reader will discover our means for accomplishing this goal. As part of the Metropolitan Library System and its mission for Oklahoma City, the Ralph Ellison Library values its customers and community, and strives to provide excellent and unforgettable service.

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## Community Profile

### >A History of Activism

Northeast Oklahoma City is a historically Black neighborhood with a rich history of political and social activism. Trailblazers like Roscoe Dunjee helped pave the way for Black Americans in Oklahoma by fighting against racial segregation in the early part of the twentieth century. He was also the founder of the Black Dispatch, the Oklahoma City chapter of the NAACP, and served as president of the National Negro Business League. The historic Deep Deuce community served as a center for Black culture and commerce in the 1930's and 40's, though much of the area was bulldozed in the 1960's to make way for I-235. Community activism continued into the Civil Rights era, with leaders such as Clara Luper, E. Melvin Porter and Hannah Atkins. Groups like the NAACP, Urban League and Black Muslims remain active in the community to this day.

## Library Profile

### >Librarian Assistance

Three full time librarians assist customers in



solving both routine and complex reference questions. They plan and implement dynamic programs for all



ages. They also assist in maintaining a collection of resources relevant to the community we serve.

### >Library Services

In addition to providing reference assistance, the library also offers online computer services, meeting rooms for public use, tours and instruction in use of library resources, children's play area, a public copy machine, a Job Information Center, Black History and Urban Fiction Special Collections, and

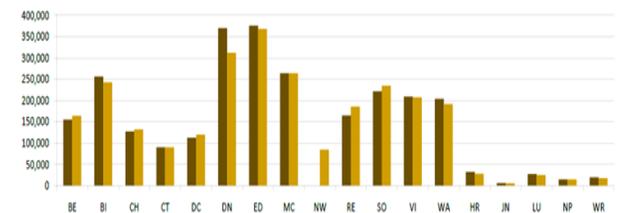
## Library Visits Report

September 20, 2012

### System Summary

#### Visits by Library

■ September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011 ■ September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012



#### Visits by Month

■ September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011 ■ September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012

# Our Focus

## >Computer Services

The library provides four “CyberMars” computers offering access to the library catalog and borrower services, twenty-four multi-use computers offering Internet access and Microsoft Office software; four children’s computers with educational programs and games; free Wireless Internet access, 24/7 library services via [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org) and one-on-one computer classes with a computer specialist.

## Partnerships

Local Storytellers

AARP

OUHSC

Special Friends of the Ralph Ellison

Local churches

Boy Scouts of America

Perry Publishing & Broadcasting

OK Marriage Initiative

Adult Learning Center

OKC/County Health Department

University of Central Oklahoma

Langston University

Sooner Fitness

MetroTech

OK Historical Society

VITA

Black Lawyers Association

Sisters in Motion

Oklahoma Black Author Association

ONIE

Oklahoma City Public Schools

Millwood Public Schools

McDonald’s

Oklahoma City University

Plan Parenthood

## 2013-2014 Vision & Goal

**Vision:** The Ralph Ellison Library is your inviting, innovative link to the world.

**Goal:** Residents see their library as a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interests.

### *Cultural*

- Through our strategic partnerships and displays, the staff will work to provide culturally enriching programs to our community.

Example:

- Perry Broadcasting and the annual Juneteenth Celebration
- Black History Month displays and contests
- BHC and Urban Fiction Collections
- Local artists’ exhibits
- OK Historical Society and genealogy classes
- OK Black Author Association and holding local writing workshops
- Trip Around the World
- Jazz on the Lawn
- After School at your Library Art Program
- Henna Tattoo Art at Girls’ Night

### *Civic*

- Through our strategic partnerships and displays, the staff will work to provide civically enriching programs to our community.

Example:

- OU Health Sciences Center and a program on healthy eating
- Bead for Life
- SeptemberFest at the Governor's Mansion
- Town Hall meetings
- Adult Learning Center and GED classes
- Pinwheels for Peace
- VITA and free tax services

- Community services table
- Bulletin boards promoting library and community programs and services
- Voter Registration

### *Community*

- Through our strategic partnerships, programming and displays, the staff will work to provide community enriching opportunity to our community.

Example:

- Local story tellers and storytime
- Annual Holly Jolly Holiday Party
- Annual Fall Festival
- MetroTech and business classes
- Girls/Boys Night for all ages
- Film Series, Writing Club, musicians, Adult Game Night, and Adult Craft Night.

## 2012-2013 Service Plan

We achieved our past service plan by providing interactive programming and creating displays involving music, storytelling, arts and crafts, drama, etc. that met the needs of our customers . Our computer usage continues to increase and our circulation is up by 17%.

Example:

- Girls/Boys Nights that had around 50 people attend each night, live music performances, and an after school program.
- Bead for Life



# Our Focus

