

# M O V I N G F FORWARD

2006 Annual Report

# *Moving Forward into the future...*

*...one friendly smile...*

*...one byte of technology...*

*...one exciting event...*

*...one entertaining book, DVD, CD at a time.*

Science fiction writer Harry Turtledove once pointed out that everyone is a time traveler, moving forward into the future at the steady rate of one second per second. We are always just one second away from the future.

At the Metropolitan Library System, that's too long to wait. Our tradition of setting goals, meeting them, and then setting new ones, keeps us moving ahead—and that means a world of new material and services for you. MLS staff is constantly fine tuning our successes and creating innovative ways to make your library experience the high point of your day.

Every time you visit a Metropolitan Library, you can find something new—a book, magazine, newspaper, CD, or DVD you haven't seen before – an event to enlighten or entertain you – the answer to a question you've been meaning to ask for a long time – a new face to welcome you with a smile.

In the future, you'll see many changes at the Metropolitan Library System. We're currently working on plans for a more centralized Service Center to catalog, process and distribute materials to our libraries easier and more efficiently. Soon you'll see plans for a new Northwest Library—our customers have asked for it, and it will happen. What do both of these changes mean to you, our customer? More materials and services available to you, so that we can continue to strive to be Oklahoma's premier information, education and entertainment resource. Your Metropolitan Library System is your best guide to tomorrow.

Customers logged

# 225,000

hours of free Internet access.

## MOVE FORWARD... into a diverse collection.

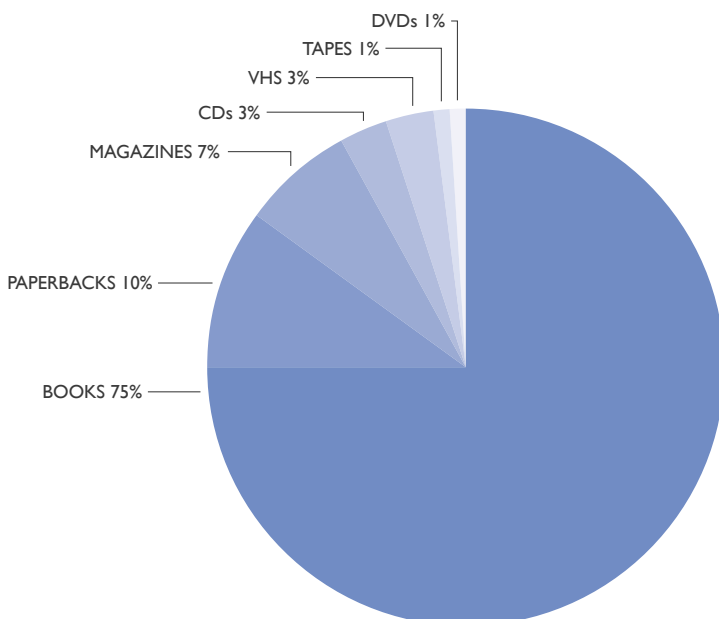
The Metropolitan Library System has a multitude of materials and services available to our customers, but mention libraries and most people automatically think: Books!

Books make up 85% of our collection – and that leaves a lot of room for other media, including magazines, newspapers, audio and video tapes, CDs, and our newest items, DVDs.

Our DVD collection was widely expanded this year, and this format has become one of our most popular check-out items. From classic and award winning films to the best of educational television, we strive to bring it to you free of cost.

## COLLECTION BY FORMAT

Total Items 1,158,216



IN FY05-06:

43,000 new cardholders

Customers reserved 1 million items.

6.13 million items checked out.

1/2 million hits on our website.

17,464 children and teens enrolled in Summer at the Library.

*The greatest library in the world is just a building full of materials unless the community in which it exists puts it to use—and Oklahoma County really knows how to use its public library system!*

## MOVE FORWARD...

with available resources.

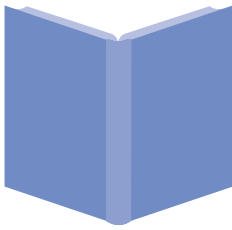
Whether it's through an Internet search, reading a book, or calling your neighborhood library for help, MLS is about having the resources you need to perform your job, help your kids with their homework, study up on a favorite hobby, or even just settle a friendly argument with your in-laws.

Sometimes you can take advantage of library services without asking for our help. From Choctaw on the east to Bethany on the west, you can relax in one of our libraries and connect to the Internet for work or entertainment through your wi-fi enabled laptop or PDA. In the past year, MLS became one of Oklahoma's technology leaders by providing wireless internet service (wi-fi) to the 12 full service libraries. In fact, on May 30, 2006, *The Daily Oklahoman* noted that "So far, one's best bet [to find wireless Internet access] is a quick walk to a nearby coffee shop or the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library."

If customers do not have wi-fi enabled computers, they can always sign up for computer use on one of the many computers available at all MLS libraries. Because of the high demand for computer time, all MLS libraries received more public use computers this past year. Now, more people than ever before have access to not only the vast information on the internet, but also the incredible online information services MLS provides through the databases.

“ You have great service.  
You have all the books I like. ”

-Desirae, age 5, Midwest City



## CUSTOMER'S VALUE OF SERVICE

If the average person bought:

- 4 books a year at **\$17.39** each
- 6 music CDs at **\$13.29** each
- 2 DVDs at **\$16.96** each



and

- rented 2 DVDs or videos a month at the local video store
- had a yearly *Time* magazine subscription
- attended 4 musical performances or plays



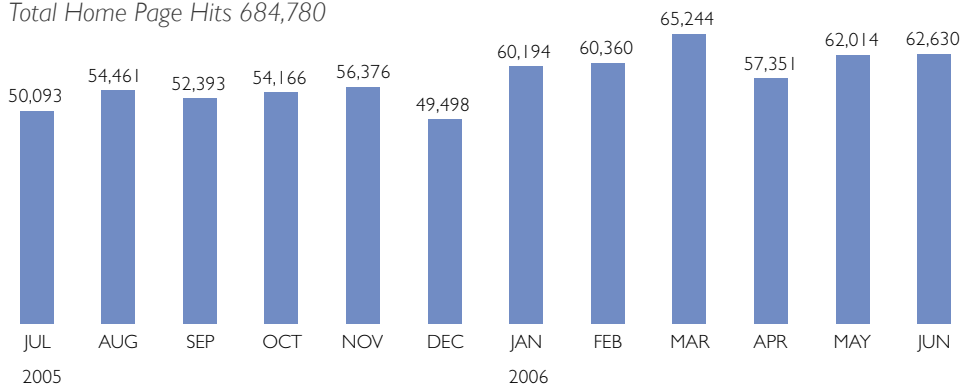
S/he would have spent an average of **\$397.17** in one year.

*All of this and more at the Metropolitan Library System!*

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## WEBSITE VISITS

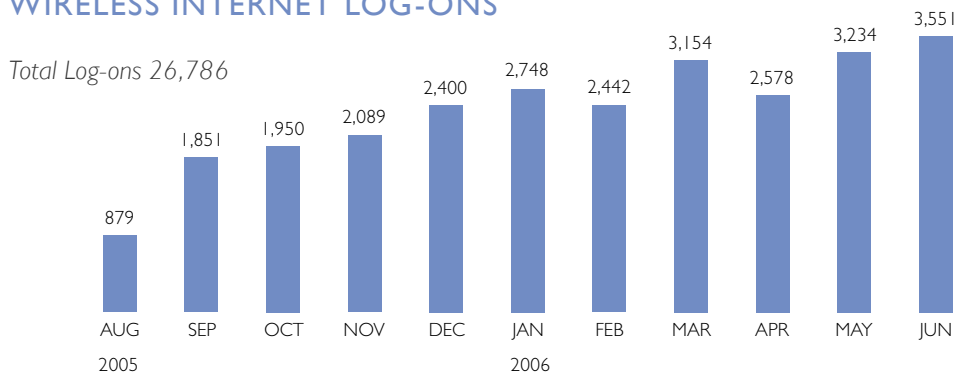
Total Home Page Hits 684,780



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## WIRELESS INTERNET LOG-ONS

Total Log-ons 26,786





Hurricane Katrina survivor, Hazel Branch, in the performance of "The Gumbo Pot."

## **MOVE FORWARD...** with outstanding Outreach.

Year in, year out, MLS' biggest series of events take place during the summer while the annual Summer at the Library is in full swing.

Summer at the Library is more than just entertainment. It's a great opportunity to introduce pre-readers to books and the art of storytelling. Because children and teens select the book they want to read or listen to themselves, they keep their literacy skills polished while not in school. *Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales*, the children's Summer at the Library theme, drew a record 14,392, while the teen program, *Creature Feature*, continues to increase in popularity.

Summer at the Library may be the hit of the summer, but the annual Winter ReadFest broke records of all levels this past year. Winter ReadFest began in 2002, a two-month reading program designed to get seniors into the library as regular library customers. That first year, 380 customers signed up to read books and earn prizes. In March 2006, the numbers were in...2,123 signed up for Winter ReadFest.

MLS continues to provide outstanding entertainment to various libraries. Some of the events and entertainers who performed in FY06 were:

### **Storytimes for Children**

*All Metropolitan Libraries*

### **Our World's Nego Gato**

*Exotic Capoeira dance and music from Brazil*

### **Rhythmically Speaking presents: *The Gumbo Pot***

*A performance about Hurricane Katrina evacuees*

### **Spring Fling's Paul Messner Puppets**

*A performance of The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by A. Wolf*

### **Ken Waldman, Alaska 's Fiddling Poet**

*A unique blend of Appalachian-style fiddling, poems about old-time music and dance*

### **Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra**

### **Classical pianist, Wayne McEvilly**

*Performances of the great masters of the keys*

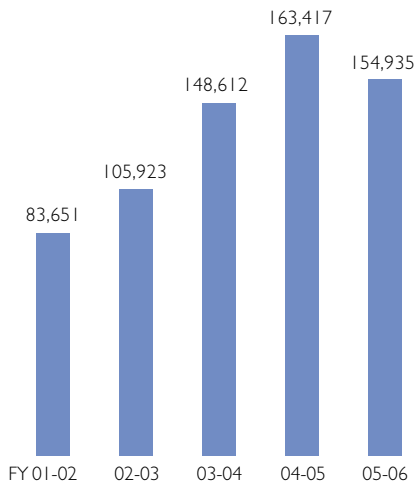


Program attendance of **154,935.**

Team USA softball players reading to eager youngsters.

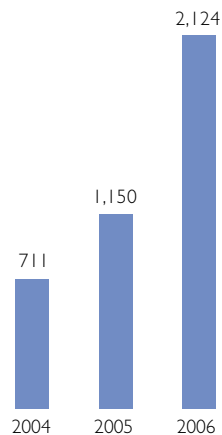
## TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

5 Year Totals



## WINTER READFEST PARTICIPANTS

3 Year Totals



*“ It never fails. When I bring my kids to the library to check out books for them, I always find several things for myself as well. ”*

-Christina, Edmond





During her visit to Oklahoma City for Literary Voices™ Jane Seymour reads to children at the OU Children's Hospital.

## MOVE FORWARD... with lasting partnerships.

Just as some personal friendships last a lifetime, so do the best professional partnerships. From the large to the small [and everyone who comes into a library to conduct an Internet search or to check out the latest best sellers is a partner of ours] your MLS has formed links that will move us forward with other community leaders far into the future.

For the first time ever, MLS partnered with the Junior League of Oklahoma City, the Latino Community Development Agency, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, McDonald's, Lopez Foods to host Mariachi Festival 2006 – to promote cultural understanding and pride of the ever growing Oklahoma City Latino population.

The Smart Start program is another community partnership of growing importance. Smart Start's goal is to provide a nurturing & supportive community to children and their families so that children are healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they

enter school. Our partners of this vital program include: Oklahoma City Public Schools; Putnam City Public Schools, OU School of Medicine/Pediatric Practice Department; United Way; Rainbow Fleet; Friends of the Metropolitan Library System; Potts Family Foundation; American Fidelity, MLS Library Endowment Trust; The Daily Oklahoman, Reading Foundation of Central Oklahoma.

And annual partnerships that are near and dear to our hearts include The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System yearly Booksale and the Library Endowment Trust's Literary Voices™ event.

Could we do it all without a little help from our partners? We don't want to find out!





**MOVE FORWARD...**  
with great leadership.

## **METROPOLITAN LIBRARY COMMISSION FY06**

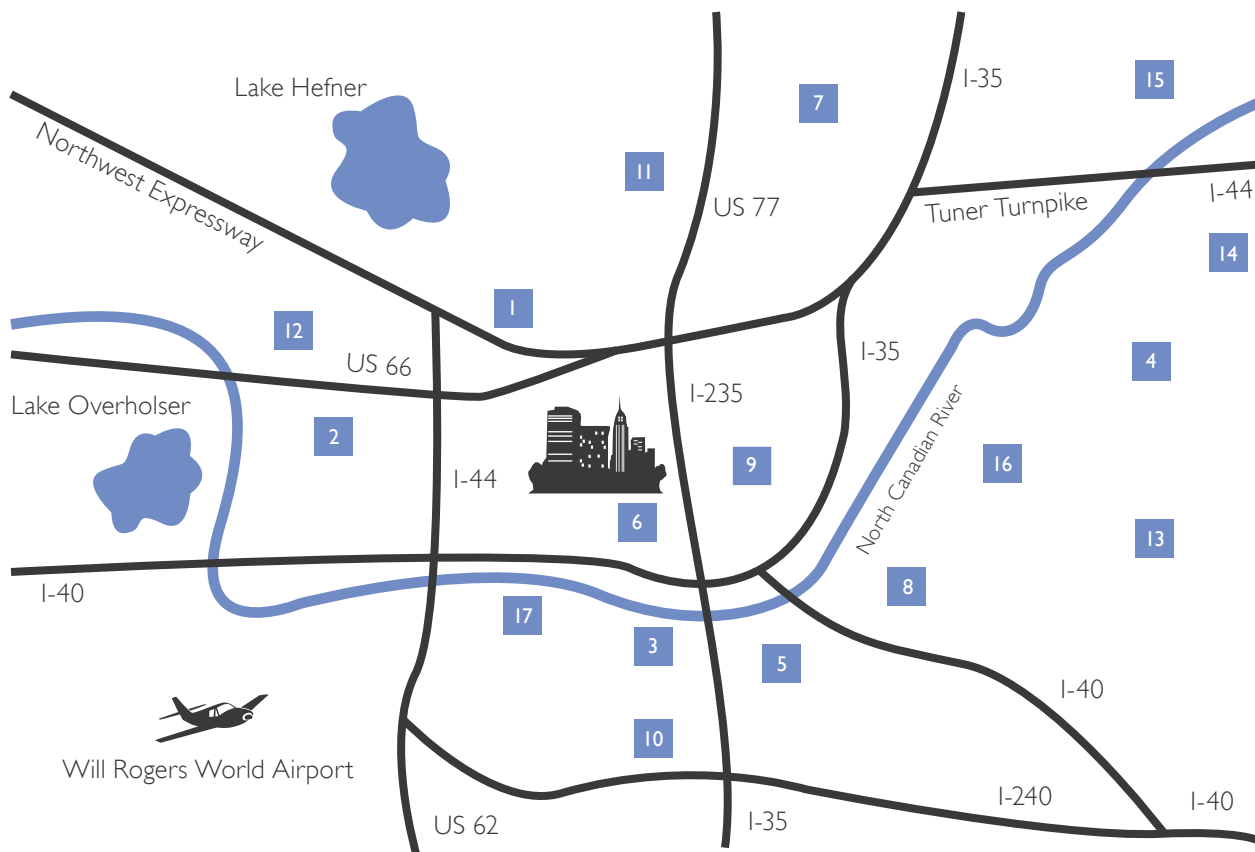
Hugh Rice, Chairman - Oklahoma City  
Dr. Ann Caine, Vice Chairman - Oklahoma City  
David Greenwell, Disbursing Agent - Oklahoma City  
Nancy Anthony - Oklahoma City  
Carolyn Cornelius - Oklahoma City  
Scott Duncan - Oklahoma City  
Millicent Gillogly - Oklahoma City  
Deanna Hannah - Bethany  
Jose Jimenez - Oklahoma City  
Penny McCaleb - Oklahoma City  
Shirley Pritchett - Warr Acres  
Pamela Pung - Midwest City  
Marguerite Ross - Oklahoma City  
Alyne Strube - Choctaw  
Cynthia Trent - Del City  
Peggy Winters - The Village  
Greg Womack - Edmond

Ex-Officio Members of the MLS Commission:  
Mayor Mick Cornett - Oklahoma City  
Jim Roth - Oklahoma County Chairman,  
Board of County Commissioners

Donna Morris, Secretary (non-voting)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenues	FY06	FY05
Property Taxes	\$ 22,033,245.26	\$20,810,116.23
Fines, Fees, & Gifts, etc.	456,000.00	483,000.00
State Aid	319,736.00	318,121.00
Investment Income	1,009,404.23	150,984.34
Miscellaneous Revenues	157,454.28	369,638.14
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 23,975,839.77</b>	<b>\$22,131,859.71</b>
Beginning Fund Balance Forward	\$ 4,899,336.01	\$ 5,538,938.94
Reserves for future capital and other projects	\$ 10,862,981.34	\$ 10,252,348.34
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$ 39,738,157.12</b>	<b>\$37,923,146.99</b>
Expenditures		
Personnel	\$ 13,038,720.39	\$ 13,262,957.11
Maintenance & Operations	3,523,797.16	3,546,503.43
Books & Materials	3,263,062.05	3,085,156.28
Capital Outlays	129,556.89	161,946.57
Capital Improvements	78,073.05	2,104,266.25
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 20,033,209.54</b>	<b>\$22,160,829.64</b>
Ending Fund Balance	7,080,294.58	4,899,336.01
Reserves for future capital and other projects	\$ 12,624,653.00	\$ 10,862,981.34
<b>Total Expenditures and Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 39,738,157.12</b>	<b>\$37,923,146.99</b>



## MLS LIBRARIES

1	Belle Isle	5501 N. Villa, Oklahoma City	843-9601
2	Bethany	3510 N. Mueller, Bethany	789-8363
3	Capitol Hill	334 S.W. 26th, Oklahoma City	634-6308
4	Choctaw	2525 Muzzy Street, Choctaw	390-8418
5	Del City	4509 S.E. 15th, Del City	672-1377
6	Downtown	300 Park Ave., Oklahoma City	231-8650
7	Edmond	10 S. Boulevard, Edmond	341-9282
8	Midwest City	8143 E. Reno, Midwest City	732-4828
9	Ralph Ellison	2000 N.E. 23rd, Oklahoma City	424-1437
10	Southern Oaks	6900 S. Walker, Oklahoma City	631-4468
11	The Village	10307 N. Pennsylvania Ave., The Village	755-0710
12	Warr Acres	5901 N.W. 63rd, Warr Acres	721-2616

## MLS EXTENSION LIBRARIES

13	Harrah	1930 N. Church Ave., Harrah	454-2001
14	Jones	111 E. Main, Jones	399-5471
15	Luther	310 N.E. 3rd, Luther	277-9967
16	Nicoma Park	2240 Overholser, Nicoma Park	769-9452
17	Wright	2101 Exchange, Oklahoma City	235-5035



# M O V I N G   F ◻ R W A R D

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300 Park Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

405.231.8650   [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org)