

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

*Centennial Dreams...
Just the Beginning*

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Between noon and sunset on April 22, 1889, a tent city of 10,000 that would become Oklahoma City sprang up on the prairie. In a little over a year, on May 23, 1890, the city became incorporated and began the wait for statehood.

What the city didn't have to wait for was library service. In Oklahoma County, several society ladies banded together to raise funds and the rest is not just history, but the future as well.

Public library service in central Oklahoma predates statehood. Think about that for a minute. Oklahomans wanted a public library before they wanted to be one of the United States.

For over 100 years we've been right here, continuing to do what we do best—inform you, entertain you, enlighten you. We've helped you teach your kids to read, and we've helped them successfully plan their weddings. We've seen you through two world wars with stacks of national and international news sources at hand, and we've been here with information when evil struck in our own backyard.

We like to think that these moments together have made us part of your family. We know you're part of ours.

And that's just the beginning . . .

Diversity

Diversity may be the word that best describes Oklahoma. We know it's a word that describes your Metropolitan Library System. The system holds books in over a dozen languages, but books don't tell the whole story.

We deliver entertainment and information in a variety of formats. Whether you're looking for a book on CD to relieve the boredom of a long drive or piano lessons on video, we can satisfy the need.

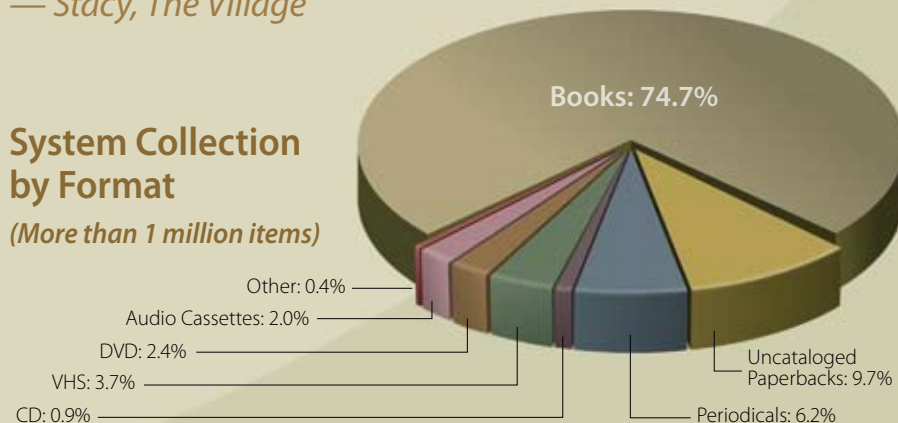
We even publish *info* magazine every month, which contains our calendar of library events as well as reviews and articles. It's free and you can pick up a copy at your neighborhood library.

*"I like to try out CDs and DVDs before I buy them.
The library collection is a great resource for that."*

— Stacy, The Village

System Collection by Format

(More than 1 million items)





Services and Resources

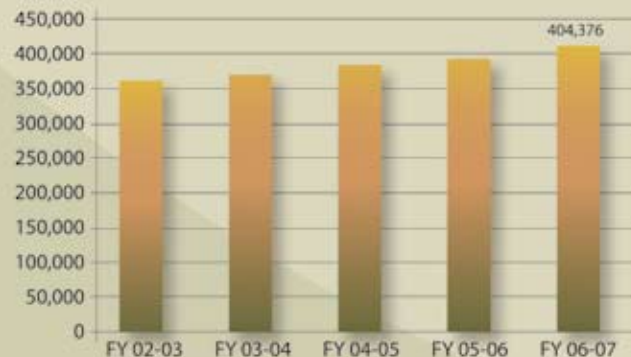
"There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."

— Andrew Carnegie

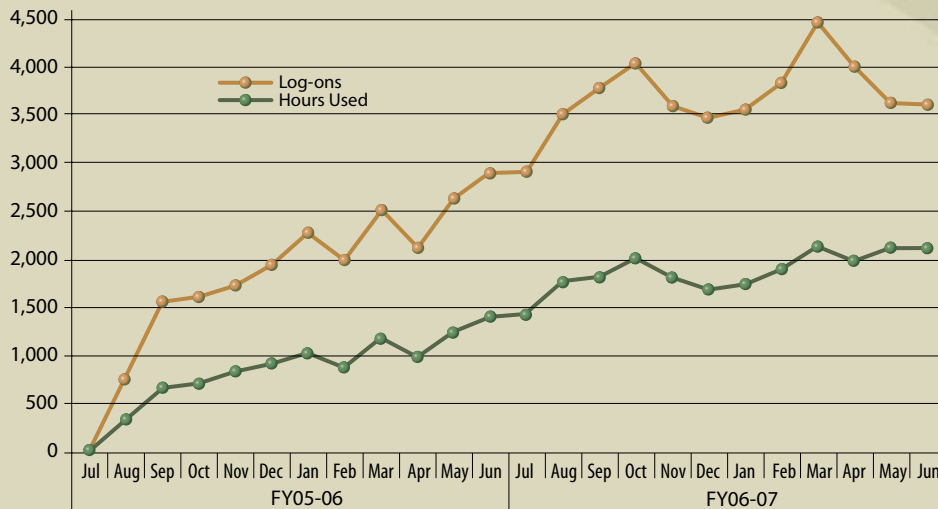
Carnegie gave Oklahoma City its first state-of-the-art library in 1899, and while the building is no longer standing, the excitement over having a great library is still alive.

And another thing that's still alive at your neighborhood Metropolitan Library is our pledge to be your inviting, innovative link to the world. Whether it's relaxing at one of our libraries to read newspapers from around the country, checking out some magazines, connecting to the Internet for free on one of our public service computers, or using your wi-fi enabled laptop for wireless access, we've got what you need.

Registered Library Card Holders



Wireless Internet Access



Internet Usage (Hours Used)



Value of Service to Our Customers

If an average person bought:

- 4 books a year at \$14.60
- 6 music CDs at \$13.01
- 2 DVDs at \$19.14

and

- rented 2 DVDs or videos a month at the local video store
- had a yearly Wall Street Journal subscription
- attended 2 musical performances or plays

S/he would have spent an average of \$495.49 in one year.

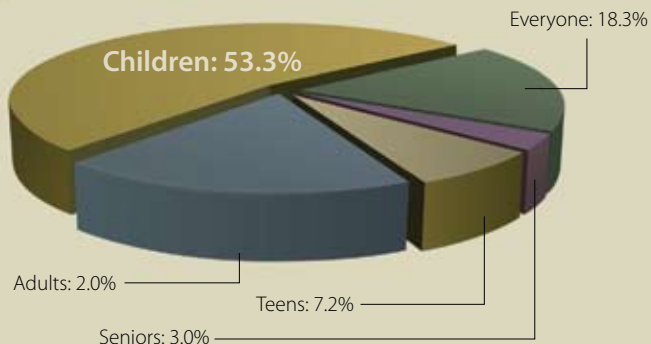
This person could check out all of this and more at the Metropolitan Library System! Compare that with the free services and materials provided by just a few of your tax dollars.

Outreach and Marketing



Since the first public library opened in Oklahoma County, over five generations have depended on us and we've always been there with answers, but MLS isn't just the best place to turn for auto repair manuals, cookbooks, and homework help. We're here for fun, too.

Event Attendance by Age Group



139,061 Total Attendance

At a time when so many people are glued to their TV screens, computer monitors, and iPods, the live human interaction they find at the neighborhood library can be immensely rewarding. And fun.



Former Gov. George Nigh presenting an "Oklahoma Moment".

Our emphasis in 2007 has been on the Centennial and we asked one of Oklahoma's favorite sons to help us celebrate. Former Governor George Nigh was our spokesman for a series of history-oriented TV spots called "Oklahoma Moments." They originally aired on the MLS TV program "Read About It," and many of them are now available for viewing on our website, www.metrolibrary.org.

We also introduced library customers to state history through Oklahoma Voices, an oral history project, and through our Oklahoma Folklore Collection, made up of diaries, journals, songs, poems, letters and anecdotes collected during the 1940s.

Your Inviting, Innovative Link To The World

Famed international best selling mystery writer, Sue Grafton, intrigued us with her tales at the Library Endowment Trusts' annual Literary Voices™ event. In February, Oklahoma City's performance troupe Rhythmically Speaking presented "Sweet Biscuits", which told the story of the creation, development and evolution of black towns in Oklahoma.

But our accomplishments this year were not only in the area of events. We introduced eMedia, a way for our customers to download audio books from our website. We also developed a new Five-Year Strategic Plan and began Leadership MLS, a series of workshops to strengthen the leadership skills of staff who will guide MLS during the next 100 years.

What else does the future have in store? Plans are progressing for a new Library Service Center that will offer expanded space and a centralized location for many of MLS' behind-the-scenes functions. We'll be continuing to develop plans for a new Northwest Library and a major renovation of the Ralph Ellison Library. Look, too, for our new RFID (radio frequency identification) project. RFID will completely change the way our libraries manage and track materials.





Community Support

But what do we have planned for our community for the next 100 years?

*M*ore of the same and a lot more of what's different. MLS is a recognized leader in library technology and that won't change. Our most deeply held values won't change, either.

Excellence...

Diversity...

Service...

Integrity...

Innovative Thinking...

"At MLS," said executive director Donna Morris, "we believe libraries should still be the places where people can come in, relax, read, and find the information they're seeking. Sure, the Metropolitan Library System will continue to change and evolve, but the spirit of this institution will remain just as it has for the past 100 years — a publicly funded enterprise designed to meet the information needs of the residents of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County."

We know the people in our community are going into the next 100 years with us. The future is only a breath away . . .

Metropolitan Library Commission

From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Hugh Rice, Chairman - Oklahoma City
Dr. Ann Caine, Vice Chairman - Oklahoma City
David Greenwell, Disbursing Agent - Oklahoma City
Nancy Anthony - Oklahoma City
Ralph Bullard - Midwest City
Carolyn Cornelius - Oklahoma City
Scott Duncan - Oklahoma City
Millicent Gillogly - Oklahoma City
Deanna Hannah - Bethany
Jose Jimenez - Oklahoma City
Lee Alan Leslie - Midwest City
Penny McCaleb - Oklahoma City
Shirley Pritchett - Warr Acres
Marguerite Ross - Oklahoma City
Judy Smith - The Village
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)



In FY06-07:

41,435
new cardholders

1 million
items reserved by customers

6.01 million
items checked out

903,000
hits on our website

17,404
children and teens enrolled in Summer at the Library

Financial Statement

Revenues

	FY07	FY06
Property Taxes	\$ 23,584,537.42	\$ 22,033,245.26
Fines, Fees, & Gifts, etc.	623,000.00	456,000.00
State Aid	314,374.00	319,736.00
Investment Income	886,950.89	1,009,404.23
Miscellaneous Revenues	155,503.90	157,454.28
Total Revenues	\$ 25,564,366.21	\$ 23,975,839.77
Beginning Fund Balance Forward	\$ 7,080,294.58	\$ 4,899,336.01
Reserves for future capital and other projects	\$ 12,624,653.00	\$ 10,862,981.34
Total Revenues & Balance Forward	\$ 45,269,313.79	\$ 39,738,157.12

Expenditures

Personnel	\$ 13,606,292.35	\$ 13,038,720.39
Maintenance & Operations	3,585,046.19	3,523,797.16
Books & Materials	3,326,202.78	3,263,062.05
Capital Outlays	107,955.63	129,556.89
Capital Improvements	820,608.10	78,073.05
Total Expenditures	\$ 21,446,105.05	\$ 20,033,209.54
Ending Fund Balance	10,663,181.74	7,080,294.58
Reserves for future capital and other projects	\$ 13,160,027.00	\$ 12,624,653.00
Total Expenditures and Ending Balance	\$ 45,269,313.79	\$ 39,738,157.12





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

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Metropolitan
LIBRARY SYSTEM

300 Park Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

405.231.8650 www.metrolibrary.org