

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Ann E. McLaughlin, DIRECTOR



ANNUAL REPORT FY2008



Historic Richardson Building

Technology has dramatically expanded the services offered to the community in the city's public libraries.

In FY'08 the library website received 12,819,538 hits, up 27% from the year before.

The library website, thomascranelibrary.org, has become a virtual library branch, offering a range of online resources and services.

People may:

- reserve library materials, museum passes and library meeting rooms online
- search dozens of databases containing legal, medical, genealogical, literary, historical and community information
- view historic pictures and documents scanned from library and city archives
- sign up for customized reading lists, new book alerts, and the library's monthly online newsletter with up-to-date information on library programs
- ask reference questions online
- view *The Next Chapter* website developed to highlight resources and opportunities for people 50 and older "ReWriting Midlife and Beyond"
- find out about Friends of the Library membership and activities
- sign up for Outreach on Wheels, a home delivery service offered to homebound folks with the assistance of the Council on Aging
- learn about the library's Literacy Volunteers tutoring program for new readers and new English language learners

The Next Chapter
ReWriting Midlife & Beyond

- download digital audiobooks from the Old Colony Library Network (OCLN)
- find out about the more than 750 programs offered each year for adults and children
- log on to *Quincy on the Go* and take the fitness challenge

Quincy’s public libraries offer the community an exciting array of learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Staff

The library staff works tirelessly to provide services seven days a week, year round. Quincy is one of the few libraries in the state open weekends in the summer and the tremendous usage on weekends reflects this.

The staff achieved many milestones in FY’08 reflected by the number of grants obtained, programs offered, and increase in usage in every category.

We are proud of the library staff and the excellent library services our staff provides.

Wireless Internet was expanded at the main library and branches.

Monthly bilingual library tours and story hours were offered in Chinese and English.

Collaborations with a variety of city departments and community groups allowed the library to reach out to many more people in the city. These included:

- Quincy Recreation Department - collaborating on the development of *Quincy on the Go*, a citywide fitness initiative
- QATV – developing a monthly “At the Library” program featuring upcoming library events
- Quincy Medical Center – assisting with the bilingual health series offered to Asian elders at the library in conjunction with Quincy Asian Resources Inc. and South Shore Elder Services
- Quincy Environmental Network and the Quincy Park Department’s Environmental Treasures Program offering timely programs on “living green” and popular local walking tours
- South Shore YMCA – collaborating on developing programs for teens and promoting the annual Mad Dash Makeover
- Quincy Public Schools – staff worked with students and teachers on a variety of class projects and class visits



Mother Goose & Little Bo Peep
AKA Jane Miller & Gail Columbare



Qi Gong Program

- The Quincy Planning Department – opening the long-awaited North Quincy Neighborhood Center in the renovated North Quincy Branch bookmobile garage
- The Wollaston Federal Savings and Loan Association – donating helpful library bookmarks to give to the public

Grants

Grant funds allow the library to expand programs and staff skills. The library received a number of grants in FY’08:

- \$2,500 Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination. Quincy was one of 250 libraries nationwide to be funded for this five-part reading and discussion series at the library
- \$12,500 English Conversation Circles “Talk Time” grant from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners to develop volunteer-led English conversations groups for new English speakers
- \$5,500 English Language Literacy Grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation to support the library’s ESL program
- \$9,750 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant to purchase additional computers for Wollaston and Adams Shore Branches
- \$2,500 Summer Storyteller Series grant from the Quincy Arts Lottery to fund the popular summer series
- \$500 Summer Reading kick-off event funded by South Coastal Community Bank, this year featuring “Bubblemania”
- \$13,891 Literacy project funding from the Mass. Department of Education to fund the library’s Literacy Volunteers program
- \$5,000 Literacy Project funding from the Marjorie Harris Reynolds Fund to support literacy student and tutor training
- \$1,100 from Quincy Rotary to purchase children’s books in honor of Rotary speakers
- \$5,000 Equal Access Grant funding from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners to develop programs and services for teens and adults 50 and older
- \$26,800 from the Quincy Preservation Committee to restore the LaFarge “Angel at the Tomb” stained glass window
- \$1,395.46 Public Libraries Fund, MBLC fundraising match for the Friends of the Library



Wild Reads Carnival



Angel at the Tomb

A total of \$86,436.46 in grants was received in FY’08.



The Friends of the Library fund hundreds of programs each year, including storytellers, musicians, authors, films, lectures, dancers, speakers, and museum passes.

Funding for these programs is raised by the hardworking Friends through book sales, membership donations and special events. In FY'08 Friends spent \$37,134 on library programs.

Special thanks go to Harold Crowley, the wonderful Friends President, and to Jennifer Smith and Peggy Doyle who are stepping down as chairs of the Book Sale Committee which they have ably led.

“Friends Make It Happen” is their slogan and it is certainly true for Quincy’s libraries.



Concert on the Lawn, July 2007

Friends of the Library Board

Harold S. Crowley, Jr., President

Eunice Charles, Vice President

Ann Yeomans, Secretary

Alicia Coletti, Treasurer

Members-at-Large: Bonnie Ashworth, Jennifer Bell, Peggy Doyle
Betty Molloy, Marianne Murphy, Geraldine Storella, Susie Wilkening

Library Trustees

The Mayor appoints six trustees to one year terms to oversee library services. For 2008, Mayor Koch appointed: Alicia Coletti, Harold S. Crowley, Jr., Harold DiMattio, Dr. Janet DiTullio, Lawrence J. Falvey, Jr. and Sandra McCauley. Officers are: Alicia Coletti, Chair; Harold DiMattio, Secretary; and Sandra McCauley, Treasurer.

We appreciate the hard work of this dedicated Board.

Literacy Volunteers Advisory Board

The literacy project's advisory board works to raise community awareness about literacy and the work of the library's Literacy Volunteers. Annual fundraisers help supplement project costs, and many Board members work as volunteer tutors. We are very grateful for the work this committee does.

Literacy Advisory Board

Nancy Powers, Isabel Ventre, Marnie Dunn
Elaine Kline, Terri Mignosa, Tom Lentini
Board Support: Marilyn Silva, Ruth Davis, Pat Ward

Library Hours and Locations

Thomas Crane Library, 40 Washington Street
617-376-1301
Open: Monday – Thursday 9 – 9
Friday – Saturday 9 – 5
Sunday 1 – 5

Adams Shore Branch, 519 Sea Street
617-376-1325
Open: Monday 1 – 9, Tuesday 9 – 5
Wednesday – Friday 1 – 5

North Quincy Branch, 381 Hancock Street
617-376-1320
Open: Monday 9 – 5, Tuesday 1 – 9
Wednesday – Friday 1 – 5

Wollaston Branch, 41 Beale Street
617-376-1330
Open: Monday – Tuesday 1 – 5
Wednesday 1 – 9, Thursday 1 – 5, Friday 9 – 5

Library website: thomascranelibrary.org



Monkey Business @the library