

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2012

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2012 was a very busy year for the Abington Public Library. In September hours of public service were extended to 53.5 per week, with the addition of Wednesday evenings. The Library is now open from 10:00 AM – 8:30 PM Monday through Thursday, from 12:30 to 5:00 PM on Friday, and from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturday. In accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 123,575 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed; this is an increase of 12,898 or 10% from 2011. 74,713 visits to the library were recorded, an increase of 9,031 or 12%. The restoration of the Library budget to the level required to meet certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for Fiscal 2013 was clearly a driving factor in the increase in library use.

Downloadable materials, eBooks and eAudio, continue to be popular with borrowers; use of these items increased by almost 200% over 2011. Library staff conducted workshops to teach residents how to borrow downloadable materials; these workshops were well attended. There was also great demand for the Library's Internet computers and wireless Internet; a wireless printer was added and has been popular with wireless Internet users. Job seekers continued to use the Library seeking Internet access, as well as resume and career information.

Abington Public School classes in grades 1, 3, and 5 visited the Abington Public Library. Children's Librarian Lauren Budd visited Kindergarten and Pre-K classes. 1,046 elementary and preschool students in 46 classes participated in school class visits. In January the Children's Librarian also conducted a successful library card sign-up campaign, designed to bring Kindergarten students and their parents to the Library; 35 new library cards were issued during this campaign

The library's federal "Serving Teens and Tweens" grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners continued through September. Almost forty young people have joined the Library's Teen Advisory Board and the group has provided service to the Library by sponsoring and conducting movie programs for families and by assisting with activities for younger children, including conducting activities during Summer Reading Program registration. TAB members gave service to the larger community by establishing a food collection box in the Library for the Abington Food Pantry, and by assisting at the Abington Tricentennial Committee's Family Field Day in June. TAB members assisted with the children's costume parade and field day games, served ice cream, moved tables and chairs and collected trash at the event. The highlight of teen programming for the year was a *Hunger Games* themed after hours program in March.

In July the library was awarded another federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This grant, "On the Same Page" will fund a community reads program in the spring of 2013. Preliminary planning and organization of this event began in October.

In February Kenneth Gloss, proprietor of the Brattle Book Shop, spoke to a standing-room only crowd in the Copeland Room. Other popular programs for adults included Christopher Daley's March presentation on Irish history and an October appearance by the Gravestone Girls, which explored the art found in local cemeteries. Author and investigative reporter Hank Phillippi Ryan spoke to a full house in December.

The Friends of the Library conducted fund raising activities including the annual magazine subscription drive and the spring book sale. The Friends provided Museum passes and funding for children's programs and teen programs. The Friends also provided support and assistance for adult programming, continued their very successful book discussion group, and established an evening mystery book discussion group with funds donated in honor of Mary Lane.

The community was truly generous to the Library in 2012. A bequest from the O'Neill, Conroy and Kennedy families in memory of Helen L. Kennedy provided die-cuts for use with the Accu-Cut machine. Gifts were received from the Abington Lions Club and the Anderson Foundation, as well as donations in memory of former Assistant Librarian for Children's Services Helen Burgess, a gift in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith, a gift to the Friends in memory of Mary Caron, and a donation from the proceeds of Jack Bailey's daylily sale to support Sheila's Garden. The Abington Bank continued to fund bookmarks. Many individual residents made donations for library materials, including the many members of the community who contributed to the Donation Jar, which provides additional funding for children's materials.

In 2012 the Library hosted five children's cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. The Pumpernickel Puppets theatrical presentation of Peter Rabbit was enjoyed by a large audience, as were the musicians Little Groove and Otha Day. A performance by the Act!vated Story Theatre was also sponsored by the Anderson Foundation. A presentation by the storyteller Diane Edgecomb, was enjoyed by a large crowd and funded by donations in memory of Melba Smith, while Science Magic, a traveling program with the Museum of Science and the Library's public performance movie license were sponsored by the Joyce Lee Bumpus fund. "One Sky Many Stories", also presented by the Museum of Science, was funded by the Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library and the Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund also generously provided preschool and toddler story times, afterschool story-craft programs, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, food for Teen Advisory Board meetings, and the summer reading program. 305 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,379 hours. Total attendance at children's and teen programs for 2012 was 4,511; this is a 35% increase from 2011 and may be attributed to teen participation in grant funded activities and the presence of the Children's Librarian for the full calendar year.

The Board of Library Trustees saw no changes in 2012 as Trustees Gail Bergin, Henry DiCarlo and Kathleen Jones were re-elected in April. The Library staff also remained the same.

The Library Trustees thank the many residents and town officials, elected and appointed, who recognized the need to provide funding for library services and who supported the restoration of the library budget to the state required minimum effective July 1, 2012. The Library Trustees also wish to thank the many volunteers who donated their time to provide better library service for the community. The Trustees and Library Director recognize the dedication and professionalism of the Library Staff: Lauren Budd, Sandy Bumpus, Judith Condon, Michelle Cooke, Susan Durand, Heidi Hernandez, Christopher Jones, Barbara Libby, Isa Murray Linda Sampson, Elizabeth Shea and Terry Taylor.

Selected 2012 Library Statistics

Circulation: 123,575

Registered Borrowers: 6,694

Hits on the Library website: 1,746,237. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 64

Total programs offered: 291

Total program attendance: 5,738

2012 Value of Library Services to the Residents of Abington

Source: Old Colony Library Network Calculator based on the Massachusetts Library

Association Value of Library Services Calculator

Books borrowed:	\$1,117,620.00
Videos borrowed:	\$50,130.50
Audios borrowed:	\$221,700.00
Magazines borrowed:	\$6,094.00
eBooks borrowed:	\$22,416.00
Museum passes loaned:	\$8,925.00
Interlibrary loans:	\$365,150.00
Hours of computer use:	\$68,038.00
Programs attended:	\$39,137.50
Total	\$1,899,211.00

Respectfully submitted,
Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
John O'Neill, Secretary
William Adamczyk
Gail Bergin

Gerry Haas
Kathleen Jones
Christina McMahon
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Deborah Grimmer, Library Director