

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2011

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

The second half of 2011 saw an upsurge in library usage and resident borrowing which corresponded to the much-needed increase in the library budget for fiscal 2012. In late August, Children's Librarian Lauren Budd joined the staff, filling this key position which had been vacant due to budgetary restrictions since June 2010. The new Children's Librarian is a recent degree recipient from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The full schedule of fifty hours per week was restored in September. In accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 110,677 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed. 65,682 visits to the library were recorded. The library's online presence increased greatly with the launch of a Facebook page in March; pictures from recent programs and news about upcoming events are featured on the social networking site.

Usage of downloadable materials, eBooks and eAudio, increased by more than 100% for the second straight year. Demand for downloadable eBooks increased monthly throughout the year. As a dramatic example, for the month of December 2010, eight eBooks were borrowed, compared to 157 eBooks borrowed in December 2011. There was also great demand for the Library's Internet computers and wireless Internet; it is important to note that the restoration of library hours of service in September resulted in a 14 % increase in Internet use in the second half of the year. Job seekers continued to flock to the Library, seeking Internet access, resume and career information.

Library resources grew during 2011 as the Library budget was restored from \$325,216 to \$409,522 at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. Reference database offerings expanded to include the *World Book Encyclopedia*, *Novelist Plus*, and *Consumer Reports*; these offerings may be accessed by library card holders remotely, as well as in the library. The Trustees made the decision in the fall of 2011 to allocate state aid and trust fund resources for the purchase of access to additional eBooks, expanding the number of available titles beyond the materials in the Old Colony Library Network's shared electronic collection. The collections of traditional print books and media, such as CD's and DVD's, were also expanded.

The Library was able to resume hosting public school class visits, beginning with grade 5 in the fall. The Children's Librarian is visiting pre-K classes at Center School monthly. Restoration of services for school students was a priority for the fall of 2011 and the Library Trustees are pleased that the Library can once again be a collaborative partner with the Abington Public Schools

Despite the almost 26% restoration in the Library budget for fiscal 2012, the Library is still funded below the state Municipal Appropriation Requirement, determined by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. A waiver application was filed in October, and it is expected that the waiver will be granted. Certification is necessary for residents to borrow materials from other libraries, and for the Library to receive State Aid funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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 throughout 2011. Grant funds dramatically expanded programs, materials and other library services to Abington's children and teens in grades six through twelve. The library submitted the proposal in March 2010 and funds were received in fall 2010. The project will

continue through fall 2012. Almost thirty 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. TAB members gave service to the larger community by assisting with the collection and preparation of holiday gifts for Abington's service members overseas. The highlight of teen programming for the year was a *Harry Potter* themed overnight in July, while federal funds provided five guest presenters including a hands-on cooking program and two acting improv workshops .

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. In conjunction with the federal Teens and Tweens grant, the Friends donated funds to purchase two new computers for the Nero Young Adult Room. The Friends also provided support and assistance for adult programming, and continued a very successful book discussion group.

The community was truly generous to the Library in 2011. A bequest from the O'Neill, Conroy and Kennedy families in memory of Helen L. Kennedy provided a new reading corner, three new computers and an Accu-cut machine for the Children's Room. A gift for technology in memory of Joyce Lee Bumpus provided new computers for the Reference area, greatly improving library users' Internet experiences. Gifts were received from the Abington Lions Club, The Anderson Foundation, a bequest in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith, a gift in memory of library user Winifred White, 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 2011 the Library hosted four children's cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. The Hampstead Stage Company's theatrical presentation of *The Adventures of Mr. Toad* was enjoyed by a large audience, as were the musicians Jennings and Ponder and Hugh Hanley. A performance by the Act!vated Story Theatre was also sponsored by the Anderson Foundation. An encore presentation by the storyteller, Motoko, was enjoyed by a large crowd and funded by donations in memory of Melba Smith, while a concert by Jay Mankita , Keith Michael Johnson's *Wild about Weather* show and the Library's public performance movie license were sponsored by the Joyce Lee Bumpus fund. Sparky's Puppets 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. 282 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,474 hours. Total attendance at children's and teen programs for 2011 was 2,923; this is a 28% increase from 2010 and may be attributed to teen participation in grant funded activities and the restoration of the Children's Librarian's position in September

The Board of Library Trustees saw no changes in 2011 as Trustees Betty Henderson, Christina McMahon and John O'Neill were re-elected in April. Acting Library Director Deborah Grimmett earned her Master's of Science in Library and Information Science from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in May, and was appointed Library Director. There were several staffing changes in 2011 in addition to the appointment of Lauren Budd as Children's Librarian. Part-time Library Assistant Isa Murray retired in June, after fifteen years of service; Library Assistant Barbara Libby was promoted to fill the vacancy. Library page Christopher Jones was promoted to

Library Assistant, and Heidi Hernandez and Elizabeth Shea were appointed as part-time Library Assistants.

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 effective July 1, 2011. 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, Jodie Hurst, Christopher Jones, Barbara Libby, Isa Murray, Elizabeth Shea and Linda Sampson.

Selected 2011 Library Statistics

Circulation: 110,677

Registered Borrowers: 6,765

Hits on the Library website: 1,674,907. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 7 (0 from Jan. – June); (7 from Oct. – Dec.)

2011 Value of Library Services to the Residents of Abington

Source: Massachusetts Library Association Value of Library Services Calculator

Books borrowed:	\$1,064,960.00
Videos borrowed:	\$50,048.00
Audios borrowed:	\$62,774.55
Magazines borrowed:	\$12,635.00
eBooks borrowed:	\$10,440.00
Museum passes loaned:	\$11,370.00
Interlibrary loans:	\$347,475.00
Hours of computer use:	\$56,940.00
Programs attended:	\$30,256.00
Total	\$1,646,898.55

Respectfully submitted,
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