



What Does My Library do for Me?

(A Description of Library Services)

Did you know that for every \$1.00 invested by the public in the library district, they received \$6.00 in services?

In 2007, the total amount of property taxes paid to the library by district residents was \$1,757,432.

**Compare this to the TOTAL VALUE RECEIVED by our residents:
\$10,519,022**

Loaning of Materials (books, magazines, audio-visual): Obviously what the library is all about; diverse materials are provided from our own collections, from other neighboring libraries through a consortial agreement, and from libraries across the country via a traditional Inter Library Loan process. We currently have 160,000 items in our collections, which according to Illinois State Library Standards puts us in the category of a “beginning” library.

Public Meeting Spaces: Each of our two library branches has a community room which is used for library programs and events. When not in use by the library, these rooms are able to be reserved by the public free of charge on a first come first served basis. Some examples of frequent users of these spaces include: scouting groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.), support groups, weight loss groups, tutoring organizations, local small businesses, homeowners associations, home school organizations, etc.

Reference and Informational Services: As the leaders in information technology for the residents of our district, we are committed to providing excellent library reference service. Our professional reference librarians are available during all library hours to assist the public to learn, discover, and find answers. To assist with this mission, we have free public access Internet stations in each of our libraries and we subscribe to excellent online informational databases to help find answers.

(Over...)

Library Programs: Our District has made a commitment to provide quality, diverse programming that is of interest to every age group.

CHILDREN - Our regular programming for children includes offering many pre-school story time sessions weekly, as well as programs and special events for all children through grade 6. Recent programs/special events have included:

- Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles
- X-Games Medalist Matt Wilhelm BMX Stunt Show
- Birthday party for Dr. Seuss
- Children's readers theater performances
- Model train workshops
- Gardening for kids

ADULTS and TEENS - Programs for teens and adults are provided by our Adult Services Department and include ongoing activities such as book discussion groups, computer classes, and game nights as well as one-time programs centered on diverse topics of interest to the public and supported by materials found in the library. Recent programs include:

- Planning your summer trip to Disney World
- Introduction to yoga
- Dynamic watercolor painting
- NOT paying for college
- Homemade beauty and body products
- Cooking healthy
- Buying on eBay

EXHIBITS and SPECIAL EVENTS - Special event programming generally revolves around hosting a traveling exhibit or the celebration of a cultural milestone (i.e. the upcoming bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth). Last year we had a special exhibit entitled "Cathedrals of Color" a photographic exhibit of the stained glass work of the Chicago-based John Kinsella Studios.

For 2009, we have been selected as one of the few libraries in the nation to host a traveling exhibit entitled "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America". This learning station exhibit was made available through the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, in collaboration with the American Library Association and the Tribeca Film Institute and with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities *We the People* program.