

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System 2008 Highlights

Major Initiatives and News

- Embarked upon developing comprehensive, system-wide library literacy initiative.
- Completed construction of consolidated space for rare books and special collections, with state of the art HVAC and security measures.
- Announced initiative to make promoting and showcasing the Library Systems' Special Collections a major focus for the incoming years; including a Central Library facility study.
- Formed the Green Team Working Group to explore and implement low cost, high impact alternatives for recycling, energy efficiency and promoting awareness of available resources.
- The Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County relocated their office to the Central Library.
- Computer use across the System has increased 60% over last year. We logged 666,000 sessions by year end.
- Overall use of the collections of materials has grown by 6% over 2007; over 7,619,000 items were borrowed in 2008.

Services

- All City of Buffalo Branches were restored to at least 40 hours of service.
- New ways of ordering and processing audio-visual materials made it easier and faster for libraries to add to their collections and making more available to the public.
- Users are able to place holds on more items, enabling them to reserve materials – even before the release dates.
- Mobile computer training was re-established through Cyber Train.
- The Teen Room at the Central Library was opened, and drew hundreds of teens each day to do homework, work on computers, try out gaming applications or get help with projects.
- The Central Library can now be booked for events and programs from outside groups and organizations, both for non-profit and for-profit entities. A computer lab, auditorium and smaller meeting rooms are also available.
- State matching funding for capital improvements was acquired for assistance with building and facility projects at Buffalo Branches and several libraries throughout the County.
 - Completed transition to Centralized Human Resources for all contracting libraries.
 - Revised materials budget allocation formulas.
 - Introduced downloadable video services.
 - Cleaned database to remove old holdings information to improve performance and prepare for Authority Control project.
 - Completed EnvisionWare implantation in all libraries.
 - Established System Committee for electronic database collection development, promotion and review.

- Introduced many new programs and services, including Book Club in a Bag and Sundays@Central Poetry series, StoryTubes, children’s programming at the Family Court in partnership with the YMCA.

Programs

- The system-wide Summer Reading Program and Read Down Your Fines initiative drew thousands of participants and enabled hundreds of children to use their cards once again.
- The Big Read one-book program is the first system-wide programming effort aimed at reaching all age groups and residents; a \$20,000 grant was secured for this project.
- Get Graphic, a two-year family literacy initiative focusing on graphic novels and teens, garners national attention for innovative programming.
- Partnered with WBFO and The Library Foundation to offer 4 sessions of a new Library Lunchtime Meet the Author Event series.
- Partnered with WBFO to host mobile StoryCorps sound studio.
- Collaborated with the Buffalo Museum of Science to create the Branched Out library series as well as Science Spot locations in libraries throughout the County.
- Partnered with the Explore and More Museum to host science programming in County library locations.
- Worked with the Parachute Group to host networking and informational sessions for displaced, laid-off and underemployed community residents at several libraries throughout the System.
- The East Delavan Branch Library was the recipient of a three-year grant from the Josephine Goodyear Foundation, made possible with help from Good Schools For All/Read to Succeed Buffalo; enabling enhanced furnishing and programs for improving family literacy projects.
- The Uncrowned Queens/Uncrowned Community Builders announce the first affiliate partner site at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library.

Awards and Special Achievements

- Fables Café was voted the Best Downtown Lunch destination by Buffalo Spree Magazine.
- The Central Library was voted the Best Library Branch by Buffalo Spree Magazine.
- Deputy Director for Development, Stanton H. Hudson, Jr. received the Outstanding Service Award from the Buffalo Niagara Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.
- Public Relations Officer, Paula Sandy was awarded Business First magazine’s “40 Under Forty” award.
- Director Bridget Quinn-Carey was appointed to the Regents Advisory Commission on Libraries.
- Kate Weeks, Director of the Town of Tonawanda Public Library, was named a Woman of Distinction by the Tonawanda News.
- Buffalo Museum of Science presents the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System with the Community Partner Award.