Our community is fortunate to have what many consider to be one of the nation’s finest public libraries. Faced with many opportunities and challenges, Cleveland Public Library continues to create new and exciting ways to not only service the needs of Greater Clevelanders, but also to expand programming, resources, and access to library collections.

This annual report looks back on the many accomplishments and success stories of 2007. Throughout the year the Library continued to strengthen partnerships with many community organizations and forge new relationships to work toward shared goals. In addition, goals and initiatives of the 2002 Strategic Plan moved forward, providing the highest standards of information and service to all residents.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities and projects for 2008. As President of the Board of Library Trustees, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve you in 2007. The Board salutes the Library staff and administration who strive each day to achieve excellence in library service and continued growth of Cleveland Public Library. Our staff acts as caring role models to a new generation of readers, inspiring our citizens to reach for the rich rewards of an ever-expanding global connectedness.

Alice G. Butts
President, Board of Trustees
Message from the Director

This year Cleveland Public Library garnered significant national recognition. On June 25 “The People’s University On Wheels” visited Capital Hill, where we served as exemplary backdrop for the welcoming of Members of Congress during the American Library Association Annual Conference and for a press conference led by ALA president Lorriene Roy. Your Library also co-hosted Cleveland’s first national Urban Libraries Council Conference in May, and received the 2007 Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections from the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

In September, following a Community Attitude Survey by TRIAD Research Group, which revealed that Cleveland voters are very positive about their Library, a series of Town Hall Meetings were held to discuss the status of our five library service initiatives. Sixty percent of voters supported their Library and our new plan on May 6, 2003. Your support remains steadfast, as this annual report goes to press, we are celebrating the March 4, 2008 passage of a 5.8 mill replacement property tax levy. Clearly, your response to our new initiatives has been very positive!

This year we also strengthened our ongoing partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District; to improve the academic performance of Cleveland’s students, full sets of school textbooks are now available in our 28 neighborhood Branches and Youth Services Department, Main Library, on a non-circulating basis.

The State Auditor’s Office issued a good audit for our Year 2006 financial records, thereby continuing our history of earning good audits as custodians of the public’s trust.

Plans are underway for relocating the Garden Valley Branch into the new Bridgeport Place, building a new Rice Branch, and renovating the Woodland Branch.

Thank You Cleveland for your confidence in and support of “The People’s University”

Andrew A. Venable, Jr.,
Director

Your Neighborhood Library
Fosters Learning and Literacy for Life

In May of this year your community proudly hosted “The Changing Face of Cities,” part of the Urban Libraries Council’s Partners for Success conference series, which explores how libraries can be resources for addressing urban issues. Librarians professionals from across the country convened in Cleveland to talk about the vital role urban libraries play in cultivating community and fostering knowledge and innovation. Cleveland was the ideal site for this gathering of dedicated library leaders; in the last six years we’ve transformed your Cleveland Public Library based on your aspirations. You asked for increased hours of operation in neighborhood branches, for more programs for children, young adults, senior citizens, and New Americans; and for more computers and computer classes. We promised to meet these needs and we kept our promises. You have taken full advantage of our enhanced services; this is our reward for six years of hard work and dedication.

This annual report provides a record of our accomplishments in 2007. During its production we secured your most significant vote of confidence; on March 4, 2008, Issue 2, a five-year, 5.8 mill replacement property tax levy passed by a more than sixty-five percent margin. We remain committed to our goal of ensuring that the Main Library and Branches are the center of our city’s neighborhoods. Our buildings are as lively as the people who work and serve, and study, read, gather, create, and learn within them. This 2007 annual report illustrates just how engaged you are in your Library’s programs, exhibitions, and activities. Thanks to the combined efforts of our staff, Board, community partners, and—most importantly—our dedicated patrons, Cleveland Public Library is a center of dynamic innovation and creativity. Most importantly, however, our buildings are places where lifelong learning happens. Your Library inspires literacy for life.
When we hear the word “literacy,” we most often think of reading and writing. But living in today's complex, competitive information society requires that we are “literate for life.” Attaining life literacy requires that we have easy access to the Internet, and to textbooks and materials that are fundamental to public education and intellectual development. Our visual culture—the realm of television, billboard, magazine and Internet advertising—encourages us to consume fatty, sugary, high-carbohydrate foods; therefore, we must stay informed about good nutrition and exercise. Your Library makes these resources available to you on site at the Main Library and neighborhood Branches, and we also bring them to you with our Mobile Library units, our community partnerships and programs, and our website.

Books clubs, which promote group interaction and a sense of community, remain popular vehicles for sharing ideas and intellectual growth. Creating a successful club sometimes means connecting with people where they live, study, and gather. Since 1999 your Library has partnered with A Cultural Exchange, a literacy-based nonprofit multicultural arts organization for children, on Read, Baby, Read!, a multicultural book group for second graders from approximately 20 public, charter, and parochial schools. In 2007 Read, Baby, Read! launched Spotlight, a magazine with a circulation of 5,000. This year we began an important collaboration with Care Alliance, an agency that provides medical and dental care to homeless people in Northeast Ohio, and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, the organization that operates the 2100 Lakeside Homeless Shelter. Each week, men living at 2100 Lakeside Homeless Shelter gathered to discuss books such as Barack Obama's Dreams from My Father and Is Bill Cosby Right? by Michael Eric Dyson. The group provided camaraderie and conversation; it also gave men the opportunity to explore their own problems and circumstances in relation to authors’ experiences, the tribulations of fictional characters, and the challenges faced by their homeless peers. Another goal of the discussion group was to have members read books by authors who were scheduled to appear at the Library; like all Clevelanders, homeless individuals are welcome to attend author events and programs held at their Main neighborhood Library.
Often getting people engaged in reading and connected to their library means taking books, DVDs, CDs, and materials to them where they live and work. We expanded our Mobile Services Department this year; an $80,000 Library Service and Technology Act grant from the State Library of Ohio made the purchase of the new mobile unit possible, and a $40,000 grant from Starting Point helped us stock the shelves with books and materials. The new project, “On the Road to Reading,” strengthens our commitment to early childhood education. Librarian staff wrote a certified curriculum for pre-K teachers, which is focused on teaching early literacy skills. Next year the Woodland Branch, home to Mobile Services, will be expanded and updated to better accommodate the staff and fleet.

Another rewarding 2007 endeavor involved filling requests for books for the Richland Correctional Institution’s Library. Your Library’s Interlibrary Loan staff worked with the correctional institution’s librarian, to meet the reading interests of incarcerated men. These efforts keep confined men involved in reading and engaged with positive institutional programming.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and Cleveland Public Library staff, public school students now have access to a full set of textbooks—2,000 copies in all—at their neighborhood Branch and in the Youth Services Department of the Main Library. Beginning in September of this year, books from every subject taught at CMSD for first through twelfth grades were available to students and their caregivers for on-site use.

Mobile Library Arrives in Washington DC

A Special Invitation

The Library’s collaboration with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District ensures that students and their caregivers can access the textbooks after school, five evenings a week and on weekends. Cleveland Public Library’s literacy mission is to provide as much educational support to school-age students as possible.”

— Marcus Robinson, Literacy Coordinator, Cleveland Public Library
In May Cleveland hosted the Urban Library Council conference, “The Changing Face of Cities.” A dynamic, dedicated group of librarians, administrators, and politicians from across the U.S. engaged in dialogues on the contributions of urban libraries to the quality of life in the city. Historically, American cities have always been hubs of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity. Cities remain multicultural centers; however, new immigrants of the 21st century need different skills than those who came before them. In industrial cities like Cleveland, nineteenth and early twentieth century immigrants settled in ethnically unified communities. In Cleveland’s post-industrial era, New Americans often look to their language connected to their new neighbors, native citizens who accepted the invitation to participate in this international endeavor, your Cleveland Public Library joins some of the world’s most prestigious institutions.

New Americans planning to apply for citizenship were given free assistance in mastering the newly revised U.S. citizenship exam. In collaboration with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, your Cleveland Public Library offered free citizenship classes on Saturday mornings at the Main Branch. The citizenship course is one of the many ways your Library is working to meet the changing needs of our diverse, changing, urban community.

Your Library earned recognition in the global community; Shanghai Public Library selected us as a partner in their “Window of Shanghai” program. Our Foreign Literature Department received 500 copies of top-notch Chinese language books covering a wide range of topics, many of which were printed in bilingual formats. By accepting the invitation to participate in this international endeavor, your Cleveland Public Library joins the ranks of some of the world’s most prestigious institutions.
In our collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library and the Cuyahoga County Public Library, we were able to bring together hundreds of library leaders, public officials, and other experts to discuss the changing challenges faced by our libraries in our rapidly changing communities.

— Martin Gomez, President, Urban Libraries Council

What if you are ready to put your data into a box and you don’t know the language of paladins? Or are you looking for the most effective way to search for information? Cleveland Public Library is the home of the Digital Library and the 2007 Library. Government Documents provide hard-to-finder using U.S. Patent search process and research tools, including the Patent Search-DOE system (Patentweb), as the library'sadoop and transformed (PATFT) web site. These are available to help patrons understand how to work with the (PATFT) web site.

You may use the Government Documents resources for historic patent information and trademarks research. This department also has access to congressional publications, legislation, consumer information, and federal statistical information available to the community for research.

Cleveland Public Library: Your Urban Center for Research and Intellectual Inspiration

Cleveland Public Library is the city center of intellectual discourse and creative engagement. This spring at the Urban Libraries Council “Partners for Success” conference in Cleveland, keynote speaker Ohio Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher cited three essential elements to economic development, “Knowledge, innovation, and talent—all of which,” he added, “libraries nurture.” Your Library is the third largest public research library in the United States and we are a leader in creating technological advancements such as e-Books and online services such as KnowItNow24x7. We also inspire and support your creative enterprises from India and Ireland to the United Kingdom and Germany—travel to telephone or email to get the information they need to write chronicles on historic chess clubs, dissertations—including one on composer Leslie Adam of Oberlin.

Researchers from all over the world—from India and Ireland to the United Kingdom and Germany—travel to Cleveland, or work with our librarians via telephone or email to get the information they need to write chronicles on historic chess clubs, dissertations—including one on composer Leslie Adam of Oberlin College—and essays on topics such as East Prussian folklore, or on chess greats Bobby Fisher and Boris Spassky. The Prussian folklore, or on chess greats Bobby

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Rosalie Jackson, Mayor, City of Cleveland; San Fratello, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Public Library; Teri Higgins, Cuyahoga County Commissioner; Charles A. James, Board of Trustees; and Martha Gomez, President, Urbane Librarian of the Cuyahoga County Public Library; Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio; Mary A. Dettenporte, Commissioner, Chicago Public Library; and Peter Lawson Jones, Cuyahoga County Commissioner.

Attendees at the Urban Libraries Council conference at Cleveland Public Library.

Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman; Christopher Ranapra, President, University Circle, Inc.; Deborah L. Sutherland, Mayor, Cuyahoga County Commissioner; Mary A. Dempsey, Commissioner, Chicago Public Library; and Steven A. Minter, Executive in Residence at Cleveland State University.

The John S. White Chess Collection, located in Special Collections, is used by researchers from around the world. This unique, hand-written 18th century manuscript (top left) illustrates how to play chess. Chessomaster Giacomo Secco created this 18th-century manuscript that illustrates how to play chess. Cleveland Public Library owns eight of these manuscripts.
It is very encouraging to know that, even within this challenging economic climate, Cleveland Public Library remains committed to preservation, which is at the very heart of its mission to the public, and a cornerstone for sustaining Cleveland’s heritage.”

— Albert Albano, Executive Director of the Intermuseum Conservation Association
Becoming “literate for life” encompasses more than computer and Internet proficiency. Technology-based cultural literacy also means being able to access and use computers and online resources to get the information you need to apply for jobs, stay healthy, write reports or research papers on topics that are interesting and important to you and your family and community. A study conducted this year by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Pew Internet and American Life Project reveals that urban libraries are helping city-dwelling families—particularly Latino/as and African Americans—bridge the newest iteration of the “digital divide.” Today this divide is not simply about having Internet access; according to the Pew study, most young people use computers and the web on a daily basis at their neighborhood libraries and public schools. What many less affluent families lack are computers and high-speed Internet connectivity at home. Bridging the digital divide means ensuring that people have broadband access, compared with only 29 percent of Latino/a and 11 percent African American city-dwelling families.1

The Pew study supports what you told us at Town Hall meetings beginning in 2003; you depend on us to provide computers and training that is effective, efficient, and accessible.

Because you depend on your Library’s computer hardware and staff expertise, we added 35 new patron computers to the Main Library and neighborhood Branches. And laptop users can now enjoy wireless Internet access at all 29 Library sites. Also new this year is our new teen web site, Voices Rising of Cleveland (VROC). VROC is a youth-centered space that features new fiction, manga, and anime, as well as Library events planned just for teens. Young people are invited to “be heard” through the online discussion forum, YRead?, and “get help” via a link to HomeworkNow, a service of KnowItNow24x7, which offers homework assistance from librarians.

In 1979 Cleveland Public Library Director Ervin Gaines and staff began an automation project with Data Research Associates (DRA). The system they envisioned would be capable of expanding the number of programs it could manage, deliver information simultaneously to a large number of terminals quickly and efficiently, and have maximum data storage capacity. The first tasks to be automated with the new DRA system included the card catalog, circulation procedures, serial and periodical records, and an index to Cleveland newspapers. Our catalog was partially online in July of 1980, and by December of that year, it was fully online and the new circulation system was working in every Library agency. The following year, Dr. Gaines predicted that our independent database would attract other Cleveland area libraries to be a part of a regional bibliographic database. Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library became the first area library to engage in a collaborative dialogue. In six months an agreement was signed and by the end of 1982 Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library went live, launching the CLEVNET consortium.

Today, under the leadership of Director Andrew A. Venable, Jr., your Library has 30 CLEVNET partners, making it one of the largest public library systems in the world and offering innovative online community and reference services such as KnowItNow24x7, HomeworkNow, and ReadThisNow.
“Planning for the Garden Valley and Rice Branches is very rewarding because both are collaborative projects involving community stakeholders. These partnerships allow us to pool resources and bring progressive, creative concepts to fruition.”

— Holly Carroll, Deputy Director, Cleveland Public Library

Ensuring that our neighborhood patrons have tools for life literacy is central to our mission; we also want to lead and collaborate on neighborhood projects that enrich our city. One of our greatest ventures of 2007 was planning the new Garden Valley Branch. Garden Valley is one of our smallest Branches in size, yet it serves the largest number of children. The new building, designed by Richard Bowen and Associates, will be located in the Bridgeport Place Plaza, and the space and collection, furnishings, and technology it will house are being planned based on the needs and interests of these enthusiastic young patrons and their families and neighbors.

Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and Buckeye Area Development Corporation invited us to be a part of a major undertaking in the Buckeye-Larchmere neighborhood, where our Rice Branch is located. NP and Buckeye Development are planning and building an environmentally friendly, “green” district and the Rice Branch is part of the scheme. Bostwick Design Partnership is working on the new Branch design, which will reflect the important move toward greener, more sustainable architecture and neighborhoods. To meet the goals of our newly expanded Mobile Services Department, a larger garage and office space are in the works at the Woodland Branch. The space will meet the demands of this growing department, which is currently divided between a garage adjacent to Woodland and a carpenter’s shop on the Branch’s lower level. Mobile Services’ new home will ensure that staff can maximize workflow efficiency and—with two state-of-the-art vehicles to manage and maintain—it also allows for better traffic flow and route organization.

In addition to offering you Internet access through one of our many computers, patrons looking for wireless service can now find it at all of our Branches and at the Main Library. Making sense of our historic buildings wireless was a necessary, and worthwhile endeavor, however, adapting all of them for wireless Internet access was no small task, especially since many of our buildings are decades or nearly a century old. Imagine installing wireless—had entered our historic buildings wireless was a necessary, and worthwhile endeavor, however, adapting all of them for wireless Internet access was no small task, especially since many of our buildings are decades or nearly a century old. Imagine installing wireless—had entered our historic buildings wireless was a necessary, and worthwhile endeavor, however, adapting all of them for wireless Internet access was no small task, especially since many of our buildings are decades or nearly a century old.

“The new Rice Branch is designed to reflect Cleveland Public Library’s vision for revitalizing service at the neighborhood level. We’ve been lucky to share our process with CPL administration and staff; they’re a natural extension of our team and will continue to help guide the design to achieve their mission.”

— Richard L. Ortmeyer AIA LEED A.P., Principal, Bostwick Design Partnership

When we build a new Branch, we spend time planning the facility, and we also plan the new collection for our patrons. Technical Services oversees the workflow process so all materials arrive at the branch.

In 2007 a committee discussed the needs of our neighborhood patrons and determined which materials would be most widely used and appropriate for a range of ages. The staff knows our patrons from the neighborhood and can make decisions that are beneficial to all who use that Branch.
**Donors**

The following individuals and organizations made generous donations to the Library in 2007. Some gifts were made in honor of loved ones, while others were made to enhance specific Library services, programs, or collections. All gifts to the Library are greatly appreciated, as they improve our ability to deliver high quality service and to build outstanding collections.

**Donors of Up to $99**
- Darrell & Marlene Smith
- Rick & Joan Andersen
- Steve & Evelyn Sahul
- Uruja Korneichtouk
- Ellen Mayer
- Janet Armstrong
- Lawrence & Mary Wolf
- TTE
- Lois & Linda Noch Yurasic
- John & Dora Yatsin
- Sally Windle
- Jean Miske

**Donors of $100 to $499**
- Marian Elizabeth Andrade
- Marsha Cofman
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- Gamma Delta Zeta Chapter
- Lawrence & Mary Wolf

**Donors of $500 to $999**
- Library of Congress—Center for the Book
- Cleveland Chapter
- Harby C. Lee and Elizabeth K. Lee Fund

**Donors of $1,000 to $4,999**
- Irwin Jack and Lena Pincus Foundation
- John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Dr. John F. Burke, Jr.

**Donors of Up to $4,999**

**Grants**
- Senior Gateway—$49,452 for service and programs for the elderly
- LSTA KnowNow—$325,176 for providing reference services 24x7

**Other Funds Received Regularly**
- Friends of the Cleveland Public Library—$16,801 for program support
- Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurt—$39,458 for the purchase of architectural materials
- Frederick W. and Hennett Slocum Judd Fund—$204,151 for the Library’s Homebound Service
- Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund—$5,079 for the purchase of fine art materials, lectures, staff recognition, and travel expenses
- Winfred Beech Young Testamentary Trust—$38,121 for services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve

**Expenditures and Encumbrances**

- Salaries and Benefits
- Library Materials
- Utilities and Purchased Services
- Other Encumbrances
- Transfer to Building and Repair Fund

**Carried Forward for the Next Year’s First Quarter Operations**
- $26,867,387
- $29,671,067
- $5,860,400
- $2,882,600
- $1,090,650
- $68,372,104
- $30,231,948
- $98,606,052

**How Library Dollars Were Spent**

**General Operating Fund**

**2007**

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**Fifty Years of Service**

Jean Piety, Science and Technology Manager, celebrated fifty years of library service in August of this year. When she began working at Cleveland Public Library, salaries were $4,000 per year, and the affluent, Post-World War II United States was in the midst of a competitive race to space with the Soviet Union (now Russia). 1957 was also the International Geophysical Year; as a result of developments in this moment in history, Mrs. Piety focused on the challenges and innovations of science and technology as she began her career. As a party honoree her half century of Library service, Mrs. Piety announced a January 31, 2008 retirement date.

During Mrs. Piety’s tenure, the Science and Technology Department has become known for its collection on dogs, which contains more than 3,000 volumes on specific breeds, care and training, canine psychology, and texts on breeding, showing, and kennel management. Stud books from American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, and the Kennel Club (UK) provide patrons and researchers with the means to trace pedigrees back to the mid-nineteenth century.

Monetary gifts from the Western Reserve Kennel Club and breed clubs generally help us purchase books and magazines for the dog collection. Dog lovers also give unique and significant gifts to this collection; this year Mary Schuetzler of California donated the print series German Shepherd Dog Champions 1958-2002 to the Science and Technology Department’s dog collection.

Jean Piety assists Library patrons, 1969.

**Andrew A. Yestal, Jr.**, Director and Main Library Subject Department Managers celebrate fifty years of library service with Jean Piety (center).

**Jean Piety assists Library patrons, 1993.**

First issue 2007 gift to the dog collection, 1958 German Shepherd champion Mentor’s Weddins.
In 1987 one of the Friends of the Cleveland Public Library initial actions was to make retired Library director Linda A. Easman the group’s first honorary member. Their 1995 charter luncheon was held at The Higbee Company on November 7, where tables featured centerpieces designed to reflect popular book titles. At that time Friends membership cost $3.00 a year. We have undergone a great deal of change in fifty years, but one thing has remained constant—the Friends’ commitment to your Cleveland Public Library.

The Friends have actively advanced our vision of being a learning place for you—our diverse community—and for inspiring people of all ages to develop a life-long love of books and literacy in all of its forms. Over the years they’ve held numerous fundraisers, which have included book sales and auctions, Flower Fairs, and, more recently, three “Treasures Events” in 2004 and 2006. A book sale in 1986 grossed $24,000, and “Treasures 2004” raised $22,000 for our Summer and Winter Reading Clubs, Children’s Book Week activities, children’s programs, and Special Collections.

Throughout the years, the Friends of the Library has also given gifts from a fund dedicated to purchasing rare books to support CPL programs. In the 1980s, for instance, they approved the purchase of a facsimile edition of the famous anti-slavery newspaper The Liberator, which was published by William Lloyd Garrison from 1812-1865.

In 1991 Friends created the Eugenia Thornton Scholarship Fund to recognize Eugenia Thornton’s nineteen years as dedicated writer of the Friends’ literary newsletter, Marginal Notes.Annually the fund provides four $1,000 scholarships in support of Library staff and their dependents, patrons, and Friends members for post-secondary education pursuits.

Cleveland Public Library board, staff, and patrons extend our sincere gratitude to our Friends and congratulated them on this fifty-year milestone!