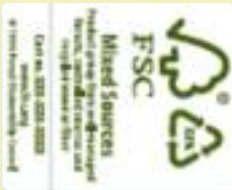




Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1271

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Cleveland Public Library

A History of Leadership, Community-Building & Learning



2008

ANNUAL REPORT



THOMAS JEFFERSON

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free...it expects what was and never will be.

LIBRARY STAFF, CIRCA 1920s

Many people, young and old go to school in our libraries every day.

LIBRARY PATRON, 1930

I may be in an ugly mood when I come, but the peace and serenity of this place have a magic effect. Before I know it I feel right with the world and myself.

AUTHOR, CIRCA 1930s

My library card, which costs nothing, has been a sort of meal ticket of the spirit. I would rather give up my overcoat than lose the use of that card....



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COVER QUOTES:
“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free...it expects what was and never will be.”
—Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) on public libraries and an educated electorate
“Many people, young and old go to school in our libraries every day.”
—Effie L. Power, Cleveland Public Library, Director of Work with Children, 1920-1937
“I may be in an ugly mood when I come, but the peace and serenity of this place have a magic effect. Before I know it I feel right with the world and myself.”
—Library patron, 1930
“My library card, which costs nothing, has been a sort of meal ticket of the spirit. I would rather give up my overcoat than lose the use of that card...”
—From an author who could not afford the price of a magazine during The Great Depression

Cover illustrations from CPL Special Collections

“The zeal of the staff was the greatest asset that the library possessed—and so it was. Under Brett and Eastman the Library had both heart and soul...”

—John G. White, Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees, 1884-1886 and 1913-1928



Felton Thomas
Director

“We are thrilled to have Felton Thomas’ energy and ideas in Cleveland. The Board of Trustees was drawn to him for many reasons, most notably because he shares our conviction that neighborhood libraries truly enrich people’s lives.”

—Alice G. Butts, President, Board of Trustees

**Comments from Board President
Alice G. Butts**

2008 was a busy year for Cleveland Public Library! We witnessed a thrilling level of volunteer participation by staff, trustees, Friends, and many other community supporters who worked tirelessly making phone calls and canvassing neighborhoods to successfully pass Issue 2 on March 4. Sixty-five percent of the voters supported the tax renewal.

After Andrew A. Venable, Jr. announced his end-of-June retirement, we reached an agreement with Deputy Director Holly Carroll to serve as Interim Director, and began a national search for a new director. Happily, we successfully recruited Felton Thomas, a star graduate of the Urban Libraries Council Executive Leadership Institute and a nationally highly regarded innovator with more than 20 years experience and a Ph.D. candidate in the Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions program at Simmons University. Director Thomas received a Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Hawaii and he, with his wife Linda, came to us from the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, where they have been rearing two daughters, Marissa and Kayla. Like Patrick Losinski, chair of the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council, who spoke of his “pride and delight to see someone from the emerging generation of library innovators take the stage,” I welcome Director Thomas’ fresh perspective. I look forward to his leadership in shaping Library policy and direction as we think strategically in the face of the newest challenges of our 21st Century.

What a privilege and joy to serve you in 2008! On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I salute our talented and dedicated staff who achieve excellence in customer service every day at our “People’s University.”

Alice G. Butts
President, Board of Trustees

**Members of the
Board of Library Trustees**



Thomas D. Corrigan
Vice President



Maritza Rodriguez
Secretary



Venerine L. Branham
Through June 2008



John M. Hairston
Beginning July 2008



Lori McClung



Alan Seifullah



Rick Werner



The 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemorative Program where Reverend Dr. Otis J. Moss, Jr. (center) was the keynote speaker.



Library patrons enjoy participating in our reading programs, such as **Pajama Storytime** at the West Park Branch.



Venerine L. Branham, retired from the Library Board of Trustees after 14 years of service, including six consecutive years as president.

**Message from the Deputy Director
Holly Carroll**

My goal as Interim Director of Cleveland Public Library was to ensure a smooth transition to a new administration. While Board members conducted a national search for the top executive, and staff awaited the announcement of a new Director, the Library moved forward.

It was a phenomenal year in a number of ways—especially as the Library expanded and upgraded several of its facilities. The new Garden Valley Branch was dedicated on February 23—more than 600 people visited the new Library to commemorate the grand opening! We also celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Rice Branch in late October, and in late autumn we began the bidding process for Woodland Branch enhancements and the new offices for the Mobile Services Department.

Internally, the Library completed negotiations for a new payroll and human resources management system and drafted a succession planning document. New career development activities for staff were planned and implemented and we took on the important task of reviewing internal work processes to test for efficiency and effectiveness.

It was an honor to serve this community as Interim Director in 2008. On behalf of Library staff and administrators, I welcome Felton Thomas as Library Director, and thank Andrew A. Venable, Jr. for his 24 years of service to Cleveland Public Library.

Holly C. Carroll

Holly Carroll
Interim Director
July–December 2008



Holly Carroll
Interim Director



Interim Director Holly Carroll at the Library's annual **Book Bee**, **Parade the Circle**, with Frank Rich at the **Spectrum Dialogues**, and at the October groundbreaking ceremony for the new **Rice Branch**.



The mission of the Cleveland Public Library is to be the best urban library system in the country by providing access to the worldwide information that people and organizations need in a timely, convenient, and equitable manner.

The vision of “The People’s University” is to be the learning place for a diverse community, inspiring people of all ages with the love of books and reading, advancing the pursuit of knowledge, and enhancing the quality of life for all who use the Library.

“The passage of Issue 2 in 2008 by an overwhelming majority of Cleveland voters—a phenomenal 65 percent, and the fact that it passed in every precinct in the city demonstrates the respect and confidence the people have for Cleveland Public Library. Our Library is this city’s greatest asset, and in difficult economic times people look to their neighborhood Branch as a haven of stability and resources, which both sustains and intellectually engages them.”

—Arnold R. Pinkney, betpin & associates, inc., COO & Senior Consultant



**“We might as well expect to have
good citizens without good books...
as to make bricks without straw.”**

—President, Library Board of Cleveland, late nineteenth century

Victory at the Polls

This year we secured your most significant vote of confidence; on March 4, Issue 2, a five-year, 5.8 mill replacement property tax levy to continue and maintain our services to you passed by a sixty-five percent margin in all voting precincts! Cleveland Public Library is an integral part of our community and has been for nearly 140 years.

During the last century and a half, your Library has consistently been at the center of Cleveland’s neighborhoods; innovators such as William Howard Brett, who was Library’s chief librarian from 1884 to 1918, dedicated his

career to making books and information accessible to all people. At the time of his death in 1918, there were 25 branches, 17 libraries in high and grade schools, one library in a normal school, 487 classroom libraries, 42 deposit stations, 66 delivery stations, seven children’s stations, one municipal reference library, and one library for the blind. Brett increased the number of volumes in the Library from less than 40,000 in 1884 to 50,000 in 1918. In circulation per capita, Cleveland had an impressive lead over every other metropolitan library in the nation.

Library programs and collections are an integral part of our community and

contribute to your quality of life. In challenging economic times, people look to us for help with computer training, job searches and resume writing, and for diversions—such as popular fiction, CDs, and DVDs—from the stresses of daily life. Your Cleveland Public Library has been a bastion of stability throughout its history, and we continue that legacy. Thank you for your continued confidence and for giving us the opportunity to serve you in times of economic paucity and prosperity.

24 Years of Service

Andrew A. Venable, Jr.

Director, Cleveland Public Library

This year we salute Andrew A. Venable, Jr., who retired his post as Library Director on June 30. During his 24-year tenure at the Library, Mr. Venable focused on using the Library as a tool for improving the quality of life of our city's diverse citizens. He framed the Library as "The People's University"—an institution of higher learning that is free and open to all people. He connected readers with the creative people who weave words together on the page, establishing the Sunday Afternoon for Writers and Readers series. Under his leadership we invented and implemented the Internet-based reference service KnowItNow24x7; the Ohio Center for the Book was transferred from the State Library to Cleveland Public Library; Mobile Library Services were reinstated; and plans

for a new Garden Valley Branch were secured. Mr. Venable also worked to ensure that Cleveland Public Library was a leader on the national level by co-hosting the Urban Libraries Council Conference in 2007. The Mobile Library was featured on Capitol Hill that same year during the American Library Association's annual conference. Mr. Venable was committed to Cleveland and its residents; during his term as Director he oversaw the passage of two operating tax levies, and, after receiving Clevelanders' vote of confidence, he involved them in an ambitious strategic planning process, which resulted in Saturday Library hours, more computers and computer training classes, increased services for seniors, children and young adults, and our city's new Americans. Thank you Andrew A. Venable, Jr. for nearly a quarter of a century of service in Cleveland and in the national realm of public libraries!

The Andrew A. Venable, Jr. Oral History Project was established as a tribute to Andrew A. Venable, Jr.'s twenty-four years of service to CPL and our community, and in recognition of his retirement on June 30, 2008. In collaboration with Cleveland State University and the Western Reserve Historical Society, the oral history project documents the lives of Clevelanders and their families. These personal histories reveal the personal and collective challenges and accomplishments of the people of Cleveland in the twentieth century. The oral histories provide perspectives for historians, educators, and researchers of all ages now and for future generations.

(right) Holly Carroll, Thomas D. Corrigan, Venerine L. Branham, author Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Andrew A. Venable, Jr., and Alan Seifullah at **Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers** series.

Andrew A. Venable, Jr. directing the staff holiday chorus at the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemorative Program**. The Staff Chorus, which he established in 1997, was renamed the Andrew Venable Celebration Library Chorus.

THE COMMUNITY SPOKE.
WE LISTENED.

STRATEGIC PLAN



Saturday Hours



More Computers and Computer Training



Services for Seniors



Services for Children and Young Adults



Services for New Americans



Issue 2 passes in May 2003 and 2008

Thank You Cleveland



WE TOOK ACTION.



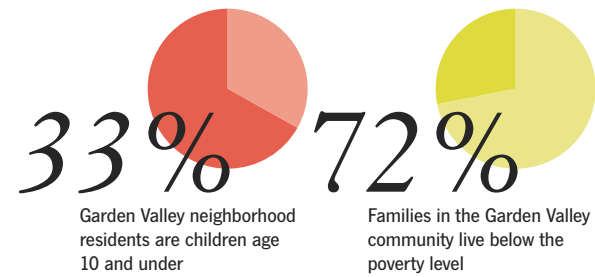
(left) Director Andrew A. Venable, Jr. at the Library's Puppet program during **Family Fun Day at the Zoo**.

(above) **Mobile Library** was featured on **Capitol Hill** during the American Library Association's annual conference.

(below) Director Andrew A. Venable, Jr. at his **Retirement Reception** with family members and former Congressman Louis B. Stokes. The Hue People performed.



Community Outreach



Planning & Research Department collects statistics on each of the Neighborhood Branches and the communities that they serve. When a decision had to be made about the future of the Garden Valley Branch, the Administration turned to Planning & Research for data. They learned that the Garden Valley community has the highest concentration of children in the city, with 33 percent of the entire population under age ten. These are children who depend on the resources of their Library for books and computer training that they cannot get at home, as 72 percent of the families in the community live below the poverty level.



Your newly located Garden Valley Branch is a testament to our commitment to serving Cleveland's unique communities. The Branch moved from 7100 Kinsman Road to the Bridgeport Place Plaza, across the street from its former location. The new facility opened to great fanfare on February 23, as 660 enthusiastic people celebrated and explored their new Library. Garden Valley is one of our smallest facilities, yet it serves an area that includes the largest concentration of children in Cleveland. Youth Services is a major focus; Garden Valley added a new Children's Librarian and Library Assistant devoted solely to young patrons. Garden Valley's programs are multigenerational and people of all ages use the Branch's 22 computers and meeting room.

We continue to be a leader in adaptive technology and services to seniors and people with disabilities. Staff from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) led a national committee of librarians to develop a toolkit of "15 Quick Tips" for working with people with disabilities or special needs. LBPH staff also developed a checklist for librarians so that they can easily determine if their

continued on page 8



The **Pajama Storytime at West Park Branch** for children two to five years old and their families with Children's Librarian Lisa Kowalczyk.

Visually impaired patrons work on computers using adaptive technologies like the one shown here at the **Walz Branch**. The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides systemwide training and support on this equipment.

Mobile Services serves people close to home. This year the department filled 17,540 holds, a six percent increase from 2007.

The new **Garden Valley Branch** (page 7 background photo) opened February 23; more than 600 patrons attending the grand opening.

"We love our neighborhood Library and go every week to get new books. We truly appreciate the quality and attentiveness of the staff at our Branch!"
—Library Patron



Young patrons at their new Garden Valley Branch (front, left to right) Jamarra Calhoun, Jonathan Covington, (back, left to right) Allieah Marbury, Michael Crews-Covington, Jeffery Cleveland, William McCullaugh, and Malik Crutchfield.

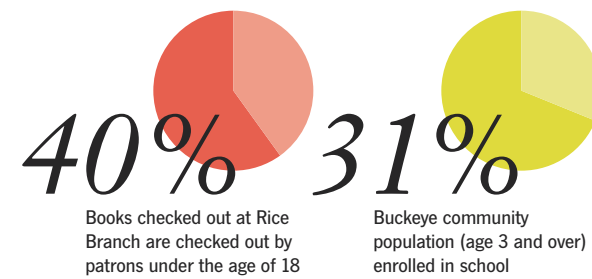
"My favorite thing about the Library is the location—it is within a safe walking distance."
—Library Patron

"My family enjoys the multicultural programs that take place at the Branches—we also love the hands-on communal activities."
—Library Patron

"I truly value access to the extended collection of all libraries in the CLEVNET system and appreciate the online catalog and hold services."
—Library Patron



Community Partnerships



Planning & Research Department staff track how and when patrons use Neighborhood Branches. When planning started for a new Rice Branch, the Administration asked Planning & Research for usage data on the existing Rice Branch. They learned that patrons under the age of 18 checked out 40 percent of the books in 2008. They also learned that the Buckeye community is a community of learners, as 31 percent of the population (age 3 and over) is enrolled in school.

products are accessible to people using adaptive technologies. Both the toolkit and the checklist are available to librarians nationwide on the American Library Association’s web site.

This year Homebound Services distributed 21,000 items to nearly 390 Cleveland residents—a 15 percent increase since 2007. Participation in Mobile Services Department’s “On the Road to Reading” project increased by 36 percent in 2008; staff presented story times to 574 classes at early childhood facilities, reaching 6,008 children and educators, and 10,775 items were loaned to participating child care centers and providers.

In October we broke ground on the construction of a new Rice Branch. The project is a model in partnering with community organizations—in this case, Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and Buckeye Area Development Corporation. The design for the new, cutting-edge facility is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, as an environmentally responsible building. This means that it was designed using strategies aimed at improving performance in areas such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

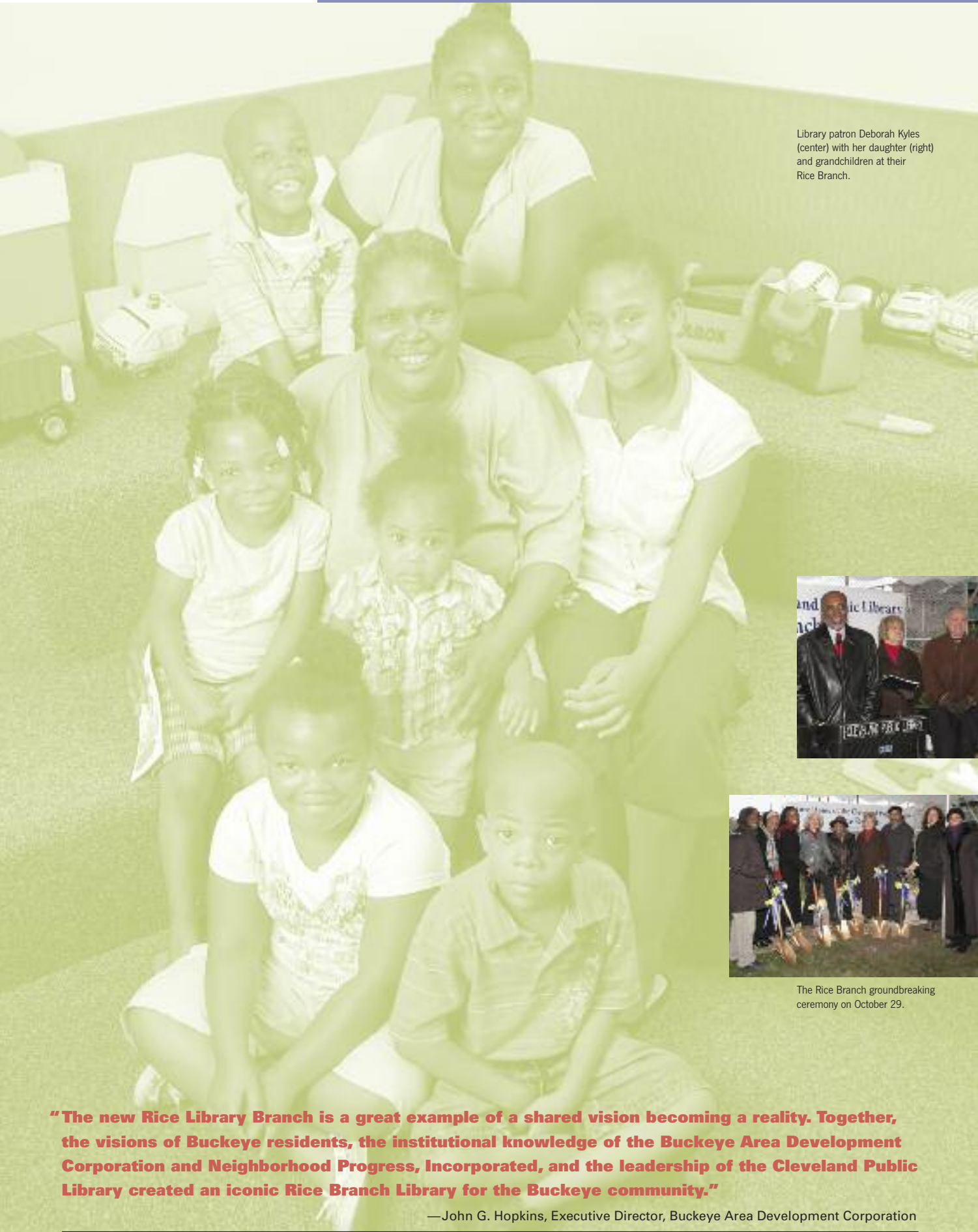


PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LIBRARY (PAL)

The Public Administration Library (PAL) is located in City Hall and was established in 1912, making it one of the oldest municipal libraries in the U.S. This year Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman identified the need for a report on the origin of the names of Cleveland Metropolitan School District buildings. PAL and History Department staff conducted extensive research and created a reference guide, which was presented to Councilman Cimperman and his colleagues on the City Planning Commission.



John Hopkins, Executive Director, Buckeye Area Development Corporation (center) and community members Grace Crawford (left) and Linda L. McGhee at the construction site for the new Rice Branch.



Library patron Deborah Kyles (center) with her daughter (right) and grandchildren at their Rice Branch.



The Rice Branch groundbreaking ceremony on October 29.

“The new Rice Library Branch is a great example of a shared vision becoming a reality. Together, the visions of Buckeye residents, the institutional knowledge of the Buckeye Area Development Corporation and Neighborhood Progress, Incorporated, and the leadership of the Cleveland Public Library created an iconic Rice Branch Library for the Buckeye community.”

—John G. Hopkins, Executive Director, Buckeye Area Development Corporation

**Cleveland Public Library:
Your Resource**



+20%

Increase in circulation in
the Audio Video Department
from 2007 to 2008

“Having access to the latest films and entertainment is important to people’s quality of life. We strive to create an atmosphere that is similar to a neighborhood video store, and we work with our colleagues in Technical Services to ensure that multiple copies of new films are available the day that they are released on DVD.”

—Carlos Latimer, AV Department Manager, Main Library

Library programs and resources are key to building community and improving your quality of life. In challenging economic times, you rely on us to provide computer access and training, skill-building courses, and entertainment.

This year the Business, Economics, and Labor Department was particularly busy, as patrons sought resources to help them better understand the recession and related economic issues. In light of the financial crisis, department staff partnered with the Business Advisors of Cleveland on the “Exploring Entrepreneurship” series, and collaborated with Cool Cleveland on “Blogging For Business.”

The Computer Learning Center created fourteen classes in 2008 to meet the growing

demand for software, Internet, and general computer training courses. Staff overhauled offerings such as Microsoft PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access, and added sessions on enhancing digital photographs; courses on computer and Internet basics remained popular.

New Americans continue to look to their neighborhood Library for computer lessons, materials on learning English, and DVDs in their native languages. This year the Walz Branch welcomed new immigrants from a variety of African countries, as well as Nepal and Laos, and continued to serve Vietnamese and Hispanic patrons. Several staff members at Walz Branch speak Spanish, which helps them to better serve their Hispanic neighbors.



Library patron Victor Oga at his neighborhood Walz Branch.



Exploring Entrepreneurship series

“It is amazing to see how much our computer training courses empower our patrons, preparing them for job interviews in these difficult economic times.”

—Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz, Computer Learning Connection Librarian

+37%

Increase in computer
class public attendance
from 2007 to 2008

“The Computer Learning Connection is truly an asset to the community and to me. I’m impressed with the quality of the instruction, the supplemental materials, and the patience of the staff. My new computer skills have boosted my confidence level as I continue my job search.”

—Linda Love, Library Patron

“Many of our patrons have repeatedly asked the Social Sciences Department for Internet resources providing legal information. Department staff developed a computer class on basic online legal information to help patrons understand the complexities of the law.”

—John Skrtic, Social Sciences Department Manager



(page 10) The **Business, Economics and Labor Department** offers programs and resources helpful to patrons in challenging economic times. They contribute stories to the **Library’s blog** on current topics such as “The Banking Industry” that highlight the department’s unique resources. Programs such as the popular **Exploring Entrepreneurship series** is presented by the Business Advisors of Cleveland, a non-profit organization of retired professionals who provide advice on starting, expanding, or improving a business.

(page 11) Located in Main Library, the **Computer Learning Connection** offers computer classes to help patrons improve their computer skills, learn new software, search for jobs, create resumes, and upgrade their skills for college.

2008 Highlights

Your Library presents ongoing programs and exhibits that reflect your interests and experiences. This year we organized a multi-faceted project, The Urban Experience Summit, which explored the diversity and culture of life in urban America. The popularity of urban fiction—or “urban lit,” as it is also described—inspired the Summit, which included a panel on the impact of urban fiction, a “Writer’s Boot Camp” designed to assist aspiring local writers, a spoken word event, a men’s issues panel,



STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (1949-2008)

Clevelanders mourned the loss of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who died unexpectedly in August. She was committed to the people of our city and served as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which deals with a variety of issues, including securing medical and dental care for low-income children. Congresswoman Tubbs Jones was a major supporter of the Library, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1990.

and an exhibit on the second floor gallery of the Main Library. The Summit culminated in the September Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers event featuring author Omar Tyree.

Urban fiction is controversial because writers often create gritty, realistic narratives that include vivid scenes containing crime, sex, and violence. Contemporary authors such as Vickie Stringer and Johnnie Dent, Jr. are part of a history of urban fiction writers, which includes pioneers Iceberg Slim and Donald Goines. Chester Himes is credited as the “father” of the contemporary literary form; he wrote *A Rage in Harlem* in 1957 after a string of petty criminal convictions and the inability to find work as a paid writer in the U.S. led him to leave for Paris, where he became inspired by writers Richard Wright and James Baldwin.

Exploring Together

The Urban Experience Summit, Year-long Programs and Events



June 28
Writer's Boot Camp



July 19
Performance Poetry



Urban Literature
Authors who participated in events

Allison Hobbs' first book *Pandora's Box*, published 2003, Simon and Schuster under Zane's imprint, Strebtor Books International LLC.
Johnnie Dent, Jr.'s *Sugar Boy*, published 2007, by iUniverse, Inc.

“Street lit provides a sensationalized view of crime, violence, and the underside of human behavior within an inner-city setting. Spicing up a genre that is defined by race and culture with graphic sex scenes has created a sub-genre known as urban erotica. Curious and adventurous fans of romance novels, who have peeked inside the scandalous pages of erotica discovered that they have a taste for racy, detailed sex scenes. I feel fortunate that I have developed a fan base that encompasses both readers of romance and urban fiction.”
—Allison Hobbs, National Bestselling Author of *Pandora's Box* and *A Bona Fide Gold Digger*

“The *Constructed Languages* exhibit generated a great deal of excitement in the ‘conlanger’ (those who construct languages) community worldwide. Language creators from Germany, Great Britain, Australia, and Canada, as well as California, New York, Utah, Arkansas, and Illinois graciously contributed biographies, photos, or proofreading expertise; and the feedback was very positive. Everyone was thrilled to see photos of the conlanging flag hanging in the second floor lobby of CPL.”

—Donald Boozer, KnowItNow24x7 Coordinator, Cleveland Public Library, Automation Department

Conlang greetings from the exhibit
“Esperanto, Elvish and Beyond: The World of Constructed Languages”

Elen síla lumenn’ omentielvo / QUENYA

Teris / SKERRI

Vyko / TEON

coi / LOJBAN

toki / TOKI PONA

Mae govannen / SINDARIN

I lelea / KAMAKAWI

Buna ziuia / TALOSSAN

Vyko / TEON

nuqneH / KLI

luton / ES

lumenn’ om

neH / KLI

luton / ES

lumenn’ om

neH / KLI

luton / ES



Teen Summit participants with guest Sister Souljah (left).
Larry Dane Brimmer was the winner of the Norman A. Sugarman Children’s Biography Award for his book *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin*. Attending the program (left to right) were Susan Goldman Rubin, Charles R. Smith, Jr., Brimmer, Mrs. Joan G. Sugarman (center), Andrew A. Venable, Jr., Director; Chrystal Carr Jeter and Jonah Winter.
Young patrons enjoy the Summer Reading Club finale in the Eastman Reading Garden.

Zachary Reed, Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 3; Johnnie Dent, Jr., author and panel moderator; Luis Gomez, Congressional Liaison, Office of Dennis Kucinich; and Blain Griffin, Community Relations, City of Cleveland; and Justin Williams, Student Council President, Ted Ginn, Sr. Academy speaking at the Urban Male Panel Discussion.

October 10
Urban Male Panel Discussion & Dialogue

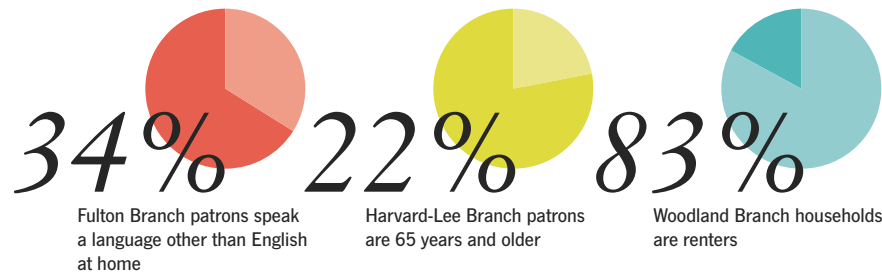


September 28
Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers
Omar Tyree



October 11
Author Carl Weber
Presentation at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch





Planning & Research Department assists librarians with their program planning by providing reports on the communities that the Neighborhood Branches serve. The reports include information on what languages patrons speak at home, statistics on the number of people in each age group, and the characteristics of the households in each community.

Throughout the year, your Library consistently provides you with numerous opportunities to engage with writers through time-honored programs like the Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers series and in exclusive events at your neighborhood Branch Library. For Teen Read Week's "Books with Bite @ Your Library," Ellen Schreiber, popular author of the Vampire Kisses series, spoke and posed for pictures with fans at the West Park Branch.

Our Summer and Winter Reading Clubs for children and teens are always popular, as they connect kids with the printed word. We also offer an Adult Reading Club; this summer those age 18 and older who read or listened to three books between June and August submitted ballots for the opportunity to tour a variety of Cleveland landmarks. Landmarks included Browns Stadium, Progressive Field, The Cleveland Play House, Playhouse Square, the FBI Building, the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office, and the Cleveland Public Library. Hundreds of ballots were submitted and winners got an inside look at some of our city's most celebrated and intriguing attractions.



"I'm a longtime fan of the Library's Writers and Readers series. Its programs have been among the most magical Sunday afternoons I've spent in Cleveland. Junot Diaz, Diane Ackerman, Michael Cunningham, Sherman Alexie and Margaret Atwood were all memorable and moving. And in this economy, it is impressive and important that they are still free."

—Karen R. Long, *The Plain Dealer* Book Editor



Author Junot Diaz talks with Library patrons about his book *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* at Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers.

More than 1,333 patrons attended the Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers series.

The 2008 Writers and Readers series featured the following renowned authors:

- FEB 17 Charlayne Hunter-Gault
- MAR 2 Tom Ricks
- MAY 4 Anne Fadiman
- SEP 28 Omar Tyree
- OCT 19 Junot Diaz
- NOV 16 Sarah Vowell

SPECIAL EVENTS
OCT 19 John Leland

More than 4.1 million people visited a Cleveland Public Library.

And more than 1 million reference questions were answered.



More than 600 people attended the Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers program featuring author **Sarah Vowell**.

(top) Associate Tom Feczkanin and Director Mary Scelsi, Friends of the Cleveland Public Library and Andrew A. Venable, Jr., Library Director at the September "Garden of Blues" Friends fundraiser.

Donna Brazile, Political Strategist and Chair of the Voting Rights Institute, participated in *Politics & Propaganda: Designing the President* as part of Spectrum Dialogues series.

All Cleveland Public Library Branches are **WiFi ready**, including the Eastman Reading Garden at Main Library.

Patrons borrowed more than 6.5 million items.

More than 411,000 items were added to the collection.

The Collection



Maps & Atlases
of Greater Cleveland
are accessed
more than 10,000 times
each month



Cleveland Public Library
Image Collection
resources can be
accessed by the public
through www.cpl.org



The **Foreign Literature Department** offers "long loans" of foreign literature to Branches and CLEVNET libraries, which allows librarians to meet the needs of their patrons and save money.

The **Photograph Collection** is a community resource for many image requests including these photographs of the Cuyahoga River used in PBS programs that aired in 2008.

Busy days on the Cuyahoga River, a photograph used in "Walking the River," produced by Blue Hole Productions.

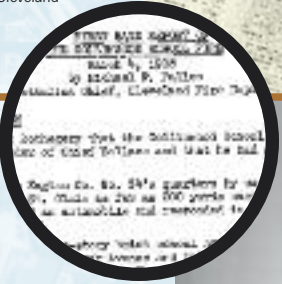
Map Collection's Aerial Photos
of Cuyahoga County

Cleveland Public Library and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District partnered on a project which involved the scanning of historical aerials of Cuyahoga County for 1951 and 1959. The aerials, along with many other historical maps and atlases from the Cuyahoga County area are a free community resource. Property researchers, civil engineers, environmental analysts and GIS professionals, as well as genealogists and map enthusiasts access the aerials through the Cleveland Public Library Image Collection.

MAP COLLECTION IMAGES (left)
Cleveland Aerial (background), 1991, National Aerial Photography Program, Cuyahoga County
Arcade (detail), 1886, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Cleveland, Vol 1, Plate 8
Cleveland Harbor (detail), 1858, Map of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, by G.M. Hopkins
Lake Erie & northern part of Ohio (detail), 1778, New map of the Western Parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland & North Carolina, by Thomas Hutchins

The Library Image Collection

The digital collection offers the public easy access to a variety of images including artworks, books, bookplates, architectural images, brochures and programs, commemorative objects, film lantern slides, maps, photographs and posters. The subjects encompass the history and facilities of the Cleveland Public Library, African American families, Cleveland parks and views, and the Library's work with children.



Collinwood School Fire
Exhibit

*In Loving Remembrance:
The Collinwood School Fire
of 1908*

Main Library's History Department commemorated the March 4 centennial anniversary of the Collinwood School Fire—the worst school fire in U.S. history—with a major exhibit that opened at the Memorial-Nottingham Branch on February 25. Opening night featured what was probably the first public showing in 100 years of motion picture footage of the smoldering fire scene. A third of the exhibit was devoted to the early history of the Collinwood neighborhood, focusing on the development of the Collinwood Railroad Yards, local manufacturing concerns, and Euclid Beach Park. The popular but somber exhibit traveled the city for nine months, making stops at Collinwood, West Park, and South Brooklyn Branches and Main Library. Related materials were digitized and made available on the Library's website. By exhibit's end, nearly 4,000 copies of the 24-page commemorative exhibit booklet had been given away, as well as thousands of fire safety brochures.

+22%

Increase in "long loan" circulation to CLEVNET and non-CLEVNET agencies



"Return of the Cuyahoga," produced by Florentine Films/Holt Productions and America's River Communities, used this 1951 photograph of Republic Steel Corporation to show how the Cuyahoga River was moved 200 feet west to enlarge their facilities to meet defense requirements for more steel.



In Loving Remembrance was researched using our extensive collections. In addition to numerous historical photographs, the exhibit featured a continuous loop of 1908 film footage of the fire's aftermath. This footage was discovered when research for the exhibit turned up a small 1908 advertisement for the film and further research led to its discovery in the Library of Congress's film archive. The Library subsequently acquired a digital copy of the footage and placed it on YouTube. The film was broadcast on WKYC TV-3's evening news on March 4 and was subsequently viewed more than 20,000 times on YouTube.

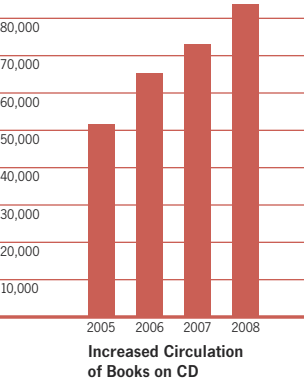
Photos: Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection

Planning & Research Department analyzes borrowing trends and creates reports for the librarians who select materials for the Main Library and the Branches. In a three-year period, the circulation of audiobooks increased 66 percent. To meet the demand, the Library more than doubled the number of audiobooks in its collections from 15,000 to 35,000.

2008 COLLECTION STATISTICS

Titles	2,359,706
Book Volumes—Main Collection	2,644,423
Book Volumes—Branch Collection	830,999
TOTAL	3,475,422
Bound Periodicals	266,133
Computer Media (CD-ROM, Software)	8,016
Government Documents	817,915

Maps	179,125
Microforms	4,680,917
Paperbacks	122,788
Photographs, Pictures	1,383,854
Sheet Music	18,000
Sound Recordings (CDs, Cassettes)	183,726
Videos, DVDs	173,913



Library staff members are experts on the collections that are unique to their departments. They put their knowledge to work in so many ways; they assist students, researchers, and the general public on a variety of projects, and they also create exhibits on topics like Constructed Languages and historic events such as the Collinwood School Fire of 1908. People use the vast collections in so many ways; this year researchers selected photographs of the Cuyahoga River for the PBS program *The Return of the Cuyahoga*, which premiered in April of 2008 and provided viewers with a fascinating look at the life, death, and rebirth of one of the country's most notoriously polluted rivers.

The Library's Image Collection is an Internet tool that gives you easy access to high-resolution files such as maps and atlases, chess images, our collection of African-American family photos, and baseball history materials. Patrons view materials on the Library's Image Collection at the rate of nearly 100,000 times each month! The Library's Image Collection also hosts the entire contents of C.H. Cramer's history of the Cleveland Public Library, *Open Shelves*, *Open Minds*, which is currently out of print.



This issue of the *Saturday Globe* (Utica, NY, March 14, 1908) is one of 35 newspapers donated to the Library in 2008 by Mark McClrath, great-grandson of Charles McClrath, Collinwood Village police chief at the time of the fire. Mr. McClrath's generous gift included issues of the *Collinwood Citizen* and the *Collinwood News*, which was published the day after the fire, the only copies of these issues known to exist. The Library's **Preservation Department** is painstakingly humidifying, flattening, bathing, and mending each newspaper issue so that they can be used by future generations. This color image was featured on the cover of the Sept/Oct 2008 issue of the *NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Journal*, which included an extensive article on the fire that was reviewed and fact-checked by History & Geography Department staff.

This etching of Public Square (background photo) is one in a set of eight etchings of Cleveland processed by the **Preservation Department** and added to the collection of the History & Geography Department.

“We were so taken with the care the Library gives to preserving fragile, rare materials, we knew that Lawrence’s photographs and negatives would be in good hands with the capable, dedicated staff of the Cleveland Public Library.”

—Mary and Bill Kubat (daughter and son-in-law of Lawrence Schreiber)

The Lawrence Schreiber Photograph Collection



Schreiber Photographs of the Cuyahoga Valley

This year **Mary and Bill Kubat** donated a collection of more than 1,500 photographic prints and negatives to the Photograph Collection. **Lawrence Schreiber documented commerce and activity on the Cuyahoga River**, as well as sites and activities around Greater Cleveland and outside of Ohio between 1930 and 1960. Schreiber considered himself a hobbyist during his lifetime; posthumously, however, his work has garnered attention from area museums, as it has been exhibited at both the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Akron Art Museum. Forty-seven of Schreiber’s photographs were featured in an exhibit at Main Library in 1989-90.

Donors

The following individuals and organizations made generous donations to the Library in 2008. 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 over \$5,000
A “friend” of the Cleveland Orchestra
Donors of \$1,000 to \$4,999
Donors of \$1,000 to \$4,999
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
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Andrew Venable
Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.
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Lake Catholic High School
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Kurt & Amelia McMaken

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Robert & Loretta Romp	Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Grad
Tan Pro, Inc.	Nelson Graves
The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Van Guyse
Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton	Ruth Hadlow
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Linda Lutz & John Whitlow	Norbert R. Harnegie
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Margaret Wong	Kathy D. Hummelberger
WXZ Construction, LLC.	Glen Pierce Jenkins
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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Gamma	Kathleen W. Kolodgy, Esq.
Delta Zeta Chapter	Susan L. Kraft
Donors of Up to \$99	Carrie & Tom Krenicky
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Kathryn Cseplo	Michael Cross Excavating
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Diane Daney	Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Murray
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Anthony & Julia DeBaggis	Rachel Nelson
Henry DeBaggis	Karen Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Donaldson	Allison & Velma Phillips
Wendy M. Eagen	Mary Rose Pickett
Dan & Pamela Ellis	

Grants and Other Large Gifts
• LSTA KnowItNow–\$723,647 for providing reference services 24x7
• LSTA Library For The Blind–\$129,572 for providing services for the blind and physically disabled
• Fit For Life–\$12,500 for providing health and wellness programming
• Edgar Saltsman Estate–\$10,454 for unrestricted purposes
• The Cleveland Foundation–\$12,500 to explore the feasibility of a museum pass program for Cuyahoga County
• Goldie Hoffman Irrevocable Trust Agreement–\$25,000 for maintaining or acquiring music-related items and funding concerts or performances
Other Funds Received Regularly
• Friends of the Cleveland Public Library–\$18,000 for program support
• Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth–\$40,850 for the purchase of architectural materials
• Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd Fund–\$218,932 for the Library’s Homebound Service
• Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund–\$168,064 for the purchase of fine arts materials, lectures, staff recognition and travel expenses
• Winifred Beech Young Testamentary Trust–\$66,131 for services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve

Jean Piety	Lynn Troxel
Robert E. Mathews Family Foundation	Frederick Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. Don Saxon & Family	R. L. & Joyce Voit
Suzanne Schaefer	Louis & Roberta Walcer
Maralah Schlanser	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Schludecker	Mary Jane Walter
Scott R. Schulick	Western Reserve Arch Historians
Edward Seely	Mr. & Mrs. William F. Whealen
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Dee Alan Sherer	Mr. & Mrs. Randall L. Wilson
Johnnie H. Simpson	Stephen & Margaret Wood
Audrey Snowden	Laszlo & Judith Zala
	Dr. Renate Zeissler

How Library Dollars Were Spent

A Cash Basis Report of the General Operating Fund

General Operating Fund

- Revenues
- Public Library Fund (State General Revenues)
 - Property Taxes (City of Cleveland)
 - Intergovernmental Aid
 - Charges for Services (CLEVNET)
 - Other Revenue

Total Revenue	\$ 66,736,581
Fund Balance January 1	29,389,715
Available for General Operations	\$ 96,126,296

Expenditures and Encumbrances

- Salaries and Benefits
- Library Materials
- Utilities and Purchased Services
- Other Expenditures

Total Expenditures and Encumbrances	\$ 71,231,086
Carried Foward for the Next Year’s First Quarter Operations	24,895,210
	\$ 96,126,296

Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund

“In his book of author quotes, *The Rewards of Reading*, Lockwood Thompson closed the book with the following words by André Gide: ‘To pick out, among the preoccupations of one’s own time, the things which will engage the interest of future generations—that is what calls for the rarest perspicacity.’ This quote seems to best encapsulate Judge Thompson’s philosophy.”

—Rebecca J. Ball, Retired Cleveland Public Library Fine Arts Librarian



The Lockwood Thompson Fund continues to successfully develop your Library’s collection of research books emphasizing modern art (work made in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century), and to provide programs such as the highly popular Spectrum Dialogues. The fund also allows staff training so that librarians can better serve you.

Judge Lockwood Thompson was an art collector with a keen eye for modern art, a devoted reader, and staunch Library patron who served on the Board of your Library from 1955 to 1969 and 1990 to 1992. Through his fund, his passion for art, literature, and intellectual discourse continue, benefiting future generations of Clevelanders.

Cleveland Public Library Trustee **Lockwood Thompson** speaking at Walz Branch opening in 1967.

This year, the **Spectrum Dialogues** series brought political strategist Donna Brazile and *New York Times* op-ed contributor and writer Frank Rich together for an evening of pre-election discussion and debate.

New acquisitions from the **Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund** include “The City,” published in 1947, from a series of ten limited edition intaglio prints signed by the printmaker/designer Leon Gordon Miller (1917-1985) and Artist Koloman Moser’s “Királyképek” includes 28 heliogravure plates in a highly decorated, embossed leather portfolio, showing scenes from the life of Emperor Franz Josef in honor of his 50th anniversary as Emperor.



Behind the Scenes

1.5 miles

A safe walk for patrons to the nearest Branch was considered when discussing the location for the new Garden Valley Branch.



The Cleveland Public Library’s vast system includes more than 800 staff members and is spread out over 77 square miles, operating as part of a 31-member consortium. The **Planning & Research Department** keeps the Library running efficiently, creating system-wide policies, procedures, forms, lists and directories so that work is coordinated and Library staff can effectively serve our city’s diverse neighborhoods.

The work conducted by our staff in the Planning and Research Department shapes virtually every aspect of our business and decision-making processes. Department staff members collect and manage data and statistics on your Branch, as well as demographic statistics about your unique neighborhood. As we investigated the need for a new Garden Valley Branch, the Planning and Research team used topographical maps of the surrounding area and determined that the environmental terrain of the neighborhood, with its railroad tracks and busy city streets, made the nearby Woodland Branch inaccessible to children and seniors, who often walk or rely on public transportation. Knowing statistics on the way you use your Library helps us better serve your neighborhood; circulation statistics, for instance, differ depending upon the age, race, gender, and socio-economic makeup of a community. Because we know what materials you use most, we are able to purchase and deliver those unique items to your Branch.



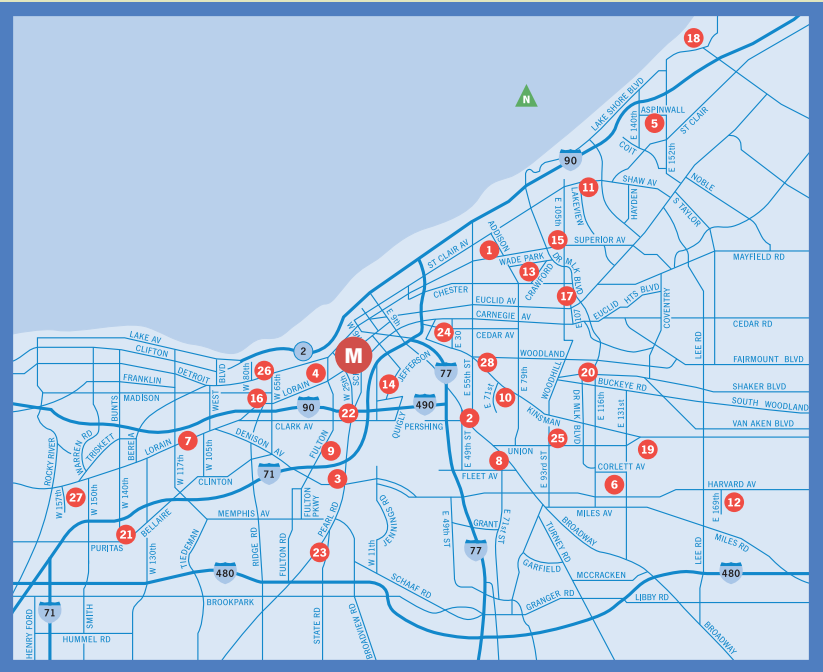
“The Library has long understood that we cannot serve Cleveland well if we don’t know the city’s neighborhoods and how they relate to each other. Each neighborhood is like a small town with its own cultural, historical, political, and social contexts.”

—Timothy Diamond, Administrator, Planning & Research



From the Archives (left to right): Superior Branch interior, 1921; portrait of the Library’s first Children’s Librarian, Effie L. Power, 1935; Correspondence between Langston Hughes and Effie Power, 1931; interior of Central High School Sub-branch, 1896.

Everything CPL! That describes the **Cleveland Public Library Archives**, a repository of documents, photographs, architectural plans, letters, reports, newsletters, scrapbooks, board minutes, bookplates, and bookmarks. Library staff and researchers alike consult this treasure house of information on a daily basis. In shaping new policies, librarians and trustees typically review the historic background of an issue. Writers and students also consult the wealth of primary sources. Popular topics are Cleveland’s Carnegie libraries, library services to children, famous librarians, and the Cleveland Group plan. This year, graduate students utilized the archives for studies of library service to the foreign born and early library collaboration with the film industry.



Neighborhood Libraries
E | East
C | Central
W | West

- M. Main Library**
325 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-2800
- Public Administration Library**
(in City Hall)
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 100
(216) 623-2919
- 1. Addison | E**
6901 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-6906
- 2. Broadway | C**
5417 Broadway Avenue
(216) 623-6913
- 3. Brooklyn | W**
3706 Pearl Road
(216) 623-6920
- 4. Carnegie West | W**
1900 Fulton Road
(216) 623-6927
- 5. Collinwood | E**
856 East 152nd Street
(216) 623-6934
- 6. East 131st Street | E**
3830 East 131st Street
(216) 623-6941
- 7. Eastman | W**
11602 Lorain Avenue
(216) 623-6955
- 8. Fleet | C**
7224 Broadway Avenue
(216) 623-6962
- 9. Fulton | W**
3545 Fulton Road
(216) 623-6969
- 10. Garden Valley | C**
7201 Kinsman Road, Ste. 101
(216) 623-6976
- 11. Glenville | E**
11900 St. Clair Avenue
(216) 623-6983
- 12. Harvard-Lee | E**
16918 Harvard Avenue
(216) 623-6990

Administration

- Andrew A. Venable, Jr., *Director*
- Holly Carroll, *Deputy Director & Interim Director*
- Cindy Lombardo, *Main Library Administrator*
- Janice M. Ridgeway, *Branches & Outreach Services Administrator*
- Robert T. Carterette, *Automation Services Administrator*
- Timothy R. Diamond, *Planning and Research Administrator*
- Michael A. Janero, *Chief of Security Operations*
- Patricia E. Lowrey, *Technical Services Administrator*
- Myron Scruggs, *Facilities Administrator*
- Sandra Kuban, *Finance Administrator*
- Sharon L. Tufts, *Human Resources Administrator*
- Tena Wilson, *Interim Marketing & Communications Administrator*

Friends of The Cleveland Public Library

- Amy McMaken, *President*
- Allison Wallace, *Vice President*
- Anne Marie Warren, *Treasurer*
- Mike Kelly, *Secretary*
- Lute Harmon, Sr., Kathleen B. Havener, Lauren McDowell, John M. Moss, Nicole O’Sullivan, Steve Potash, Viola M. Rembert, *Trustees*
- Mary Scelsi, *Director*
- Tom Feckzanin, *Associate*

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RESEARCHER, WRITER, EDITOR. Lyz Bly
DESIGNER. Pam Cerio Design
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Cleveland Public Library
System Map 2009

“The People’s University on Wheels”
Mobile Services | C
(216) 623-7114

18a. | E
Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
17121 Lake Shore Blvd.
(216) 623-2911
(800) 362-1262

- 13. Hough | E**
1566 Crawford Road
(216) 623-6997
- 14. Jefferson | C**
850 Jefferson Avenue
(216) 623-7004
- 15. Langston Hughes | E**
10200 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-6975
- 16. Lorain | W**
8216 Lorain Avenue
(216) 623-7011
- 17. Martin Luther King, Jr. | E**
1962 Stokes Boulevard
(216) 623-7018
- 18. Memorial-Nottingham | E**
17109 Lake Shore Boulevard
(216) 623-7039
- 19. Mt. Pleasant | E**
14000 Kinsman Road
(216) 623-7032
- 20. Rice | C**
2820 East 116th Street
(216) 623-7046
- 21. Rockport | W**
4421 West 140th Street
(216) 623-7053
- 22. South | C**
3096 Scranton Road
(216) 623-7060
- 23. South Brooklyn | W**
4303 Pearl Road
(216) 623-7067
- 24. Sterling | C**
2200 East 30th Street
(216) 623-7074
- 25. Union | C**
3463 East 93rd Street
(216) 623-7088
- 26. Walz | W**
7910 Detroit Avenue
(216) 623-7095
- 27. West Park | W**
3805 West 157th Street
(216) 623-7102
- 28. Woodland | C**
5806 Woodland Avenue
(216) 623-7109

All sites feature high-powered closed-circuit TV enlargers for people with declining vision and some sites feature additional adaptive equipment for people with special needs. Call (216) 623-2911 for details.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Commemorative Program

Reverend Dr. Otis J. Moss, Jr. gave a riveting speech at the Library’s annual ceremony honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Moss retired from Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in 2008, where he served as pastor since 1975. The Reverend is a venerated religious and civil rights leader whose career spans more than a half a century.

