Hands-down, Best Value In Town

Sometimes before you go forward, you must take a look back. 2013 will bring faster Wi-Fi inside the building and take more librarians out of the building. Reflecting on how we’ve arrived at this place, we keep circling back to you. We plan for the future with our customers’ needs in mind and promise to continue to listen as your needs change.

New Catalog
Find the stories you want in our online catalog. Installed in May 2012, it offers an experience similar to Amazon.com. Features of the new catalog include a list of forthcoming books and search help for those times when you just can’t recall the exact title. You can also subscribe to text message reminders even before your books are due!

Ebooks for Libraries Petition
Some readers have voiced frustration when the stories they want are not available in ebook format – the result of publishers reluctantly selling or refusing to sell ebooks to libraries. As a result, your library launched an Ebooks for Libraries petition, raising 10,000 signatures in three months. With readers speaking up and signing on from around the globe, we sent a message to publishers that readers want books in all formats from their libraries.

Kids Library
The transformation to the Kids Library has made it a true destination for children and families. You’ve already been enjoying a new bronze bench dedicated to the READ dog program, but look for more moving in soon. Studio Displays, of Pineville N.C., has been awarded the bid to complete 3-D “learnscapes.” Installations, like a school bus full of books or lighthouse-shaped reading nook, will delight kids of all ages and facilitate reading and learning.

Expanding our Reach
Bookmobiles are a great option for busy families and working professionals. Based on a customer survey, we revamped our Bookmobile schedule in 2012, offering 10 more hours of service each week and extra time at busier stops. Anything you can check out at the main library can be delivered to a Bookmobile stop near you. You may have also seen us at community fairs, festivals and parades. And thanks to a partnership with Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, you’ll soon be using brand new library computers and printers in the community centers.

Good News Financially
We are working to future-proof your public library so that the community can enjoy a world-class library experience for generations to come. We refinanced our bonds on the library in 2012. We pay off the “mortgage” in 2019, and with the savings on the debt, $995,000 may be re-allocated to services, collections and programs and grow the library by reaching out to parts of the community that are currently underserved. It changes our future by providing resources we haven’t had in the lean years of the recession and allowing the library to move forward with its strategic plan for future growth and new services.

Our ability to quickly respond to our community’s needs is possible thanks to support from The Library Foundation and the Friends of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all of our members – we hope you continue using us and inspiring us in 2013 and beyond. Please turn to pages 8 and 9 to read about how and why people used their library in 2012.
The library is Your Place. You inspire us to quickly respond to our community’s needs and to stay ahead of technological changes. We lift up the community, and many hands make our success possible. Library customers’ stories on this page, and on tscl.org, touch on the value experienced when they used their library cards in 2012.

### Library Revenues*
Sources of financial support include:
- $15,640,570 in taxes
- $812,553 in fees and reimbursements
- $268,459 in contributions
- $90,212 in grants and state aid
- $46,391 in investment income
**Total $16,858,185**

### Library Expenditures*
- Salaries and Benefits: $10,696,462
- Other operating expenses: $1,822,519
- Debt Service: $1,781,227
- Library Materials: $1,682,227
- Equipment & Capital Improvements: $692,663
- Programming & Events: $131,566
**total: $16,806,664**

*unaudited figures

The library understands technology and how our community uses it, says Karl Fundenberger, managing director of FWD, a local web design and social media consulting firm. Karl likes the library’s Digital Branch, tscl.org, and its Facebook and twitter profiles because he can stay up-to-date on library happenings. In 2012, Karl was the face of our Ebooks for Libraries campaign. More than 10,000 readers from around the world signed the petition at ebooksforlibraries.com. This effort prodded publishers who either reluctantly sell or refuse to sell ebooks to libraries. Still, the library added more than 8,000 ebooks and audio to its collection.

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**Many Hands Create Your Library**

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Maria D. Rodriguez knows the value of using the library. She and her husband checked out materials to help plan their wedding and honeymoon – and saved money doing so. They moved in together and found the Bookmobile stop nearest to them. With expanded hours of Bookmobile service, it’s just sometimes more convenient for these working professionals to get their books and movies close to home. And, a visit to the library offers ample opportunity for “together” time, from exploring an art exhibit to attending a concert.

With colorful murals, a solar system and new reading spots, the Kids Library is truly a destination for ShaMecha Simms and her son, 3-year-old Tatum, who spend quality mommy/son time here weekly. The Kids Library improvements continue thanks in part to a $75,000 gift from the Junior League of Topeka to The Library Foundation and $30,000 from the Friends of the Library. It’s an environment that inspires and promotes exploration. The transformed space helps children go from learning to read to reading to learn. But if you ask Tatum, it’s just a fun place to play.

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library News April-May 2013

Watch our video on tscpl.org