From the Library Director

In 2013, we launched two major initiatives to help keep us evolving and meeting the needs of the Evanston community.

Through the Edge Initiative, we are working to improve our public access to technology. With Public Innovator Training, library staff are “turning outward,” gathering community information, and uncovering shared aspirations.

New partnerships are bringing services beyond our walls…to children in afterschool programs and seniors in their homes. You can expect more of that in the year to come.

New opportunities abound, as do perennial favorites. I was heartened to see our Community Room filled to capacity when 2013 Newbery Winner Katherine Applegate came to visit. Children lined up for more than an hour for a chance to meet the author.

Powerful moments happen daily at the Evanston Public Library. Some are hidden in the private magic of connecting with a book. Others come when job training meets new opportunity or when an adult learns new computer skills to stay connected and productive.

Know that we are always working to create powerful moments every single day, in new ways and old.

Karen Danczak Lyons
Library Director

Generous Donors and Volunteers Make a Significant Difference: We Thank You

763 donors contributed $143,366 to our Fund for Excellence (FFE) campaign, up 16% vs. 2012.

Altogether, donor gifts for FFE 2013, LEAP, Hirshfield Poetry Awards, honorary/memorial funds; special programs, and the endowment totaled $550,675.

Dedicated Book Sale volunteers, donors, and buyers raised $56,140 in our popular sales.

Plus, our wonderful EPL volunteers logged 12,324 hours of service assisting our staff, and serving our patrons and the broader Evanston community.

Our Finances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Revenues</th>
<th>2013 Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>$4,165,513</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>126,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>398,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Receipts</td>
<td>674,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$5,365,689</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Our Top 2013 Statistics

• 60,435 Library cardholders
• 664,644 visits, +5% vs. 2012, including 49,336 visits to our Chicago Ave/Main St Branch (CAMS)
• 600,160 website visits, +6%, and 90,986 on-site computer sessions
• 154,030 reference questions answered
• 2,538 library programs, +28% with 39,383 attendees; 437 programs beyond our walls served 13,887 participants
• 39,294 items added to the collection of books, e-books, CDs and DVDs in 2013, + 31%; total collection: 529,630
• 1,082,797 circulated items & downloads, +9%, including a 60% increase in e-book check-outs
• Thousands of free-to-keep books distributed throughout the community

The Mission of the Evanston Public Library is to promote the development of independent, self-confident, and literate citizens through the provision of open access to cultural, intellectual, and informational resources.

2013 Board of Trustees
Benjamin Schapiro, President
Margaret Lurie, Vice-President
Michael Tannen, Secretary
Leora Siegel, Treasurer
Diane Allen
Tori Foreman
Susan Newman
Vaishali Patel
Sandra Smith

Library Locations
Main Library 847-448-8600
1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday 9 am – 9 pm
Friday & Saturday 9 am – 6 pm
Sunday Noon – 6 pm

North Branch 847-866-0330
2026 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201

and
Chicago Ave/Main St 847-905-0764
900 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202

Branch Hours of Operation:
Monday 10 am – 8 pm
Tues, Weds & Fri, Sat 10 am – 6 pm
Thursday & Sunday Closed

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evanstonpubliclibrary.tumblr.com

For more information on our annual report and programs and events, see epl.org
Supporting Child and Teen Success, Engagement, and Literacy

Children’s program attendance rose 18% in 2013. Twenty popular weekly library story times develop crucial early literacy skills linked to future school achievement. Literary Education at Play (LEAP) brings EPL librarians to preschool and kindergarten classes throughout Evanston with engaging literacy activities. Northwestern volunteers in Book Buddies and local teens in Compañeros and ABC Boosters give children new reading mentors. Kids improve reading skills through Tail Waggin’ Tutors. Best Picture Books 2013 brought early childhood educators and childcare providers together to discover the best in children’s literature.

Our Teen Loft was 1 of 34 best in children’s literature. To improve reading skills through giving children new reading mentors. Kids improve reading skills through Tail Waggin’ Tutors. Best Picture Books 2013 brought early childhood educators and childcare providers together to discover the best in children’s literature.

Delivering Arts and Culture for All

We present a microcosm of the larger world of arts and culture, all for free. 2013 brought us El Salvador’s national artist, monthly exhibits from local talent, Lyric Opera Corps lectures, inspiring documentaries, family films, Friday night blockbuster films, international films, and Early Dismissal Day movies for school children. Muslim Journeys programs informed the community about Muslim culture. 798 people attended 84 book discussions on diverse topics, and in more than one language. 13 author events included Kat Falls, Carrie Goldman, Laurence Gonzales and Leslie Maitland. Performances from Next Theater, Muse of Fire Theater Company, City Lit Theater Company and Fleetwood Jourdain Theater entertained and educated.

Engaging Evanston’s Diverse Community

Evanston Public Library improved outreach to Evanston’s Latino and new immigrant residents. We added a dedicated Latino Outreach Librarian, afterschool services at Robert Crown, Jugando Con La Ciencia: a Saturday science program, Vamos a Jugar, a new story time, Latin@ Lit Book Discussion, and festive celebrations of Hispanic culture. In our first Naturalization Ceremony, 43 people became new U.S. citizens at the Main Library. Through the New Americans Initiative, we began offering Citizenship Classes and citizenship application workshops. We hosted Naturalization 101 Training in partnership with Uniting America, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. A fully sponsored visit to the International Book Fair in Mexico added new books in Spanish to our collection.

Getting Social and More Connected with You

The new Evanston Public Library Mobile App gives 24/7 access to the library. Get Caught Reading, a new community photo contest gives a lively face to Evanston’s readers as seen through local photographers. In Readers of Evanston on Tumblr and Facebook, we reveal our community of readers each week in pictures and words. The library’s Facebook and Twitter presence grew steadily to engage an online community of more than 4,000 followers and contributors. 9 blogs cover books, film, art, literature and children’s books. More than 20,000 people receive our bi-weekly e-newsletter.

Library Programs Support Our Economy

We provide critical services to job seekers, students, small businesses and entrepreneurs. We can help new business owners write business plans or conduct market research. We offered 228 classes on word processing and spreadsheet software, resume assistance and suggestions for the job search – all free. 237 people attended 30 personal finance programs. A library card is all that’s needed to get technical literacy training from Lynda.com right from a home computer.

Expanding Community Partnerships; Lowering Barriers to Service

We reach out to harder to serve patrons and help bridge the income gap. A targeted fine forgiveness program erased accumulated fines. Our monthly presence at the Produce Mobile, which distributes free produce to residents, brings connections to free computer and job training. Partnering with Youth Technology Corp, we taught computer training to residents living in low-income senior housing. Gaming up with Campus Kitchens at Northwestern and Meals at Home, library books are delivered along with meals. West-side home day care providers get top quality children’s books delivered monthly.

We Value the Many Partnerships that Extend Our Reach, Including:

- Casa Mexico-USA
- Campus Kitchens
- Center for Economic Progress
- Council for Jewish Elderly
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- District 65
- Eerie Health Care
- Evanston Community Foundation
- Evanston/Northshore YWCA
- Erie Health Care
- Evanston Township High School Foundation
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Lyric Opera Corps
- Meals at Home
- National Able Network
- Northwestern University
- ORT
- Percolator Films
- SCORE
- Whole Foods
- Youth Job Center
- Youth Technology Corps