



Grand Forks  
Public Library  
2110 Library Circle  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
Tel: 701-772-8116  
Fax: 701-772-1306

Monday-Thursday  
9am-9pm  
Friday-Saturday  
9am-5pm  
Sunday  
1pm-5pm

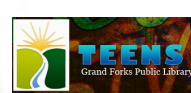
An open door to the community...



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2011 Annual Report to the Community



CONNECT ✨ ENRICH ✨ INSPIRE

2011

A Year of Excellence

## MISSION

The mission of the  
Grand Forks Public Library  
is to connect the community,  
enrich the mind,  
and inspire the imagination.

## VISION

The Grand Forks Public Library is a cornerstone of the community,  
committed to meeting the public's evolving needs by engaging minds  
and transforming lives



## A Note From Our Library Board

Having only served on the Grand Forks Public Library Board of Trustees for a small portion of 2011, I'll be the first person to admit to having very little to do with the Grand Forks Public Library's emergence as a vital public space that really *matters* for Grand Forks County. The credit for such a dramatic turnaround, documented elsewhere in this report, falls squarely on the shoulders of not only the staff and Director of the GFPL, but previous Boards, whose efforts have helped the library become what it is today despite an almost unbelievable number of challenges.

Indeed, it truly is hard to express just how far the GFPL has come in a few short years. The 2011 calendar year in particular represented something of a pivotal moment for the Library. Acknowledging the setbacks we suffered last year, the failure of the June ballot initiative being the most obvious, the Library still moved forward on many programs and initiatives last year, including:

- Receiving a generous grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to enhance our educational programs;
- Founding a Grand Forks Public Library Foundation tasked with procuring and stewarding additional private donations and bequests to the Library;
- Purchasing a new microfilm reader (thanks to the Friends of the Library);
- Acquiring enhanced English language learner software for New Americans and other immigrants new to Grand Forks County;
- Redesigning both our periodical and teen areas to provide much more access and content; and
- Implementing many new technologies and web-based services (such as self-check-out, e-books, and email overdue notices), which have enhanced greatly our circulation and mission.

Despite these accomplishments, the fact remains that 2011 also represented a year in which the assault on the public space that libraries represent intensified. It goes without saying that in many communities the Great Recession continued to weaken state support for libraries. And even as libraries such as ours move to meet our patrons' needs by offering e-books and other cutting edge technologies, many publishers have cast libraries as *adversaries* in the delivery of their titles to readers. HarperCollins, for example, announced last year that it will only allow its e-books to circulate 26 times before a library's license on the file expires and a new license must be purchased. Two other publishers—Macmillan and Simon and Schuster—do not, as of this writing, allow libraries to circulate their e-books at all.

In spite of these challenges the GFPL and its wonderful staff continue to provide exceptional services to all of Grand Forks County. The Library not only maintains greatest degree of outgoing interlibrary loans than all other non-university libraries in North Dakota, but also more than doubled its number of events and programs last year from the previous year, particularly those geared toward children.

It is with such facts in mind that I emphasize that the Grand Forks Public Library's renaissance is only *beginning*.

On behalf of the Grand Forks Public Library Board of Trustees,



Brian James Schill,  
Board President



2011 Grand Forks Public Library Board  
Corey Mock, Marie Strinden, Fawn Behrens-Smith,  
Brian Schill, Eliot Glassheim,

## Community Voices

"The staff is wonderful, friendly, very helpful. The book selection is amazing. Thank you so much!  
P.S. I LOVE BOOKS!"

"Thank you again for organizing and encouraging the summer reading program. This program is a great way to have lots of fun with books! Excellent job."



"Great service & great selection. Reference librarians know their stuff!"

"I can come here and have some quiet time. And they have all materials. THANK YOU!"

"I grew up using the Grand Forks library and worked there while in college, and I still bring my children back to the library when we're in the area."

"I love the libraries use of computers. I don't have use of e mail at home so using it here is wonderful for me and my family. I get to have contact with my family back in Canada on facebook. Thank you for it's constant use. I don't know what I would do with out it."

"Love the self checkout!"

I LOVE this library so much!! I'll bring in some books. - "Keep on Keepin' On"



"Every time I enter the library I'm reminded of the "education" our daughter got while working in the Children's department during the summers she was enrolled in college. She loved it so much that that is what she ultimately chose to do - be a children's librarian at an elementary school in Plano, Texas.  
I, her mom, taught at Kelly Elementary for 22 years and would come with my box to check out "extra" books for my classroom. I always for the latest and new additions! Thank you to the library!"



# 2011 Programming and Services

## Children's Programming and Storytime



The Library offered a wide range of new programs as well as traditional library events for children. Programs new in 2011 included the library's first LEGO league and our first children's Winter Reading Program sponsored by the UND Athletics Department. The traditional Summer Reading Program continued to be a big success with 1,052 children signing up. Our READ dogs, which enable children to read to a dog in a relaxed and non-judgmental environment, continue to be popular. And of course, our story times, which include sessions specifically for toddlers and for preschoolers, are our most popular events.

## Technological Training

Thanks to donations from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the North Dakota State Library, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ecolab in 2010, we were able to create a modern computer lab and in 2011, we began offering technology training to our customers. Classes included topics such as Computers 101, Mouse-ercises, Using Library Databases, E-mail Basics, Using e-Bay, Intro to Photos Online, Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.), Social Networking Using Facebook, Etsy Entrepreneurs, Pinterest, and an electronic "petting zoo" where participants can explore the latest electronic devices hands-on.



## Book Clubs



The Grand Forks Public Library began offering a variety of book clubs in 2009. The popularity of these book clubs remains high, with an average membership of 15 people per book club, which is considered great participation even in much larger metropolitan areas. In 2011, we offered the following book clubs: Great Reads, Classic Re-Reads, Leaders Read Book Club, and the This & That Book Club. The book clubs are here to bring together people who have the same love of books, to have a fun discussion about the monthly selection and other books, and to simply enjoy each other's company. New members are welcome at any time.

## Northern Ink Writer's Group

This year, volunteer Fancee Long-Gorski started a writers group for the Library. The mission of this group is to share creative energy with fellow writers, hone the craft of one's individual writing, and provide constructive criticism of shared writing. Providing support is the ultimate goal of the group, whether participants wish to listen, share, or even work to publish. The group is for people 18 and over and meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. New members are welcome at any time.



## Friends of the Library

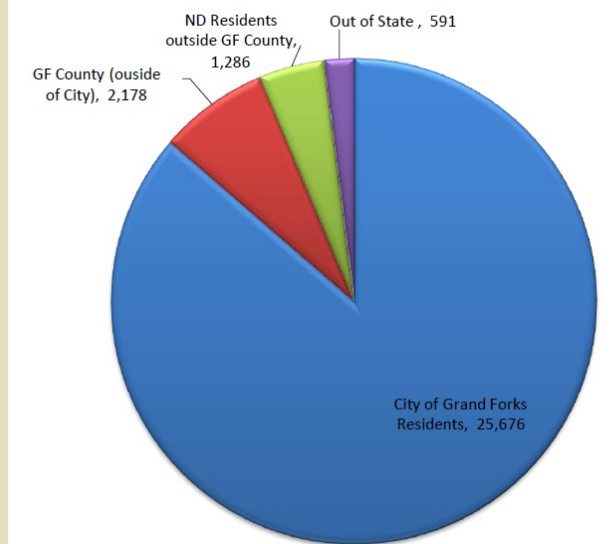


The Friends of the Library is a volunteer advocacy group working to increase community awareness, involvement and support for library services, programs, facilities, and other needs. The group helps raise funds that are used to supplement the library budget and provide those "extras" that are not otherwise included. In 2011, the Friends of the Library donated funds to get furniture for the new teen area, to purchase a popcorn machine for Library movie nights, and to purchase a new microfilm machine that is used to view newspapers back to the 1800s. In addition, the Friends support the children's summer reading program, the Big Read, and many other library events.

# Library Service Statistics 2011

Population Served - Grand Forks County  
66,861

Library visitors this year	272,363
Library visits per capita	4.07
Total items checked out	775,691
Adult Materials	545,813
Children's Materials	229,878
Items checked out per capita	11.60



Where Library Users Live

## LIBRARY COLLECTION

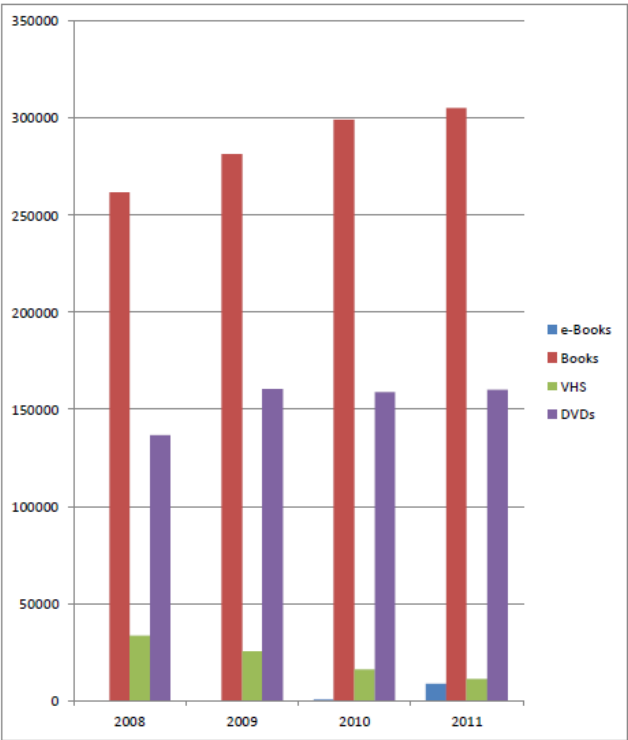
Print Materials	224,375
Audio Materials	20,847
VHS & DVDs	15,699
Total Materials	260,921
Magazines & Newspapers	215
Databases available online through Library website	30
E-books available through library website	6434



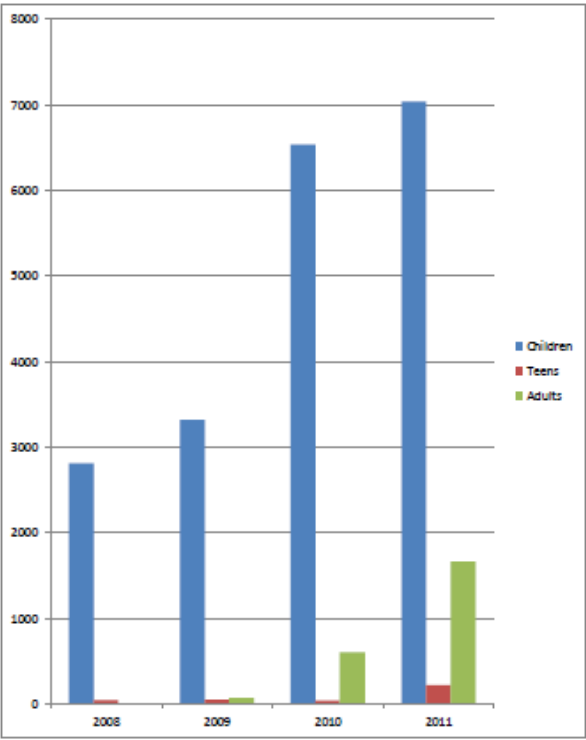


# Opening doors through programming and technology

Materials usage



Library Program Attendance



Adult Computer Users	35,788
Children Computer Users	2,300
Word Processing Users	746
Lab Computer Users	38,483
Total Computer Users	77,317
Number of reference questions answered by staff	118,338
Items added to collection	24,067
Items loaned to other libraries	2,545
Items borrowed from other libraries	694

Number of library programs	468
Adult	250
Young Adult	24
Children	194
Number of people attending library programs	9094
Adults	1660
Young Adults	223
Children	7211

# The Bottom Line

Expenditures	
Staff Salaries	\$861,437
Benefits	\$307,336
Supplies	\$75,388
Utilities	\$66,758
Online Catalog	\$50,375
Contracts, Services, Programming	\$169,735
Books	\$133,010
Audio Visual	\$36,045
Reference	\$18,982
Newspapers & Magazines	\$24,773
E-books	\$9,477
Maintenance - Services	\$34,999
Maintenance - Supplies	\$10,865
Other Opening Expenses	\$70,121
Contingency	\$18,335
Capital - Building & Equipment	\$21,879
Other Expenses	\$2121.89
Total Expenditures	\$1,911,638

Revenue	
City of Grand Forks	\$1,373,852
Grand Forks County	\$480,876
Intergovernmental	\$110,605
Gifts, Donations & Grants	\$108,512
Fines, Fees & Other Charges	\$44,739
Interest	\$20,106
Miscellaneous	\$4,091
Total Revenue	\$2,142,781



The Grand Forks Lion's Club donated a magnifier-reader for the vision impaired.