

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

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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

twitter.com/evanstonpl

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For more information on our annual report and programs and events, see epl.org

**evanston
 public
 library**

**annual report
 2013**

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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

2013 Revenues		2013 Expenses	
Local Government	\$4,165,513	Staff	\$3,801,600
State Government	126,746	Adult Materials	528,731
Bequests	398,700	Children's Materials	120,044
Other Receipts	674,730	Other Operating	724,013
	\$5,365,689		\$5,174,388

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

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**. *Literacy 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 test sites in the national **Maker Education Initiative Pilot**. Circuitry, computer programming, robotics, and 3-D Printing **expose Evanston teens to today's technology**. Programs for teens **increased by 17%**. Our Young Adult Librarian made **110 school visits**, reaching **2,421 teens**. Goal: increased awareness of the library and a **seamless transition between school and the public library**.

"The library is for everyone, the very young, families, students, career individuals, to the retired."
—Nancy Schultz



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.



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.

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.

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 brought **computers/training** to residents living in **low-income senior housing**. Teaming 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
Connections
Council for Jewish Elderly
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority District 65
Erie Health Care
Evanston Community Foundation
Evanston/Northshore YWCA
Evanston Township High School Foundation 65
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Lyric Opera Corps
Meals at Home
National Able Network
Next Theatre
Northlight Theater
Northwestern University
ORT
Percolator Films
SCORE
Whole Foods
Youth Job Center
Youth Technology Corps

"I keep coming back to the library because I feel it is the heart of my community. The programming appeals to different ages, genders, religions, and cultures."
—Heather Sweeney

