

myRCPL.com
bringing the library to you

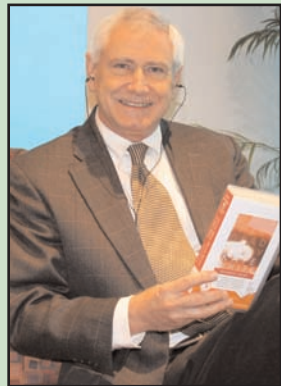
{ Richland County Public Library
2007 Annual Report }

{ Making Connections }

As technology continues to change and enhance our lives, the Richland County Public Library continues to look for new ways to provide quality services to residents of all ages. Materials are now available in a variety of formats, allowing RCPL to connect its users to unlimited information and resources.

In 2007, your library:

- Celebrated the opening of **The Link, Ballentine**, a new library facility that utilizes innovative technology such as a video reference system and wireless Internet access to serve a growing part of Northwest Richland County. The facility was made possible by a \$65,000 Library Services and Technology Act Grant and matching funds from the Friends of RCPL.
- Utilized **837 volunteers** who contributed **12,959 hours** with a **value of \$206,303**.
- Continued to develop the **RCPL Foundation** to ensure access to quality library materials and services in the years to come.
- Provided free programs, events and Summer Reading Clubs for all ages that **attracted more than 85,000 people**.
- Redesigned **The Wild Place**, RCPL's Web page for kids!
- Enhanced services for teens with another successful RCPL Teen Idol competition and the introduction of the annual **Teen Fashion Week**.



Your library staff is committed to bringing the library to you and meeting your needs for reading, learning and information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. David Warren".

C. David Warren
Executive Director

Meeting our citizens' needs for reading, learning and information.

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{ January 08 }

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RCPL opened its 11th location—The Link, Ballentine—to a crowd of more than 150 children, teens and adults. The Link features popular reading and children's collections as well as several technologically advanced services, including WiFi and a video reference system.



{ A Link to the Library . . . }

RCPL opened its 11th location—**The Link, Ballentine**—to a crowd of more than 150 children, teens and adults on December 4.

The highly anticipated facility features popular reading and children's collections as well as a number of technologically advanced services, including wireless Internet access and a video reference system that allows users to see and speak with a reference librarian at the Main Library's General Reference and Business, Science and Technology Reference desks.

The new facility was made possible because the Friends of RCPL matched a \$65,000 Library Services and Technology Act Grant.

RCPL also worked with a local architecture firm to carry out its Build Green philosophy by refurbishing and reusing several aspects of the rented, storefront facility including furniture, shelving and concrete floors.

Find out more at www.myRCPL.com/ballentine.cfm.

{ February 08 }

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RCPL turned up the volume with programs such as the new Lunch & Listen music series at 1431, the enhanced home of Film and Sound at the Main Library, which featured midday performances by some of Columbia's best musicians and vocalists, including Eboniramm.



{Sounding Out . . . }

RCPL launched a variety of new programs in 2007 systemwide.

1431, the enhanced home of Film and Sound at the Main Library, set the stage with Lunch & Listen, a music series that features local performers, and the nine branch libraries saw an attendance increase of 29 percent due to the variety of new and diverse, multicultural programming offered by RCPL.

Residents were able to explore African-American history and culture, experience the tastes and traditions of other countries and celebrate the strong international presence in the community, all for free through special programs held at their public library.

A monthly calendar of events is available at all library locations and online at www.myRCPL.com/calendar.cfm. Check it out today!

{ March 08 }

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In 2007 shoppers browsed more than 100,000 donated items at the Friends' four annual book sales—everything from books to DVDs to autographed copies and other rare finds—raising more than \$65,000.



{Have You Met Our Friends. . .}

Through memberships, special events and four annual books sales, the Friends of RCPL continue to provide substantial support that allows your library to thrive and grow. Most recently, the Friends matched a \$65,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant to upfit the new storefront library facility in Ballentine.

In 2007, nearly 300 people attended the fourteenth annual A Tisket, A Tasket...A Literary Basket fundraiser, which featured catering by Bonefish Grill and music by the Tony Torre Orchestra. Thanks to the generous support of corporate and individual sponsors, the event raised a record high of nearly \$35,000.

There are many ways to be a friend to your world-class library. Join the Friends of RCPL for as little as \$25, buy a Wild Things T-shirt or canvas book bag, or donate used books to the Friends for future sales.

To find out more, call (803) 929-3475 or visit www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm.

Have you joined?

{April 08}

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For the last 21 years, RCPL has celebrated the life and works of Augusta Baker by exposing children and families to the magic of storytelling and well known authors and illustrators, such as Bryan Collier, at RCPL's annual storytelling festival A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen.



{ Celebrating Stories. . . }

More than 2,100 people attended the 21st annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories in April 2007. Bryan Collier, a renowned illustrator of numerous books for children and a painter since the age of 15, was the featured guest.

The annual event, cosponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, brings to life the world of storytelling and children's literature. The festival honors the works and achievements of nationally-known author and storyteller Augusta Baker, who moved to Columbia in 1980 and was appointed the Storyteller-in-Residence at USC.

Ms. Baker's reputation and influence in the fields of storytelling and literature are unparalleled. This festival continues her mission of opening the world of other cultures to children, crossing racial, social and geographical boundaries.

**The 2008 event is set for Friday, April 18
and Saturday, April 19.**

For more information, call 929-3474 or visit myRCPL.com!

{ May 08 }

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Indie Rock band The Heist & The Accomplice shook things up at the first ever Teen Summer Reading Wrap-up Party at the Main Library in downtown Columbia, marking a successful year of programs and participation by more than 32,000 children, teens and adults.



{Reading Rocks . . . }

More than 32,000 children, teens and adults participated in the 2007 Summer Reading Clubs at RCPL, discovering the rewards of reading and stretching their imaginations.

The programs, expanded to all ages in recent years, recognize children under 12 with an Olympics style presentation of medals for their reading efforts. And there were extra rewards for 22 lucky teens and adults who won gift certificates and a variety of prizes thanks to the Friends of RCPL, Geiger O'Cain Advertising and The Happy Bookseller. This year, Summer Reading Wrap-up Parties—one for teens and one for families—featured live music and other activities.

**Don't miss your chance to be rewarded for reading this summer.
Visit any RCPL location from May through August for details!**

{ June 08 }

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In 2007, RCPL focused on bringing the library to you by adding a number of technologically advanced services including Plawaways, the first self-playing digital audiobook, downloadable audiobooks and wireless Internet access at all 11 locations.



{Tech Savvy . . . }

At www.myRCPL.com, Richland County residents can access a variety of resources—downloadable audiobooks, e-books, movies, music and online databases covering everything from arts and history to careers and genealogy.

An online events calendar also keeps users up-to-date on the variety of programs and storytimes happening at all 11 library locations.

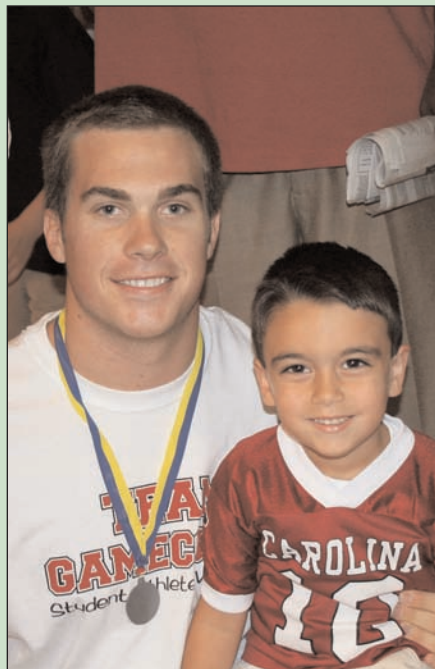
Residents can also get answers to reference questions online by instant messaging a reference librarian and find tips, share recipes and more on the **At Home With RCPL** blog.

Join the thousands of people who are visiting RCPL online today!
www.myRCPL.com

{ July 08 }

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More than 20 USC football players, including Chris Smelley, took the field at RCPL to share the importance of reading and visiting the library with young fans during the annual Pigskin Poets program.



{Read, Set, Hike. . .}

For the tenth season, the USC Gamecocks took the field at RCPL for Pigskin Poets, a special Summer Reading Club celebration that proves that reading is fun and exciting!

A capacity crowd of more than 300 children of all ages huddled at the Main Library to read stories, play games and get autographs from more than 20 Gamecock football players and Cocky.

"This unique partnership with USC allows one-on-one interaction with college athletes," said Padgett Lewis, RCPL's public relations manager. "The players help us reiterate that reading is not only important, but cool also."

The 2007 event featured fan favorites Chris Smelley, Ryan Succop, Stephen Garcia, William Brown and more.

Watch for details on a repeat performance in the summer of 2008!

{August 08}

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Things got wild at RCPL as hundreds of children of all ages gathered to see one of the three performances of the Rosenbach Museum's Wild Things Whirligig musical at the Main Library.

{ Wild About RCPL . . . }

More than 900 children of all ages stirred up a wild rumpus at RCPL during a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Rosenbach Museum and Library's rousing, interactive musical adventure, the **Wild Things Whirligig**, in May.

The first and only additional location authorized by Maurice Sendak for the Whirligig, RCPL was able to host three free public performances through the generosity of the Baker and Baker Foundation and the Friends of RCPL.

This energetic children's musical, directed by Karen Saillant of the International Opera Theater, brought to life many of Sendak's best-loved characters including Max, Mickey, The Wild Things, Ida and even a rambunctious oversized Martin, and paired their new adventures with the music of famous composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

{September 08}

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RCPL helped nearly 200 Columbians record their oral histories as NPR's StoryCorps mobile recording unit rolled into town.



{The Power of Stories . . . }

The Richland County Public Library, Humanities Council^{SC} and the South Carolina State Library joined with **StoryCorps**, a national initiative to create an oral history of America, to collect recordings in downtown Columbia in February at the Main Library. Support from the Friends of RCPL helped make this unique project possible.

StoryCorps allows visitors to record 40-minute oral histories with a loved one in a state-of-the-art air stream mobile recording booth with the help of a trained facilitator. The project was created by Dave Isay, founder of the award-winning radio documentary house Sound Portraits Productions.

A copy of the interview was given to participants and some of the interviews were sent to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Many of StoryCorps more than 8,000 recorded interviews have been aired on NPR stations nationwide.

{October 08}

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More than 35 aspiring teen designers worked with local experts to design, construct and prepare for a runway show. Participants attended four Haute Couture programs and modeled their designs during the Final Runway Show at the Main Library.



{Fun for Teens too . . . }

RCPL has lots of cool things for teens! Everything from downloadable music and movies to DVDs and graphic novels are all available free at RCPL.

Special programs such as **Teen Fashion Week** and **RCPL Teen Idol** are held throughout the year, giving Midlands teens a variety of ways to show off their talents and expertise.

Several library locations also offer popular teen programs related to music as well as book discussion groups, financial aid workshops, anime clubs and more.

The library's **Teen Advisory Board** (TAB)—composed of teens from throughout the community—meets each month to share their ideas with staff and to help get the word out about everything happening at RCPL.

Interesting in joining TAB or know someone who should?

Visit www.myRCPL.com/teen or call 929-3434.

{November 08}

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The Wild Place, RCPL's children's Web site, was enhanced to provide better access for children, parents and teachers to the variety of programs and resources available 24 hours a day on myRCPL.com.



{The Wild Place for Kids...}

In May 2007, RCPL launched a new and improved children's Web site, The Wild Place at www.myRCPL.com/children.

Based on Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* and drawing on the close relationship RCPL enjoys with Sendak, the site features a kid-friendly design and a variety of resources for children, parents, educators and the growing Hispanic community.

Highlights include tools for finding the perfect book, figuring out those tough homework questions, learning to surf the Internet safely, finding a program or storytime at all RCPL locations and much more.

Children can also access a list of good reads compiled by RCPL staff, read reviews by other children and submit reviews of books they have read.

The Wild Place is one of the many online resources available 24 hours a day. Check out myRCPL.com for all your information needs!

For more information on programs and services for children, call 929-3434 or visit www.myRCPL.com/children.

{ December 08 }

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In addition to the more than 20 pieces of permanent public art on display at RCPL, the Main Library's Wachovia and First and Third Level Galleries, featured 15 special exhibits throughout the year, including photography, water color, mosaics, mixed media and more.



Beyond the Glass by Donna Rozier

{ Literature to Life . . . }

Last year, more than 35,000 people from across the state attended free programs at RCPL, including storytimes, plays, literary readings and book discussions.

Drawing on local talent, RCPL's Literary Residency program provides creative literary and historical presentations, lectures and workshops. These multicultural programs, which attract a variety of people, help promote the depth of the library's materials and collections.

RCPL's Literary Residents—Clarence Felder and Chris Weatherhead, cofounders of The Actors' Theatre of South Carolina; Howard Burnham; Dr. Glenn James; Carrie Allen McCray; and Dr. Rosemary Reisman—have a true depth of interest in and knowledge of good literature.

RCPL also brings the visual arts to South Carolinians through exhibits in the Wachovia Gallery at the Main Library and partnerships with organizations such as the Columbia Marionette Theatre, the Columbia Museum of Art and the Colonial Center.

{January 09}

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Your public library provides many opportunities for children of all ages to stretch their imaginations. Whether it's a good book, the latest music downloaded from the Web site, or the chance to meet special guests such as world renowned Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, RCPL offers something for everyone!



{Inspiring the Dream . . . }

RCPL gave more than 2,000 fifth, sixth and seventh graders from across the Midlands the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist and the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, at a special event in October. Dr. Tyson's message was clear and promoted the future of America's science and math programs. He ended his presentation by challenging the audience to explore the world around them.

"What's next? YOU—as the next generation. The world is yours. Yours to create the next dream. I don't determine it. I'm too old, you do," Dr. Tyson said. "The only way is to go to the library—learn how the world works so you can step up and say I have the power...I have the mind to do so."

Tyson is one of 6,000 astrophysicists in the world—making this a one in a million chance for these kids to meet their science idol. Well known for his reclassification of Pluto, he was born and raised in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Harvard University and a doctorate in astrophysics from Columbia University.

This free program was made possible through the generous support of the Baker and Baker Literacy Fund, with partial support by Richland School Districts One and Two.

{By the Numbers. . .}

LIBRARY USE

total units of service	14,778,838
visitors to the library system	1,895,646
new registered borrowers	20,387
total registered borrowers	231,435
total patron information requests	1,749,574
in-house	1,025,681
phone/mail	722,686
electronic reference	1,207
holds placed	130,555
materials borrowed from other libraries	841
materials lent to other libraries	1,093
electronic online database searches	424,707
web site access	1,535,349
in-house programming attendance	35,981
outreach programming attendance	8,971
class visits/tours	6,217
a(ugusta) baker's dozen attendance	2,150
summer reading club enrollment	
children	20,973
teen	2,542
adult	8,562

CIRCULATION

main library	1,372,428
circulating materials	883,195
community services/outreach	64,399
OPAC renewals	421,613
downloadable media	3,221
bookmobile	22,500

CIRCULATION AT BRANCHES

blythewood	88,853
john hughes cooper	248,271
eastover	11,535
north main	66,654
northeast regional	199,470
sandhills	340,391
southeast regional	277,802
st. andrews regional	282,929
wheatley	88,486
systemwide use	2,999,319
in-house patron use systemwide	6,043,688

*population served, Richland County	348,226
*population served, Greater Columbia	588,386

{Bringing the Library to You...}

Whether it's your favorite author's latest best seller or the resources you need to be successful on the job or in the classroom, the information you need is available at RCPL.

The library's extensive collection features more than 1.1 million books, more than 15,000 magazines in print and online, 167 newspaper titles and more than 90,000 nonprint resources.

RCPL has also put technology to work for you, providing wireless Internet access at all 11 library locations, e-newsletters to keep you informed of library programs and services, and access to increased numbers of online databases, e-books, downloadable audiobooks, digital reference and more.

Visit www.myRCPL.com today!

{Resources}

books	1,114,170	audiocassettes/tapes	14,112
electronic books	1,949	video/DVDs	41,723
magazine titles in print	898	compact discs	32,039
magazine titles online, full text	14,383	CD ROM titles	955
newspaper titles	167	cataloged photographs	453
maps	2,089	electronic databases	50
microforms	71,053		

Operating Budget as of June 30, 2007

RECEIPTS

county appropriation	\$ 16,331,228
state aid	\$ 643,664
miscellaneous	\$ 1,271,574
designated funds, FY06	\$ 5,644,679
total	\$ 23,891,145

DISBURSEMENTS

personnel & related expenses	\$ 10,598,562
materials	\$ 3,285,038
operations	\$ 3,006,778
operations reserve	\$ 7,000,767
total	\$ 23,891,145

Main Library and Branch Locations

Main Library 799-9084
Children's Room 929-3434
1431 Assembly St., Columbia 29201
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The Link, Ballentine 781-5026
1321 Dutch Fork Rd., Irmo 29063
Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. Noon - 8 p.m.
Sat. Noon - 6 p.m.

Blythewood Branch 691-9806
218 McNulty Rd., Blythewood 29016
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

John Hughes Cooper Branch 787-3462
5317 North Trenholm Rd., Columbia 29206
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Eastover Branch 353-8584
608 Main St., Eastover 29044
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

North Main Branch 754-7734
5306 North Main St., Columbia 29203
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Northeast Regional Branch 736-6575
7490 Parklane Rd., Columbia 29223
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sandhills Branch 699-9230
1 Summit Parkway
at Clemson Rd., Columbia 29229
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Southeast Regional Branch 776-0855
7421 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia 29209
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

St. Andrews Regional Branch 772-6675
2916 Broad River Rd., Columbia 29210
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wheatley Branch 799-5873
931 Woodrow St., Columbia 29205
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Have You Joined?

Many of the programs featured in this annual report would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of RCPL.

Your membership in and support of the Friends helps RCPL provide nationally recognized programs and services. Memberships start at only \$25. To join or for more information, call (803) 929-3475 or visit <http://www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm>.

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Protecting and Preserving Our Environment



Richland County Public Library

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