

Annual Report

The title "Annual Report" is displayed in a large, ornate script font. The word "Annual" is written in a cursive script, while "Report" is in a larger, more formal script. The year "2004" is integrated into the design, with the "2" and "0" being the main vertical stems of the "Annual" script and the "0" and "4" being the main vertical stems of the "Report" script.

Richland County Public Library



Record numbers of children and adults are feeding their imaginations and enhancing their futures by using Richland County's public libraries.

In the 15 years since the last library bond referendum and capital expansion, demand for all library services has soared. Total units of service jumped from 4.4 million in 1989 to 13 million in 2004, an increase of 197 percent. In fiscal year 2004, the library attracted 1,895,893 users, and circulation systemwide reached 3,126,900.

This year, with special grant funds and support of the Friends, the library introduced self checkout at the Main Library and three branches. RCPL also added receipt printers, eliminating time-consuming processes so that staff can spend more time assisting library users.

In the last year, your library has also:

- Ranked ninth in the HAPLR Ratings, 2004 (Hennen's American Public Library Ratings); two libraries in the Southeast made the top 10—RCPL and a Virginia library. RCPL has been ranked nationally each year since the ratings were introduced in 1999.
- Achieved a record level of participation—more than 18,000 children—in the Summer Reading Club. And 5,000 adults participated in the summer reading club for ages 18 and older, introduced at RCPL's branch libraries this year.
- Received a special "Best International Partnership" award by Tutor.com at the American Library Association conference for Answers Now, the first 24-hour, global reference service.

Library staff continue to work hard to enhance RCPL's resources and services, using technology to maximize the impact and efficiency of library funding. Your public library remains firmly committed to serving the needs of Richland County residents, providing access to information and resources for learning and recreation.



C. David Warren

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A(lugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories

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

January 05

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Friends' book sales offer something for everyone!



The Benefit of Books

This year, the Friends of RCPL sponsored four book sales that raised more than \$56,000 to support the library. The sales offer thousands of books in all genres, from fiction and nonfiction to children's books and cookbooks. Prices start as low as \$1 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks.

"I can always find books recommended by my book club at the sales, as well as other treasures we have not discussed. And I get them for such great prices that I can pass them along to others."

—Jill Rothstein

2005 Friends' Book Sales:

winter sale – January 21 & 22 | spring sale – April 15 & 16
summer sale – July 15 & 16 | fall sale – October 14 & 15

Saturday public sales: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., RCPL Operations Center
Friday preview sales for Friends' members only: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Questions? Call the Friends' office at 929-3475.

February '05

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The library is a perfect place to discuss books and learn new things.



Let's Speak English

This 10-week program, held at three branch locations in 2004, pairs international adults with local volunteers for one-hour conversation sessions. Internationals practice speaking English in a relaxed environment, and everyone involved learns more about other languages and cultures.

"A genuine camaraderie develops. It's all about people learning to respect and understand each other."

—Barbara DeHamer

Attention International Adults:

RCPL's Let's Speak English program allows you to meet with local adult volunteers to practice speaking English. It's free! No studying! Meet people and exchange ideas!

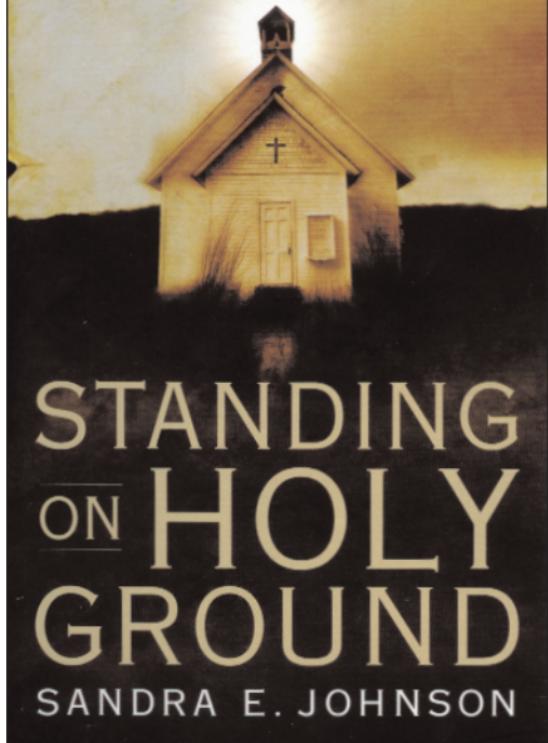
Available at Northeast Regional, Southeast Regional and St. Andrews Regional. Call these locations for dates and times.

March '05

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At your public library, you have access to more than 1.2 million items – all for free!

A TRIUMPH OVER HATE CRIME IN THE DEEP SOUTH



At Your Service

More than 1,000 magazines and 175 newspapers are a part of RCPL's collection, and another 9,913 magazines and newspapers are available online. People turn to the library's periodicals staff when researching a variety of things, including school assignments, family histories, how-to projects and information on consumer products.

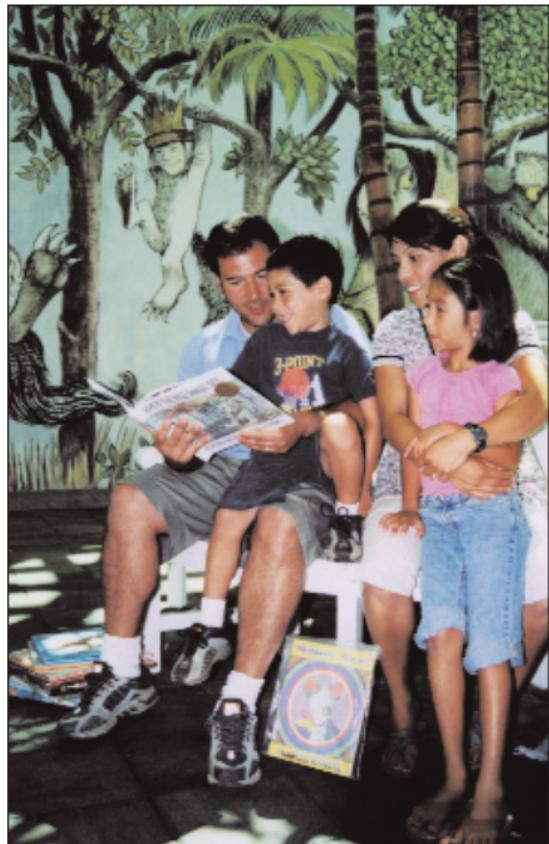
Sandra Johnson, author of Standing on Holy Ground, says "the staff at . . . the Richland County Public Library have shown me what true job dedication is all about." She specifically acknowledged the efforts of Periodicals Librarian Debbie Bloom in her book. "After I had left the library and nearly drove away, she came running out of the building and down the street to tell me that she had finally found some crucial information that I had given up hope of obtaining."

—Sandra Johnson

April 05

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The library is the perfect place for family fun! Storytimes are held regularly at most locations.



Don't miss the 19th annual
A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen, featuring award-winning
author Christopher Paul Curtis April 22-23, 2005.

Call 929-3474 or visit www.richland.lib.sc.us/baker.htm
for more information.

Wild About Reading

RCPL's Children's Room at the Main Library features a mural of Maurice Sendak's Wild Things and thousands of books that help children explore the world and feed their imaginations. Countless families have been touched by the books as well as the outstanding staff.

"Thanks for providing the most amazing Children's Room imaginable. Leslie Barban and her staff truly instill a love of books in every child they touch. It is a wonderful thing to have children ask on a daily basis if they can make a trip to the library to check out a new stack of books."

—Shannon Poteat

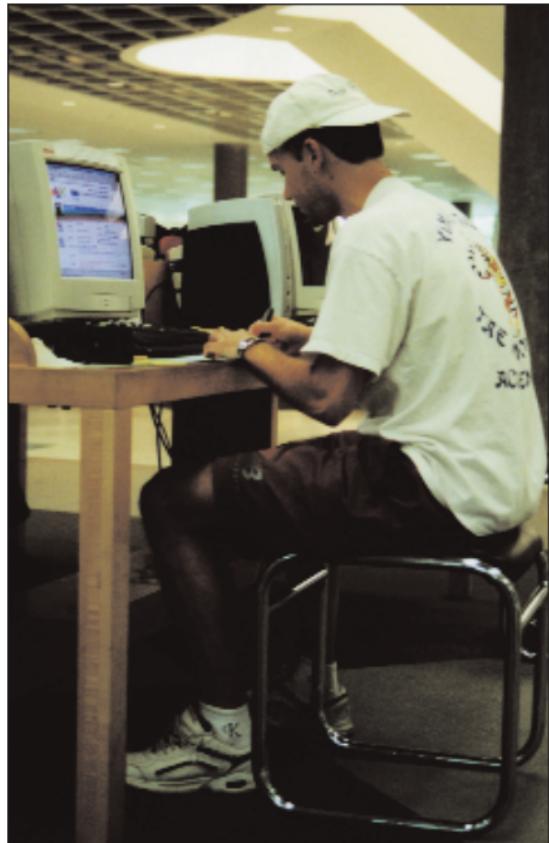
Children's Room, Main Library: 929-3434

May 05

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Whenever you need them, online
resources are only a click away.

www.richland.lib.sc.us



Gone Site Seeing

RCPL's Web site allows you 24 hour access to online databases on everything from arts and antiques to history and philosophy, as well as book reviews, small business resources and information for children and teachers. Join the thousands of people—more than 115,000 from January through October 2004—visiting RCPL online and gain instant access to resources and information.

"This is a great Web site. I use it several times a week."

—Lisa Cole

Join RCPL's Summer Reading Club and get rewarded for enjoying good books this summer. Ask for details at the RCPL location nearest you!

June 05

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Whatever you need –
you can find it @ your library!



Tools for Success

Print and electronic resources are available on a variety of topics, including small business and management, investments, transportation, engineering, medicine, food science, home economics, patents and trademarks.

"RCPL is definitely an invaluable resource. I was able to find the tools I needed to start my small business and establish the Auntie Karen Foundation. I learned how to create my Web site with books from the library instead of paying someone to do it for me."

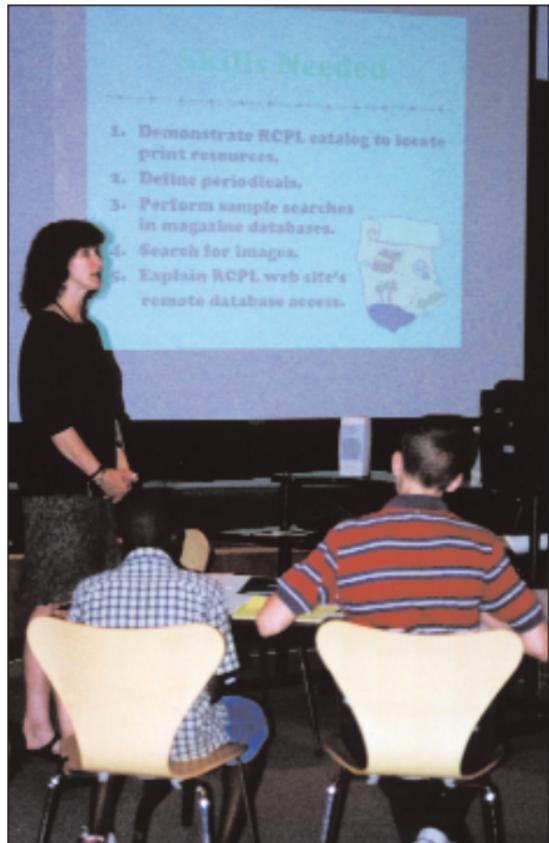
—Karen Alexander

Business, Science & Technology Reference: 929-3401

July 05

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Whether you're doing research
or looking for the latest novel,
the library is your place!



Get Research Ready

The Get Research Ready program demonstrates to groups of students the variety of resources available at the library and how those resources can be used for school projects and research. In FY 2004, more than 300 students attended 10 workshops.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you. The presentations were the best ever: well-organized, interesting, well-prepared, informative and soooo helpful. May you continue to impact scores of students for decades!"

—Karen Merchant, Forest Acres Christian Educators

Got students?

Bring your class to the Main Library for a Get research Ready workshop that teaches students how to do research in the library and from home.

So You've Googled, Now What?

Discover databases. This workshop is designed for classes who would like a more in-depth look at researching with online databases.

Teachers can call 929-3457 to schedule either workshop,
taught by librarians at the Main Library.

August 2005

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Serving the needs of people in our community is what RCPL is all about!



Opening Doors

A special program allows library materials to be delivered to homebound patrons over 60, giving them regular access to books. One part-time staff person, Rosemary Marquart, and four volunteers make monthly visits to more than 70 people each year.

“When I was able, I went to the Sandhills Branch. Now, Rosemary knows what kind of books I like. She always brings me the best books, and I can call her anytime when I’m done reading and she brings me more.”

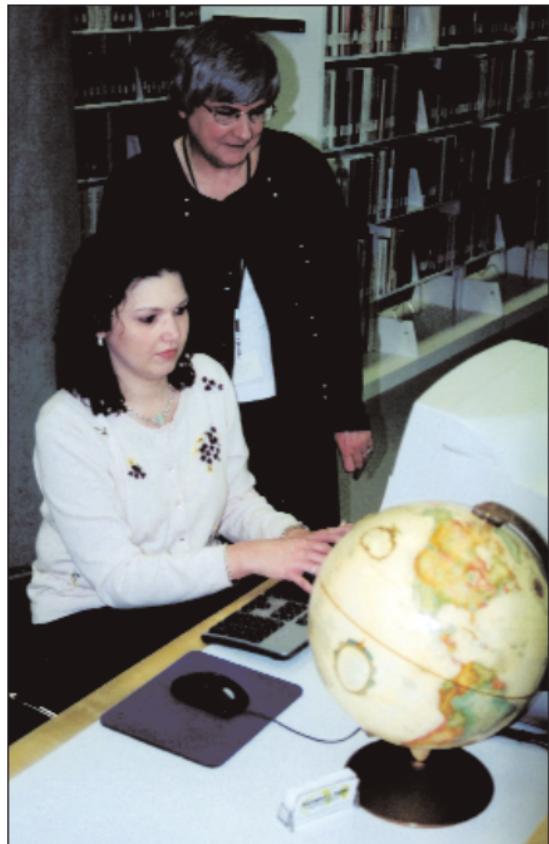
—Virginia Bruce

Homebound Program: 929-3416

September 05

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Your library uses the latest technology to provide the most innovative and efficient services.



Get Answers Now

Answers Now, RCPL's online global reference service, provides 24 hour access to information and resources. More than 5,300 questions were answered between January and October of 2004. The service is made possible through a partnership with libraries in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

"This 24 hour service is great. I am delighted with our library. We have one of the best systems in the country."

—Anne Krauss

answers now. all the time. across the world.

Logon to www.richland.lib.sc.us and click on the Answers Now icon. A reference librarian is waiting to answer your questions online.

October 05

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Whether you're starting a business or writing a paper, the library has the information you need.



Information and More

Each year, RCPL's reference staff helps thousands of people gain access to the information they need. A perfect example involves Information Services Librarians Diane Luccy and Ellen Betts, who helped a local couple obtain the documents necessary for the man to secure health benefits after he was diagnosed with cancer at age 64.

"They creatively brainstormed ways to approach the authorities...and it worked!"

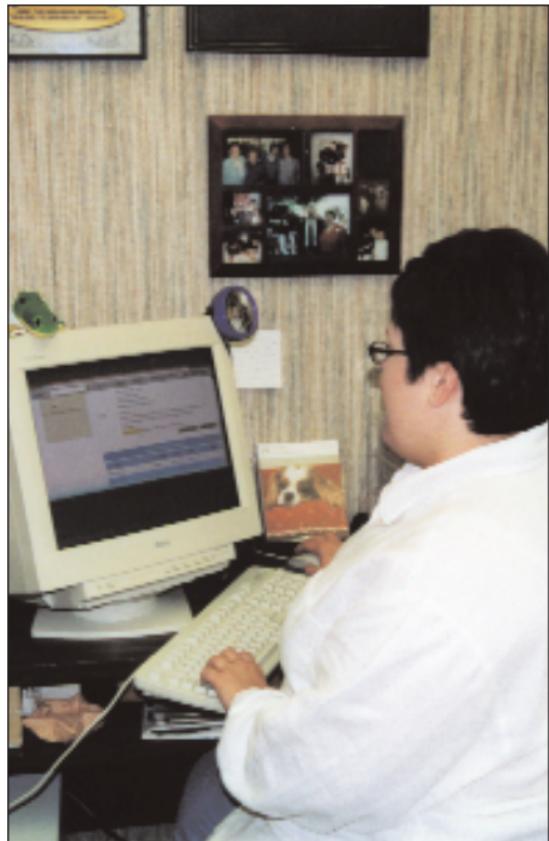
—Gary & Jo Phifer

General Reference: 929-3400 | Local History: 929-3402
Business, Science & Technology: 929-3401

November 05

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RCPL has more than 9,000
magazines and 40 databases
available online.



Making Connections

RCPL has more than 1.2 million books, videos, CDs and other items in its collection, and the online catalog lets you check availability any time from any place. Items can be picked up and returned at any of the 10 library locations across Richland County.

"RCPL is bookmarked as one of my favorite Web sites. I can do everything online—check for books and place holds, and then I get an e-mail when the materials are ready to pick up."

—Mary Pat Baldauf

December 05

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At any age, you can find fun and adventure @ your library!



Talk about Books

The library is the perfect place to get together and talk about great books, and there are many opportunities to do just that at the Main Library and the branches. From classics to the latest best-seller, there's something for everyone.

"I look forward to the Tuesday Morning Book Discussion Group. The discussions are so interesting, and at my age of 100, the best part is being able to read for enjoyment, actually learning and understanding about the books."

—Faye Trueblood

RESOURCES

books	1,085,969	audiocassettes/tapes	27,214
magazine titles in print	1,070	video/DVDs	35,426
magazine titles online, full text	9,913	compact discs	19,600
newspaper titles	169	CD ROM titles	1,186
maps	1,235	cataloged photographs	453
microforms	68,521	electronic databases	35

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.

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.

RECEIPTS

county appropriation	\$ 13,166,121
state aid	\$ 320,803
miscellaneous	\$ 1,033,775
designated funds, FY03	\$ 4,044,922
total	\$ 18,565,621

DISBURSEMENTS

personnel & related expenses	\$ 9,346,767
materials	\$ 2,537,772
operations	\$ 2,194,999
operations reserve	\$ 4,486,083
total	\$ 18,565,621

LIBRARY USE		CIRCULATION	
total units of service	13,090,508	main library	1,007,316
visitors to the library system	1,895,893	bookmobile	19,071
new registered borrowers	17,228	community services/outreach	54,800
total registered borrowers	236,435	OPAC renewals	298,442
total patron information requests	1,544,623	CIRCULATION AT BRANCHES	
in-house	921,814	blythewood	93,162
phone/mail	622,809	john hughes cooper	270,076
holds placed	135,208	eastover	12,209
materials borrowed from other libraries	829	north main	98,359
materials lent to other libraries	1,309	northeast regional	244,281
electronic online database searches	196,964	sandhills	301,982
Web site access	628,558	southeast regional	315,474
in-house programming attendance	23,953	st. andrews regional	302,574
outreach programming attendance	4,936	wheatley	109,154
class visits/tours	8,940	systemwide use	3,126,900
a(ugusta) baker's dozen attendance	2,392	in-house patron use system-wide	5,580,549
summer reading club enrollment	18,873		
*population served, Richland County	320,700		
*population served, Greater Columbia	583,000		

We Can Never Have Too Many Friends!

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.richland.lib.sc.us/friends.htm>.



Richland County Public Library
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