

• • • 2008 annual report

# richland county public library

[www.myRCPL.com](http://www.myRCPL.com)



# e fond farewell



Change is inevitable, and nowhere is this more true than in libraries. While the variety and format of RCPL resources have changed dramatically with new technologies, the public library is still the first place most people go for information.

Usage at RCPL has never been higher—circulation, total units of service and the number of people visiting the libraries are all at least 10 percent higher than last year. With the current economy, I expect library usage to continue to climb.

Specifically in 2008, your library:

- Provided free programs, events and Summer Reading Clubs for all ages that **attracted more than 95,000**.
- Saw usage of all library facilities increase, including the more than **51,000 people** who visited **The Link, Ballantine**, RCPL's newest facility that opened in December 2007.
- Saw record participation from volunteers, with nearly **800 children, teens and adults** contributing more than **15,000 hours** valued at **\$250,000**.
- **Celebrated the 15th anniversary** of the Main Library in downtown Columbia and the expansion of facilities and services throughout the county with a series of special events that attracted more than **1,000 people**. The events were made possible by the Friends of RCPL.

More change is coming in 2009, when I retire April 3 after nearly 30 years with RCPL. Having worked with wonderfully supportive Boards of Trustees and the most talented and professional staff to be found anywhere, I consider myself so very fortunate. The library board is committed to finding the right person to take charge of the bright future that is in store for RCPL and the community it serves.

C. David Warren, Executive Director

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

**2007–2008 Board of Trustees**  
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Pamela Rogers Melton, *Vice Chair*  
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Howard Burnham  
Clarence Felder  
Dr. Glenn James  
Carrie Allen McCray \*  
Dr. Rosemary Canfield Reisman  
Chris Weatherhead  
Jim Welch  
Ceille Baird Welch

\* (October 4, 1913 – July 25, 2008)  
beloved poet, author and friend

# january

On average, more than 3,000 people use the Main Library in downtown Columbia each day, and another 5,000 or more use RCPL's 10 other facilities located strategically throughout Richland County.



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## :|: changing as needed

Technology has changed the world dramatically, and people now demand instant access to information for all aspects of their busy lives.

Libraries are still the access point for computers and the Internet for many people throughout Richland County. While traditional library services remain popular, more than 50 percent of users surveyed recently rely on RCPL for computer and Internet access alone.

While meeting this need, RCPL also finds innovative ways to allow users to access nontraditional library services from their homes, schools or businesses. Residents can get answers to research questions or school assignments via instant messaging; library cardholders can access free library resources to download music, videos and audiobooks; and more than 20 e-mail newsletters are available to help readers identify literature that appeals specifically to them.

RCPL offers programs for all ages to educate and inspire. Dr. Randal Pinkett, scholar, entrepreneur, author and Season Four winner of NBC's The Apprentice with Donald Trump, spoke to residents at a special program at the Main Library last August.

february

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## :|: loving the library

In February 2008, RCPL celebrated the 15th anniversary of the 242,000 square foot Main Library in downtown Columbia and the expansion of library facilities throughout the county.

The celebration gave library users the opportunity to voice how RCPL impacts their lives. Users identified the many ways the library helps improve their quality of life, enabling them to get better jobs, open their own businesses, apply for social security benefits or access resources to help their children.

*"I love the Richland County Public Library because it is my travel agent, my therapist, my muse, my laughter, and my escape . . . I am dealing with major health issues and reading often is my only escape and greatest medicine . . . Nothing makes you feel quite like opening a new book for the first time, except for maybe closing it for the last; but I thank you RCPL for all the pages in between! I have had to give up my job, some activities I love and many more things than I would like to. But RCPL has made it easy to keep up with my reading each and every week. I love the amazing building, but I have come to love the amazing Web site. Thank you! I LOVE MY LIBRARY because it opens my limited life up to the world!"*

- Missie Dowey

The Friends of RCPL raised more than \$30,000 at the 15th and final A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket last February. This unique basket, created by One Eared Cow Glass, commemorated the efforts of Harriet Woodham who created the event.

March

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## :|: joining the fun

Volunteer leaders and members of the Friends of RCPL love their library and work hard to raise support and awareness of RCPL.

Friends' efforts, including annual book sales, special events and memberships, provide substantial support that allows your library to thrive and grow. Most recently, the Friends matched a \$65,000 federal grant to upfit The Link, Ballentine, RCPL's newest storefront library facility that opened in December 2007.

In 2008, nearly 300 people attended the fifteenth and final A Tisket, A Tasket...A Literary Basket fundraiser. Thanks to the generous support of corporate and individual sponsors, the event raised more than \$30,000.

There are many ways to be a friend to your world-class library. Join 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, visit [www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm](http://www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm) or call (803) 929-3475.

Since 1987, 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 Walter Wick, at the annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories.



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april

## :|: celebrating stories

More than 2,300 people attended the 22nd annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories in April 2008. Walter Wick, photographer of Scholastic's highly acclaimed I Spy series, 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 2009 event on  
Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 will feature  
**Kimberly Willis Holt**, author of several  
award winning books for teens.

For more information, call 929-3474 or visit [myRCPL.com!](http://myRCPL.com)

Summer reading rocks at RCPL, with special programs and Summer Reading Clubs for all ages. In 2008, Hello Tomorrow performed at the Teens-Only Wrap Up party at the Main Library, which also featured video games and much more.

May

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## :|: rocking @ your library™

Love music or movies? Then the library is the place for you. And don't be surprised to hear the sound of live music in the air when you enter the doors.

RCPL now hosts a variety of music programs systemwide, from special Summer Reading Club Wrap-up parties for teens and families to a Lunch & Listen series featuring local musicians. Throughout the year, programs are also held at all 11 RCPL locations that draw on the tremendous talent that's right here in the Midlands.

Special showings of your favorite movies are now a part of the program lineup for all ages. The Main Library hosted a Foreign Film Festival for the first time in the fall of 2008, showing a different film each Sunday afternoon.

RCPL's free programs showcase the variety of materials available, from movies to music and more. Visit [myRCPL.com](http://myRCPL.com) today to check the catalog and find out about upcoming events.

RCPL has something for everyone, including more than 90,000 nonprint resources. In addition to CDs and DVDs, users can now download movies, music and audiobooks at myRCPL.com and choose from nearly 2,000 Playaways - lightweight, self playing digital audiobooks.

June

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## :|: searching for more

Regardless of the question, the library has the answer. In the age of instant access to information and the variety of new technologies, RCPL is still the best place to turn for free, accurate answers.

The Research Tools section of myRCPL.com offers a variety of resources on every subject imaginable—from arts and antiques to careers, education and jobs to cars and trucks. More than 80 electronic databases are available through the library's Web site, providing users with quick access to invaluable resources.

Need an answer quick? Ask A Librarian, RCPL's online reference service, allows you to chat with a librarian and get concise answers and assistance with online resources. Just visit myRCPL.com and click on the Ask A Librarian link in the left column.

Reading and visiting the library can impact everyone's lives, including Cocky, the USC cheerleaders and more than 20 Gamecock football players who were at RCPL as a part of the Summer Reading Club Celebration. Pigskin Poets attracts more than 300 fans of all ages each year.



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## :|: reading is the goal

Reading is an important part of a child's development, and emphasizing this has long been the goal of RCPL's successful Summer Reading Club for children.

Special programs such as Pigskin Poets, which has drawn capacity crowds of well over 300 fans for 11 years, uses the popularity of Gamecock football to show that reading is cool. In addition to Pigskin Poets, a lineup of more than 20 special programs featuring regional performers provides a free, educational outlet for families.

Building on the success of the children's Summer Reading Club, RCPL also provides the chance for teens and adults to get rewarded for reading. In 2008, more than 22,000 children, 2,800 teens and 6,700 adults did just that by participating.

Summer reading at RCPL is rewarding! More than 30,000 children of all ages participated in the 2008 Summer Reading Clubs—22,042 children ages 12 and under, another 2,849 teens and 6,767 adults.

august

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## :|: making a difference

The library has a significant impact of the lives of its users, and many people help make that happen. More than 800 volunteers of all ages contribute their time and talent at RCPL, assisting with a variety of tasks and special projects throughout the year.

In 2008, RCPL saw record participation in the volunteer program, with an increase of more than 2,000 hours over the previous year. Specifically, more than 800 volunteers contributed more than 15,000 hours—a value of more than \$250,000.

To recognize the efforts of many longtime volunteers, a Volunteer Hall of Fame was established in April 2008. Twenty volunteers who had either 15 years or 1,500 hours of service were recognized.

Interested in volunteering at the library? Just call 929-3436 or visit [myRCPL.com](http://myRCPL.com).

# September

The *Free Times* named RCPL the **Best Place to Expand Your Mind** in 2008, and for obvious reasons. RCPL has more than 1.3 million resources available to its users—everything from books, magazines and newspapers to downloadable resources and online databases.

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## :|: focusing on the area

Looking for information on Columbia, Richland County or local people and places of significance? Be sure to visit the Walker Local History Room on the third level of the Main Library.

The Local History Room features a variety of resources, including local maps, oral histories from local personalities, neighborhood resources and city directories for past years. Histories on churches, schools, as well as the city, county and state, are also available. The South Carolina vertical file, a collection of articles relating to various South Carolina topics, includes information on African Americans of significance and much more.

For more information on the Local History Room, visit [www.myRCPL.com/local-history](http://www.myRCPL.com/local-history) or call 929-3402.

In the last several years, RCPL has enhanced services for teens, utilizing a Teen Advisory Board to get input on programs and services. In 2008, RCPL hosted Teen Fashion Week in July and RCPL Teen Idol in October. Critically acclaimed teen author Jaime Adoff visited the Main Library in November also.

# October

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## :|: making it real

People of all ages, but especially teens, now have many more reasons to check out the library—and not just for school assignments. New resources such as downloadable music and movies as well as graphic novels are all available free.

RCPL also offers many special programs that allow Midlands teens to show off their talents and expertise, including Teen Fashion Week and RCPL Teen Idol. Programs related to music and video games are held throughout the year, along with the traditional book discussion groups and financial aid workshops.

The library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets each month to share their ideas with staff and to help get the word out about everything happening at RCPL. Interested in joining TAB or know someone who should? Visit [myRCPL.com](http://myRCPL.com) or call 929-3434.

RCPL's Literary Residency program capitalizes on the talent of area scholars and performers to provide free, quality programs for library users, bringing literature to life and highlighting RCPL's varied collection. Beethoven: His Women & His Music premiered at RCPL in November 2008.

november



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## :|: expanding horizons

The library, a facility open to all people, is the perfect place to discover an appreciation of literature and the arts. Last year, more than 42,000 people from across the state attended RCPL's free programs, which showcase the variety of resources available.

RCPL's Literary Residency program allows RCPL to utilize local experts to provide creative literary and historical presentations, lectures and workshops. The programs span many arts and humanities disciplines including history, literature, philosophy, theatre and music. RCPL's Literary Residents—Clarence Felder and Chris Weatherhead, cofounders of The Actors' Theatre of South Carolina; Howard Burnham; Dr. Glenn James; the late Carrie Allen McCray (1913-2008); Dr. Rosemary Reisman; and Jim and Ceille Baird Welch—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 Ballet and the Columbia Museum of Art.

The Friends of RCPL, a nonprofit group that works to raise awareness and support for RCPL, raises nearly \$70,000 each year at four annual book sales. All the gently used books, CDs and DVDs sold are donated by people in the community.

december



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## :|: meeting the needs

With more than 1.1 million books and another 90,000 nonprint resources from which to choose, the Richland County Public Library has something for everyone, regardless of age or background.

That's why 70 percent of the people in Richland County have library cards, using those resources and services to enhance their lives and prepare for their futures.

Usage at RCPL has never been higher—circulation, total units of service and the number of people visiting the libraries increased by at least 10% in 2008. Increased usage at public libraries is a direct result of a poor economy, when people can no longer afford to buy books, rent or go to the movies and when many are forced to use library resources to search for employment or other benefits after losing their jobs.

# january 2010

Diverse programs are held systemwide, including the popular Let's Speak English program that helps international adults practice speaking English in a relaxed environment. Panel discussions on critical community issues, as well as programs on music and other cultures, compliment regular storytimes and book discussions.



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## :|: enhancing lives

Each year, more than 40,000 people from across the state attend free cultural events at RCPL, including an annual storytelling festival, plays, literary readings, book discussions and concerts.

In the last five years, RCPL has hosted the Rosenbach Museum's Wild Things Whirligig, NPR's Storycorps and a variety of best-selling authors including Walter Wick, Jaime Adoff, John Jakes, Dorothea Benton Frank, Nathalie Dupree and Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

These special programs are provided throughout the year in addition to numerous storytimes and children's programs and book discussion groups.

For a complete listing of events at your library, visit [myRCPL.com](http://myRCPL.com) or pick up a calendar of events from any of the 11 RCPL locations throughout Richland County.

# :|: by the numbers

## library use

total units of service	16,132,606
visitors to the library system	2,102,097
new registered borrowers	22,717
total registered borrowers	200,179
total patron information requests	1,974,897
electronic reference	4,407
in-house	1,202,585
phone/mail	767,905
holds placed	148,774
materials borrowed from other libraries	925
materials lent to other libraries	1,225
electronic online database searches	307,741
web site access	1,996,420
in-house programming attendance	42,224
outreach programming attendance	9,664
class visits/tours	9,562
a(ugusta) baker's dozen attendance	2,300
summer reading club enrollment	
children	22,042
teen	2,849
adult	6,767

## circulation

main library	1,568,865
circulating materials	945,361
community services/outreach	57,632
OPAC renewals	556,130
downloadable media	9,742

## circulation at branches

the link, ballantine/bookmobile	58,426
blythewood	101,482
john hughes cooper	266,703
eastover	15,410
north main	79,980
northeast regional	213,384
sandhills	366,281
southeast regional	310,041
st. andrews regional	295,636
wheatley	99,341
systemwide use	3,375,549
in-house patron use systemwide	6,227,128
* population served, Richland County	357,734
* population served, Greater Columbia	601,004

# :|: visionary leader retires after 30 years

In April 2009, RCPL's longtime Executive Director C. David Warren will retire. Warren came to RCPL in 1979, and his vision and guidance has led RCPL to be named national Library of the Year in 2001 and become a leader among public libraries in the Southeast and across the United States.

Warren attributes the success of the library to community support on many levels, from an active board and a strong Friends group to library users who are vocal about how the library impacts their lives. That support enabled a 73 percent approval of a \$27 million bond referendum in 1989, which replaced a 32,000 square foot library in downtown Columbia with the current 242,000 square foot facility that has become a cornerstone of Columbia's downtown growth and revitalization. The referendum also provided seven branch facilities throughout Richland County.

"Having worked with wonderfully supportive Boards of Trustees and the most talented and professional staff to be found anywhere, I consider myself so very fortunate," Warren said. "Now, I find it is time for me to step aside for someone else to take charge of the bright future that is in store for RCPL."

RCPL's local funding increased each year under his leadership, even with economic downturns and the implementation of a statewide property tax cap approved by voters in a November 2006 referendum.

RCPL's Board of Trustees is conducting a national search for Warren's replacement.



## :|: resources

books	1,136,408	microforms	71,338
electronic books	2,172	audiocassettes/tapes	9,425
magazine titles in print	935	video/DVDs	45,666
magazine titles online, full text	15,341	compact discs	38,839
newspaper titles	155	CD ROM titles	861
maps	2,641	cataloged photographs	453
		electronic databases	81

## Operating Budget as of June 30, 2008

### Receipts

county appropriation	\$17,335,359
state aid	\$721,523
miscellaneous	\$1,104,925
designated funds, FY07	\$7,000,767
<b>total</b>	<b>\$26,162,574</b>

### Disbursements

personnel & related expenses	\$11,406,475
materials	\$3,391,383
operations	\$2,992,839
operations reserve	\$8,371,877
<b>total</b>	<b>\$26,162,574</b>

# :|: 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. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fri., Sat. 9 a.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 - 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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