

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



BIRMINGHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMITTED TO SERVE

A Review of 2015

Marking our 128th year, the Birmingham Public Library (BPL) offered exciting and relevant opportunities for our communities to engage in professional, personal, and educational growth.

True to our mission, we provided “the highest quality library service to our citizens for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment and enjoyment.” Our impact on the community in 2015 was visible in many ways, including in the areas of workforce development and financial literacy and in our commitment to improve the lives of area children. For example, BPL offers resume writing and other professional training, as well as access to computers and databases to research job sites and employers. We teach people about the importance of managing money and provide help to entrepreneurs who are interested in starting and growing small businesses. Children, teens, and their parents benefit from our homework help sessions, afterschool learning opportunities, and early literacy classes. Servicing families, youth, seniors, and businesses, BPL is truly a resource that our citizens can depend on throughout their lives.

By remaining committed to serve and with the support of our communities, we were able to achieve these goals for 2015:

- *Library Journal*, a national library publication, named BPL a 2015 Three-Star Library
- Nearly 100 writers participated in our February Local Authors Expo;
- Food Network star Martie Duncan and other Birmingham area chefs created *Birmingham's Best Bites* cookbook benefiting BPL;
- Inglenook Branch Library received a Design Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA);
- BPL received a \$50,000 Library Services Technology Grant (LSTA) for digital readers for the Southern History collection and equipment for STEM teen programs;
- BPL engaged the community during the citywide celebration of the Dali Lama’s visit;
- Best Buy awarded BPL \$10,000 for teen programming;
- BPL Press published *Change and Continuity: The Administrations of David Vann and Richard Arrington, Jr.* by Dr. Ed LaMonte;
- UAB Benevolent Fund granted BPL \$50,000 for the Teens Engineer Birmingham program.
- The American Library Association book *Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections* by Diantha Dow Schull highlighted three BPL programs: the Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership (BCAP) afterschool program which has been in existence since 2000; the traveling exhibition *Both Sides of the Lens: Photographs of the Shackelford Family, Fayette County, Alabama, 1900-1935*; and Letter from Birmingham Jail: A Worldwide Celebration.
- BPL’s 1928 Japanese Friendship Doll, Miss Iwate, returned to Japan for conservation and exhibition.

BPL BY THE NUMBERS

Our numbers reflect the fact that BPL is the largest library system in Alabama and services the most populated metro area in the state.

HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	48,984
VISITORS TO THE LIBRARIES	2,030,995
ITEMS CHECKED OUT FROM LIBRARIES	874,679
NUMBER OF BOOK VOLUMES IN THE COLLECTION (not included Archives Collection)	675,719
NUMBER OF PUBLIC PC USERS	530,556
NUMBER OF WIRELESS SESSIONS ANNUALLY	1,183,208
REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED	586,508
PUBLIC PROGRAMS (number of Summer Reading programs 558)	2,579
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (Summer Reading program attendance 18,418)	57,280
TOTAL NUMBER REGISTERED FOR SUMMER READING (total participants including adults, children, and teens)	7,498
TOTAL NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES AWARDED FOR SUMMER READING (awarded for children and teens only)	3,737
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED	65,268

PERSONNEL

In the calendar year 2015, BPL employed 303 people – 169 full-time staffers and 134 part-time employees. Ten new hires and eight promotions were made. After contributing over 30 years of service to BPL, Deidre Sims retired on May 1, 2015.

Birmingham Public Library Trustees 2015

Kimberly Richardson, *President*
Gwendolyn R. Amamoo, *Vice President*
Georgia Morgan Blair
Patty A. Pilkerton
Samuel A. Rumore, Jr.
Dora Sims
The Honorable Judge Scott Vowell
Katrina Watson
Gwendolyn B. Guster Welch

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Angela Fisher Hall, *Library Director*
Sandra Vick Lee, *Deputy Director*

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James H. White III, <i>President</i>	David Herring, <i>Vice-President</i>
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Tony Smoke	Angela Fisher Hall, <i>Library Director</i>
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Courtney Pigford	

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Dionne Clark	Yawntreshia Coleman
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Rashada Leroy	Blair Liggins
Deidra Mayes	Sabrina Mays
Cassandra McLendon	Charlotte McLendon
Tevis Owens, <i>Vice President</i>	Kristy Stewart
James Sullivan	

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2015

The Birmingham Public Library is deeply grateful to our 2015 partners. From as far away as Japan to as near as the Central office of the Public Libraries in Jefferson County, these public and private partners have helped us fulfill our mission and have a broader reach in the community. We thank them for working with us to make Birmingham better.

BPL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2015

98.7 Kiss FM	Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
A. G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club, Inc.	Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership
AL.com	Birmingham Genealogical Society
Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Jefferson County Office	Birmingham Historical Society
Alabama Department of Archives and History	Birmingham Holocaust Education Center
Alabama Digital Preservation Network	Birmingham Islamic Society
Alabama Genealogical Society	Birmingham Metro NAACP
Alabama Health InfoNet	Birmingham Museum of Art
Alabama Holocaust Education Committee	Birmingham Peace Project
AlabamaMosaic	Birmingham Zoo
Alabama Public Library Service	Books-A-Million
Alabama Public Television	Central Alabama Pride
Alabama Sports Hall of Fame	City of Birmingham: Economic Development Office Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services Parks and Recreation Board Records Management Department
Alabama Virtual Library	Committee to Protect the Homeless
Mr. Masaru Aoki	Cotchery Foundation
American Association for State and Local History	Create Birmingham
America's First Federal Credit Union, Ensley Branch Library	The David Mathews Center for Civic Life at Montevallo University
Auburn University	Elmwood Cemetery and Mausoleum
Barnes & Noble	Embassy of Spain – Cultural Office
Birmingham Aids Outreach	Family Violence Center
Birmingham Botanical Gardens	
Birmingham Children's Theatre	
Birmingham City Schools	<i>continued on next page</i>

Financial Education Outreach	Pet Supplies Plus
Free2Be	Public Libraries in Jefferson County
Friends of Rickwood Field	Rally's Hamburgers, Inc.
Girls Inc. of Central Alabama	Reach Out and Read Alabama
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau - Reunion Planners Workshop	Reading with Ringling Bros.
Haiku Society of America	Real Life Poets
Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School	Red Mountain Park
Impact Alabama	Rock Creek Graphics
Japan America Society of Alabama	The Rotaract Club of Birmingham
JCCEO Positive Pathways Program	Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve Sarrel Dental Center
Jefferson County Beekeepers Association	SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives)
Jefferson County Historical Commission	Shout LGTBTQ Film Festival
Jefferson County: Human Resources Department Office of Senior Citizens Personnel Board Workforce Development Collaborative	Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark
Junior League of Birmingham	STAIR Reading Program – Westminster Presbyterian Church
Keia Shaku	StoryCorps
Kelly Animal Clinic	The Theo Hawthorne Insurance Agency – State Farm
Lawson State Community College Culinary Arts Program	The Historic Tutwiler Hotel – Hampton Inn & Suites
The Links, Incorporated, Magic City Chapter	United Methodist Church, North Alabama Conference Historical Society
Literacy Council of Central Alabama	United Way of Central Alabama – Read and Romp
Magic City Acceptance Center	University of Alabama at Birmingham CareerServices
McWane Science Center	EnablingTechnologies Lab
Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	Institute of Financial Literacy
New Rising Star Community Support Corporation	School of Engineering
Oak Hill Memorial Association	University of Alabama Cartographic Research Laboratory
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Greater Birmingham Chapter	Vulcan Park and Museum
Pepper Place Market: Birmingham Saturday Market	Walter Schoel Engineering Co., Inc.
	Yoshitoku Doll Company
	Youth Speaks (Brave New Voices)

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Our financial supporters help us provide excellent customer service, supplement our materials and equipment budget, and extend our reach in the community by offering over (ADD#) annual programs a year. Every gift helps us become a better library and helps us to come closer to our vision of being “indispensable in linking people with the universe of information.” We appreciate the generosity of our public and private donors, and thank them for all the services and materials that they make possible.

A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club	Bennett, Davis Whited	Carter, Fatima
Abbott, Valerie	Bennett, Patricia G.	Casey, Abby
Academy Of Fine Arts, Inc.	Benton, Ann	Cato, Sara Joe
Adams, T.M. and J.J.	Berte, Neal and Anne	Chou, Chu-Fang
Adams, Thomas and Cathy	Best, Ann	Chren, Mary-Margaret (Landefeld)
Agee, Rucker and Margaret Fund	Best Buy Foundation	Christy, Lowell K.
Alabama Media Group	BIG Communications for InSinkerator	Clark, Dionne
Alabama Power Company Foundation	Bigbee, Leah	Clark, Tom and Mary Ellen
Alabama Public Library Service	Birmingham Doll Club	Clarke, Carol E.
Alabama State Council on the Arts	Blackstone, John and Melissa	Clayton, Charles and Louise
Alexander, Jeanne B.	Blake, David and Burns, Bob	Clemon, U.W.
Alison, Fontaine	Blake, William and Mary	Cleveland, Judge Melford and Mary
Alison, Olivia	Blalock, Irene "Renee"	Cobbs, Dr. Charles and Naneita
Amamoo, Gwendolyn and Paul	Blount, Jeffrey and Dana	Cohn, Jeffrey and Rebecca
American Baseball Foundation	Boockholdt, John and Barbara	Coleman, Yawntreshia
Andrew Young Foundation	Boyd, Susan H.	Colvin, Susan
Armstrong, Jeanne	Brakefield, Yvonne	Cooper, Megan Rebekah
Arndt, Margaret and Charles	Brantley, William and Neila	Cooper, Mitchell and Hope
Arnett, Gussie	Brickman, Steven	Couch-Moormann, Carole
Atkins, Leah Rawls	Briles, David and Marilyn	Coughlin, Harry and Bettye
Bailey, Cynthia	Bromberg & Company	Crain, Kathy
Bailey, Jennie Lind	Bromberg, Frank and Lella	Crockard, Craig and Kim
Bailey, Virginia	Broner, M. Bennet	Crow, Larry
Barber, Gail and Cannon, Nassif	Brown, Dorothy	Dallas, Jeanette
Barnes, Gary and Laurita	Burnum, Virginia	Datcher, Terrence L.
Barnett, John Allen and Nellie	Burwinkle, Punky	Davis, Juliette
Bearman, Howard and Suzanne	C. Eugene Ireland Foundation	Deal, April
Belk	Carlisle, Charles D.	<i>continued on next page</i>

Deason, Leslie	Fraley, J. David and Ann D.	Hawkins, Elizabeth
Demonia, Robin	Freeman, Rita	Heacock, Jim and Harriet
Dennard, Gloria	Fretted Instruments	Held, Jack
Denny and Judith Bearce	Fuller, John and Ponzella Penny	Herman-Giddens, Scott
Denson, Stephanie Denise	Furr, Candy and Jim	Herring, Samuel David
DeVos, Christine	Gaede, A.H.	Hill Crest Foundation
Dick, Teal	Galloway, Frank	Hill, Jon P.
Dickinson, Harold and Melinda	Garner, Kay	Hinds, Carey
Dixon, Eunice	Gerlach, Gary and Kathryn	Hobbs, Richard and Sally
Dodson, William and Ann	Gespass, David and Johnson, Kathleen	Hodges, Susan
Donor, Anonymous	Giberson, Margie	Hollingshead, Susan
Donor, Anonymous	Glover, Vicki and Kevin	Hoover Historical Society
Downing, Annye	Godchaux, Francine C.	Howell, Phoebe E.
Dr. and Mrs. C. Glenn Cobbs	Goldman, Renitta and Jay	Huisking Foundation (BPL Employee Jean Shanks' Family)
Dr. and Mrs. Roger Smith	Gordon, Thomas	Hunt, Guynelle
Dreger, Nathan	Gorrie, Miller	Hunt, Steven and Stephanie
Dudgeon, Carlye	Gove, Donna W.	Hydock, Dolores
Dunklin, Leslie	Gray, Michael	Inglenook Neighborhood Association
Dunn, Constelene	Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau	Jackson, Samuel W.
Dunn-French Foundation	Gray, Wilbert C. and Julia	Johnson, Joseph H.
Dyck, Robert	Greene, Vernandi	Jones, George and Judith
Ellis, Julia M.	Griffith, Anna	Jones Valley Neighborhood Association
English, Gerald	Guthrie, Virginia	Julian, J. C.
Erdreich, Ben and Ellen	Hall, Angela Fisher	Junior League of Birmingham
Everts, Maaike	Hammell, Carolyn A.	Kent, Janice Fay
Ewing, Scott Evans	Hampton, Willie Mae	King, Otis
Faith Chapel Christian Center	Hancock, Jimmie and Jeanette	Kinnear, Beatrice Kay
Fant, Barbara G.	Hand, George and Judith	Kittinger, Jo
Ferrell, Brenda B.	Harper, Frank and Rona	Kulovitz, Frances
Fierman, Bobby and Carole W.	Haskell, Wyatt and Susan N.	Lamphere, Kevin
Flanary, Jane	Hassinger, Mr. and Mrs. David	Landefeld, Seth
Forest Park Garden Club	Hatch, Jessica C.	Langston, Janine
Forest Park-South Avondale Neighborhood Association	Hatcher, Brenda	Layton, Mr. & Mrs.
Foster, Rikeshia	Hatcher, Dave	<i>continued on next page</i>

LeGrand, Bettie	Milazzo, Marian E.	Pijaux, Dr. Lawrence J., Jr.
Lewellyn, Joan	Milazzo, Sam G.	Pilkerton, Patty A.
Lewis, Charles	Mitchell, Blanche	Platt, Dawn and John
Lewis, Judy M.	Mitchell, Susan	Primeaux Cheese & Vino
Liggins, Blair	Miyagawa, Ichiro	Plott, William J. and Wilstach, Nancy K.
Loeb, Robert and Betty	Moffett, Claudia	Protective Life Foundation
Lewy, Eishen Family Living Trust	Moore, Mary	Quillen, Michael C.
Little Savannah, Inc.	Moore, Susan P.	Randolph, Gloria
Lofgren, Jonathan	Morgan, Cheryl	Redmont Study Club
Long Jr., Don and Marianna	Morgan, William and Barbara	Regions Financial Corp. (Matching Gifts)
Lovejoy, Barbara Ann	Moss, Stanley	Reid, Brian
Lovoy, Patti	Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Walter	Reid, Elberta G.
Lowe, Sallie C.	Nelson, Andrew and Meg	Richardson, Kimberly
Lower, Linn and Dana	Nelson, Margaret D.	Richardson, William and Creagh
Lyons, Pamela	Nobles, Kaitlin R.	Rikard, Marlene
Marks, Julie Ann	Oliver, Chris	Riser, Thomas
Marx, Katharine	Oliver, Mary and DeBone, Jacqueline Ann	Robertson, Adam
Marshall, Kelly	Omura, Dr. Emily	Rock, Ceil
Martin, Kenneth	O'Quinn, Lisa	Roberts Food Service
Maude Davis Robertson Trust	Owen, Martin and Sharon S.	Roebuck, Mary O.
Mayes, Deidra	Owens, Tevis	Rucker and Margaret Agee Fund
Mays, Jonathan Matthew	Pace, Thracie	Rucker, Denise and Megan
McCollum, Nancy G.	Pair, Sheree	Rumore, Samuel and Pat
McCormick, Virginia M.	Palmer, Ralph S	Ryan, David and Pat
McCoy, Carol Ann	Parker, Alton and George Ann	S & W Electric Company, Inc.
McCrary, Bess	Parker, Cherrye Fincher	Sallin, Susan
McDonald, Grace	Patrons Artist Council East (PACE)	Seals, Bruce W.
McGhee, Bobbie	Pete M. Hanna Charitable Foundation	Seibels, Edmund and Beth
McGough, Cynthia	Petrey, Bragan and Dr. W. Banks	Sessions, Lewe and Marilyn
McLaughlin, Glory	Petrus, Mary	Shanks, Jean
McLean, Virginia	Pettis, Dr. Joyce	Sherman, Barry and Leah
McLendon, Cassandra	Pewitt, Mr. & Mrs. Dudley	Shunnarah, Amanda
McShan, Henry	Pigford, Jay and Courtney	Sims, Ira and Dora
Meherg, Laura	Pigford, Richard I.	<i>continued on next page</i>

Slay, Lynette R.	Thomas A. S. Wilson Family Advised Fund	Watts, Larry and King, Pamela
Smith, Hugh and Catherine	Thomas, Jessica	Webb, Jane
Smith, Lisa	Thomas, Lynne	Welch, Arthur and Gwendolyn
Smith, Lochrane and Mell	Thompson, Jennifer	White, James and Marjorie
Sommers, Carol O.	Tidwell, Nanci	White, Marjorie Lee
Sons and Daughters Of Virginia Founding Fathers	Tinsley, Michael	Williams, Barbara B.
South Roebuck/Roebuck Springs Neighborhood Association	Tortorici, Charles	Williams, Lucille
Sprague, Richard and Patricia	Trinity United Methodist Church	Wilson, Bernice G.
Sparks, Peggy	Tripp, Henreitta S.	Yarbrough, Missouri W.
Speegle, Sherri	Tutwiler Trust	Yerby, Rene Danos
Spielberger, Joyce T.	Tutwiler, Pauline (Estate)	Young, Jackie
Stagno, Mary Laura	Tyson, James Arthur	
Stahlkuppe, Cathie	UAB Benevolent Fund	
Stefanson, Donald	Underbakke, Clark and Walker, David	
Stephens Foundation	Underwood, Christine G.	
Steves, Ann M.	Urquhart, Yvonne	
Stewart, David and Mary	US Daughters of 1812	
Stewart, Kristy	Utz, Karen	
Sullivan, James	Valley Off Shoots Garden Club	
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust	Verin, Linda	
Swift, Elizabeth	Vida, Teresa	
Swinford, Sonja	Von Buchholtz, Jutta	
Sznajderman, Michael	Vowell, J. Scott and Cameron	
Tal, Laura and Stan	Wagnon, Macbeth and Nancy	
Tate, Melva J.	Walburn, Nancy	
Taylor, Dixon	Walker, Cynthia J	
Thagard, Elizabeth B.	Walker, Joseph and Chris	
The Alabama Company Jamestowne Society	Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC.	
The Caring Foundation and Corporate Giving of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama	Ward, Bette	
The Cotchery Foundation	Ward, William and Caroline	
The Nomborg Household	Ware, Donna L. and Brad	
The Women's Network	Warner, Lawrence	
	Watercolor Society of AL	
	Watkins, Mary	

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

UPDATES FROM OUR BRANCH AND DEPARTMENT LEADERS



CENTRAL LIBRARY ARTS, LITERATURE, AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Our top story was Miss Iwate's return to Japan for restoration. Mr. Aoki of the Yoshitoku Doll Company transported her to Japan where she was displayed at the Iwate Prefectural Museum. The 2015 Bards & Brews events were attended by 1355 people. Of special note were the Bards, Brews & Haiku and the tribute to Andrew Glaze. Thirteen Alabama schools competed in WORD UP!, the annual national poetry slam for high school students. We partnered with the Japan America Society of Alabama for The Cherry Blossom Festival and put on the Gifts of a Wordsmith poetry workshop for adults. The Fourth Floor Gallery hosted some outstanding exhibits including those featuring Matthew Mayes, Bryce Speed, and the UAB painting students. We initiated weekly knitting sessions with the Phillips Academy afterschool students. Several talented adult volunteers helped with the classes.

BUSINESS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY/SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

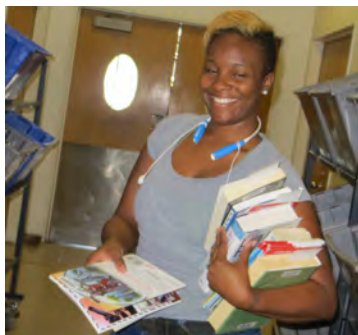
The BST/SE Department offered monthly presentations that focused on the content and navigational features of our business subscription databases. Among the training session subjects were Alabama Legal Forms, Ferguson's Career Guidance Center, Foundation Directory Online Professional, Ferguson's Career Guidance Center, LearningExpress Library, and Reference USA. We began partnering with the Jefferson County Department of Human Resources to strengthen our programming in the area of workforce development and career services. Monthly public presentations provided an overview of the process

involved in applying and interviewing for Jefferson County jobs. These were followed by sessions about effectively searching Alabama Joblink, which is the Alabama Department of Labor's job matching database for job seekers and employers. BST/SE staff also participated in some notable outreach activities including the Alabama Money Expo, the UAB Institute for Financial Literacy, the Jefferson County Workforce Development Agency Collaborative, and the UAB Liberal Arts/Social Sciences Career Day.



COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

In 2015 the Acquisitions Department received and processed 34,631 new books, videos, audios, and music CDs for the Birmingham Public Library. We continued our push to replace print reference materials with



more accessible online resources with the addition of Value Line's online financial package and the Financial Ratings Series Online. Interlibrary Loan filled 2,514 requests for Jefferson County patrons for materials not owned by our cooperative, while loaning 4,353 to other library systems, mostly within the state of Alabama. The intralibrary courier service was greatly benefited by the cooperative's purchase of two new library vans to replace our aging vehicles. Rod Zeigler completed a cross-training program for Building Services workers across the system. The department staff organized six Collection

Management meetings, six LAll Training sessions, and conducted several WebWorks training classes. Mary Stewart and Elizabeth Swift visited the Clay Public Library to provide training. The cataloging team also provided staffing coverage in several short-staffed branches.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS

The Department of Archives and Manuscripts continued to serve as a resource to the world. In addition to researchers from Alabama, we served researchers from 34 states and the District of Columbia, England, France, Japan, South Africa, and Spain. Archives staff spent more than 650 hours researching and responding to out-of-town research requests. Our researchers used more than 90,000 files, published 15 books (including a finalist for the National Book Award), and produced six motion picture productions (including the movie Woodlawn and an episode of Antiques Roadshow). In cooperation with the Birmingham chapter of the American Institute of Architects, we created a new exhibit on Birmingham's Terminal Station and we assisted exhibit designers working on the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture. We hosted or presented 33 programs, including two papers given by staff at scholarly conferences. We trained and hosted nine interns (from Auburn University, UA/SLIS, UAB, University of Montevallo, Birmingham-Southern College, University of Maryland, and University of Hull in England) as well as two long-time volunteers. We digitized more than 100 oral history interviews conducted by the Alabama Historical Commission in the 1970s. We hosted a training session presented by StoryCorp for LGBTQ organizations in Alabama. We acquired 24 new collections; processed 13 collections containing approximately one million documents; and added information to several databases.

FICTION DEPARTMENT

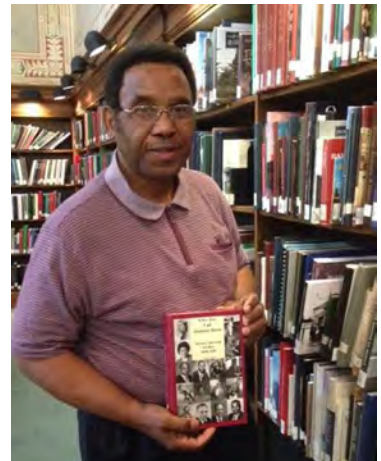
The staff of the Fiction Department enjoyed serving the public and fulfilling the library's mission during the course of 2015. We offered listeners' and viewers' advisory and promoted all of our formats to the public. We mounted numerous changing displays in the East Building to merchandise our collection and services. Fiction staff members designed and presented eight trainings in the Regional Library Computer Center.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Appointed as a Federal Depository Library on October 8, 1895, we have proudly maintained our partnership with the Government Publishing Office for the last 120 years. We began an evaluation to see how we can make the collection more accessible and give staff the ability to better promote items pertaining to current events and the many important materials that document our nation's history. The department also serves as a Patent and Trademark Resource Center and so regularly teaches a class on the basics of patent searching. We also offered a special program on the importance of trademarks for small business owners.

SOUTHERN HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The year 2015 was a busy one for the Southern History Department. We continued offering a wide variety of genealogy classes, some for beginning researchers and some for those with more experience. We taught a month-long series of genealogy classes off site and presented our Intro to Genealogy class at several municipal libraries and BPL branches. Southern History staff members developed new classes for the Regional Library Computer Center and can be found teaching two to three times each month. In July, we hosted an after-hours "lock-in" for members of the Birmingham Genealogical Society. This fun evening offered researchers a chance to spend some extra time in the library with staff on hand for assistance and consultations. After working collaboratively on our application for an LSTA grant, we were thrilled to learn we would be awarded funds to purchase new microfilm scanners and an overhead book scanner. These items will allow us to improve access to our incomparable collection of microfilm and rare books. We also worked closely with the Arts, Literature, and Sports Department and with the Development Department to prepare for Friendship Doll Miss Iwate's departure for Japan.



AVONDALE REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY

It was a challenging year, but even with a reduction in staffing we were able to circulate roughly 9000 items per month. Our Adaptations Movie Matinees presented 15 programs to 250 viewers. Guardians of the Galaxy, the finale presentation for our Super Summer Comic Book-to-Film series, garnered our best turnout for the year with 31 participants. Bards & Brews has proven to be one of the most popular programs at the Avondale Library. We are seeing new patrons (i.e., young couples and families) as they move into the Avondale area. Our collection remains

fresh thanks to contributions from our patrons and from memorial gifts. Thanks to the generous donation of 13 ukuleles and cases from Fretted Instruments of Homewood, the Avondale Library Youth Department is circulating ukuleles. The Avondale Library is the first library in Jefferson County to circulate the instruments; we are pioneers!



EAST ENSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

This was a wonderful year for community involvement and support of the East Ensley Library. We had great participation in Summer Reading with over 600 children and teens attending programs at the East Ensley Library. Staff members have been involved with neighborhood and civic organizations throughout the year by participating in Function at the Junction, Village Creek Society Clean Up Day, and the restocking of the food pantry at the First Baptist Church, Ensley. At the branch, staff members updated our juvenile collection, created better signage around the library, and shifted our books and furniture to make the library more inviting and patron-friendly.



EAST LAKE BRANCH LIBRARY

The East Lake Library continued to serve its community, hosting an Affordable Care workshop, Thursday interactive storytimes, and summer reading programs for children, teens, and adults. The children learned about the environment, science, and art, while the teens and adults discovered how to use e-books and portable devices. During the summer months, the East Lake Library was either closed or partially closed due to HVAC problems. Due to continuing unreliability of the HVAC, we refrained from booking our meeting room and from scheduling programs. We are optimistic that our HVAC issues will be resolved and we will be able to resume our normal operations next year.



EASTWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

The past year has seen many changes at the Eastwood Library. While our overall circulation decreased in 2015, we did experience a 22% increase in circulation of juvenile materials. Long time LAIII staffer Deidre Sims retired in April and Claire Stanton was hired to take her place in September. The Shops of Montevallo, the commercial center in which the library is located, added several new tenants including a Planet Fitness, Katie's Plates (a gourmet meal delivery service), and a package store and enjoyed a major increase in traffic. Every week new patrons came in stating that they did not realize there was a library in this location.





ENSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

The year 2015 proved to be a wonderful and exciting one for the Ensley Library. In January our building received an exterior facelift in the form of a fresh coat of paint, new entrance doors, and a brand new HVAC unit. We now stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter! We also received five new lease PCs for patron usage with updated hardware and software. Our patrons really enjoy the large screen monitors for entertainment and gaming purposes. Our children's, teen, and adult programming was very successful. Our staff was extremely proud of our children's summer reading performance. We completed a major weeding and shifting project of the library's book collection, thus making the collection more attractive and accessible for all of our users. The Ensley Neighborhood Association kindly provided us with a popcorn machine which allows us to prepare and distribute snacks during programs. We enjoyed a wonderful year of community involvement and support for the Ensley Branch Library.



FIVE POINTS WEST REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY

The library continued to play a vital role in the community. Our popular weekly adult computer classes taught patrons about basic computer skills, Internet searching, e-mail, Facebook, library databases, online shopping, job search/resume skills, and Microsoft Office. The Active Living @ Your Library group (senior adults) hosted a variety of programs including arts & crafts, movies, guest lecturers, musical performances, and health and fitness activities. We also hosted 26 weekend movie programs during 2015 with an attendance of over 600. In the spring and fall, we celebrated six consecutive weeks of successful PRIME TIME Family Reading Time® events. This program sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation is designed to help families help their children improve their reading skills and enjoy reading. Based on the success of these programs, we began a monthly Family Fun Night that continues to grow in popularity. Summer programming included Summer Reading with 736 children, teens, and adults registered and the 15th Annual Math and Science Fun Day with over 200 in attendance. On September 12 the library was the lead partner in Read and Romp Birmingham 2015 held in the park adjacent to the library. Read and Romp is an innovative, free literacy event for children ages 3-5 and their families. Literacy is a top priority for the Five Points West Library and this is demonstrated by these and other educational opportunities such as Ready to Read adult literacy tutor sessions and 1-2-3 Play with Me programs.



INGLENOOK BRANCH LIBRARY

In 2015 the renovated, award-winning Inglenook Library experienced its largest crowds in nine years! The Young Authors in Birmingham program and the Summer Reading Kickoff Party both brought in 80 or more patrons. The PRIME TIME Family Reading Time program also flourished. It began with an average of five families in 2014 and grew to an average of eight families in 2015. Our book delivery program expanded this year, too. Teachers with

Inglenook K-8 Schools are now using library resources to supplement their lesson plans, and they have also begun incorporating the Inglenook Library into classroom assignments, student contests, and other cultural activities of the school. While circulation remains steady, the Inglenook Library continues to reach out to the community to inform everyone of library services and resources. Sixteen area churches received letters and brochures listing services and contact information. Lastly, Inglenook Library's redesign by Hoskins Architecture won a merit award from the Alabama Council of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).



NORTH AVONDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

The year 2015 was one of hard work, dedication, and welcomed challenges. Our Hallo-Read Celebration, Chapter Chatters Book Club, and story hour were just a few of our well-attended and praised educational programs. Patrons also participated in new offerings at the North Avondale Library, such as quilting and dining etiquette. Balancing space for tutoring, afterschool programs, and other simultaneous adult and juvenile activities was a challenge. A tight schedule of activities and the introduction of a children's book club allowed us to meet the needs of everyone. This year, we also experienced an increase in our Wi-Fi service usage. The highlight of 2015 was our team's presentation on library services at Independent Presbyterian Church as part of a family outreach program for parents of students from Carol W. Hayes K-8 School. We enjoyed working with other community residents and partners also.



NORTH BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY

The North Birmingham Library had a busy 2015. The Adult Department held 21 programs with 333 participants, while the Youth Services Department offered 133 children's, tween, and teen programs with 4,179 attendees. In addition to summer reading adventures for both children and adults, we put on adult Monday Night Movies, drawings for reading adult books and audiobooks, and sessions to make valentines for veterans. The annual African American Poetry Read, Black History on the Red Carpet, and our annual Holiday Tree Lighting were favorite events. In contrast, our preschool storytimes were very poorly attended in spite of our outreach efforts to more than 400 area teachers, parents, caregivers, and students. We countered by visiting daycares and schools, often taking our library pets to the classrooms. All loved this, of course, but we are still working to get children and their families into the library. We completed a major weeding of our adult fiction books and relocated our adult graphic novels. Since we were very short staffed in the northern region, we worked on team building—getting to know each other better and learning how to work and to solve problems as a team. We also emphasized cross-training and creativity.



PRATT CITY BRANCH LIBRARY

The Pratt City Library participated in the 2015 commemoration of the April 27, 2011, tornado and displayed renderings of the neighborhood's proposed design that will include a park and a community center. We hosted several community meetings with the City's Planning and Engineering Departments for residents and stakeholders to discuss the

redevelopment plan. The library also serves as the initiation point for the Pratt City Walking Trail highlighting local history. Our role was featured on the Fox 6 network. Pratt City Library observed Read Across America in February. The library's service to the community is also evident in its efforts to instill the love of reading and literacy in our patrons. We were actively involved in Summer Reading with tours for Holy Family Elementary School and South Hampton Elementary School. Our real challenge in 2015 was our lack of adequate numbers of staff. With assistance from administration, we were able to operate more efficiently, although we are not yet at full capacity.



SMITHFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY

During 2015 the goal of the Smithfield Library was to encourage patrons of all ages to explore library resources. The collection and programs were tailored to the interest of the users. We provided educational enrichment through various events such as Birmingham, 1963 (Birmingham civil rights foot soldiers Gwendolyn Sanders-Gamble and Janice Kelsey presented to the library a 1963 Resolution from New York firefighters that protested the “vigorous debasement of the image of Fire Fighters by misusing them to hurt rather than help people in danger” when fire hoses were turned on civil rights marchers), career readiness, tutoring, gardening, home safety, and summer reading (for children, teens and adults). Our partnership with Save-First Tax Preparation service assisted 1,100 families. Additionally, we featured renowned authors such as Omar Tyree. As the year comes to a close our intense goals are to continue to motivate patrons of all ages.



SOUTHSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

During 2015 the Southside Library offered computer services, programs, and space for neighbors to meet. Due to HVAC issues, the library was open half days for a few weeks during the summer. Patrons and staff members were thrilled with the installation of new air conditioning units in July. Despite the HVAC issues and early day closings, Summer Reading was a success with 312 patrons receiving certificates and 3,210 books read. The library maintained a social media presence through Flickr and Facebook posts. The City addressed plumbing problems, but we are still plagued with roof leaks. We look forward to these building issues being addressed next year.



SPRINGVILLE ROAD REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY

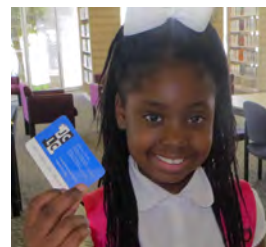
The Children's Department had a successful year in 2015 for both public service and community outreach. We made over 30 presentations about library services and materials to schools, daycares, and family gatherings. The number of new families visiting the department is on the rise. We began a new partnership with Woodlawn High School to reach out to teen mothers and make them aware of the importance of literacy for both mother and child. We had record attendance for our toddler playtime, 1-2-3 Play With Me. Once again, Summer Reading was successful with 835 children registered and a total program attendance of 1541. We presented a successful fall program for Erwin Intermediate School's Science Club thanks to NASA Science for Girls. A

generous contribution from an Eastern region neighborhood has allowed us to purchase 20 Snap Circuits kits to teach students about rudimentary electronics and circuitry. This has also been a big year for adults and teens at the Springville Road Library. The Coffee, Conversation and Crafts adult program has increased participation from an average of 18 in 2014 to 30 in 2015. Members collaborated with the basic quilting group participants to create and donate a hand-sewn quilt to the library. The crossover between this group and all other adult programs guaranteed us an audience for both evening and daytime programs. We added, by patron request, a nonfiction book group that meets during the day, and we utilized the Ecoscape garden for a low-impact exercise program. Our teen patrons formed a Teen Advisory Council which helps plan, advertise, and implement programs for that age group. We also added Beginning Sewing with the assistance of Judy Dick and donated material, and taught teens how to make pencil skirts. We continued the popular American Sign Language afterschool program for teens.



TITUSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

In the Titusville community our library is really a community center and a place where people gather for various needs, whether the need is locating vital information, faxing important documents, seeking a job, or checking out the newest movie. The library interior and atmosphere provide a comfort zone and a peaceful haven for respite, leisure, and learning. In 2015 we promoted educational enrichment through weekly storytimes, summer reading programs, and our excellent collection of books and digital resources. During the summer we had 26 programs with 1,641 people in attendance. Our monthly preschool story hour has an average attendance of 125 children, and our monthly adult program has an average attendance of 15 per month. We initiated an afterschool tutoring session for elementary and middle school students using volunteer tutors from the Social Security Administration and retirees from the neighborhood. We also helped 25 children weekly with homework. Our public enjoys our location for social gatherings and introductions to new and exciting topics, as well as educational activities. We are fun!



WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

This has been a busy year at the West End Library. This is the sixth year that SaveFirst has provided free income tax preparation at the West End Library. In 2015 library tax site served more than 300 families and helped them to secure \$491,000 in tax refunds, which saved them \$92,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. Although our afterschool reading program was not offered for part of the year because our tutor was not available, since September we've had 32 participants in the program. We had a wonderful summer reading program this year with a total of 20 programs and 568 program participants. Our crochet class is going strong with 12-15 people at each session. If attendance continues to increase we will have to move the class from the conference room to the meeting room. A chess class was started this year for the youth. Attendance is averaging 2-4 people per week, but we expect interest to build as the program continues. We had a wonderful turnout for our Christmas musical which drew a record crowd of 151 people this year. We are currently partnering with Hemphill Elementary to work out a storytime schedule for their first grade classes.



WOODLAWN BRANCH LIBRARY

The Woodlawn Library served members of the community through our efforts to promote a platform with which to relax, bond, and begin the tradition of reading and conversation within their households. We continued to provide the family program PRIME TIME Family Reading Time throughout 2015. Through the Jefferson County Health Department we provided free blood pressure screenings. We also hosted information sessions on the Affordable Health Care Act enrollment process and, partnering with Operation Hope via Regions Bank, we provided information on the process of buying and financing a home. Our summer collaboration with the YWCA provided teen volunteers an opportunity to work during summer reading programs. Woodlawn Library was one of three libraries to be included as a program site for the Community Impact Grant from the UAB Benevolent Fund that provides an afterschool robotics program for students. The year 2015 marked our fourth year working with SaveFirst to offer no-cost tax service to members of the community. At the Woodlawn Library, college student volunteers prepared 360 returns for families in the Birmingham area. These families received over \$620,000 in refunds and, by filing with SaveFirst, were saved over \$110,000 in commercial tax preparation fees.



WYLAM BRANCH LIBRARY

For Wylam 2015 was a year of planning our new building. We had many meetings with the architects from CMH and the City of Birmingham. They were very receptive to our ideas and we were pleased with the finished plans. We are fortunate to have longtime Wylam resident Carmelo Aliano as our library advocate. In appreciation of his efforts to get the new building underway, Aliano was recognized as a Library Champion by the Jefferson County Public Library Association. Our patrons enjoyed many entertaining and informative Second Wednesday programs. The favorite topics included researching your family tree (given by former Wylam librarian Mary Anne Ellis, now with the Southern History Department), an introduction to downloadable audio and e-books, living a healthier lifestyle, and basic home repair. Our book group continued to read and discuss books. Our summer reading program had good participation. Also, we had a good afterschool crew who raced to sign up for the public computers. Our security guard, Edward Jones, taught the afterschool children checkers and got them interested in old-fashioned coloring sheets. Thanks to a system-wide grant from The Goodrich Foundation, the afterschool time in the library was enriched by a visit from Alabama 4H, John Scalici's Get Rhythm Drum Circle, and UAB's New Kids on the Block. We would also like to thank Faith Chapel Church and Hanna Steel for their loyal support. Because of them, we are able to offer an enhanced library experience for all of our patrons, from tiny children to senior adults.



YOUTH SERVICES FOR BPL SYSTEM

BPL Youth Services directed several system-wide events including Reading with Ringling Bros., the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Activity, Valentines for Children's Hospital, and Summer Reading. In 2015 the library registered 6492 children and teens for Summer Reading and presented 452 programs

during June and July with a total attendance of 17,094. Summer reading programming was made possible by a generous grant from the Alabama Power Foundation. BPL partnered with the Cotchery Foundation to provide the annual Teen Tailgate Party (approximate attendance 275) and Skills and Drills Clinic (approximate attendance 200) at Legion Field. BPL Youth Services hosted David Stephens with All Hands Productions for a series of puppet shows featuring his version of *The Reluctant Dragon*. Stephens presented 12 programs at various BPL locations with a total attendance of 542. The library once again offered From Page to Stage – A Readers Theatre Workshop for Children. These workshops were presented at eight BPL locations in partnership with the Junior League of Birmingham and the Birmingham Children’s Theatre. The workshop titles for 2015 included *Play to Win* (story of Jackie Robinson), *Robin Hood*, *The Reluctant Dragon*, and *Seussical*. A grant from the Hill Crest Foundation for afterschool programming is allowing us to provide afterschool enrichment opportunities for elementary age students during the 2015-2016 school year.

LITERACY AND OUTREACH OFFICE

The Literacy and Outreach staff represented the Birmingham Public Library at a variety of venues and events including License to Read and Wild Card school presentations, early literacy parent workshops at JCCEO Head Start centers, Department of Youth Services Cultural Arts Fair, Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo at East Lake Park, and JCCEO Health Fair. In 2015 we issued 706 new library cards through these outreach efforts. Literacy and Outreach directs Ready to Read, a literacy program designed specifically for adults age 18 and over who want to improve their reading skills. The tutoring sessions were held at the Central Library and Five Points West Library where 756 participants attended 180 sessions. The Literacy and Outreach team also serve as project directors for the Family Place Libraries grant from the Junior League of Birmingham. This is a program specifically designed for children ages birth through three years and their parent and/or primary caregiver. The staff planned and facilitated 50 weekly 1-2-3 Play with Me sessions at various BPL locations.

IN CLOSING

In 2015 we had the opportunity to address a number of internal and external needs, to launch new program initiatives and new services, as well as develop new audiences. At the Birmingham Public Library, we understand that if libraries are to survive, they must adapt and be aware of their ever changing roles in the 21st century. We worked together, with board input, to find new ways to deliver services and to take advantage of new opportunities. We are committed to making Birmingham better.