

Year in Review

June 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the library renovation which was made possible by the dedicated library millage passed by the citizens of Royal Oak in 2003. The renovation completely updated the 1962 library building. Since the renovated library reopened people have visited 4,418,164 times and checked out 3,575,160 books, DVDs, and CDs.

How people access information and entertainment has continued to rapidly evolve. Movies and television shows have gone from VHS tapes to DVDs to streaming and downloadable electronic formats. ROPL still had a large circulating collection of movies and documentaries on VHS when we reopened our renovated facilities. Now we only have a handful of classics movies on VHS, and we are seeing a significant decline in circulation of DVDs because many people prefer the convenience of “on demand” services from cable TV providers or on-line sources like Netflix.

It is no longer necessary to travel to the library to get reading materials (and get them back before their due dates). Increasing numbers of our cardholders access our catalog using their smart phones and download books, magazines, and audio books, or access specialized databases without stepping into the library building. Sessions on ROPL's public internet computers have declined while WiFi usage has increased.

Even though the ways we access information and entertainment continue to change, the library remains relevant and important to the Royal Oak community. It had an 82 (out of 100) rating in the 2015 City of Royal Oak Public Opinion Surveys done by Cobalt Community Research. Royal Oak Public Library is still a place where people can obtain information on myriads of topics in a variety of ways. It is a place where people can meet and exchange ideas and create new knowledge. It is a privilege to serve the residents of Royal Oak!



Mary M. Karshner
Director

2014-2015 Royal Oak Public Library Board of Trustees

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Mary M. Karshner

The mission of the Royal Oak Public Library is to be an informational, intellectual, cultural, and recreational resource for all people; to inspire the spirit, educate the mind, and be a center of community pride.



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**Royal Oak
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2014 to
June 30, 2015

Library Revenues

| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Library Millage | \$2,062,222 | \$2,011,806 | \$1,985,723 | \$2,015,850 | \$2,063,681 |
| Penal Fines | \$76,657 | \$73,675 | \$77,047 | \$76,013 | \$86,003 |
| State Aid | \$29,176 | \$24,124 | \$27,103 | \$31,014 | \$33,710 |
| Fines, Fees, Misc. | \$86,895 | \$85,510 | \$79,942 | \$80,002 | \$80,573 |
| Grants/Gifts | \$11,362 | \$78,616 | \$90,013 | \$20,216 | \$34,360 |
| Interest | \$7,090 | \$4,448 | \$5,944 | \$3,712 | \$7,305 |
| Transfer from Fund Balance | \$0 | \$1,558 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total operating revenues | \$2,273,402 | \$2,279,737 | \$2,265,772 | \$2,226,807 | \$2,305,362 |

Library Expenditures

| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$1,298,894 | \$1,413,114 | \$1,399,398 | \$1,344,542 | \$1,421,955 |
| Books, music, video | \$153,333 | \$161,518 | \$138,036 | \$142,839 | \$164,848 |
| Other expenses* | \$700,974 | \$705,105 | \$695,766 | \$702,814 | \$697,168 |
| Total operating expenses | \$2,153,201 | \$2,279,737 | \$2,223,200 | \$2,190,195 | \$2,283,971 |

*Maintenance, services, supplies, utilities, debt service on bonds issued for 2006 renovation

Library Operating Activities

| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | % Change FY 2013-14 to FY 2014-15 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| Visitors | 651,552 | 640,957 | 519,595 | 341,951 | 213,784 | -37% |
| Programs | 510 | 515 | 521 | 503 | 507 | 0% |
| Program Attendance | 16,172 | 15,679 | 15,441 | 17,320 | 12,915 | -25% |
| Reference Questions | 42,741 | 43,790 | 39,469 | 35,005 | 31,048 | -11% |
| Computer Uses | 64,075 | 74,560 | 66,234 | 55,699 | 42,871 | -23% |
| Lending Transactions | 461,182 | 451,097 | 424,592 | 362,037 | 350,238 | -3% |
| Card Holders | 31,762 | 32,262 | 32,367 | 32,822 | 33,233 | 1% |
| Collection Size | 177,803 | 186,885 | 189,135 | 187,115 | 192,452 | 3% |



2015 Summer Reading Program Opening Day.



New mosaic panel created at the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Clay, Glass and Metal Festival..



A young patron participating in Read to the Dogs program.

Of Interest in 2014-2015

- **Zinio** provides free electronic access to over 200 magazine titles that can be downloaded to mobile devices or read on computers. Back issues are also available. All that is needed to access Zinio is a current ROPL library card.
- **Michigan Activity Pass** program continues to add venues and grow in popularity. It now includes free day passes to over 200 Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Check out free and discounted tickets to cultural, historical, and natural attractions all over the state. Log on to www.michiganactivitypass.info for details and passes.
- **Library supporters continue to donate generously** to ROPL with monetary contributions, volunteer time, and gently used books. All of this helps the library stretch its resources. A very huge thank you goes out to all the donors!
- The 16th annual **Royal Oak Area Preschool and Child Care Directory** debuted at the Preschool Information Night in January 2015. This publication is available in both print and electronic format. It features detailed information about area child care facilities. The 17th annual Preschool Information Night is scheduled for February 1, 2016, with the new edition of the directory debuting at that event.
- **The library's partnership with the Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools' fourth grade classes continues.** For over 35 years, under the Reading is Fundamental Program, fourth grade classes have visited the library to learn how to use its resources. The students each get to choose a free paperback book to keep. ROPL has been able to continue this valuable program thanks to funding from the Royal Oak Kiwanis and the Friends of ROPL.
- **Two more mosaic panels** have been added in the Youth Services area. These were created at the 2014 Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce's Clay, Glass and Metal Festival. These two panels are from the fifth year of this continuing community art project. There are now ten of these colorful panels on three walls.