

Report to the Community, 2006

Westlake Porter Public Library began 2006 with the announcement that Director Paula Miller was leaving in February for another position. But with help of Interim Director Jackie Duffy and the support of the community, the staff, volunteers, and Board of Trustees continued the library's tradition of excellence. Here are last year's notable successes and accomplishments.

A New Director

After Paula Miller's departure, the Board began a search for a new director determined to find a successor who could continue WPPL's highly-rated customer service and record of success. After eight months they found that person. Andrew Mangels, who was previously a branch manager at the Johnson County Library System in Kansas, started as the library's Director in November. The Board was impressed by his strong leadership skills, energy and vision, and believes he will continue to build on the library's record of excellence.

Introducing...

In April we introduced Playaway self-contained digital audiobooks to the collection. Because they're digital files and players all in one, they're perfect for library users who want the convenience of digital audio but who don't own MP3 players. They were an instant hit — and circulation has continued to increase since their introduction.

In Youth Services, the Storyoke Imagination Station was introduced. Storyoke gives children their own private story-time at the library. Selections from our children's Book on CD collection are loaded onto the listening station for kids to

enjoy while sitting in chairs just their size. So far it has been thoroughly enjoyed!

In December we unveiled our flat-panel information screen at the Circulation Desk. Read it while you're in the checkout line to find out about library programs, services, and information. Our thanks to Celebrate Westlake for granting the library the funds to purchase and install the system.

Changing Spaces

Several areas of the library were re-decorated and redesigned during the year to make them more comfortable and convenient for library users. The Reading Room was painted with bold stripes and the furnishings re-arranged to create comfortable areas for reading and working. The Young Adult Area was painted in vibrant colors and patterns to set it off from the rest of the library as a place for teens.

In addition, the Westlake Lions Club's tile murals on the low walls in the Bernice Yates Community Reading Garden were installed and dedicated, adding additional color to the area.

In the News

WPPL's excellent programs and services are being noticed by the media. In February, C-SPAN's Book-TV featured one of the library's popular book discussion groups in its Saturday line-up. The same weekend, WKYC Channel 3 News ran a "Ramona's Kids" profile on our Homework Help Center volunteers. In September, the library was once again named "The Best Library" in Cleveland by *Scene Magazine*. In between, the library received plenty of coverage in local newspapers.



Author Susan Wittig Albert (right) visited WPPL in April. At left is Popular Materials Manager Sue Cozzens

Financial Report

Revenue

Total = \$4,670,411

Local Property Tax
\$3,067,310

State Tax
\$1,403,431

Other
\$199,670



Expenses

Total = \$4,345,091

Personnel
\$2,906,772

Operating
\$706,317

Materials
\$650,315

Other
\$81,687





Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145

NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 382

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WPPL: Connecting With the Community

Westlake Porter Public Library was a busy place in 2006, from record-breaking circulation to web visitors. Here are details of how you used the library in 2006:

✓ **1,466,366** items were checked out over the course of the year, making it our busiest ever.

✓ **134,031** were checked out in July — making it not only the busiest month of 2006, but the busiest month ever.

✓ **8,325** items were checked out on July 10, 2006, the highest number circulated in one day, with the exception of our grand opening (July 22, 2002) in the current facility.

✓ **470,416** people visited the library, whether to check out material, attend programs/meetings, study, and enjoy the Bernice Yates Community Reading Garden or the Reading Room.

✓ **955,738** individuals visited the library's web site, a 59% increase over 2005.

✓ **20,956** children, teens and adults participated in the library's 823 public programs

✓ **22,028** people attended the **1,552** meetings held by groups at WPPL, showing that our free meeting room space continues to be an asset to the community.

✓ **8,003** individuals registered for library cards, showing that WPPL continues to be a destination for everyone.

✓ Library staff answered **176,040** reference questions in 2006. While the number decreased from 2005, the complexity of the questions — thus, the amount of time needed to answer them — increased. The library is your “go to” place when the answer can't be found with a search engine!



A youngster enjoys ice cream at the Friends of the Library's annual Ice Cream Social in July.