Message from the director

Fiscal Year 2014 marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Multnomah County Library. Thanks to the generous support of voters on November 6, 2012, the library began this year with the first stable funding in generations. Measure 26-143 created a library district to fund library services and allowed the library to restore seven-day-per week service at previous levels and reversed a $1 million reduction in the materials budget. Multnomah County Library also began its yearlong celebration of 150 years of service to the community.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as library director during this time of change and reinvention. I am deeply grateful to members of this community for their steadfast support of the library and to the staff of Multnomah County Library for their dedication and hard work.

Vailey Oehlke
Director of Libraries
“Thank you for having Russian workers at our library. I am very glad and thankful for Marina’s help. She orders so interesting books for all our family. I think that the library has a big variety of Russian books that are related to international culture and science. My children never were in Russia; however, by reading the Russian books they know very well about their heritage.”

“The library is vital to my classroom — provides multiple copies for book studies, non-fiction materials to supplement for social studies and science learning, and a variety of fiction to reach every interest to develop life long readers.”
Our strategic priorities

Through its history, Multnomah County Library has upheld the principles of intellectual freedom and the public’s right to know by providing people of all ages with access and guidance to information and collections that reflect all points of view. As the ways in which people access information change, there are three unique pillars that remain constant and define the library’s role and value in this community:

• Free access for all
• A trusted guide for learning
• The leading advocate for reading

The service priorities listed on page 5 build upon these pillars and guide the decision-making process to ensure that Multnomah County Library is providing this community the best services possible while using its resources wisely. As the economy, the needs of the community, and the ways in which people access information change and transform, the library will continue to respond.
Our strategic priorities:

• We think yes
• We champion reading for all
• We help the community flourish
• We prepare young minds for success
• We speak your language

Service highlights

• Library district funding takes effect; seven-day-per week service restored.

• United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s *My Beloved World* selected as Everybody Reads 2014 book. Justice Sotomayor speaks in Portland March 11.

• *My Librarian* launches personalized reading recommendations online.

• Library marks sesquicentennial with yearlong celebration.

• Hoopla service brings free streaming audio and video on demand.

• Translated library website launches in Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Simplified Chinese.

• Volunteers deliver materials to homebound seniors through new Words on Wheels program.
Key statistics

Fiscal Year 2013:  
Fiscal year 2014:  

Adopted budget total:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: $58,803,796  
- Fiscal Year 2014: $67,188,579

Overall patron satisfaction:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 97%  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 97%

All checkouts and renewals:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 21,984,923  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 19,486,176

Outreach (youth and adult) checkouts and renewals:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 2,435,985  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 865,895

Full time equivalent positions:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 450.75  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 515

Digital checkouts and renewals:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 587,722  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 980,667

Program attendance:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 303,474  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 316,857

Volunteer hours:  
- Fiscal Year 2013: 66,173  
- Fiscal Year 2014: 66,220