

Annual Report for  
Friends of the Lacey  
Timberland Library

**2017**

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of changes and challenges at our library. We unrolled new computer management services, new cashier services, and a new online summer reading program, which presented quite a learning curve for patrons and staff alike. We celebrated with our two staff who went on maternity leave and brought healthy new babies into the world, and we mourned when long-time Lacey staff member Deb Jenkins unexpectedly passed away right before Christmas. Through it all, the Friends were there with support, hard work, and everything we needed to serve our community and overcome hard times.

This year was a year of planning, as well, for a future remodel project to replace our worn service desks and improve upon the already great services and programs we offer our community. We look forward to having the Friends as a partner as we greet 2018.

With your help, Friends, this is what we accomplished this year:

**2017 Programming at Lacey:**

● ADULTS

- 34 Book Discussions with 372 participants
- 78 Special Interest programs attended by 2,505 participants
- 132 participants read 536 books during the Adult Summer Reading Program
- 29 Outreach visits promoting library services to 1,166 adults

**Special note: of the above 142 adult events serving 4,175 participants, 63 were funded wholly or in part by the Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library.**

● TEENS

- 11 Book Discussions attended by 128 participants
- 10 Special Interest programs attended by 307 participants
- 437 Teen Summer Reading Program participants with 176 finishers
- 26 Outreach visits promoting library services to 3,867 teens

**Special note: of the above 48 teen programs serving 4,739 participants, 24 were funded wholly or in part by the Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library.**

● CHILDREN

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- 67 Story Times attended by 2,336 participants
- 6 Book Discussions attended by 56 participants
- 33 Special Interest programs attended by 4,917 participants
- 1991 preschool & children Summer Reading Program participants with 799 finishers
- 36 Outreach visits promoting library services to 7,737 children & their families

**Special note: of the above 143 children's & all ages programs serving 17,037 participants, 52 were funded wholly or in part by the Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library.**

- **Grand Total: 335 events serving 25,951 people in our community in 2017**

In 2017, once again our numbers for visits decreased overall, by approximately 13,672 visitors in comparison to 2016, a decrease of 4%. Gate counts have been accurate for the past three years, so it is fair to conclude that overall visitation, as well as overall physical item checkouts, are declining. With the removal of the online services Hoopla & Freegal, our digital download statistics have also declined. While it is likely that patrons who used to visit the library in person are moving to more virtual access, it also possible that we're seeing a decrease in visitation as a result of an improved economy (more patrons are able to purchase materials or engage in activities that cost money, and thus have less time for library use). In 2017 library staff increased its presence out in the community, forming partnerships with Pac-Mtn Workforce Development and improving partnerships with St. Martin's University, the Lacey South Sound Chamber of Commerce, the Thurston Economic Development Council, and North Thurston Public Schools. As a result of these new partnerships, every student K-12 at NTPS now immediately has a TRL digital library card (My TRL) upon enrollment; job seekers can access Workforce resources and tools at any TRL library, the Lacey business community has learned about additional tools for small and medium businesses looking to expand, and St. Martin's students and staff regularly use TRL for everything from pleasure reading to computer access. If fewer people are stepping across our threshold in 2018, then we will continue to look for additional ways to meet our patron's needs where they are – out in the community.

311,673 visitors to the library checked out 7.4% *fewer* physical materials than 2016, as shown below:

**2017 Circulation at Lacey:**

- ADULT COLLECTION
  - 222,402 print items
  - 157,237 audio-visual items
- YOUTH COLLECTION
  - 265,982 print items
  - 37858 audio-visual items
- 18,670 'other' (magazines & special collections) items
- DIGITAL COLLECTION (Overdrive)
  - 159,264 items downloaded
- **Grand Total:**
  - **Physical: 702,149 items checked out in 2017 vs. in 758,101 in 2016, a decrease of 7.4%**
  - **Digital: 159,264 items downloaded in 2017 vs. in 294,548 in 2016, a decrease of 45.9% (directly attributed to losing Hoopla & Freegal collections in 2017).**
  - **Total items borrowed: 861,413 in 2017 vs. 1,052,649 in 2016, a decrease of 18.1%**

**2017 Facility Improvements:**

- Replacement of clerestory windows with tinted windows to reduce glare (paid by City of Lacey).
- Replacement of HVAC wiring (paid by City of Lacey).
- Repair of HVAC cooling unit (paid by City of Lacey).
- Repainting of arrows & curb stops in parking lot (paid by City of Lacey).

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- Plans for installation of family restroom in lobby outside meeting room (project scheduled for completion in 2018, paid by City of Lacey).

In 2018, Timberland Regional Library will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary providing library services to the five counties. In addition to providing celebratory activities to celebrate TRL's 50<sup>th</sup>, Lacey Timberland Library will be working closely with City staff and architect Jeff Weiss to evaluate possible service point layouts to replace the worn service desks and improve patron services and staff materials handling. In the latter half of 2018, Lacey Timberland Library staff will work with the City of Lacey Library Board to conduct focus groups and surveys of our patrons, gathering community feedback to inform our new strategic plan for 2019.

Thank you, Friends, for your fantastic support! We look forward to working with you to plan for these exciting changes and improvements in 2018 and beyond.

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