Waterloo City Public Library and Information Center

You are on the library staff at the Waterloo City Public Library and Information Center which serves a population of 900,000 with 465,000 registered borrowers. Nonresidents may purchase library cards for $60.00 per year. Besides the main library building, the library has 20 branches in various areas of the city. The library is also the system headquarters for the Waterloo Area Library System (WALS). The library has an automated circulation system, online catalog, automated acquisitions and serials control.

The main library is open 72 hours per week:
- Monday - Friday: 10 am - 9 pm
- Saturday: 9 am - 6 pm
- Sunday: 10 am - 6 pm

66 of the 269 FTE library staff members are professional employees. The library is managed by a City Librarian. Major divisions in the library are: (1) Deputy City Librarian and Branch Coordinator; (2) Asst. City Librarian for Central Services; (3) Personnel; (4) Processing; (5) Acquisitions; (6) Publications and Exhibits; (7) Circulation; (8) Special Collections; (9) ILL; (10) Extension Services; (11) Business Information Services; (12) Documents; (13) Cataloging; and (14) Waterloo Area Library System Headquarters. Reference is handled by departmental libraries and subject specialists in Fine Arts, General Materials Services, Humanities, Local History, and Science/Business. The main library has six public Internet terminals; each branch has two public Internet terminals. Community volunteers offer Internet training for the public at most of the branches.

At the end of last fiscal year (August 31), the library held 1,400,000 books; 2,500 periodical titles; 65,000 recordings; 300 art reproductions; 25,000 pieces of sheet music; 120 art objects; and 100,000 vertical file items. The special collections include the areas of railroad history, cookery, Waterloo Architectural Archives, and Historical Popular American Music Collection. The library produces a Weekly Acquisitions Lists, a staff newsletter, and Miscellaneous booklists and brochures.
Last year the library circulated some 2,400,000 items, including 7,000 incoming interlibrary loan requests. Library patrons requested 2,600 items through interlibrary loan. The library recorded some 3,300,000 in-house uses. Library programs were attended by 170,000 people. Reference transactions for the year totaled 2,800,000 questions.

The library taxes at a rate of 0.21. Last year the library received an income of $14,600,000: $13,138,000 from local government; $570,000 from state government; $154,000 from federal sources; $600,000 from library generated income (including fines, fundraising, the library book store and restaurant); and $138,000 from other sources.

Last year the library spent $14,600,000: $12,000,000 for salaries, wages, and benefits; $900,000 for printed materials; $200,000 for periodicals; $14,000 for audiovisual materials; $18,000 for equipment; $800,000 on utilities; and $668,000 on other expenses.

There is an active Friends of the Library Group. The library is governed by an elected library board of 10 members.