

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 8

**ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.

**W**E'RE 20 YEARS into the Internet age now and every imaginable document has been digitized, all media is portable and powerful computers are ubiquitous. We can Google anything and e-books have been on the market for years.

The public library was supposed to be dead by now.

Instead, San Francisco recently cut the red ribbon on a \$6 million face-lift for the Main Library. Improvements include 6,000 square feet of new space for fiction plus a seriously upgraded audio-visual section.

Perhaps most impressively, architects have opened up the building's entrance to show off its dazzling five-story central atrium.

Libraries, after all, are about openness and freedom, so why not put that openness on display?

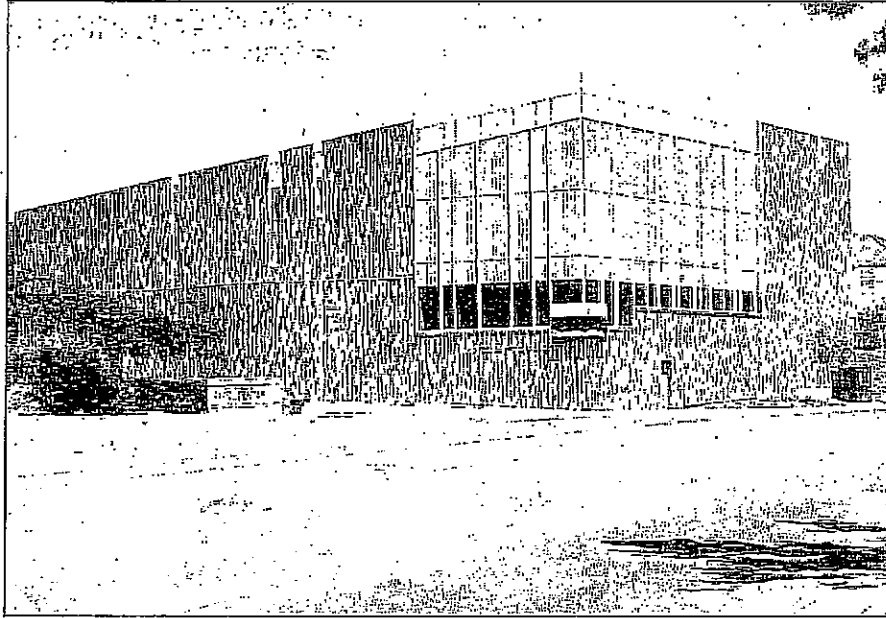
Patrons to "The Main" are now greeted with a sweeping view of the lobby. There are also lots of new computers and some high-tech self-return machines that allow readers to drop their books onto a conveyor belt that automatically sorts the texts by floor and

tion. Cool factor: The first several feet of the belt are visible through a glass wall.

Out here in the suburbs, the library news is equally upbeat. The city of Hercules opened its stunning new library last year to great acclaim. The sleek and modern-looking building uses classic materials to reference the historic buildings that surround it, and the new library has captured top design honors.

Up in Marin, the Belvedere-Tiburon Library is the prettiest building in town and is planning an expansion because, even in a town where most people can afford any book or DVD they want, the library is loved to the point of bursting.

Teens pack the place until midnight during finals, enjoying the free snacks the library provides. During a big power outage this winter, the library



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF FILE

**LAFAYETTE CITY** Manager Steven Falk uses Saturday Extra to argue that libraries are far from dead. He cites such examples as the new library in Hercules (above) to make his point.

**STEVEN FALK** | *From the community*

## Who says libraries are dead?

was the sanctuary where people sought company, refuge and a good literary diversion.

Walnut Creek opened bids last week on its monumental new \$41 million project and expects to begin construction soon.

And, here in Lafayette, the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center is rising mightily from the ground. The stone, wood and glass project, located in the heart of our small town, tumbles gracefully down a hill. When it opens next year, the library will house more than 100,000 volumes, a café, teen center and homework center.

Destined to become a focus of activity, the building will also include a performance hall, a used book store operated by our industrious "Friends" group and plenty of public art.

Perhaps most notably, the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be home to the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium — an unique collaboration between the library and a dozen of the Bay Area's most significant arts, science, education and cultural institutions.

When the building is completed, nonprofits like the Lawrence Hall of Science and the Oakland Museum of California will deliver a remarkable wealth of materials, archives, exhibits, curricula, lectures and films to downtown Lafayette.

The Commonwealth Club has already begun its programming here, featuring speakers such as Willie Brown, John Dean and Richard Clarke.

So . . . what happened to the dead library?

Here's what happened: People love their libraries and refuse to stop using and supporting them.

In San Francisco, voters have repeatedly checked "yes" on ballot measures to fund libraries.

In 1994, they earmarked a share of their property tax revenues for a special library fund. In 2000, voters approved

a \$105 million bond measure dedicated to improve the 27 branch libraries and to build a new library at Mission Bay. Last fall, voters renewed the 1994 property tax. The Main, alone, serves about five million people per year and houses a collection of 2.1 million books.

The new Hercules library attracts up to 800 visitors a day and some 20,000 items are checked out every month — close to one for every Hercules resident.

Lafayette residents are so anxious to see their new library built that, in a wave of generosity that must represent some kind of philanthropic record, more than 25 percent of the city's households have voluntarily made contributions to fund the building and its operations.

To date, Lafayette library supporters have given more than \$13 million, and the checks — ranging from \$1 to \$1 million — are still arriving.

People are not ready to abandon their libraries, and, likewise, libraries continue to evolve to meet their patrons' changing needs. This partnership has led to buildings that go far beyond the musty book repositories of legend and to libraries that rise to meet the Internet challenge by providing a multiplicity of learning opportunities.

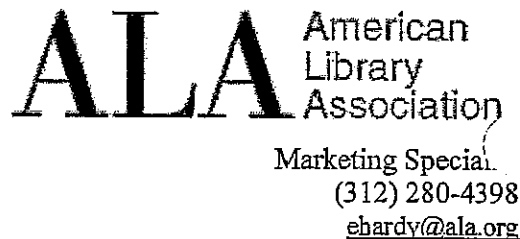
This is great news for our society and bodes well for our future because, perhaps like no other civic institution, public libraries bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, colors, creeds and interests who — despite their diversity and differences — arrive unified with a singular purpose: they want to improve their lives.

And so this week — National Library Week — we celebrate not the death of libraries but, instead, their spectacular rebirth in cities and towns across the Bay Area, the state and the nation.

*Falk is the Lafayette city manager.*

Antioch Public Library is selected for the ASCLA/KLAS/NOD Award

Contact: Eileen Hardy



## NEWS

For Immediate Release

### ***Antioch Public Library is selected for the ASCLA/KLAS/NOD Award***

CHICAGO —The Antioch Public Library, Antioch (Calif.), a community library of the Contra Costa County Library, is the 2008 recipient of the ASCLA/KLAS/NOD Award administered by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).


Donated by Keystone Systems, Inc., the \$1,000 award and certificate is given to a library organization that has provided services for people with disabilities.

We are pleased to help recognize Antioch Public Library for their creative leadership demonstrated in their partnership with ARC Inroads to offer the Wednesday Club," said Kay Holloman, CEO of Keystone Systems.

The Antioch Public Library worked in concert with ARC Inroads, a community agency, on the Wednesday Club. The Wednesday Club based its monthly series of imaginative, lively programs on the participants' input and provided a venue for group members to express themselves in delightful art and writings revealing their rapport with the librarians. The programs included "This is Your Library," "Fire Safety in the Home," "Read to the Dogs," "Animals in the Forest" and "InvestiGators Summer Reading Program," which was especially designed to encourage participants to enjoy reading more and to "investigate" the library.

"The Antioch Public Library was chosen for this award for its successful outreach to adults with developmental disabilities, a group seldom served by libraries," said Kathleen Hegarty, ASCLA award committee chair. "Its approach, which emphasizes a welcoming attitude, group participation in program planning and partnership with a community agency, could well be employed by other libraries seeking to reach this underserved population. The Antioch Public Library program presents an inspiring model."

The award will be presented during the ASCLA Awards Ceremony 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 29, during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim (Calif.).

 Print this article

## The ultimate sustenance: food for thought

Published 03/28/2008 - 11:22 a.m. PDT

Editor:

Over its hundred year evolution, the vending machine has come a long way, Baby! In Munich, you can fasten your seat belts, get beer dispensed from machines off the no-speed-limit Autobahn; in Barcelona, flower bouquets at the airport; in Tokyo, household gadgets of every conceivable stripe; and in Chicago, Wonderpizza machines offer a choice of three crusts for \$5. Sorry, gourmands, no wood-oven-fired yet.

Now, though, you figuratively won't be able to tell a vending machine by its cover, as your next selection may involve not Doritos or M&Ms, but Dostoevsky or Mailer. The Contra Costa Library, which has had a success rate of 85 percent of clients using optional automated self-checkout machines, will soon be the first in the entire nation to have the Swedish invention the Bokomaten.

Using a \$288,000 grant for Phase I, the library is, on May 29, installing the first of four trial machines. Pittsburg BART proudly accepts initial placement honor, with Pleasant Bay Transit Village, a Discovery Bay/Byron location and a fourth, yet undetermined, spot to soon follow.

The Bay Area, suffering the second-longest average commute in the country, can certainly use some psychic relief. Commuting, though, may never be quite the same for those who while away the journey engaged in what Proust called "that fruitful miracle of a communication in the midst of solitude."

The trend-setting system is catchingly called Library-A-Go-Go. Amazingly, the earthquake-proof 81.5-inch-high, 990-pound machines (see [www.distec.se](http://www.distec.se) or You Tube for photos) can hold 300 to 800 books, depending upon book size. Seventy percent of currently-sized collection materials will be available, and collections should rotate every 2 to 3 months. Use is free, with books borrowed by a regular library card and returned at the same site, presumably 24/7. County staff will initially be available onsite to accommodate those needing first-time library cards. Actors and actresses in costume and assorted celebration will also mark the grand opening.

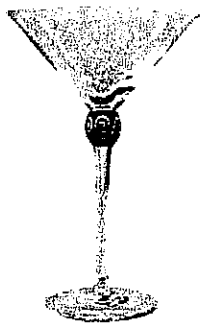
The historic grant comes on the heels of the county library topping an unprecedented annual 5 million book circulation, the Antioch Library hitting record numbers, and the latest County addition, the Hercules Library, thriving.

Some would argue that the library is a dinosaur on its last legs. If that is so, then fossils must have found their fountain of youth. Truth be it, libraries are thriving doublefold, succeeding at the crossroads between quiet reading and the electronic information highway.

Happy trails, readers. May you, on your next close encounter with a vending machine, be dispensed the most sublime nourishment that exists for man: food for thought.

Walter Ruehlig  
Antioch Library Commissioner

LEVEL VODKA *by* ABSOLUT  
&  
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa



PRESENT  
The Ninth Annual  
**BEST MARTINI**  
*in the*



EAST BAY CONTEST

Monday, June 16, 2008  
Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Admission: \$20.00  
tickets available at the door only  
Must be 21 to attend – ID will be required for all guests  
[ccclib.org/psc](http://ccclib.org/psc) or call (925) 927-3250

MUSIC PROVIDED BY  
**GENERATIONS IN JAZZ**  
PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO  
**PROJECT SECOND CHANCE**  
A Contra Costa County Library Program helping adults learn to read





# Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together

Volunteer Services Coordinator  
925-927-3211  
slapat@ccclib.org



## Contra Costa County Library Celebrates National Volunteer Recognition Week April 27, 2008 – May 3, 2008

The Contra Costa County Library thanks the more than 1,300 library volunteers, 200 Project Second Chance adult literacy tutors and 25 Friends of the Library and Library Foundation groups for their tireless support of community libraries and support of literacy throughout the year. Together, these individuals and groups volunteered over 90,000 hours in 2007.

"Volunteers play an essential role in ensuring that our libraries can offer services such as book delivery to homebound readers, assisting with in-library services, promoting early literacy with story times offered to children in pre-school settings, and teaching adults to learn to read and write better. Friends of the Library groups are instrumental in providing additional funds to support library programs for children and adults and for purchasing additional library books and materials. I am proud of our dedicated volunteers and pleased to take this opportunity to thank all of our library volunteers, Project Second Chance tutors and Friends of the Library groups for their ongoing contributions to the Library," said Anne Cain, County Librarian.



National Volunteer Recognition Week is a time to demonstrate that individuals have the power to make a difference. Here are some of the ways Contra Costa County Library volunteers made a difference in 2007:

- **Library Volunteer Services:**

- **Books for the Homebound:** Volunteers provided a vital service to homebound readers by delivering books and audio-books to more than 50 people who cannot visit the library on their own.
  - **In-library Services:** Our dedicated Shelves, Book and Audio-visual menders, Public Service Support and Technical Service Support volunteers provide the bulk of library volunteer services and contributed immensely to ongoing library services.
  - **Stories To Go:** Early literacy volunteers presented storytimes to over 2,500 children in Head Start and state preschools using the library's Stories To Go kits.
  - **Summer Reading Teen Volunteer Program:** More than 100 teens throughout the county helped staff prepare crafts and give prizes to summer readers. Teens told us they loved the opportunity to be involved in the community and learn more about the library!
- **Friends of the Library:** Friends of the Library and Library Foundation groups raised nearly \$500,00 to supplement book budgets; sponsor entertaining and education programs for children and adults; and to purchase additional computers, furniture and other items for the library. Our Friends are the BEST!
- **Project Second Chance:** More than 200 volunteer tutors helped advance the cause of adult literacy, providing customized lessons to adults who struggle with reading, writing and spelling. Project Second Chance tutors helped learners with goals such as: read to a child, read a newspaper, send an email, and read health education information.

You can see more [photos of library volunteers](#) online at flickr.com. You can learn more about how to [volunteer at the library](#), online at ccclib.org.

###

View [more press releases](#).

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 9

**ITEM:** CORRESPONDENCE

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- None

Deputy County Librarian: Support Services, Sanford, Cathy

**Email Log Entry**

Your changes have been saved. The status has changed. If this issue was assigned to anyone, they also received a copy.

Ticket # 920

---

**Date of original Email:** 4/8/2008**Text of Email :**

tool lending library  
to: ccclibcommission@ccclib.org  
comments: Hi. Has consideration ever been given for a tool lending library in Contra Costa County? I think it would be a valuable resource for the residents of Contra Costa County.  
Name: Katy Sieren  
email: kbeames@cccocoe.k12.ca.us

**Assigned to:** Sanford, Cathy (Deputy County Librarian: Support Services)**Status:** Closed

---

**Reply Date :** 4/28/2008**Reply:**

Ms. Sieren, please accept the Library's apologies for responding to you so late. In the Library's fiscal year 2001-2002, the local power company, Mirant Corporation, pledged \$2 million to support libraries in eastern Contra Costa County. Library staff worked with members of the East Region Library Board to prioritize suggestions for additional services. A tool lending library was discussed at that time; and the East Region Library Board recommended more open hours, purchasing new materials, and strengthening after-school homework programs.

The Library will place your correspondence and request with the Library Commission's meeting packet, next scheduled for May 22, 2008. The commission may discuss a tool lending library at that time if they so choose.

Thank you for contacting the Library. Here is additional information on the Library Commission: <http://www.ccclib.org/libinfo/Commission/commiss.html>

cathy sanford  
deputy county librarian/support services

**Additional Notes:** □**Last Updated:** 4/29/2008

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



May 15, 2008

Deborah Nordstrom  
Promotion & Marketing Manager  
Bay Area News Group  
2640 Shadelands Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Dear Deborah Nordstrom:

The Contra Costa County Library Commission would like to thank the Contra Costa Times for its support of the Library's first annual Reading Festival, held May 16 – 18, 2008. Designed as a celebration of reading, the Festival offered 50 author events throughout the County to showcase the vast array of services, materials and programs that community libraries offer and to encourage everyone to **Relax, Recharge, Rethink – READ**. The Times' advertising services, including its critical contribution of \$11,723 in value-added, in-kind services, had a significant impact on the Library's ability to successfully publicize this event and as a result, attendance at the Festival events was tremendous.

The Library Commission consists of 29 representatives from cities, the County, business, education, labor, youth and the Friends of the Library groups. The Library Commission is advisory to the County Board of Supervisors, the Contra Costa Mayor's Council and the County Librarian. Library Commissioners are actively involved in a variety of ways to ensure high quality library service in Contra Costa County.

We are honored that Contra Costa Times chose to be a community partner with the Contra Costa County Library. Together, we can continue to offer excellent program opportunities for children and adults, and further promote reading and literacy in our communities.

Thank you again for your generous contributions and ongoing support of library and literacy services in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Fuller", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Fuller, Chairperson  
Contra Costa County Library Commission

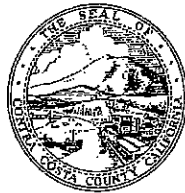
cc: Library Commissioners  
Anne Cain, County Librarian

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



May 15, 2008

Dean Osaki  
Senior Specialist, Community Relations  
430 Newpark Mall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, CA 94560

Dear Dean Osaki:

The Contra Costa County Library Commission would like to thank Target for the \$30,000 grant you awarded the Contra Costa County Library in support of the first annual Reading Festival, held May 16 – 18, 2008. Designed as a celebration of reading, the Festival offered 50 author events throughout the County to showcase the vast array of services, materials and programs that community libraries offer and to encourage everyone to **Relax, Recharge, Rethink – READ.**

The Target funds were used to engage twenty-five notable children's authors as part of the weekend festivities and to generate publicity through the distribution of promotional materials and advertising with local news media to ensure broad community awareness of the event.

The Library Commission consists of 29 representatives from cities, the County, business, education, labor, youth and the Friends of the Library groups. The Library Commission is advisory to the County Board of Supervisors, the Contra Costa Mayor's Council and the County Librarian. Library Commissioners are actively involved in a variety of ways to ensure high quality library service in Contra Costa County.

We are honored that Target chose to be a community partner with the Contra Costa County Library. Together, we can offer excellent program opportunities for children and adults and further promote reading and literacy in our communities.

Thank you again for your generous contributions and ongoing support of library and literacy services in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Fuller", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kathy Fuller, Chairperson  
Contra Costa County Library Commission

cc: Library Commissioners  
Anne Cain, County Librarian

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



May 15, 2008

Kathy Middleton  
4439 Pronghorn Way  
Antioch, CA 94509

Dear Ms. Middleton:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Library Commission I would like to congratulate you on your selection as the 2008 recipient of the ASCLA/KLAS/NOD award and for receiving \$1,000 to expand services and materials for adults with developmental disabilities at the Antioch Library.

The Wednesday Club is an outstanding example of personal creativity and a desire to address the needs of an underserved library population. It was gratifying to learn that the model you developed was a partnership that included the Antioch Library staff, ARC Inroads agency, and its participants. Programs like "Read to the Dogs," "InvestiGators Summer Reading Program," and "This is Your Library," encourage participants to read or look at library materials, develop lifelong learning skills, learn more about their library, and have fun.

The Library Commission is extremely proud to represent individuals like you who take the initiative to identify a need and develop programs that encourage all members of the community to enjoy their library.

We wish you the very best when you receive your award during the ASCLA Awards presentation on June 29, 2008 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Fuller, Chair  
Contra Costa County Library Commission

cc: Library Commissioners  
Anne Cain, County Librarian  
Laura O'Donoghue, Deputy County Librarian  
Greta Galindo, Senior Community Library Manager, Antioch Library

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



May 15, 2008

Cindy Brittain  
1310 Deneb Court  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Dear Ms. Brittain:

The Contra Costa County Library Commission would like to congratulate you on your nomination and selection as the recipient of the Contra Costa County *2007 Gina Martin Manager of the Year Award*.


We commend you on the outstanding technical, managerial and library expertise you have displayed throughout your eighteen-year career with the Contra Costa County Library. You have demonstrated creativity, commitment, initiative and customer service values in each position you have held with the Library, including your position as Information Systems Manager, Branch Librarian at the Clayton Library, and your current position as the Senior Community Library Manager for the Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley libraries.

You have played a vital role in working with the City of Walnut Creek and the library's community partners to make the new Walnut Creek Library a reality. Your response to the needs of the community and your leadership skills have been critical factors in developing and instituting new programs such as the One City, One Book programs, Live at the Library and Civic Engagement series. In addition, with the Library's Friends groups and community partners, you have hosted numerous functions in support of the Walnut Creek Library Foundation's successful capital campaign.

The Library Commission is extremely proud to represent individuals like you who are responsive to the needs of the community and who exemplify the leadership qualities to motivate and inspire others within the organization.

We applaud you and wish you the very best in your career with the Contra Costa County Library.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Fuller, Chair  
Contra Costa County Library Commission

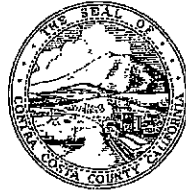
cc: Library Commissioners  
Anne Cain, County Librarian  
Laura O'Donoghue, Deputy County Librarian

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



May 15, 2008

Alison McKee  
2549 Gaynor Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Ms. McKee:

The Contra Costa County Library Commission would like to congratulate you for being selected as the Library Employee of the Year and for your nomination to the Contra Costa County 2007 *Gina Martin Employee of the Year Award*.

We commend you on your outstanding service to the Contra Costa County Library and for the work you have done to help create the Betty Frandsen Library at the John A. Davis Juvenile Hall and the new library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility in Byron. The extraordinary level of library service you offer has earned you the respect of both the Probation Department staff and residents.

Your creativity and commitment to your job have resulted in innovative programs such as a booklet of poems written by the teens, career day, and other personalized services for incarcerated youth. Under your direction, the Library is fulfilling the goal of developing a lifelong habit of reading and showing the teens that there are books that speak to their life experiences.

The Library Commission is extremely proud to represent individuals like you who are responsive to the needs of the community and who exemplify the leadership qualities to motivate and inspire others within the organization.

We applaud you and wish you the very best in your career with the Contra Costa County Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Fuller", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kathy Fuller, Chair  
Contra Costa County Library Commission

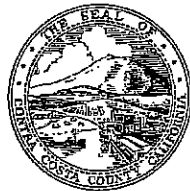
cc: Library Commissioners  
Anne Cain, County Librarian  
Susan Lynn, Library Reading and Literacy Manager

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



April 24, 2008

The Honorable Tom Torlakson  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

**RE: SB 1516, California Reading and Literacy Improvement and  
Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010**

Dear Senator Torlakson

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Library Commission, I am writing to urge your strong support for SB 1516, which if passed, will provide \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for library construction and renovation.

The Library Commission consists of 29 representatives from cities, the County, business, education, labor, youth and the Friends of the Library groups. The Library Commission is advisory to the County Board of Supervisors and to the Contra Costa Mayor's Council.

Library Commissioners are actively involved in a variety of ways to ensure high quality library service in Contra Costa County. Almost every community in Contra Costa County that does not have a new library is in some stage of planning for a new community library. Library Commissioners often have an active role in planning for new library facilities and hear frequently from library patrons about the inadequacy of our community libraries.

Many of the libraries in our County were built long before technology was introduced in libraries and there is neither room for nor the electrical and telecommunications infrastructure to support sufficient computers. In addition, most of these libraries now contain 2 and 3 times the number of books they were originally planned for. Tables and chairs have had to be removed in order to expand shelving and many of the libraries have no room at all for library programs.

Strong libraries contribute greatly to individual and community goals that are important to the people in Contra Costa County, such as positive youth development and lifelong learning.

We urge you to strongly support SB 1516 to place it before the voters in 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Fuller".

Kathy Fuller  
Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission

TO: CLA MEMBERS/ SYSTEMS/ NETWORK CONTACTS  
FROM: Mike Dillon, CLA Lobbyist and Christina Dillon, CLA Lobbyist  
RE: NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

Several weeks ago the Senate Education Committee took testimony on SB 1516 by Senator Joe Simitian. The measure, which is sponsored by CLA, seeks to place a \$4 billion library construction and renovation bond measure on the November 2010 ballot. Offering support of the measure in committee was CLA, highlighted by the testimony of CLA's Legislative Chair, Melinda Cervantes (Santa Clara County Library Director). Also joining in support of the bill was the California Special Districts Association, the California Federation of Teachers, the California School Library Association, and various cities and counties, including Burbank, Sonoma, Merced, and San Jose.

Chairman, Senator Jack Scott, indicated that he was "saddened" that the 2006 bond on the June ballot did not pass, and noted that he hoped there would be a more positive future outlook for library bonds. He acknowledged that SB 1516 would have to be sent to the Senate Education Committee "suspense file" due to its significant cost. You may recall that the fiscal committees in each house - the Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee, for many years, have implemented a so-called "suspense file." Bills costing more than \$150,000 are traditionally sent to the "suspense file," which allows the leadership and the committee Chair and Vice Chair to prioritize which bills should go forward given the state's finances. In recent years, the Senate Education Committee, and the Revenue and Taxation Committees have also implemented their own version of the "suspense file."

Last Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up all of the items on their "suspense file" and voted, on a strong bi-partisan vote of 8 "ayes" to 1 "no" to pass the bill out of committee. Voting in support of the measure were Democrat Senators: Jack Scott, Elaine Alquist, Alex Padilla, Gloria Romero, Joe Simitian, and Tom Torlakson. Republican Senators voting in support were: Jeff Denham and Abel Maldonado. Voting against the bond was Vice Chair, Senator Mark Wyland. Thanks to all of you who wrote letters to the committee, as well as visited with these legislators on CLA Legislative Day!

SB 1516 is now scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, April 28. Due to the substantial costs involved with any bond measure, it is assumed that SB 1516 will be sent to the Senate Appropriations "suspense file." The measure would then sit on the "suspense file" until late May, when leadership and the committee Chair and Vice Chair prioritize these measures and send them to the Senate Floor for a vote, or hold them in committee. Please take a moment to write the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee (you will have until mid-May to send your letters), and encourage their support of SB 1516-Simitian.

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Tom Torlakson, Chair  
Senator Dave Cox, Vice Chair  
Senator Sam Aanestad  
Senator Roy Ashburn  
Senator Gil Cedillo  
Senator Ellen Corbett  
Senator Bob Dutton  
Senator Dean Florez  
Senator Sheila Kuehl  
Senator Jenny Oropeza  
Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Senator George Runner  
Senator Joe Simitian (author)  
Senator Darrell Steinberg  
Senator Mark Wyland  
Senator Leland Yee

# County Library

1750 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497  
(925) 646-6423  
FAX (925) 646-6461

# Contra Costa County

Anne Cain  
County Librarian



March 28, 2008

The Honorable Mark Wyland  
Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

**RE: SB 1516, California Reading and Literacy Improvement and  
Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010**

Dear Senator Wyland:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Library Commission, I am writing to urge your strong support for SB 1516, which if passed, will provide \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for library construction and renovation.

The Library Commission consists of 29 representatives from cities, the County, business, education, labor, youth and the Friends of the Library groups. The Library Commission is advisory to the County Board of Supervisors and to the Contra Costa Mayor's Council.

Library Commissioners are actively involved in a variety of ways to ensure high quality library service in Contra Costa County. Almost every community in Contra Costa County that does not have a new library is in some stage of planning for a new community library. Library Commissioners often have an active role in planning for new library facilities and hear frequently from library patrons about the inadequacy of our community libraries.

Many of the libraries in our County were built long before technology was introduced in libraries and there is neither room for nor the electrical and telecommunications infrastructure to support sufficient computers. In addition, most of these libraries now contain 2 and 3 times the number of books they were originally planned for. Tables and chairs have had to be removed in order to expand shelving and many of the libraries have no room at all for library programs.

Strong libraries contribute greatly to individual and community goals that are important to the people in Contra Costa County, such as positive youth development and lifelong learning.

We urge you to strongly support SB 1516 to place it before the voters in 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Fuller", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kathy Fuller  
Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission



California State Government Guide to Government from the League of Women Voters of California  
 GtG > CA > California State Government > State Legislative Offices > California State Senate >

## Committee on Education, California State Senate

### California State Government

- [GtG Home](#)
- [State Home](#)
- [County Index](#)
- [Browse by Category](#)
- [About Governments](#)
- [About This Site](#)
- [Tips and Help](#)
- [Feedback](#)

#### Contact Information

##### Committee on Education

###### State Capital

1303 10th St. Room 2083

Sacramento, CA 95814

916-651-4105

[http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/STANDING/EDUCATION/\\_home1/PROFILE.HTM](http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/STANDING/EDUCATION/_home1/PROFILE.HTM)

#### Meetings

every Wednesday at 9:30 am

###### State Capital

1303 10th St. Room 4203

Sacramento, CA 95814

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Jack Scott

*Chair*

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Mark Wyland

*Vice Chair*

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Elaine Alquist

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Jeff Denham

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Abel Maldonado

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Alex Padilla

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Gloria Romero

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Joe Simitian

#### Committee on Education Member

##### Tom Torlakson

#### Links to more information

##### Google Search

- [Committee on Education California State Senate](#)

#### Contact Your Officials

- [How to Contact Your Officials - Suggestions for how to be most effective when contacting your elected officials.](#)

Links to sources outside of this site are provided for information only and do not imply endorsement.

[Suggest a link related to this page](#)

[GtG Home](#) - [State Home](#) - [County Index](#) - [Browse by Category](#) - [About Governments](#) - [About This Site](#) - [Tips and Help](#) - [Feedback](#)

omments, suggestions, questions? Contact our [webmaster](#). Last revised: June 28, 2007 15:53 PDT.  
 Copyright. League of Women Voters of California. All rights reserved.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 4**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 10

**ITEM:** REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- None

## GOVERNOR UNVEILS HIS "MAY REVISION" OF THE BUDGET – LIBRARY PROGRAMS SAVED FROM FURTHER CUTS

Home • Elected Officials • Issues • Election • Media

Legislative Alerts and  
Updates

• Current  
Legislation

• Key  
Votes

• Capitol Hill  
Basics

### Action Alert

A black rectangular box with the word "UPDATE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

#### GOVERNOR UNVEILS HIS "MAY REVISION" OF THE BUDGET – LIBRARY PROGRAMS SAVED FROM FURTHER CUTS

This afternoon, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appeared before the media and legislative leaders to present his "May Revision" of the 2008-09 state Budget. The "May Revise", as it is commonly referred to at the Capitol, allows the Governor to make adjustments to his January Budget proposal, after April tax receipts have been accounted for and the state has a better idea of its fiscal picture. Unfortunately, and as news outlets have been reporting, this year's Budget picture is decidedly bleaker than even the Governor anticipated in January. During his press conference today, the Governor noted that if the legislature had not taken corrective action to reduce the \$14.5 billion deficit during the "Special Session on the Budget" in February, there would be a \$24.3 billion deficit today. However, even with the legislature's Special Session action, the Governor announced this afternoon that the state continues to face a \$17.2 billion deficit.

The Governor stated, "The people of California want us to live within our means...They don't want us to raise taxes. They want us to fix our dysfunctional Budget system." In addition to borrowing or shifting significant pots of money from various programs, there are several additional major components to the Governor's "May Revise" proposal. The Governor suggests that the state take a loan against (or securitize) the revenues of the California State Lottery. This proposal assumes that by expanding the games of the lottery, thus increasing revenue, the state would attempt to borrow up to \$15 billion over the next three years, to use to shore up the state's General Fund. It is hoped that \$5.1 billion would be realized this year to help balance the Budget. This proposal would need to be placed on the November ballot, and would be subject to voter approval. If voters reject the lottery proposal, an automatic 1 percent sales tax increase would be triggered, until June 2011, to pay off the Wall Street "loans."

The loans, secured by the lottery, from Wall Street (to be paid off over 32 years), would be placed in a new "rainy day fund" known as the Revenue Stabilization Fund (RSF). "Moneys in the RSF will only be available for transfers to the General Fund to bring revenues up to the long-term average (e.g. 10 year average) in years with below-average revenue growth, such as 2008-09. The Governor's May Revision

proposes to capitalize the RSF in 2008-09 and provide \$5.1 billion to the General Fund." (*May Revision document*)

Reporters asked the Governor, "Isn't this a gimmick?" The Governor responded, "The lottery is a terrific idea. We need to make it perform at a 100 percent level. There are billions of dollars there and I think people will approve (on the November ballot) as the money goes to education and other programs." Mike Genest, the Director of the Department of Finance, who subsequently answered reporters' questions, stated that "mass marketing the lottery would yield better performance." He also emphasized that the lottery proposal and the Governor's "Budget reform" were clearly tied together, "unless we can find \$5.1 billion some place else."

Lastly, the Governor notes that he had to make "some very difficult cuts in Health and Human Services" because "it is the second largest part of the Budget." The Governor's "May Revise" makes controversial cuts in programs such as in-home supportive services, which will likely be rejected by Democratic legislators.

Fortunately, programs in the California State Library - such as the Public Library Foundation (PLF), Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) and literacy programs, have been saved from additional proposed cuts in the May Revise. You may recall that in the Governor's January version of the Budget, he recommends a ten percent across-the-board cut to the TBR and PLF. The Budget subcommittees in both the Assembly and Senate have been working for the last few weeks to review the Governor's January proposals (and have thus far tabled the PLF and TBR issues until post-May Revise), and will now begin meeting in earnest next week to address the Governor's revised plan. The work of the subcommittees will wrap up by the end of May, and, as is custom, the six member Budget Conference Committee will convene shortly thereafter.

We will keep CLA members apprised as to developments with the State Budget as they occur.

**Submitted by** Mike Dillon and Christina Dillon, CLA Lobbyists

**[✉ Tell A Friend](#)**

powered by Capitol Advantage ©2008

## Issues and Legislation

Home • Elected Officials • Issues • Election • Media

Legislative Alerts and  
Updates

• Current  
Legislation

• Key  
Votes

• Capitol Hill  
Basics

## CLA Priorities

### 2008 Priorities

- Advocate for full funding of the Public Library Foundation (PLF) program at \$105.7 million and oppose any reductions beyond the 2007/08 budget level.
- Advocate protecting and maintaining Transaction Based Reimbursement funding at the FY2007/08 level of \$23.2 million.
- Advocate for funding of public library capital projects including possible legislation to lower the threshold for future library bond measures to 55% as was done for school bonds.
- Actively monitor and support SB1516, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2008.
- Advocate for increased funding for the operating budget of the State Library to allow for better support to the Legislature and the library community.

### State

- Encourage support for all types of libraries including public, academic, school and special libraries, County law libraries and the California State Library.
- Work with other library organizations such as CSLA and CCCLL on legislative issues of mutual interest.
- Actively monitor and oppose legislation that jeopardizes open access to information in any format.
- Actively monitor and oppose legislation that jeopardizes the confidentiality of library patron information.
- Support the most beneficial implementation of the Teleconnect Fund and actively monitor the review of universal service by the CPUC.
- Monitor and oppose attempts to enact computer transaction laws detrimental to library operations.

### Federal

- Advocate for funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at least \$340 million.
- Actively monitor and oppose legislation that jeopardizes open access to information in any format.
- Actively monitor and oppose legislation that jeopardizes the confidentiality of library patron information, including certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and DOPA.
- Support the most beneficial implementation of universal service and library connectivity discount provisions (Telecommunications Act of

1996).

## Issues and Legislation



### **Legislative Alerts and Updates**

News and information about important issues.



### **Current Legislation**

Summaries and status information about key bills.



### **Key Votes**

Key congressional roll call votes.



### **Capitol Hill Basics**

Tips about communicating with Members and general information about Hill staffers, the legislative process and more.

### **[Tell A Friend](#)**

powered by Capitol Advantage ©2008

Library Fund	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Baseline	2008-09 Recommended	Change
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Salaries and Benefits	17,157,815	20,047,688	20,716,873	20,716,873	0
Services and Supplies	5,935,918	6,916,393	3,884,265	3,884,265	0
Other Charges	2,724,693	2,982,752	2,531,841	2,531,841	0
Fixed Assets	529,666	673,054	900,000	900,000	0
Expenditure Transfers	0	0	32,412	32,412	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>26,348,092</b>	<b>30,619,887</b>	<b>28,065,391</b>	<b>28,065,391</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Other Local Revenue	25,221,522	25,887,431	27,296,650	27,296,650	0
Federal Assistance	788	0	120,000	120,000	0
State Assistance	926,109	1,030,054	648,741	648,741	0
<b>Gross Revenue</b>	<b>26,148,419</b>	<b>26,917,485</b>	<b>28,065,391</b>	<b>28,065,391</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET FUND COST (NFC)</b>	<b>199,674</b>	<b>3,702,402</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Allocated Positions (FTE)	184	194	194	194	0
<b>FINANCIAL INDICATORS</b>					
Salaries as % of Total Exp	65%	65%	74%	74%	
% Change in Total Exp		16%	-8%	0%	
% Change in Total Rev		3%	4%	0%	
% Change in NFC		1754%	-100%	0%	
<b>COMPENSATION INFORMATION</b>					
Permanent Salaries	9,970,399	10,823,326	10,785,753	10,785,753	0
Temporary Salaries	866,560	1,746,699	1,396,969	1,720,162	323,193
Permanent Overtime	57,034	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
Deferred Comp	8,627	10,200	13,260	13,260	0
Comp & SDI Recoveries	-28,447	0	0	0	0
FICA/Medicare	818,199	875,464	943,559	943,559	0
Ret Exp-Pre 97 Retirees	40,122	41,284	41,284	41,284	0
Retirement Expense	2,689,756	3,212,756	3,455,107	3,384,012	-71,095
Employee Group Insurance	1,552,369	2,131,798	2,253,528	2,253,528	0
Retiree Health Insurance	777,844	840,636	825,747	825,747	0
OPEB Pre-Pay	0	0	714,028	461,930	-252,098
Unemployment Insurance	21,933	19,490	21,030	21,030	0
Workers Comp Insurance	383,420	321,035	241,608	241,608	0

**Department Description**

following four budget units administered by the Library:

This table represents information in aggregate summarizing expenditures and revenue for the

# Library

## General Government

0008 – Revenue County Library Taxes  
 0113 – Plant Acquisition – Library Fund  
 0620 – Admin and Support Services  
 0621 – Library Community Services

### Major Department Responsibilities

The Contra Costa County Library brings people and ideas together. The Library's primary goal is access to high quality services for children, teens and adults, and the provision of collections that meet the variety of educational, recreational, and cultural information needs of the community.

#### 1. Administrative Services

**Description:** Includes Library Administration, Shipping, Community Relations, and Facilities Management. Library Administration plans, organizes and directs the operation of the County Library; provides leadership and management in budgetary, personnel, operational, and policy matters; plans for the future of the library with the Library Commission, City Councils, representatives of library communities and staff. Shipping receives all resources, furniture and equipment delivered to the library and provides daily delivery of library resources to all library facilities. Community Relations manages the library's volunteer program, provides publicity for library programs and services, and provides support to Friends of the Library groups. Facilities Management provides planning and oversight for maintenance and repair of existing buildings and planning with communities for new building and facilities.

Administrative Services Summary		
<b>Service;</b>		Discretionary
<b>Level of Discretion:</b>		Discretionary
<b>Expenditures:</b>		\$5,160,308
<b>Financing:</b>		5,160,308
<b>Net Fund Cost:</b>		0
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Property Taxes	89.8%	\$4,634,028
Intergovernmental	8.7%	451,280
Other	1.5%	75,000
<b>FTE: 23.0</b>		

#### 2. Support Services

**Description:** Includes Automation, Technical Services and Collection Management. Automation provides planning and operations for the electronic information system as well as the Wide Area Network linking all library locations. Technical Services provides for catalog and database maintenance. Collection Management provides for selection, acquisition and fund accounting of library materials and inter-library loan of library materials.

Support Services Summary		
<b>Service:</b>		Discretionary
<b>Level of Discretion:</b>		Discretionary
<b>Expenditures:</b>		\$4,146,029
<b>Financing:</b>		4,146,029
<b>Net Fund Cost:</b>		0
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Property Taxes	96.4%	\$3,999,029
Federal	2.9%	120,000
State	.7%	27,000
<b>FTE: 27.0</b>		

# Library General Government

### 3. Countywide Services

**Description:** Includes Public Services Administration, Countywide Centralized Library Services, Literacy Services, the Wilruss Children's Library Fund, and services to children and teens currently in the custody of County Probation Department Juvenile Facilities. These services either provide direct patron services countywide or provide support to the community libraries. Public Services Administration provides overall leadership, management and support for the community library operations. Countywide Centralized Library Services are those services that directly serve library patrons countywide or which support community library services and operations. Literacy Services administers the library's literacy program Project Second Chance. The Wilruss Children's Library Trust Fund provides for the design and maintenance of programs that promote literacy and a lifelong love of books and reading in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of Contra Costa County. Library services are provided at the Betty Frandsen Library at Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility to provide access to reading materials and computers for the young people housed there.

Library facilities in 5 regions. These community library services include public services, materials collections, and programs that are tailored specifically for each community.

Library-Community Services Summary		
<b>Service:</b>	Discretionary	
<b>Level of Services:</b>	Discretionary	
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$16,821,708	
<b>Financing:</b>	16,821,708	
<b>Net County Cost:</b>	0	
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Property Taxes	69.4 %	\$11,679,467
Intergovernmental	22.8 %	3,839,900
Fees	4.3 %	722,500
State	3.4 %	563,241
Other	0.1 %	16,600
<b>FTE: 132.0</b>		

Countywide Services Summary		
<b>Service:</b>	Discretionary	
<b>Level of Service:</b>	Discretionary	
<b>Expenditures:</b>	\$1,937,346	
<b>Financing:</b>	1,937,346	
<b>Net County Cost:</b>	0	
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
Property Taxes	90.3%	\$1,748,929
Intergovernmental	6.7%	129,917
State	3.0%	58,500
<b>FTE: 12.0</b>		

### CAO's Recommendation

The Library's Baseline Budget for salaries and benefits includes a net expenditure increase of \$699,185. This net increase comprises a \$714,028 contribution to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), a 2% cost of living adjustment effective July 1, 2008, and increased overall Library staffing. As an offset revenue increased by \$1,147,906.

Services and Supplies and Other Charges are decreased to reflect one-time purchases in FY 2007-08 of equipment, computers, and materials, and one-time requested maintenance in 2007-08 for repairs and remodeling of Library facilities.

The Baseline Budget for fixed assets is increased for the purchase of automated materials handling equipment.

Expenditure Transfers are increased to reflect reimbursement to the newly established Vehicle Fleet Internal Service Fund for Library delivery truck maintenance costs. Delivery truck maintenance costs were previously included in the Services and Supplies expenditure category.

### 4. Library-Community Services

**Description:** Includes the provision of community library services through 25 County

# Library

## *General Government*

---

### Performance Measurement

- Developed first countywide Reading Festival to celebrate the importance of reading as an essential life-long skill, and libraries, by bringing 50 authors into 25 community libraries for a weekend of programs. Strong reading skills not only lead to increased academic achievement but also bridge economic, social, and educational divides.
- Continued the implementation of self-service functions requested by library customers who overwhelmingly prefer tools and policies that permit them to work successfully on their own. Examples include the introduction of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology at the Danville Library and the purchase of two self-service book vending type machines to bring library service to where people are, such as a BART station and a shopping center in far east county. This meets the County's goal to leverage information technology to improve public service.
- Initiated process to transfer property and facility management functions to the cities. This benefits the County because the library can concentrate its resources on providing library services to meet growing public demand and it will also simplify, streamline and make more uniform the library's 25 different operating agreements, leases, and contracts.
- Worked with the following cities and communities to plan library facilities: Antioch, Pittsburg, Brentwood, El Cerrito, Walnut Creek, Lafayette, and Byron/Discovery Bay. Strong community libraries contribute to positive youth development, lifelong learning and improve the quality of life for all residents.

### Administrative and Program Goals

- Complete process to transfer property and facility management functions to the cities by having all cities assume these responsibilities by July 1, 2009.
- Continue implementing the primary strategic initiatives: Reading, Lifelong Learning, Collaboration and Branding. These strategic initiatives are consistent with the County's goals in the areas of fiscal health, service delivery, organizational and team development and credibility building and public education.
- Open the new Lafayette Library and continue to provide expertise and advice to the many communities planning new libraries. Community public libraries serve a vital and vibrant role in communities, providing essential information services, educational opportunities for all ages, a place for the community to come together, and significantly contribute to neighborhood, community and economic development.

## County Administrator

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Martinez, California 94553-4068  
V-925-335-1080  
F-925-335-1098

**John Cullen**  
County Administrator

## Contra Costa County



## Board of Supervisors

**JOHN M. GIOIA**  
1<sup>st</sup> District

**GAYLE B. UILKEMA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

**MARY PIEPHO**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

**SUSAN A. BONELLA**  
4<sup>th</sup> District

**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**  
5<sup>th</sup> District

April 17, 2008

Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County  
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Board Members:

Contra Costa County has long focused on our Mission "to providing public services which improve the quality of life of our residents and the economic viability of our businesses." As we move towards fiscal year 2008-2009, national, state and local events make it apparent that our pursuit of our public service mission will be seriously challenged.

A convergence of storms is occurring including: nationwide economic declines, Federal Government deficit reduction measures, California State's growing budget deficit, the impact of the housing market collapse on local property tax revenues, and, increased costs and fund priorities associated with providing public services, makes maintenance of current year's countywide service delivery levels impossible. Significant cuts will be necessary.

Many people will find something in this budget that they will dislike, possibly hate, and vigorously oppose.

Cuts to our General Government operations will impact our ability to: serve the agriculture community, complete appraisals timely, perform general accounting, respond to public concerns, issue records and reports, support county departments, provide public information, respond and resolve information technology problems, maintain our county properties, and complete personnel actions.

Cuts to our Law and Justice operations will impact our ability to: provide animal service responses, investigate and prepare cases for court, prosecute/defend/provide probation services for misdemeanors, serve at risk youth and domestic violence victims, track probationers, remove abandoned vehicles, provide crime prevention services, complete criminal investigations, respond to crime calls, supervise inmates, and recruit/train/deploy law enforcement officers.

Cuts to our Health and Human Services operations will impact our ability to: respond and serve children, adults and families in our protection programs, provide new-born home visiting, tutor foster youth, help families needing assistance with workforce services, support community organizations, offer therapy services for children and adults, provide access and timely mental health services for children, utilize therapeutic settings for children, perform public health outreach and education, and serve the homeless.

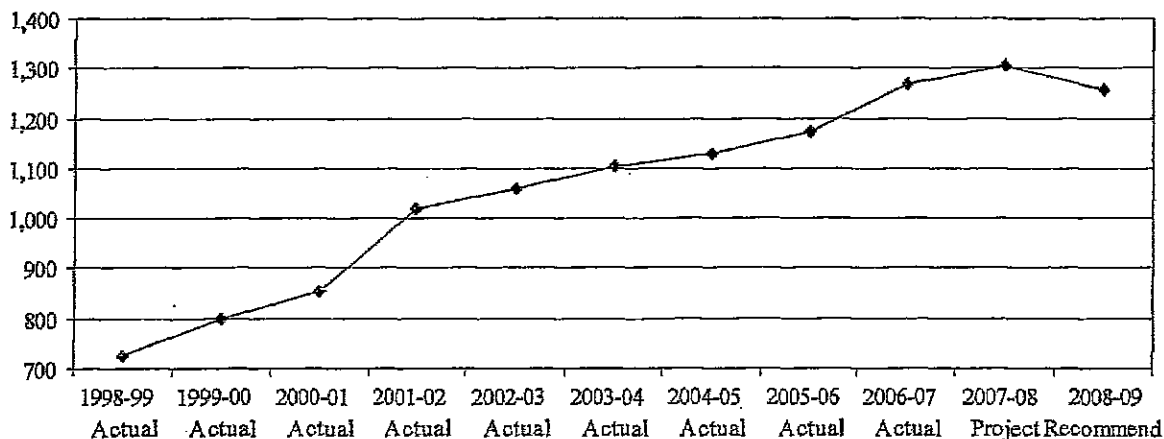
In developing our 2008-2009 budget recommendation, we have adhered to the Board of Supervisor's policies requiring a balanced budget, reserves, and acceptable debt ratios. We have also started to implement our Capital Facility and Vehicle Lifecycle Investment programs. Most importantly the recommended budget continues to address the Board of Supervisor's number one fiscal and service delivery challenge—health care cost containment—by allocating funds to our OPEB prefunding trust. The County Administrator's Office has worked closely with our Department Heads to submit budget recommendations that adhere to these policies and to achieve our financial targets. All departments were provided direction to absorb their increased costs of doing business, plus their share of local revenue loss, and their OPEB prefunding requirement. Some departments will also need to make additional cuts once the State Budget is approved. No department is free from impact. This budget is offered as a balanced package; any reductions in proposed cuts will require changes in other county priorities in order to maintain a balanced budget.

In summary, we are proposing a General Fund budget of \$1.256 billion, which is 4% or \$50.3 million lower than our current year's approved budget. This budget requires \$48.5 million in reductions from the maintenance level identified by our departments. Our Hospital Enterprise Fund cut another \$3.2 million in maintenance level costs for a combined \$51.7 million in reductions from General Fund and Hospital Enterprise Funds in order to balance our Budget.

**Historical Perspective**

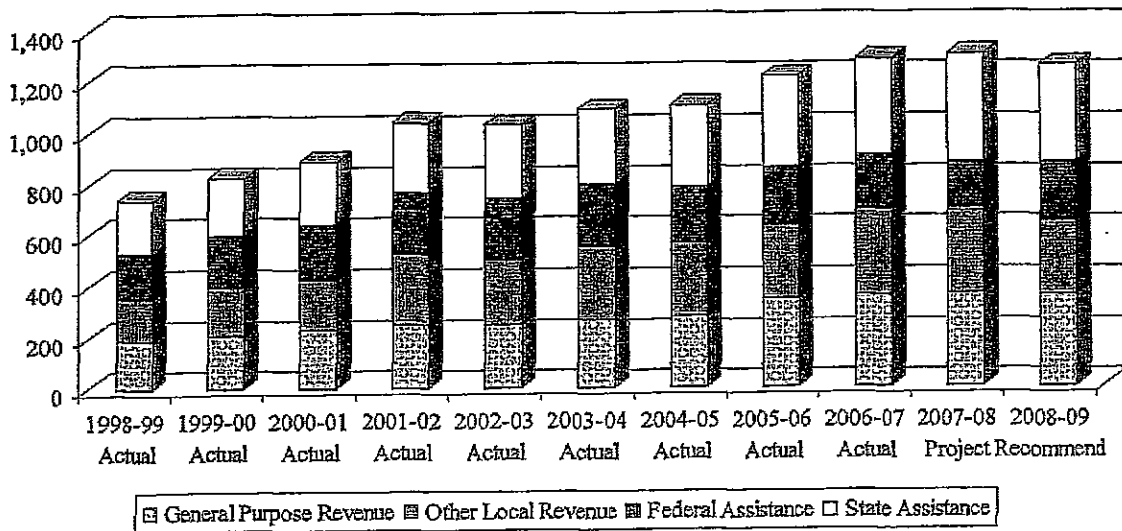
Between FY 1998-99 and FY 2006-07, total expenditures for the General Fund grew by an average of 8.7%, slowing in FY 2006-07 and 2007-08, and now projected to decline 4% in FY 2008-09. We are in effect experiencing a 'stop' in our overall growth, and are actually reducing it.

**10 Year Expenditure Growth (in millions)**



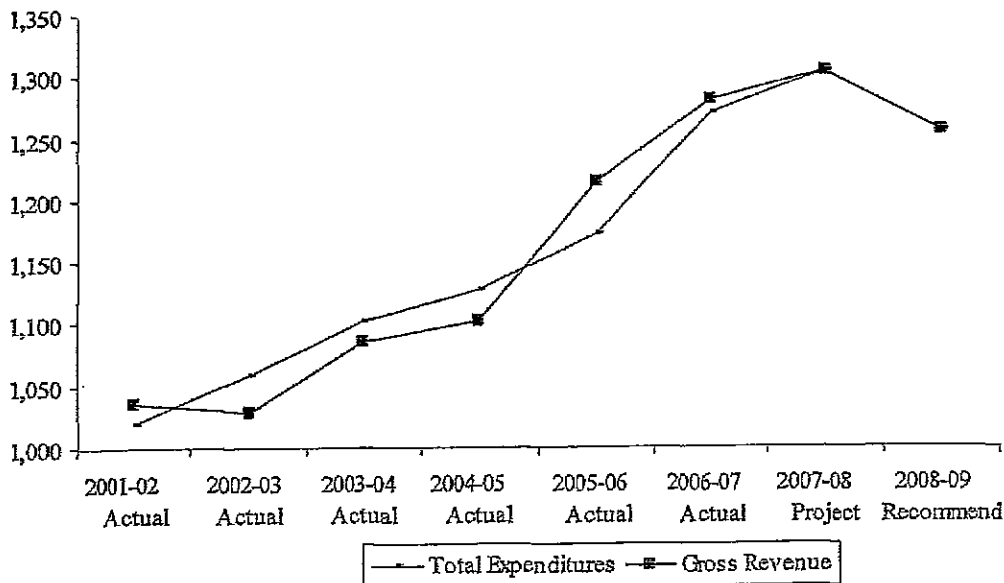
As is depicted in the following chart, total revenues over the last several years have grown, but will actually decline in the upcoming year.

**10 Year Revenue Generation (in millions)**



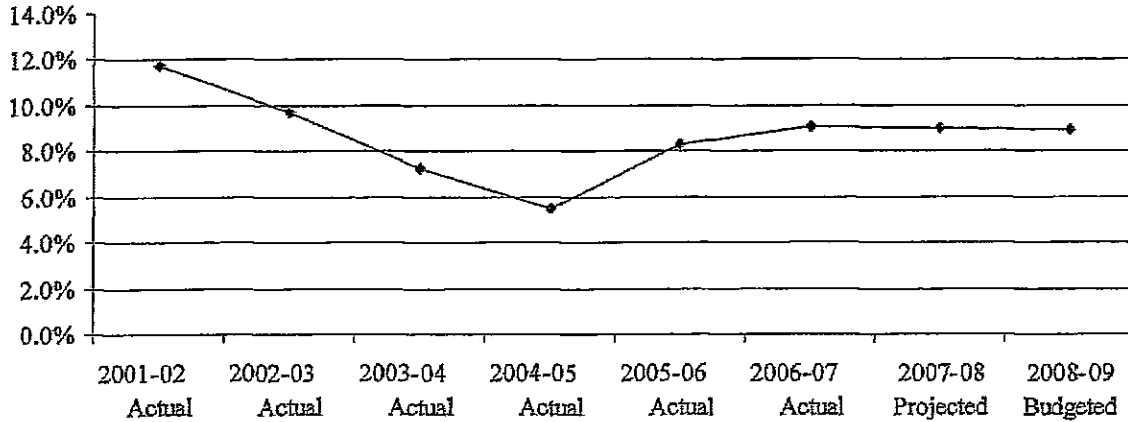
As shown below, the County has balanced the budget with available annual revenues since FY 2005-06, and this recommended budget will continue this policy.

**Change in General Fund Actual Status (in millions)**



The County has reversed the declining reserves trend experienced earlier this decade. This budget continues our policy of not spending reserves for on-going program expenses.

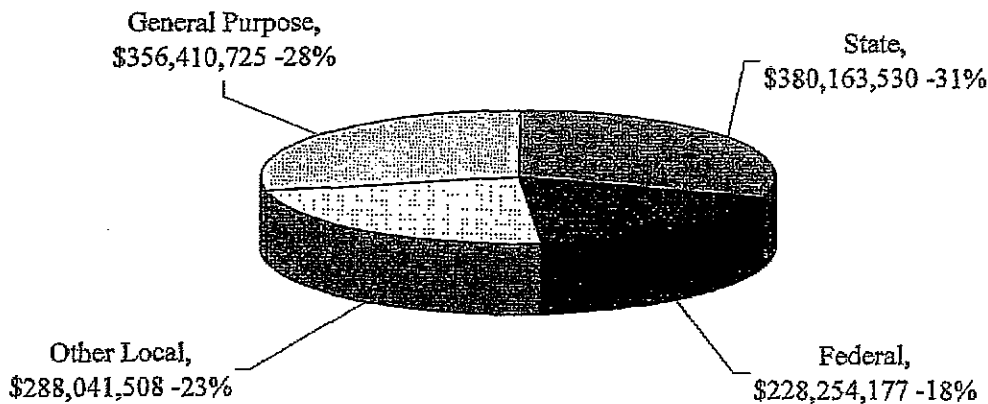
**Unreserved Fund Balance (June 30, 200x)**



**General Fund Revenue and Appropriations**

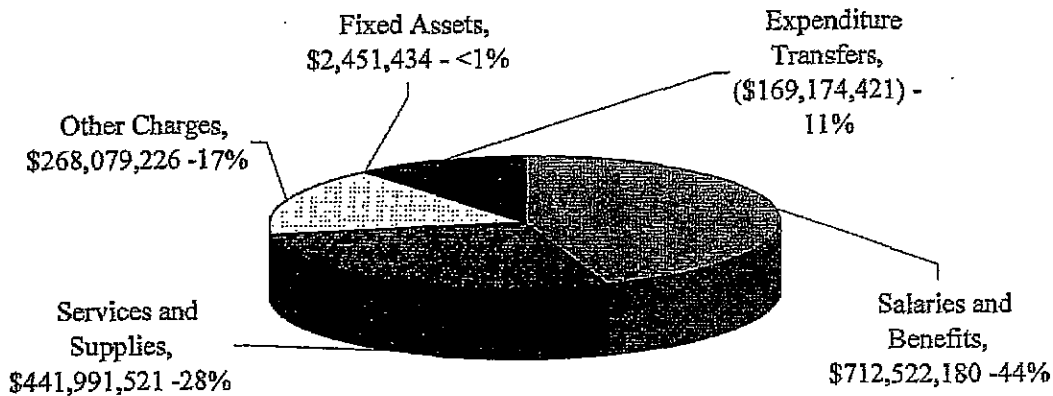
In answering the question ‘Where does our money come from?’, the General Fund budget of \$1.256 billion is supported by local, federal, and state resources. Almost half of our revenue 49%, \$608 million is dependent on State and Federal allocations. Our General Purpose Revenue available from sources such as property tax and interest income is only \$356 million. The remaining ‘Other Local’ is generated primarily by fees, fines, and licenses. For the past several years, the assessed valuations of the County’s tax rolls have increased in the double digits due to the strong housing market. The current economic downturn has all but eliminated growth in assessed valuation and has greatly reduced interest rates. In FY 2008-09 the assessed valuation growth is only expected to be in the 4% range. The following chart breaks out total revenue by source.

**Total Revenue: \$1.256 Billion**



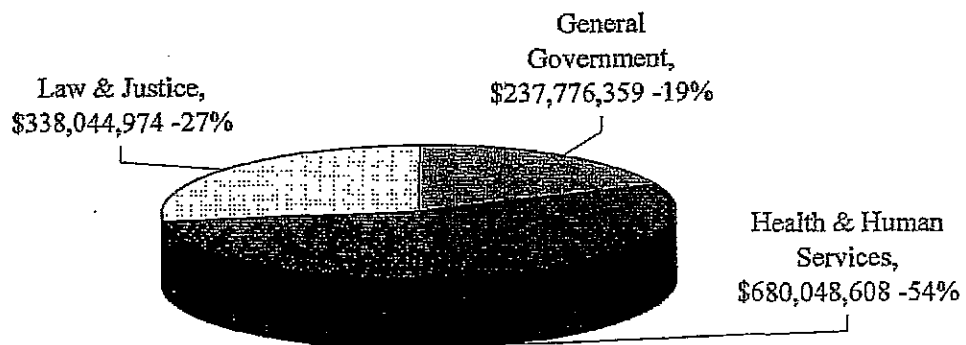
In terms of the question 'What does the money pay for?', these revenue resources are used to fund programs throughout the County. All categories below are self explanatory, except 'Other Changes', which includes contributions to other funds such as the Enterprise Funds and interest expense on bonds and other debt. The following chart breaks out recommended expenditures between the major expense areas.

**Total Expenditures: \$1.256 Billion**



In answering 'Where does the money go?', our General Fund resources fund three functional areas: General Government, Law and Justice, and Health and Human Services. From the current year, General Government is seeing a 4% decline in allocation, while Law and Justice and Health and Human Services are seeing a 2% increase in overall resource distribution. The following chart shows the distribution of resources in these three areas.

**Distribution of Expenditures**



Each department of the County is included in one of these functional areas and is described in detail in the Recommended Budget. The General Government Functional Group includes Agriculture, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Board of Supervisors, Building Inspection, Central Support Services, Clerk-Recorder, Community Development, Cooperative Extension, County Administrator, County Counsel, Crockett/Rodeo Revenues, Debt Service, Department of Information Technology, Employee/Retiree Benefits, General Services, Human Resources, Public Works, and Treasurer-Tax

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 6**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 12 A

**ITEM: READING FESTIVAL**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Commission will receive a report on the Reading Festival.



# Contra Costa County Library

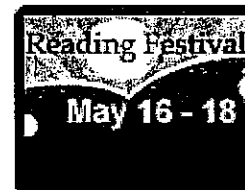
Bringing People and Ideas Together

v. (925) 927- 3249  
f. (925) 646 - 6461  
slynn@ccclib.org



## Celebrate Reading at First Annual Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival

Relax, Recharge, Rethink - READ



The Contra Costa County Library today announced the first-ever countywide **Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival**. To be held May 16 – 18, 2008, the Reading Festival celebrates the importance of reading and libraries by bringing 50 authors into 25 community libraries for a weekend of free and fun programs.

“Reading is an essential life-long skill. It can be an activity that recharges you, forces you to rethink an opinion or a subject, or provides a way to relax. With our first-annual Reading Festival, we are celebrating the myriad reasons people read,” said Anne Cain, Contra Costa County Librarian. “With the number and caliber of authors participating in the Reading Festival, and the range of audience and subject matter, there will truly be something for everyone. We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading throughout the county.”

The Reading Festival will offer something for readers of all ages and interests and promote discovery in every chapter of life. Fiction and non-fiction readers alike will enjoy a fabulous line-up of best-selling and emerging authors, including novelists Anita Amirrezvani and Elizabeth Rosner, mystery writer Cara Black, Catherine Coulter, author of bestselling FBI thrillers, and nonfiction authors Peggy Orenstein and Greg Mortenson.

Bring the kids along for an opportunity to meet a variety of wonderful children's authors and illustrators, including Zilpha Keatley Snyder, Vivian Walsh, marine biologist Wallace J. Nichols, perennial favorites Robert San Souci and Daniel San Souci, and award-winning illustrator Yuyi Morales. Even teens will have something to enjoy – the chance to meet Frank Portman and mystery writer Penny Warner.

Authors will be scheduled to speak at each of the 25 Contra Costa County Community Libraries and each community library will host programs and events throughout the weekend as part of this celebration of reading. All dates and times are subject to change. Please visit the Library's website at [ccclib.org/reads](http://ccclib.org/reads) for information on specific authors and Reading Festival events.

The Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival is being presented by Target Corporation.

###

View [more press releases](#).

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 7**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 12 B

**ITEM:** LIBRARY A-GO-GO

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- none

Never fear, your  
Contra Costa County Library

is **Here!**

# Launch Event INVITATION

*The* is proud to offer book lending machines in convenient locations through a new service called

*Count me in!* at our Launch Event:

Count me in! at our Launch Event:

Speaking at the Launch Event of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County Librarian

Contra Costa County Librarian

Contra Costa County Librarian

California State Librarian  
California State Librarian, District 2

Mayor of Pittsburg

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP by Friday, May 23, 2008 to:

[ccclib.org](mailto:ccclib.org)

RSVP by Friday, May 23, 2008 to:  
ccclib.org

# LIBRARY a-go-go

Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 a.m.

**Library-a-Go-Go** is an automated book lending machine with a self-contained collection of books that may be borrowed by Contra Costa County Library cardholders.

A touch screen, similar to an ATM screen, is used to select from up to approximately 500 books that are delivered through an opening in the front of the unit by a robotic arm. An attractive screen displays book jacket images, reviews, tables of content, and other enhanced content information.

The Pittsburg/Bay Point BART station is a natural choice for the **Library-a-Go-Go** installation. Over 1.4 million people pass through this station annually and now these commuters will have easy access to library materials.

**Library-a-Go-Go's** launch event will showcase the first use of this machine in the United States.



BART  
**ba**

[ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org)

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION  
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 6**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 22, 2008

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 13 A

**ITEM:** THE VISUAL CATALOG

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- none



# Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together



Web Services Specialist  
v. (925) 927-3298  
f. (925) 646-6461  
jsolomon@ccclib.org

---

## Contra Costa County Library Releases New Online Catalog

### Visual Catalog Improves Search Experience

The Contra Costa County Library is pleased to introduce a new online catalog, called the Visual Catalog, which will be available on April 7, 2008. Library customers can begin searching now by going to:

<http://catalog.ccclib.org>. Powered by the AquaBrowser Library®, the Visual Catalog is a revolutionary library catalog developed specifically to enhance the searching experience. This new Visual Catalog makes searching the catalog as easy as searching the Internet, but also transforms the search experience in the library into an adventure comparable with "browsing the shelves." With its appealing interface and animated word cloud, the Visual Catalog is clearly designed with the library customer in mind, using three very simple concepts: **Search**, **Discover**, and **Refine**.

- **Search:** The Visual Catalog allows customers to search for information using a standard query box, the way they are used to doing. The results are portrayed in a typical browser search list by relevance to the query terms given by the customers. Clicking here takes the customer to the exact sources, both inside and outside the library.
- **Discover:** To explore further, customers can click on one of the terms in the animated word cloud. The Visual Catalog uses the original search to suggest more possibilities, including related words, synonyms, and even translations of the original search.
- **Refine:** The refine options on the screen will help narrow down results in as many ways as customers need. With a single click, customers can limit their search to materials in a specific library, DVD's or books only, year, genre, and even a character's name, among many more options.

Other features include the ability to simultaneously conduct searches across selected electronic databases, book reviews and more, plus the option of subscribing to RSS feeds for new materials added to the catalog based off the customer's specifications.

For more information about this and all online services, contact your **local community library**, or go online at <http://ccclib.org>.

###

View [more press releases](#).

**Welcome to the Visual Catalog.**

**Search**

- Enter your query in the text box above and press Enter (or click 'Search')
- In the central panel, you will get search results, ranked by relevance.
- Click on a result for a full view with item availability.

**Discover**

- The word cloud on the left shows you related terms, spelling variations and translations.
- Click on words in the word cloud to explore the contents of the catalog.

**Refine**

- Refine shows you what your search results contain.
- Click on any term to focus and narrow your results.

**More Resources:**

- Research Center & eBooks: Databases, articles, audio eBooks and more.
- Reading Recommendations: Staff picks, newly received, featured titles and more.
- Book Discussion Groups: Join one of our many reading groups!
- Suggest a Purchase: Let us know what you would like to see added to our collections.



powered by AquaBrowser Library®

# The Visual Catalog

April 3, 2008

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

---

### What is the Visual Catalog?

The Visual Catalog is a revolutionary library catalog search solution that enables the user to perform high-quality searches easily. It offers the best graphic interface to make searching in the library a fun experience. The Visual Catalog is as easy to use as the simplest Internet search tool; however, it also provides the user with ability to virtually 'browse' the shelves.

### How does it work?

The Visual Catalog integrates with our catalog data and acts as a search tool and interface to it. It connects to our catalog, other sources we subscribe to, and other non-bibliographic data such as all the Syndetics content. Users can enter search term(s) as easily as they do in an Internet search engine to access these sources all together. The Visual Catalog widens the scope of a typical catalog search by incorporating three distinct design principles, known as Search, Discover and Refine.

**Search:** The Search function, located in the center pane of the screen, displays a relevance-ranked result list that works similarly to any search engine. Once you select a title from the list, the center pane then gives the user all the details from the catalog about that item.

- **Why does the same search yield different results, or at least depict the results differently?**

The suggestions in the graphical display always stay the same. The positioning is random and can be different for every connection.

- **When I search for a term, how are the search results ranked?**

The search results list is always ranked in order of relevancy, with the most relevant results at the top of the list.

- **What happens if I search for more than one term at a time in the query box?**

Just like in a 'Google' search, the terms will be searched using the 'and' priority. Example: 'dog canine bite' would be searched as 'dog and canine and bite'.

- **Does the Visual Catalog do Boolean searches?**

Yes. The Visual Catalog can do simple Boolean searches. AND is the default, so spaces between words is considered an AND. OR can be

used in between words, and a – (dash) can be used to exclude a word, e.g. Geisha –memoirs.

- **What happens if I enter a new term into the query box?**

Entering a term into the query box begins an entirely fresh search. The search will thus not include anything you clicked on before keying the term.

**Discover:** Discover refers to the word cloud located in the left pane of the screen. It is a starburst of suggestions that the Visual Catalog has found to be associated with the term that the user has searched for. This dynamic word cloud allows users to select from the associations and hone their query. It also builds a trail that offers still more results. These suggestions help the user ask the best possible question to find the results that they ultimately desire.

- **What do the colors of the terms given in the word-cloud mean?**

Words in black are associations. These are terms that have something to do with your query, or are related to your query term. They can help you formulate a direction in your search. Click on an association to search for it in the context of your current results.

Words in orange are spelling variations that are found within the catalog. It could be that you have spelled your query term incorrectly, or it could be that there are spelling errors in the catalog. The Visual Catalog will make the connection between these different spellings and see what it is you are looking for. Click on a variation to see more results for it.

Words in green are translations. The Visual Catalog will find exact translations of your query term in other languages. Click on a translation to search with your word in another language.

Words in gray are thesaurus terms. The Visual Catalog will find these synonyms in your search. Click on a term to search the catalog using that term.

Words in blue are terms you have already visited, providing a trail of where you have already clicked.

- **How does the search history work?**

With the Visual Catalog, more use is made of the concept of search history. When clicking on a term in the word cloud, that term is added to your original query term to broaden the search using both terms. This process continues with the more terms you click on.

- **How do I view my search history?**

History is shown by the blue terms in the word-cloud. Each term is one you have either entered or clicked upon. Clicking on a blue term re-searches that term with

any other terms you have clicked or entered.

- **What do the lines connecting the terms in the word-cloud mean?**

The lines show the relevant connections between terms.

- **What happens when I click on a term in the word-cloud?**

Each term you click in the word-cloud adds that term to your search. This is limited to searches containing BOTH the term you entered, and each term you click upon.

**Refine:** Refine, located in the right pane, provides a breakdown of the number of items found in various dimensions and categories (e.g. Author, Subject, etc.). This helps the user understand the search results. A user can utilize this information to filter the search results, knowing that the results shown are *in* the library's holdings. Refining the query also builds a breadcrumb trail at the top of the results panel, giving the user a visual history of the ways they have narrowed their original results.

- **How do I limit my searches?**

The "refine" panel on the right-hand side of your search screen contains all of the limiting options from the old catalog, plus new limiting factors like Characters, Genre, and Timeframe. Click on any one of these to narrow your results.

- **Why do I sometimes seem to get unrelated results when I Refine?**

Because the Visual Catalog uses a relevancy search to find results, you may get results that match only one of your search terms as you narrow down your terms. For example, a search on "cat behavior" will yield a book on dog training when you refine by clicking on the Non-Fiction genre listing, because it matches the term "behavior," though not the term "cat." Ironically, broadening your original search will often yield better results in using the Refine tool. If you enter only the word "cat" in your original search string, you can then refine by subject, getting 83 results under the subject heading "Cats--behavior."

- **I've attained the search results I want, now how do I find the item?**

In the result, clicking on the highlighted title of the item takes you to that item's record with all information including its shelf / location.

**Will we be able to limit by library and on shelf condition?**

The way our Visual Catalog is built and the concept behind it is to search first, then refine. This includes refining by location. Once a location is selected, it will remember until a different location is selected or you start over. Limiting by location brings those records to the top, keeping the relevancy ranking or any other sort option you may have selected (year, title, etc.). Currently the Visual Catalog looks for any copies available, even if you have limited by location. In this case, if there are no copies available at all, you will see a message in the title list stating that no copies are available at nmmn library. However, we have asked if an additional refinement of limiting by shelf status could be enabled and/or if it's possible. So we will see what happens there, but since placing holds and requesting items be sent to other locations will still be available, customers will still have easy access to our entire collection.

### **Can results be sorted by call number?**

Not at this time. We have asked about implementing this functionality in the near future.

### **Why do the subjects listed in each record vary from the subject list in the refine menu?**

The subjects listed in the "refine" menu are connected to the search term in general, sorted by relevancy. The subjects in each record apply to that record only. Not all subjects shown in an individual record will appear in the full list, since some subject headings may only apply to one or two records, so they will be too far down in the ranking to appear.

### **Is the Visual Catalog replacing CARLweb?**

No. The Visual Catalog will be the default setting for reference desk and public stations, starting April 7. The option to use CARLWeb (called the Classic Catalog) will still be available. Currently, the Visual Catalog does not allow construction of a list for multiple holds, so the Classic Catalog is a better option in this case for the moment. It is our desire to have all the functions of the Classic Catalog available through the Visual Catalog, supplementing features & benefits unique to the Visual Catalog.

### **Can issue-level holds be placed on periodicals in the Visual Catalog?**

At this time, the Visual Catalog cannot support issue-level holds. Customers who search for periodicals knowingly wanting to place holds should use the Classic Catalog. **\*\*Please note:** The Visual Catalog will allow a title-level hold on periodicals, which will produce undesired results. Customers who attempt to place holds on periodicals in the Visual Catalog will essentially get an random issue, not necessarily what they intended.

### **How do RSS feeds work in the Visual Catalog?**

You can create an RSS Feed that is specific to your search in the Visual Catalog, which will notify the searcher when new materials that match a specific search are added to the catalog. For instance, "How can I find out what's new on DVD?" now has an easy answer. Patrons can search for "feature films" then refine their search to include DVDs only. Then they subscribe to an RSS Feed that notifies them whenever new DVDs are added to the catalog.

### **Why does the tab marked "Subject or "Author" appear only sometimes above the word-cloud?**

If your search term matches an authority record for a Dewey subject heading or an author name, this tab will appear, providing a list of related subjects and names.

### **How do I search for an author, title, subject, etc. from my initial search?**

To force a specific search type and/or format enter the following into the search box:

- **author:"author name"** (order of name does not matter).  
Ex. **author:"Barbara Kingsolver"**
- **title:"title of item"** Ex. **title:"the bean trees"**
- **keywords:"subject of search"** Ex. **keywords:"cookery"** (use "keywords" in the visual catalog instead of "subject")

Just about any of the refinement options can be used in this format to force a specific search. You can also combine searches. For example:

- **author:"james patterson" format:"books"**
- **keywords:"gardening" format:"books" genre:"fiction"**