



**POUDRE RIVER**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
DISTRICT

**20** COMMUNITY  
**09** REPORT

Transcript of interactive online presentation found  
at [www.PoudreLibraries.org](http://www.PoudreLibraries.org)



## THE FUTURE

I'm Holly Carroll. I was hired as the Executive Director of the Poudre River Public Library District in September 2009 so I am a new face to many of you. I am proud to serve the communities in our district and believe the Library District has many opportunities for innovation and growth. Libraries are transforming to meet today's demands and adapt to tomorrow's vision. We are a vibrant, modern resource giving a diverse population access to much more than books.

The interactive format of this annual report reflects the Library District's interest in reaching more people, utilizing technology and being environmentally responsible; all important goals for the district as we look to the future. In 2009, over three million items were borrowed from our collections and we expect the numbers to continue to rise throughout 2010 as the library reaches out to serve all residents in the district. Additional book drops were installed along common routes outside the city proper so that items can be conveniently returned to the library.

Over 8,000 books and audio-visual items were delivered to home bound patrons in 2009 and the library will be evaluating the expansion of a pilot books- by-mail program in an effort to reach residents in outlying areas. The Library District continues to offer many virtual library services. You can use our website to browse our catalog, place holds on books you wish to borrow, renew items and pay fines and fees.

The Poudre River Public Library District participates in AskColorado, the state-wide virtual reference service in which real librarians answer your questions 24/7. The Library District is expanding its e-media collection providing a larger selection of downloadable audio, e-books, movies and music from which to choose.

The library continues to provide services and programs outside the library walls throughout the library district. In the summer of 2009, Children’s librarians conducted story times in Stove Prairie and Livermore. The library also helped train more than 50 volunteers from the Spanish speaking community to assist with Rincon de Cuentos, a bilingual storytelling program for all ages aimed at promoting literacy and preserving the Spanish language. Outreach efforts such as these help us build relationships with community members and enrich the educational and cultural experience of those living in our district.

**“The interactive format of this report reflects our interest in reaching more people, utilizing technology and being environmentally responsible – all important goals for the District.”**  
**Holly Carroll – Executive Director**

In preparing for the future, the library is committed to sustainability. This year the new Council Tree Library was awarded LEED platinum certification for commercial interiors in recognition of its efficient use of energy, light-

ing, water and materials. The Poudre River Public Library District and the City of Fort Collins worked together to build a new library with a very high standard of environmental responsibility. The Library District is a recent participant in ClimateWise; a City-run program aimed at helping businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The library’s ClimateWise project for 2010 will be a lighting retrofit and HVAC recommission at Main Library made possible through a grant from FortZED.

Just like the river that inspired our name, the Poudre River Library District is a dynamic resource connecting our communities. As the future unfolds, your library will continue to rise to the occasion providing information and inspiration for a new generation.



## YEAR IN REVIEW

Hi, I'm Mary Atchison, president of the Board of Trustees. 2009 was certainly an exciting and eventful year. We want to thank interim director Ken Draves and the entire staff for serving the community and providing stability throughout a year marked by many changes including our name. This year, citizens in our community helped us choose a new name, Poudre River Public Library District, that more

**"As we continue to build strong partnerships in the District and to work closely with the people we serve, we will enhance the experience of everyone who uses the library."**

**Mary Atchison – President,  
Library District Board of Trustees**

accurately reflects the geographic area that we serve and the vital role that our libraries play in the community.

In March we celebrated the opening of the new Council Tree Library in the Front Range Village shopping complex. Council Tree is nearly 17,000 square feet and was devel-

oped with an emphasis on serving families with young children in the most rapidly growing area in the district. In addition to a new name, and a new library, we also hired a new Executive Director – Holly Carroll. Holly most recently served as the Deputy Director of the Cleveland Public Library and her fresh perspective and extensive leadership experience are proving to be a valuable asset in our community.

In addition to all these changes we continue to lay the groundwork for the future. We adopted a Facilities Plan that will help direct the districts vision for expanding over the next 10 years. The communities' involvement in the library is critical. In 2009 volunteers donated more than 17,000 hours of their time and the Poudre River Friends of the Library donated more than \$80,000 funding popular programs like the Annie Walk, Victorian Fest, Summer Reading Programs, books clubs and more.

Other community partners play a huge part in supporting us as well. This year, Austin's American Grill received the Colorado Association of Libraries Partnership Award for its support of our children's story time programming. As we continue to build strong partnerships in the district, and to work closely with the people we serve, we'll enhance the experience of everyone who uses the library.



## BUSINESS

My name is Anne Macdonald. I'm the Business Librarian for the Library District. The goal of business librarianship in this day and age is really to make sure that the library is embedded in and is a partner for all the economic development and job creation in the community. This really holds true for northern Colorado. In that capacity I work with the small business development center. I work with RMI2 which is a technology incubator so we're taking care of small business and we're taking care of the high

tech and prime businesses. We also work with small investors and investment clubs and we make sure we

**"The Library District actively works to enhance Northern Colorado's economic development efforts."**

**Anne Macdonald – Business Librarian**

have the databases for them to do the right investing, to understand research and information for personal investing in large investment clubs. All of the information and research that we provide can be accessed, through the databases from home or from the office. One of my main goals is to make sure that they (investors, businesses) don't have to come to the library to get the information they need. The library is providing the information to their home or to their office and so we're really gearing toward e-books, toward databases that are accessible from home and from clubs and things like that. We really want to be a good steward of the tax payers funds and so we really are trying to work so closely with all these other organizations to make sure that the economic development runs smoothly and that we're partners with them.



## TEENS

The Interesting Reader's Society or IRS is a group of teenagers who meet once a month and talk about books and teen programs and any other items of business that we have at the particular time. We are a YALSA review group – YALSA is the Young Adult Library Services Association. What that means is that we are one of 15 groups across the country who get a lot of galley books and then we read them, and review them and we nominate them to a pre-list for the teens top ten which comes out every teen read week in October. We plan events for the library like the Poetry Slam in April, we recently took over the Annie Walk. We're going

**"For me, the library is more than just reading – it's a place to make friends, voice my opinions, get involved and work with others."**

**Lisa – Teen Library Patron**

to be running that this year. We're officially the libraries Teen Advisory Group so we redesigned the teen spaces at Main and Harmony libraries. We alert the librarians to books they really should have in their collection.

In January, we went down to Denver for the American Libraries Association Mid-Winter Conference. It was just heavenly. We had to wake up really early in the morning and it was totally worth it because when we got there the entire exhibition hall, which was just massive at the Denver Conference Center, full of publishers and stacks of free books and basically we were set loose in small groups to wander around and pick up every free book that we could find and we did – I wound up with about 80!

The library's primary function is to check out books but it's going to be the best resource you have for research pretty much anywhere. It's the most reliable, more reliable than the Internet and a lot more resources than say your school library has. It's also just a fun place to be and it's really involved. The Poudre River Public Library District is part of the community. They run different programs that aren't directly related to the collection of books. The Annie Walk fundraiser isn't a book thing but it's still something the library does. Things like craft programs for teens, the movies that were shown here, they make the library a place that you want to be, not just a place to come and check out books.

## KIDS

Libraries are not just buildings full of books. They help children discover their passion by encouraging early literacy through meaning and programming. In 2009



over 9,000 children and teens delighted in discovery by participating in the Summer Reading Program. Over 200 events were held throughout the summer with the theme: Be Creative at Your Library, giving kids access to engaging literacy experiences such as interaction with story tellers, magicians, singers and

musicians. Kids maintain and improve their reading skills throughout the summer by earning prizes just for reading.

**“Libraries are not just buildings full of books! They help children discover their passion by encouraging early literacy through reading and programs.”**

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Today libraries are working closely with communities to find new ways to connect citizens and boost civic participation. Libraries uphold and strengthen some of the most fundamental democratic ideals of our society. We

**“The Library District is rekindling civic engagement, promoting greater citizen participation, and encouraging involvement in community problem solving.”**

make information freely available to all citizens. The Library District is rekindling civic engagement promoting greater citizen participation and encouraging increased involvement in community problem solving and decision making by developing community partnerships, facilitating local dialogue and disseminating local data. This

year the district promoted programming around health care topics, immigration and other current issues important to the citizens in our district



## ABOUT US

**“One of our favorite family activities is to go to the library. Magically, it always fits our budget and through the library we have taken many imaginary trips. We have recently visited Hogwarts and Kansas/Nebransas. Currently we are using the library resources to help us plan a real trip to Mesa Verde.”**

**Tracey W. – District resident**

Just as the Poudre River flows through the region and sustains life across the high plains of northern Colorado, the Poudre River Public Library District is where the free flow of information cultivates growth and serves as a steady, limitless source of renewal for all of its communities.

### The Poudre River Public Library District

Established in 2006 by voter approval, the Poudre River Public Library District’s resources serve more than 177,000 people across a vast 1,800 square-mile region in northern Larimer County, Colorado. Anchored by three libraries in Fort Collins, the District is dedicated to matching diverse communities needs, interests and priorities with exceptional opportunities for learning, intellectual stimulation and personal enjoyment.

### Strategic Plan- Planning for Results

The Poudre River Public Library District has taken great strides to achieving our goals as designed in our 2008-2011 strategic plan. The Poudre River Public Library is much more than books. It is a family room where parents and children can learn and grow together, the original search engine that can answer questions and a virtual world that can give patrons access to new resources. The seven service priorities as identified in the plan are leading staff in identifying programs and services for all District residents. As part of the planning process, organizational competencies in 12 key areas were identified to help the Library District achieve its service goals. Organizational competencies provide indirect benefits to community residents by improving the Library District’s effectiveness and efficiency. The 2009 year-end evaluation of these service priorities and organizational competencies helps the Library District plan for 2010.

Download a detailed report at <http://www.poudrelibraries.org/about/plans.html>

## Board of Trustees

The Poudre River Public Library District is governed by an all-volunteer board of trustees appointed by city and county officials. The current board, composed of seven experienced community leaders, began its work immediately after being appointed in March, 2007.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing library operations; setting policy and for developing a long-range vision for the District. The Board is committed to representing the interests of residents, practicing responsible fiscal management of public funds, and delivering quality services that are responsive to community needs. The Board's monthly meetings are open to the public.

### Poudre River Public Library District Board of Trustees

(clockwise starting at bottom left)

Mary Atchison, President  
Michelle Kalkowski (Shelly),  
Secretary  
John Knezovich, Treasurer  
Robin Gard  
Michael Liggett, Vice President  
Linda Gabel  
Nina Bodenhamer



## 2009 Awards and Grants

- LEED® Platinum Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI)  
Council Tree Library commercial interiors design.
- Top Ten List Committee - Young Adult Library Services Association  
Local teens from the Library District Interesting Reader Society have been selected as one of 15 teen groups in the nation to be nominators for a “teen choice” booklist.
- History Comes Alive - FortFund Grant  
A popular monthly program featuring nationally known presenters who portray historical figures and bring history to life.
- Colorado Association of Libraries - Partnership Award  
Given to Austin's Grill for its support of Children's Storytime programming.

## Administrative Staff

(clockwise starting at top left)

Lynda Dickson, Circulation  
& Shelving Services

Carson Block, IT Director

Ken Draves,

Deputy Director,

Harmony Library

Currie Meyer,

Council Tree Library

Jeff Barnes, Finance Officer

Paula Watson-Lakamp,

Communications

Cynthia Langren, Executive

Administrative Assistant

Lu Benke, Children's Services

Holly Carroll, Executive Director

Tova Aragon, Reference & Technical Services



## TECHNOLOGY

"I have used the online BookFlix in my Kindergarten classroom for a year now and I LOVE it. I think the best feature is the fiction and non fiction stories in the same subject. Many stories generate more discussion and the non-fiction addition gives me the opportunity to expand on vocabulary as well as a short social studies or science lesson".

Suzanne B. - District resident and school teacher

All across the nation, people recognize that libraries change lives. During tough economic times, the public library is the place where people turn to access books, start or improve a business, research job opportunities and access computers and high-speed internet service.

A key goal of the District is to provide the best and most current information resources to our residents. In November 2009, a technology planning team surveyed the satisfaction of public and staff users with the Library District's current computer resources and solicited ideas for ways to improve services. Based on those results the team is developing an ambitious technology plan for the District.

[www.PoudreLibraries.org](http://www.PoudreLibraries.org)

The main pages of the Library District website were viewed over 2.5 million times in 2009. The site was revised to reflect the District's new name, logo, and branding style. On the website library users are able to locate and use information and materials relevant to their needs. The library website, digital library collection, and online public access catalog (OPAC) allow online users to find information and materials such as databases, downloadable audio, video and e-books, digitized images and born-digital content, and have access to virtual reference in an easy and intuitive manner.

### Electronic Literacy Classes

In 2009 over 500 community members took one of the 50 free computer classes offered by the Poudre River Public Library District. These beginning computer classes promote and encourage information literacy. The classes cover computer basics, electronic communication, Internet searching, and Microsoft Office applications. These classes are taught in the Harmony Library computer lab.

## History Connection

Redesigned in 2009, the Fort Collins History Connection is an online collaboration between the Fort Collins Museum & Discovery Science Center and the Poudre River Public Library District, incorporating historical resources from the Library, the Museum artifact collection and the Fort Collins Local History Archive.

- This website can be used to:
- Research Collections - Dig deep into history with photographs, Museum artifacts, maps, books, and more.
- View Online Exhibits - Explore historical places, people, and events with an assortment of online exhibits and information.
- Link to Quick Facts - Jump right in to the past with a Fort Collins timeline and summaries of city and county history.

This interactive site is great for history buffs, research, and homework. Check it out at <http://history.poudrelibraries.org>. Use of the Local History website was up 29% in 2009, with 41,000 views of the home page.

## Online Resources

Library District patrons use the District website to place holds, pay fees, access Prospector materials, and use databases to access millions of full text magazine articles, genealogy records and a wide variety of other electronic resources.

In 2009 the number of searches of the library catalog was 2,065,900, up 9.3% over 2008.

## Social Networking

In mid-2009 the Poudre River Public Library District began communicating with the public via social networking web sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The number of page fans increases each day as followers gain valuable information about literature, movies, technology trends and random interesting facts. The Library District is also increasing its communications through video and other online means. As of December 31, 2009 the District has over 500 Facebook fans.

## Automated Express Check Out

Patrons are enjoying the benefits of the new RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) service. After the implementation of the system in the fall of 2008, and the opening of Council Tree Library in 2009 the statistics show that over 77% of our patrons use this system. In 2009 the Library District also added the convenience of paying fees at the express check stations.

## GET INVOLVED

“Volunteering at the Harmony Library during the summer definitely changed my perspective on how the library behaves as a workplace. What really touched me was working with the pre-school kids on special craft days. Stories lit up their faces and made them think about things in life that are not as noticeable as you get older.”

Ashley M. – District resident & Library Pal

The Library District donors know that learning is a lifelong affair. Donors and volunteers understand that the library is a catalyst for creating community. The generosity of community members who give of their time, talent and resources make new learning opportunities possible.

### Poudre River Friends of the Library

The Poudre River Friends of the Library is an organization of library advocates who raise needed monies to support the Poudre River Public Library District. In 2009 The Friends donated over \$91,000 to fund popular programming for the District such as the Annie Walk, Summer Reading Program, Victorian Festival, Book Club Kits and more. The chief fund-raising events are the used book sales which happen in the spring, summer and fall. Donations for the book sales are received through all three libraries.

For more information go to <http://www.fortnet.org/fof> or call the Friends Shop at Harmony Library, 204-8405.

### Poudre River Library Trust

The Poudre River Library Trust, Inc. was founded in 1999 by a dedicated group of library supporters. The Trust has established an endowment to ensure the Poudre River Public Library District system responds to the increasing demands of an inquisitive, progressive, and multicultural information society. In 2009 the Poudre River Library Trust gave money to the summer reading program, “Readers to the Rescue.” This program encourages children to read above and beyond the regular summer reading program.

For more information on the Library Trust go to <http://www.poudrelibraries.org/information/helping-hands.html>

The Poudre River Library Trust is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and is pleased to receive gifts from individuals who find it a fitting way to honor friends and loved ones. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to the Trust are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are a vital part of our District. Volunteers bring excitement and passion for literacy to District communities. In 2009 the Library District had 1,077 volunteers (789 in 2008) that clocked in over 17,970 hours of time.

In 2009 volunteers selected materials and made 914 deliveries of over 8,000 materials to home bound patrons throughout the District.

## Library Pals

Some of the most enthusiastic volunteers for the Library District are members of the Library Pals Volunteer program. Kids who have finished grade 5, 6, 7, or 8 can apply to be Library Pals. If accepted, they receive training and work one two-hour shift a week during June and July, helping with all sorts of library tasks -- straightening shelves, washing books, listening to younger kids read, suiting up as the library mascot, learning to tell stories, contributing to the Kids' Blog, and much more. After their first summer's training and work, many Library Pals return to the Libraries during the school year to help with various events. Some specialize in performance as Puppet Pals or Theatre Pals, delighting young audiences at library puppet shows and at Story Theatre shows.



In 2009 Library Pals, Puppet Pals, and Theatre Pals logged over 1,980 hours in volunteer time.

## Donors

The following individuals and organizations made generous donations to the Library in 2009. Some gifts were made in memory of loved ones, while others were made to enhance specific Library collections or services. All gifts to the Library are greatly appreciated as they improve our ability to deliver high quality service and to build outstanding collections.

### ***Donors of up to \$99***

Joe & Linda Cowan  
Sunisa & Muchima Smittakorn  
Billie Higgins  
American Association of  
University Women  
Janet Metcalf  
M.E. McCallum  
Karen Newburg  
Marjorie Boehner  
Shirley Gausman  
Glenn Ann Bowden  
K.A. Lindgren  
Claire Osterholm  
Sarah Bennett  
The Jones Family  
Eleanor Booth  
Readers Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Lang  
Dwight Lutsey  
Pat Hayward

### ***Donors of \$100 to \$499***

Ehud Ben-Hur  
Marjorie Kiefer  
Fort Collins Lions Club  
Runza Restaurant  
Dr. & Mrs. Ingram  
Literary Tour Book Group  
Dennis & Nina Small  
Wiley & Christie Long  
Arlene Hoffman

### ***Grants and Other Large Gifts***

The Community Foundation of  
Northern Colorado  
(Gary & Carol Ann Hixon) - \$500  
Isabelle Arnold Estate - \$88,965.50  
Billee Gontrum Estate - \$16,405.38  
Poudre River Friends of the Library -  
\$91,415

*Special Thanks to the Scholastic Library  
Publishing National Library Week Grant,  
in association with American Library  
Association's Public Awareness  
Committee for partial funding of  
this on-line annual report.*

**Communities Thrive**  
**@ your library®**

## 2009 STATISTICS

"I share little in common with Ben Franklin's genius except maybe for the glasses that once perched on my nose to help me read or my white hair color which might now match his. Of course neither of these features attests to a genius's mind, but the wisdom acquired through reading and aging surely count for something. Much of that wisdom has come from between the cover of books. Free books, which today, at the touch of a computer key, a library card and a library system that lets me tap into resources almost anywhere in the country. I have access to this and more at my local public library".

Sandra M. – District resident

One way to tell the story of the Poudre River Public Library District is with numbers. The statistics below demonstrate the significant increase in use by District residents in 2009. A recent study in Colorado shows that for every tax dollar spent on libraries, there is a \$5 return on investment.

- 3,042,448 Total number of items circulated, up 29.8%
- 120,221 Total number of active card holders, new patrons, up 40.3%
- 153,209 Number of reference assistance given to the public, up 24.1%
- 79,299 Number of materials borrowed from other libraries outside the District, up 14.6%
- 43,106 Number of materials loaned to other libraries outside the District, up 7.3%
- 1,944 Total number of programs/events held throughout the Library District, up 39.4%
- 70,590 Number of people attending programs, up 29.7%
- 11,679 Summer Reading participation, up 13.5%  
Children- 7,559, Teens- 1,540, Adults- 2,585
- 1,030,574 People coming through the doors at all three libraries, up 9.1%
- Total number of items in the collection 460,197  
Juvenile- 146,327, Adult- 262,164, Media- 49,986

## FINANCIALS

### 2009 REVENUE

Property taxes	\$6,766,224	71%
Specific ownership taxes	512,828	5%
Interest earnings	147,603	2%
Fines and other	222,401	2%
Donations	248,471	3%
Intergovernmental	1,670,385	17%
	<b>\$9,567,912</b>	

### 2009 EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$4,574,259	55%
Contractual	\$1,555,061	19%
Collection Materials	\$953,760	11%
Commodities	\$307,843	4%
Capital Outlay	\$923,159	11%
	<b>\$8,314,082</b>	

### FUND BALANCE 12-31-09

Restricted	\$1,980,600	32%
Committed	2,281,900	37%
Unassigned	1,877,443	31%
	<b>\$6,139,943</b>	

# POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET AND ACTUAL - ALL FUNDS

Year Ended December 31

	2008	2009			2010
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget Difference	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Property taxes	\$6,627,294	\$6,766,224	\$6,734,400	\$31,824	\$6,920,000
Specific ownership taxes	564,908	512,828	550,000	(37,172)	500,000
Property tax interest	13,319	13,360	-	13,360	-
Investment earnings	222,028	134,243	60,000	74,243	75,000
Copier charges	23,978	25,020	25,000	20	25,000
Fines	162,911	189,168	125,000	64,168	150,000
Donations	130,071	248,471	131,100	117,371	94,800
Miscellaneous	9,943	8,213	-	8,213	-
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>7,754,452</b>	<b>7,897,527</b>	<b>7,625,500</b>	<b>272,027</b>	<b>7,764,800</b>
Intergovernmental	1,265,470	1,670,385	1,649,900	20,485	744,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>9,019,922</b>	<b>9,567,912</b>	<b>9,275,400</b>	<b>292,512</b>	<b>8,508,800</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Library Administration	1,215,825	1,312,301	1,330,345	18,044	1,311,200
Information Technology	717,268	556,432	591,760	35,328	676,700
Services and Programming	1,652,343	2,334,127	2,387,770	53,643	2,396,310
Collection Development – Cataloging	1,062,753	1,295,229	1,401,575	106,346	1,286,800
Circulation	1,022,051	1,258,141	1,264,650	6,509	1,378,500
Facilities - Operations	622,196	634,693	820,200	185,507	966,190
Capital Outlay	518,216	923,159	1,005,900	82,741	75,000
Contingency	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>6,810,652</b>	<b>8,314,082</b>	<b>8,902,200</b>	<b>588,118</b>	<b>8,190,700</b>
<b>Net Revenue over</b>					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2,209,270</b>	<b>1,253,830</b>	<b>373,200</b>	<b>880,630</b>	<b>318,100</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,676,843</b>	<b>4,886,113</b>	<b>3,113,000</b>	<b>1,773,113</b>	<b>5,923,100</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$4,886,113</b>	<b>\$6,139,943</b>	<b>\$3,486,200</b>	<b>\$2,653,743</b>	<b>\$6,241,200</b>
Restricted	\$920,251	\$1,980,600	\$1,074,700	\$905,900	\$1,980,600
Committed	1,902,600	2,281,900	2,130,200	151,700	2,565,300
Unassigned	2,063,262	1,877,443	281,300	1,596,143	1,695,300
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$4,886,113</b>	<b>\$6,139,943</b>	<b>\$3,486,200</b>	<b>\$2,653,743</b>	<b>\$6,241,200</b>

For complete details of annual budget go to [www.poudrelibraries.org/about/plans.html](http://www.poudrelibraries.org/about/plans.html)



**POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**

[www.PoudreLibraries.org](http://www.PoudreLibraries.org)  
201 Peterson Street  
Fort Collins, CO  
970-221-6740

**Main Library**  
**Harmony Library**  
**Council Tree Library**