

## Fairfax County Public Library

### ► Agency Mission

To meet the evolving educational, recreational, and informational needs of the residents of Fairfax County and Fairfax City by providing appropriate resources and services.

### ► Trends/Issues

#### Key Accomplishments

In FY 2001, the Library enjoyed its eighth consecutive record-breaking year for the number of books checked out of its 21 Library branches; more than 11 million. Nationally, the average number of books checked out of public libraries annually is about two per capita. In Fairfax, it is 11 per capita. Nationally, about 66 percent of adults used a library in the past year; in Fairfax, more than 78 percent of residents use the Library.

The Library recorded more than five million visits in FY 2001, and almost 150,000 people attended more than 3,800 Library-sponsored programs and events. The importance with which the community views the Library is dramatically demonstrated by the number of residents who choose to volunteer with us: more than 3,000 in FY 2001.

Other accomplishments include:

- In FY 2001, the Library conducted more than 2,500 programs which instructed County residents (including older citizens) how to navigate the Internet;
- Expanded public access to electronic resources through more than 400 PCs in our 21 branches;
- Launched a unique partnership with the Catholic University of America to offer a Master of Library Science degree program to participating Library staff;
- Enjoyed partnerships with area businesses, such as Exxon-Mobil, which provided a summer intern who teaches Internet navigation; the Inova Health System, which provided free Ask the Doctor programs in Library branches; and the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, which conducted workshops for blind children.
- Received grants for Library programs from the American Library Association, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the National Library of Medicine, the U.S. Institute for Peace, and the Library of Virginia;
- Received donations from Friends of the Library groups to support our Summer Reading Program and other projects;
- Redesigned the Library's web site to improve the online services offered.

# *Fairfax County Public Library*

---

## **Key Challenges**

The Library's key challenge is to continue to match consumer expectations and skyrocketing demand, especially of the growing number of people who want books and materials in languages other than English, and the growing number of people who want material in other formats, such as books on CDs, electronic books, and additional online resources.

### Events at other levels of government that influence FCPL programs and services

Outside of the County's public school system, the Library shoulders the strongest public support role in educating children and adults. Fairfax County and Fairfax City students – whether they attend public schools, private schools or are home-schooled – rely on the public Library for educational resources to complete school and homework assignments. In many cases, hundreds of students are required to use the same materials at the same time for the same assignment.

The Library's 21 branches are each open an average of 62 hours per week, whereas Fairfax County Public School libraries are open approximately 35 hours per week during the school year. Increases in FCPS student enrollment usually result in increases in FCPS funding without a corresponding increase in funding for the Library, which supports the same constituents. All these children rely on the printed and electronic resources provided by the Library, especially during evenings, weekends, and summer when school libraries are closed.

### Client population

The Library currently has more than 780,000 registered users, and estimates that more than 78 percent of the service area uses the Library (patrons can freely use most in-branch services without having to register). A growing number of our patrons speak a language other than English at home (as does more than 30 percent of the County population), and an estimated 49 percent cannot access online Library services from home.

### Progress since 1997; Where We're Headed

In FY 1997, the Library launched the nation's first local Center for the Book to be affiliated with the Library of Congress through a state. Since then, our Center for the Book has succeeded in attracting important authors to Fairfax County, including Pulitzer-Prize winners William Styron and Rita Dove; Oprah Book Club authors Breena Clarke and Sue Miller; best-selling novelists Sharyn McCrumb and Gail Godwin; and nonfiction authors John Berendt, Patricia Hersch, E. Ethelbert Miller, and Dr. Seymour Papert. More than 1,000 area residents have enjoyed these author events.

In FY 1998, the Library's Access Services branch moved into the Government Center. This branch makes Library programs and services accessible to people with disabilities. Its relocation to the Government Center also allows it to provide Library service to County staff who work in or visit the building.

In FY 2000, the Library launched Information Central. Located in the Government Center, this office provides research assistance for County agencies. Also in FY 2000, the Library opened the Kingstowne branch in a high-growth area of Springfield. This popular branch, the result of a proffer by a shopping center developer, registered more than 4,000 new Library users in its first year of operation.

# Fairfax County Public Library

In FY 2001, the new Great Falls Library opened. In its first year of operation in its new location, the Great Falls branch recorded a 115 percent increase in the number of books checked out by its users, and a 69 percent increase in the number of visitors.

To better reach residents of high-growth areas, the Library is planning for new branches in Burke, Oakton and Springfield; the Library also plans to renovate five older branches to meet 21<sup>st</sup>-century technical requirements. Funding for these capital projects is not currently programmed; they are anticipated to be funded by a future bond referendum.

## What Has Changed For FCPL During The Last Few Years

One of our most profound changes involves delivering Library services in electronic formats and environments. The Library has been at the forefront of the "e-gov" revolution since its inception and assisted in the development of County kiosks, which now reside in 13 Library branches, as well as participated in the redesign of the County's web site. The Library has also been the premier County agency providing access to the Internet for County and City residents (research shows that public libraries are the #1 point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work). Contrary to early predictions, the Internet has driven **more** business to the Library, not replaced it. This trend is expected to accelerate as more and more County residents go online.

## What Initiatives Are Being Undertaken

One of FCPL's most profound and ambitious initiatives estimated to be completed in FY 2002 is the enhancement of the computer system used to inventory, track, and perform transactions between the Library's 2.5 million-item collection and 780,000 patrons. The current system has been in use for more than a decade and is not able to accommodate increasingly advanced and more aggressive service needs. Changing the foundational computer system will have a training impact on almost all Library staff.

## What Was FCPL Able To Do With The Increases/Changes In Recent Years

In FY 1999, the Board of Supervisors supported the partial restoration of lost hours of operation to 12 Library branches. The public responded enthusiastically, and as reported earlier, propelled Library usage statistics to the highest level recorded.

Included in the FY 2000 Carryover package, the Board of Supervisors approved additional funding to strengthen the Library's foreign-language book collections in Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This allowed the Library to take steps toward satisfying increasing demands for Library service in foreign languages for the almost 300,000 County residents who speak languages other than English at home.

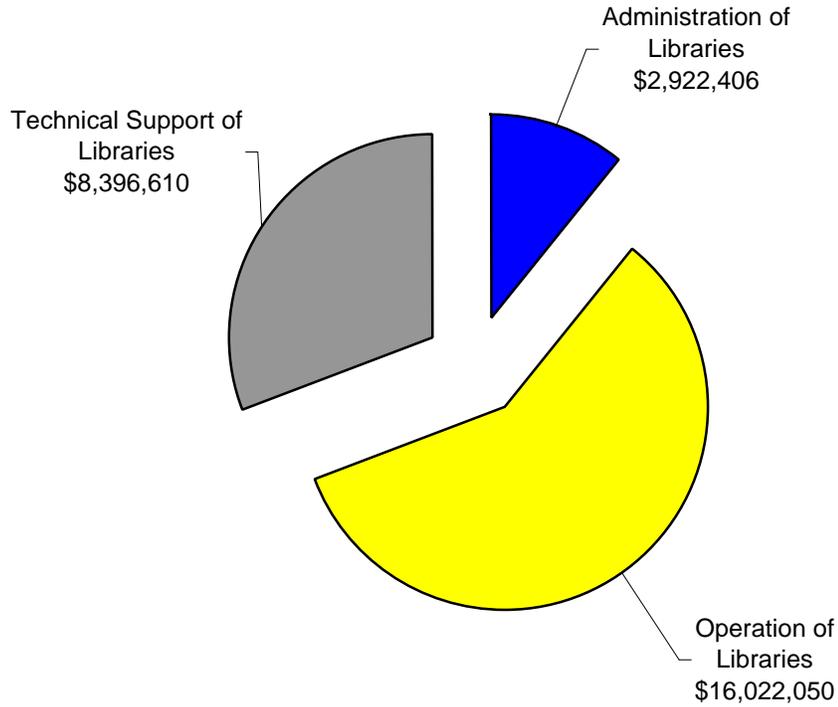
## ► Summary of All Agency CAPS

CAPS Number	CAPS Title	CAPS Net Cost	CAPS Number of Positions/SYE
52-01	Administration of Libraries	\$1,407,275	25/25
52-02	Operation of Libraries	\$14,614,830	389/348.5
52-03	Technical Support of Libraries	\$8,396,610	44/42
<b>TOTAL Agency</b>		<b>\$24,418,715</b>	<b>458/415.5</b>

*Fairfax County Public Library*

---

**Fairfax County Public Library**



Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Expenditures = \$27,341,066

Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Net Cost = \$24,418,715