



18 Million

LIBRARY VISITORS

12%[↑]

FROM FY '08



NYPL
BY THE
NUMBERS



28 Million

ITEMS CIRCULATED



44%[↑]

FROM FY '08



New York
Public
Library

2012 Annual Report

Letter from the Chairman



“Our public computers were used for **3.6 million hours in FY 2012, a 160% increase** from five years ago.”

In this increasingly digitized world, many people often ask if libraries are still necessary. Have libraries or even books become obsolete? One look at The New York Public Library and the answer is clear: libraries have never been more important.

The numbers speak for themselves. In the last fiscal year, 18 million visitors came through the Library’s doors, while another 32 million visited nypl.org. Meanwhile, circulation and program attendance is setting records. Public high school students are borrowing books, and scholars are doing major research here. Job seekers continue to rely on our comprehensive resources at the Bronx Library Center and other locations. And our public computers were used for 3.6 million hours in FY 2012, a 160% increase from five years ago.

Together these facts underscore how essential the Library is to so many. Indeed, a recent report from the Center for an Urban Future strongly argues that the city’s public libraries have become an increasingly important part of New York’s “human capital” system. The report is succinct: “No other institution in New York serves so many different people in so many different ways.”

However, even as use soars, the Library continues to face severe fiscal challenges. Over the past five years, City funding for the Library has been steadily reduced, forcing NYPL to find ways to continue serving its patrons amid declining resources, and making private support even more crucial.

Despite these challenges, NYPL cannot—and will not—stand still. In the spring of 2012, we unveiled a blueprint for the Library’s future that will create a center of inspiration for all New Yorkers in our Stephen A. Schwarzman Building on 42nd Street. We are also investing in our branches. High points include a new state-of-the-art Teen Center at Hamilton Grange Library in Upper Manhattan and a major facade restoration at Jefferson Market Library in Greenwich Village.

We are also building our vital research collections, continuing to collect widely while attracting major gifts, including Mikhail Baryshnikov’s personal archives. And our critically acclaimed exhibitions are drawing record crowds, such as our Centennial exhibition, *Celebrating 100 Years*.

The Library’s many achievements and successes over the past year would be unthinkable without the support of so many, including our staff, generous donors, Library members, tireless volunteers, and, not least, those great lovers of the Library—Trustees, past presidents, and my distinguished predecessors as Chairman.

With thanks to all,

Neil L. Rudenstine
February 2013

Letter from the President



“We increased the number of free events at NYPL to more than **55,000**, while we expanded the number of computer classes to nearly **7,700, a more than 350% increase** over the year before. But we aim to do more.”

This has been a time of new beginnings at The New York Public Library. As our iconic 42nd Street branch embarked on its next 100 years following its Centennial in May 2011, both Neil Rudenstine, the Library’s Chairman, and I embarked on our first years leading this vital institution. And with Library use at an all-time high, we have worked to launch a series of new initiatives to ensure that the Library continues to meet the ever-changing needs of our patrons in the years to come.

We are committed to vastly expanding free programs and educational initiatives in our branches. In FY 2012, we increased the number of free events at NYPL to more than 55,000, while we expanded the number of computer classes to nearly 7,700, a more than 350% increase over the year before. We also offered more than 1,800 ESOL classes to help recent immigrants learn English. But we aim to do more. Every day after school, 30,000 kids come to our branches. We should be providing the finest after-school program in the nation. We are also working to bring library books to every school in the city through a partnership with the Department of Education, which we launched as a pilot in fall 2011.

Through our Virtual Library initiative, we are striving to create a vibrant online community that complements and supports the irreplaceable work of our branches, while bringing digital tools to all New Yorkers. As digital literacy becomes increasingly essential, we must guarantee that everyone has access to computers. Moreover, as more and more materials move online, we must ensure that patrons continue to have free access to books, in all formats, including e-books. We are proud of our groundbreaking efforts with the major publishers and other e-content providers to make more e-books available to libraries.

Finally, we are working to create a vibrant circulating library within the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, uniting the world’s greatest research library with the books and services from our Mid-Manhattan Library and Science, Industry and Business Library. Designed by celebrated architect Norman Foster, this plan will restore the landmark to its original mission of serving all New Yorkers while maintaining its historic public spaces and greatly expanding services and facilities for scholars.

This is indeed our “Gutenberg moment.” We will and we must create the future of libraries here at NYPL. But our mission is constant. Carved into the wall of the Wachenheim Trustees Room at 42nd Street are these words of Thomas Jefferson: “I look to the diffusion of light and education as the resource most to be relied on for ameliorating the condition promoting the virtue and advancing the happiness of man.” That is the founding ideal of America, and of this institution. This is the very mission to which we recommit ourselves as we forge ahead.

Anthony W. Marx
February 2013

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The New York Public Library has continued to drive several major strategic initiatives essential to its mission in an increasingly digital world—despite continuing erosion in operating support from the City of New York. Most notably these initiatives include:

- **Central Library Plan.** The Library has unveiled a design for this \$300 million transformation of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, which will provide more and better space and service for Library users, a superior preservation environment for its invaluable collections, and yield financial benefits equivalent to \$15 million per year. Thanks to a \$150 million capital commitment from the City and the sale of various real estate assets, the Library now has the financial resources in hand to undertake this project.
- **Branch Library Programming.** The Library has launched pilot programs to evaluate a quantum increase in programs provided through the branch libraries in order to increase the Library’s impact in New York City. Computer training, literacy and English classes for immigrants, and after-school programs for children are all being explored. One particularly exciting program is the Library’s recently announced partnership with New York City schools, which makes the Library’s collections directly accessible to teachers and students throughout New York City public schools. Initial results indicate that students with such access are three times more likely to be reading a book.
- **The Virtual Library.** The Library is investing steadily to improve its online presence—adding content, tools to make it easier to find and use content, and features to enable users to connect with one another to build a robust online literary community. The virtual library and the virtual library community are the natural extension of what exists in the white marble physical being, and central to NYPL’s future.

Despite the decline in City operating support—down 14% or \$20 million between fiscal years 2008 and 2012, excluding reimbursements for pension and inflationary expense increases—the Library’s core services have shown excellent growth over the same period:

- annual visits have grown 12%, to 18.2 million,
- annual circulation has grown 44%, to 28.3 million, and
- web visits have grown 15%, to 32.3 million.

And on top of this performance, NYPL is launching the Central Library Plan, enhancing branch programming, and the virtual library initiatives.

Having lost \$20 million in City support, how is this possible?

The simple answer is the increasing generosity of New Yorkers in times of need. Private cash donations of all sorts (including restricted and unrestricted gifts, bequests, and endowment gifts) grew from \$54 million in the year ended June 2007 to \$98 million in the year ended June 2012. This generosity is truly inspiring as it is the embodiment of many individuals stepping up in tough times to support a beloved bedrock New York institution that serves so many—the very symbol of democracy and freedom of information.

David G. Steiner

Treasurer
February 2013

FIGURE 1

BRANCH LIBRARY REVENUES (\$ 142,512,000)

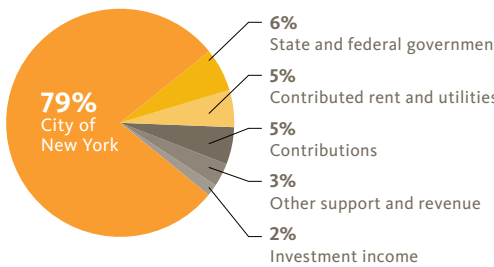


FIGURE 3

BRANCH LIBRARY EXPENSES (\$ 149,939,000)

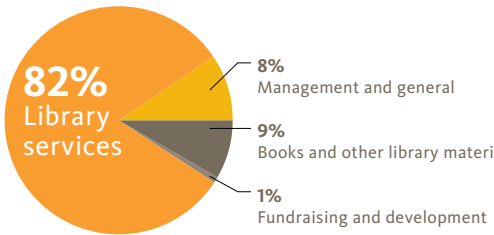
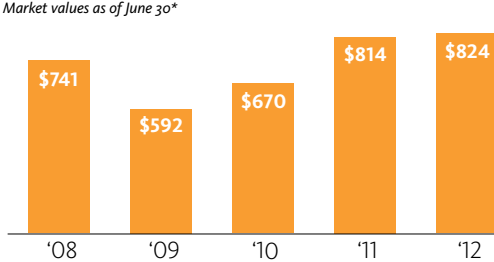


FIGURE 5

CHANGE IN ENDOWMENT (in millions)



*Excludes real estate investment used in operations.

FIGURE 2

RESEARCH LIBRARY REVENUES (\$ 102,074,000)

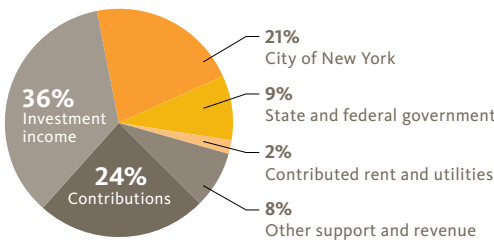
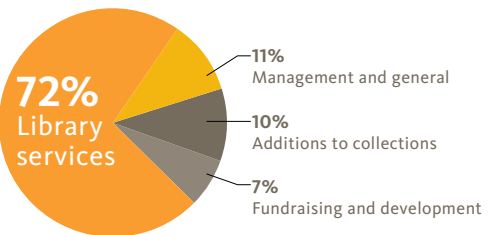


FIGURE 4

RESEARCH LIBRARY EXPENSES (\$ 103,337,000)



BALANCE SHEETS

JUNE 30, 2012 AND 2011

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 97,310	\$ 102,888
Government and other receivables	26,210	24,427
Contributions receivable, net	62,216	82,432
Other assets	2,012	2,052
Funds held by bond trustee	24,631	4,002
Investments	889,324	814,313
Real estate investment used in operations	1,084	1,084
Fixed assets, net	284,821	301,533
Collections		
Total assets	\$ 1,387,608	\$ 1,332,731
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 57,405	\$ 54,110
Deferred revenue—City of New York and other	87,488	104,858
Long-term debt	84,510	88,490
Interest rate swaps	16,917	11,662
Accrued postretirement benefits	182,757	146,833
Total liabilities	429,077	405,953
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	295,593	241,543
Temporarily restricted	236,691	268,635
Permanently restricted	426,247	416,600
Total net assets	958,531	926,778
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,387,608	\$ 1,332,731

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012 AND 2011

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

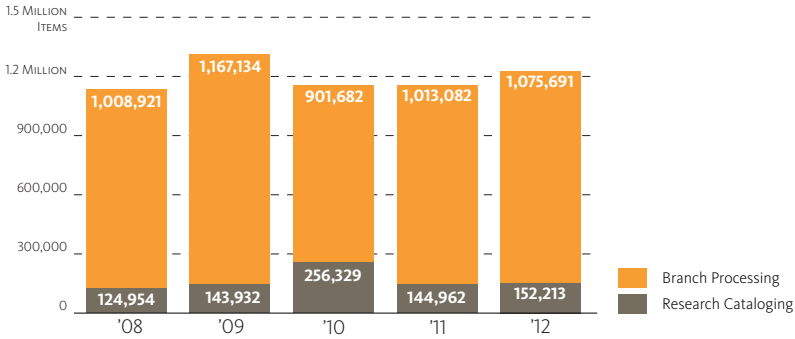
	2012	2011
OPERATING REVENUES		
City of New York	\$ 133,066	\$ 133,170
State of New York	16,391	18,108
Federal government	1,731	1,377
Contributed rent and utilities	10,072	10,005
Private contributions and grants	32,110	33,012
Investment return appropriated for spending	38,234	34,982
Fines, royalties, and other revenue	12,982	14,094
Total operating revenues	244,586	244,748
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Library services	211,437	204,367
Fundraising and membership development	8,170	9,461
Management and general	23,308	25,639
Total operating expenses	242,915	239,467
Additions to research collections	10,361	12,299
Total operating expenses and additions to research collections	253,276	251,766
Change in net assets from operating activities, before gains on sales of real estate	(8,690)	(7,018)
Gains on sales of real estate, net	80,767	—
Change in net assets from operating activities	72,077	(7,018)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Endowment contributions and funds designated for long-term investment	45,068	14,390
Appropriations and contributions for capital	13,118	13,080
Contributed property for use	14,466	—
Depreciation and amortization	(23,158)	(20,547)
Investment return, net of amounts appropriated	(55,257)	105,675
Postretirement benefits changes other than net periodic benefit cost	(29,306)	13,720
Change in value of interest rate swaps	(5,255)	1,839
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	(40,324)	128,157
Change in net assets	31,753	121,139
Net assets at beginning of year	926,778	805,639
Net assets at end of year	\$ 958,531	\$ 926,778

BEHIND THE SCENES

HOLDINGS

FISCAL YEAR	BRANCH COLLECTION HOLDINGS	RESEARCH COLLECTION HOLDINGS	NUMBER OF ELECTRONIC DATABASES OFFERED
FY '12	6,563,362	44,781,169	365
FY '11	7,001,664	44,002,516	293
FY '10	8,438,775	44,507,623	339
FY '09	8,708,869	44,356,334	414
FY '08	7,565,579	44,160,825	480

CATALOGING AND PROCESSING



MATERIALS PRESERVED

FISCAL YEAR	PRINT MATERIALS & PRINTS	AUDIOTAPES & CDS (HOURS)	MOTION PICTURES (FOOTAGE)	VIDEOTAPES (HOURS)	ITEMS ADDED AT OFFSITE CLIMATE-CONTROLLED FACILITY (RECAP)
FY '12	57,055	1,967	48,324	2,442	611,552
FY '11	40,503	820	69,708	1,053	96,011
FY '10	25,197	364	38,901	1,045	93,647
FY '09	133,961	224	73,555	1,183	91,138
FY '08	156,433	884	7,138	1,796	111,419

STAFF

FISCAL YEAR	EMPLOYEES		VOLUNTEERS	
	NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES	RESEARCH CENTERS	NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES	RESEARCH CENTERS
FY '12	1,335	998	1,089	508
FY '11	1,461	854	1,108	532
FY '10	1,724	812	1,397	497
FY '09	1,997	940	1,002	397
FY '08	2,128	1,016	1,036	394

Recommended Form of Bequest

The New York Public Library is a not-for-profit education corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. The Library is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a publicly supported organization under section 170 of the Code.



Gifts and bequests to the Library are deductible under the federal income, estate, and gift tax laws. For federal tax purposes, the Library uses its formal corporate name: The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations (reflecting its incorporation by the consolidation of the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and the Tilden Trust). The Trustees of the Library recommend that for estate planning purposes, friends consider the following language for use in their Wills:

“I give and bequeath (dollar amount, percentage of residuary estate, or description of property) to The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018, for the Library’s general purposes.”

If you wish to make a bequest for a specific purpose, it is suggested that you consider adding the following language to any restriction you may impose on your bequest:

“If at any time in the judgment of the Trustees of the Library the designated purpose of this bequest proves to be impracticable or impossible, I authorize the Trustees to use the income and principal of this bequest for any purpose they deem to be consistent with the general intent and purpose set forth herein.”

Should you decide to leave a bequest to the Library in your Will, you will become a member of the Bigelow Society. Created by the Library in 1991, the Bigelow Society is an honorary organization whose purpose is to recognize the generosity of individuals, during their lifetime, who include this institution in their estate plans. The Library expresses its gratitude to members by inviting them to special Library events and by listing their names in the Annual Report under The Bigelow Society.

If you or your attorney would like to discuss a bequest with a member of the Library’s staff, please call John M. Bacon at 212.930.0568, or write to him at planned-gifts@nypl.org or at the following address: Development Office, Room 73, The New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.