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State Superintendent of Schools

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December 3, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
H-101 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Maryland Public Library Annual Report FY2013 (MSAR #1547)

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

The State Board of Education is pleased to report on the support, condition, progress and needs of Maryland's libraries. The Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report and Maryland Public Library Statistics are attached.

The **Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS)** is the State Library Agency in Maryland responsible for administering State and Federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs and excellent customer service. The division provides leadership to promote planning and innovation in the development of library programs, encourage the ongoing development of staff expertise through education and training and promote resource sharing among all types of libraries. Responsibilities include oversight of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Network and the County Library Capital Project Grants Program.

The **Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries (MACL)** provides guidance to DLDS. The Advisory Council consists of 12 members, 7 appointed by the Governor and 5 selected from the public at large. MACL is authorized to gather information on the needs of libraries and promote improvement of library services in the State. The Advisory Council represents the interests of Maryland citizens for better library services, advises all levels of government, and promotes the improvement of services in all libraries.

DLDS oversees two **Library Capital Grants Programs**:

The County Library Capital Project Grants Program assists in the funding of public library capital projects. This program mandates that \$5,000,000 will be included in the State budget beginning in FY2008 and every year thereafter. FY2013 was the sixth year that State assistance has been available to public libraries in Maryland. During this time, \$25,025,000 was authorized to assist over 44 public library locations in 19 counties across the State.

In addition, the State is required to pay all capital expenses for the State Library Resource Center and each Regional Resource Center. As of FY2013, a total of \$7,670,000 had been allocated for the renovation of the State Library Resource Center (including improvements to the building's structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC systems, communications, fire protection, life safety and accessibility issues).

Maryland's public libraries continue to be among the best in the nation, ranking near the top in most measures of library effectiveness. The 2013 library statistics show that:

- 3.3 million or **58% of Maryland residents have library cards** and are eligible to borrow from any public library in the State to meet their information and reading needs.
- Maryland **residents borrowed a total of 58 million items** — 17.21 items per registered borrower.
- **29 million Marylanders visited** the library in 2013.
- Librarians across the state **answered nearly 8.3 million questions**.
- 100% of Maryland public library systems are connected to the Internet and wireless access is available at all public library branches. More than **4,800 computers are available to the public** through the 190 branch libraries.
- More than **6.9 million people used the Internet through their public library in 2013**.
- For many residents, libraries now serve as the primary access point for information services and technology.

Satisfaction remains high at Maryland's public libraries as they transform to meet society's changing needs by deepening their engagement within their communities in many ways, addressing current social, economic, and environmental issues, often through partnerships with governments and other organizations. Moving forward from being providers of books and information, public libraries now respond to a wide range of ongoing and emerging needs.

This includes helping communities and individuals cope with the rollout of federal and State initiatives such as the Affordable Care Act that increased the demand for public computer terminals and requests for help in using the Maryland Health Exchange. A mission of Maryland's libraries is targeting readers *before* they are readers by providing welcoming, developmentally appropriate early learning environments for very young children, their parents and caregivers.


In an independent national survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, 90% of the respondents said that libraries are important to the community because they promote literacy and a love of reading. A majority view libraries as leaders in technology because they provide

tech resources and access to materials. About 76% said that libraries are important to them and their families. More than 75% of the survey's respondents want libraries to play an active role in public life. Another 77% want libraries to coordinate more closely with local schools in providing resources to children, and the same proportion want free early literacy programs for children. People look to libraries to help fix struggling schools and to help children learn to navigate new technologies and become critical thinkers.

Libraries are deeply appreciated, especially for their role and impact in the community; for instance, the number of users of library websites increased by 5% from 2012 to 2013. Libraries are seen as having a mandate to intervene in public life and most parents highly value one resource for their children: libraries.

Again, thank you for your support of public libraries in Maryland. If I can be of any further assistance please call me or Irene M. Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries, at 410-767-0435.

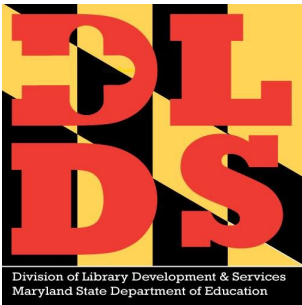
Sincerely,



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

Attachments: Fiscal Year 2013 DLDS Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2013 Maryland Public Library Statistics

c: Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries
Maryland Public Library Directors
Jack R. Smith, Chief Academic Officer
Kristy Michel, Chief Operating Officer
John L. White, Chief of Staff
Irene M. Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent of Library Development and Services



The Division of Library Development and Services

Annual Report 2013



DLDS Sponsors Innovation Expo

Makers from around the area gathered at Innovation Expo, held in collaboration with the State Library Resource Center, to demonstrate their interests and skills through various hands-on demonstrations. The public was invited to view the many maker possibilities, including 3-D printing, physical computing, crafts, or community projects that tie together through the common themes of community and a “do-it-yourself” attitude.

Creating flying structures for the wind tunnel, extracting DNA

and creating small plastic objects using the MakerBot were a few of the stations the attendees were encouraged to try.

Finding your own path to being a “Maker” is what the maker movement is about, according to Matt Barinholtz, Director of Future Makers and one of the makers at the Expo. “Libraries are the great place to host the maker community, since public libraries have resources such as books, computers and Internet access,” said Barinholtz.



EXPO attendees in the Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Hall.

Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent said, “I am pleased with the connection between the Maker movement, STEM education and the public libraries. Public Libraries are not just about books.”

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Allegheny Public Library Director, John Taube, demonstrates a maker activity to his son, Jack.



Corey Fleischer, Senior Mechanical Engineer at Lockheed, demonstrates his newest invention. Corey was a winning contestant on the Discovery Channel’s *The Big Brain Theory: Pure Genius*.

MARYLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES STAY STRONG

Allegany County Library partnered with the Judy Center to sponsor a Readiness Fair, receiving an Innovative Spirit award from the Maryland State Department of Education.

Anne Arundel County Public Library extended the hours in all branches through increased funding from the county.

Enoch Pratt Free Library's Director and CEO, Carla D. Hayden, was the winner of the 2013 Joseph W. Lippincott Award.

Baltimore County Public Library opened Owings Mills Branch, which shares space with the Community College of Baltimore and is one of the few large libraries in the country to have Sunday hours at all branches.

Calvert Library created the "500 by Five" initiative to encourage parents to read 500 books by the child's fifth birthday.

Caroline County Public Library, responding to public feedback from a series of community conversations and a customer survey, extended and reorganized its open hours.

Carroll County Public Library, through partnerships with other agencies, families and child care providers, helped raise the county's school readiness scores to 96%.

Cecil County Public Library was the first library to receive the President's Award for Customer Service from the Maryland Library Association.

Charles County Public Library opened a new library branch, Waldorf West, boasting over 31,000 square feet of library space.

Dorchester County Public Library represented the library on the Early Childhood Advisory Council and established an early literacy center.

Frederick County Public Libraries partnered with the Westview Promenade and local businesses for a first Friday of children's story time, music, games, and crafts. The Summer Reading Festival had 600

attendees and a turnout of 150 - 200 children for each Friday event.

Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County hosted performances of Tall Tales of the Wild West, an interactive program presented by New Moon Theater.

Harford County Public Library unveiled "Little Leapers," pre- and early literacy skill-building kits with STEM themes, available to the general public for checkout.

Howard County Library System was awarded 2013 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

Kent County Public Library created a three year Strategic Long Range Plan and partnered with groups that support historically underserved residents.

Montgomery County Public Libraries implemented a National Association of Counties award-winning collaboration with the Maryland Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where inmates repair damaged library materials.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System opened the South Bowie Branch, the first new library in Prince George's County in ten years.

Queen Anne's County Free Library began issuing toddler cards to children aged birth to five as well as young adult library cards.

St. Mary's County Library's Director, Kathleen Reif, received the Peggy Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference.

Somerset County Library digitized the microfilm collection of two local newspapers, the Crisfield-Somerset Times and The Daily Times, and made it available through the library website:

www.somelibRARY.org

Talbot County Free Library hosted their first Maker event, Kaleidoscope, welcoming over 1,000 attendees and including book art, robot building, make-your-own book, build a window box garden, and storytelling.

Washington County Free Library reopened the main branch after a \$26 million dollar renovation project.

Wicomico Public Library's Friends Group held their First Annual Light of Literacy Awards with Honorary Chair Mitzi Perdue, which recognized twenty-five individuals and organizations for their work in the community.

Worcester County Library, working with the Judy Center, reached over 500 children with the message of early literacy.

Eastern Shore Regional Library partnered with MS&R Ltd. to finish a region-wide Facilities Master Plan for the 8 library systems on the Eastern Shore at a cost of about \$10,000 per library system, funded through DLDS by the Library Services and Technology Act.

Southern Maryland Regional Library Association explored the need and options for a new integrated library system throughout FY13; a vendor was selected in May and contract negotiations began.

Western Maryland Regional Library continued to improve its cooperative catalog system, allowing materials to move efficiently across the region and satisfying more customers than ever before.

State Library Resource Center implemented new software for Marina in January 2013 which resulted in increased requests and improved access for statewide customers. The State Library Resource Center launched the new site, slrc.info and increased the online training offering to Maryland libraries and the Library Associate Training Institute.

Capital Grants Support the Renovations and Expansion of Washington County Free Library and Western Maryland Regional Library

After nearly three years in construction, the Alice Virginia and David W. Fletcher Branch of the Washington County Free Library, located at 100 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown, opened its doors Saturday, October 5 following a 1:00 PM ribbon cutting. Over 5,000 area residents and library users made their way into the library. Youngsters flocked to the brand new children's department to check out the new tod-

dlers room and experiment with the interactive games. Adults and kids alike climbed the circular staircase in the center of the library to enjoy the spectacular view through the skylight and to make their way to the library's third floor where adult reference, the computer center, the study rooms and the community room are located.



Commissioners and friends cut the ribbon.



Washington County Free Library's new facade in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Geographic distribution of capital grant funds in the state is as follows:

Eastern Shore	12
Western Maryland	5
Southern Maryland	3
Metro Baltimore	42
Baltimore City	4

Mary Baykan, Director: "The Washington County Free Library could not have been built without the support of the County Library Capital Project Grant Program. This program will continue to build and renovate libraries all over the state."

Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



John Shields, Walters Art Doyenne, shares art with Derrick Day.

Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides service and access to technology for about 7,000 visually and physically impaired residents. Sensory story times and touch tours of Walters Art Museum are just two special programs offered by LBPH. The Technology Users Group meets to discuss software, hardware and technology for persons with disabilities.

FY 2013 Highlights

- Registered Borrowers 7,196
- Total Items Borrowed 185,925
- Telephone Inquiries 16,124
- Total Collection 316,717
- Total Staff 14

Maryland State Board of Education

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Susan Paznekas, Public Library Consultant

Liz Sundermann, Youth Services Coordinator

Collaborative, Innovative, Transformative
The DLDS Vision

MARYLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS (FY 2013)

- **Library funding per capita:** \$44.67
- **Reference transactions:** 8,268,259
- **Program attendance:** 1,684,815
- **Staff:** 3,362
- **Internet computers for public use:** 4,824
- **Summer Reading registrations:** 183,356
- **Library collections:** 5,380,165
- **Internet users per year:** 6,909,651
- **Ebook collection:** 125,592
- **Library visits:** 28,491,536
- **Registered borrowers:** 3,369,292
- **Total items borrowed:** 57,538,130

