

THE HAYNER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

LONG-RANGE PLAN 2010–2015

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hayner Public Library District is a dynamic community resource dedicated to serving the residents of Alton, Godfrey, and Foster Township by providing an inviting environment consisting of informational, cultural, educational, and recreational resources supporting lifelong learning.

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1852 as the Alton Library Association, through its resurgence under the protection of “the ladies” who would grow into the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association, to the completion of its first building by John E. Hayner in 1890, when it became the only free library in the country, what eventually became The Hayner Public Library District has striven to serve the needs of its patrons in increasingly innovative ways.

In the present economic crisis, libraries are faced with increased demands for services coupled with decreasing funding. To meet these challenges, Hayner has responded by expanding its mall branch library by two-thirds, beginning renovation of its two other facilities, adding programs and services, and extending outreach, while concurrently instituting a variety of cost-saving measures.

The expansion of electronic resources through installation of numerous additional computers and laptops, as well as wireless connection to the Internet; and the extension of reference assistance to include one-on-one appointments with reference librarians and online subscription databases are all aimed at giving assistance to students with homework and to job-seekers with resumes and accessing online job opportunities.

Partnering with other organizations on such possible projects as adult literacy and the development of community computer centers will be a cost-effective means of broadening our services to include special needs groups in the district. Aggressive pursuit of grants and philanthropic gifts is ongoing to help implement such programs.

Our excellent and growing collection of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and newspapers is available in the new Alton Square facility and the soon-to-be-renovated Downtown Library. Nationwide collection loan service is another area of augmentation, extending our reach to patrons all over the country.

Improving existing programs for children and teens, such as story times for various ages, craft classes, and family reading nights; and adding such new ones as movie nights, gaming events, a teen book club, and a teen advisory council help to attract these groups. They particularly make our programs more inclusive of the teenage population that has been somewhat underserved in the past.

The expansion of our Local History/Genealogy Department, to come to fruition in 2010 in the newly refurbished Hayner Building, will provide patrons with an even more extensive collection of genealogical and historical materials, with the addition of art and artifacts pertaining to local history.

Self-checkout and added security systems, including the installation of digital surveillance cameras and RFID collection security, and the energy-efficient lighting systems in the new facility are measures we have instituted in our continuing quest for efficiency and cost savings. These measures also will be included in the renovated buildings.

Our concentration on staff training and development, with computer classes, workshop and conference attendance, and a scholarship for educational advancement, gives staff members opportunities to sustain and develop excellence in job performance.

Implementation

Implementation of this Long-range Plan will begin immediately and continue for a five-year period. At the same time, we will continue to pursue and build upon Goals and Objectives from previous long-range plans.

Strategies

Both the Board of Trustees and the Staff will discuss strategies for implementing these goals on a regular basis.

Measurement and Documentation of Results

Methods for measuring results will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and amended as may be necessary to achieve the best possible statistics.

Results of strategies will be documented on an ongoing basis.

A final assessment of results will be made at the end of the five-year period.

2010-2015 Long-Range Plan

In our ongoing search for methods of serving the patrons of our district in the most useful and culturally enhancing ways, this four-segment plan of action is adopted for implementation over a five-year period.

GOALS

Goal 1: Literacy — The primary goal of The Hayner Public Library District is to improve the overall literacy rate within the communities our district serves, thus increasing library service usage and further establishing the library as a community anchor.

Staff research indicates the Project Read Adult Education program offered by Lewis & Clark Community College is a highly successful learning program, proven to improve adult literacy rates. A partnership with Lewis & Clark Community College/Project Read will most efficiently implement an effective literacy program without reinventing the wheel. The Hayner Public Library District and Lewis & Clark Community College/Project Read share common geographic areas. Merging objectives and sharing skills and resources will allow both entities to achieve joint goals and objectives to combat literacy issues within our communities more quickly and with greater success.

- Preliminary meetings have pinpointed questions on the part of Hayner staff members as to what programs Lewis & Clark Community College's Adult Education Department provides; how much training is involved in tutoring; what commitment is expected; what segments of the community are involved as students; and what methods of advertising of the program are in place. In turn, Lewis & Clark Community College staff members were interested in appropriate materials we currently have; an overview of our services; what level of interest staff might have in tutoring; and what programs we already offer that might be useful in their efforts.
- Tours will be given of the two entities' facilities. Lewis & Clark Community College representatives will give an overview of Project Read at a Hayner Staff Development Day.
- A needs assessment will be done in an attempt to better understand the population.
 - Focus will be by age group
 - Community forums will be held, utilizing topics of current interest as a teaching mechanism
 - Types of outreach will be explored
 - Collection development to include high interest/low vocabulary materials
 - Partnering (e.g., Project Read)
 - Bookmobile
 - Remote satellite services

- English as a Second Language needs and language development will be addressed.
- Training will proceed for our staff members who wish to become tutors
 - Sensitivity training and 12-hour tutoring training are necessary, done in 3-hour increments on 3 consecutive days or evenings, with 3 hours on a fourth day spent observing tutoring. These sessions will be conducted at either the Lewis & Clark Community College campus or at Hayner's Alton Square Library.
 - It is possible to send volunteers to the 6-day STAR training.
 - Two C.E. credits are awarded to each person taking the training.
- Collection of resources useful to the program will continue. Some helpful websites:
 - America Learns, an online tutoring support system that allows tutors to enter every session into their database, also presents strategies for teaching.
 - www.learningexpress.com has practice tests available.
 - GEDI is an online practice site for GED (not a teaching site).
 - www.StarToolsKit.com
 - www.thinkfinity.org is an online learning resource site that complements the Star program and can be used by learners.

Our computers will be vital tools for the use of these resources by students.

- We will continue to explore avenues where we can strengthen our partnership with Lewis & Clark Community College. Possibilities are:
 - Special sections discreetly labeled for patrons in the program
 - Creation of an identification button for a visual cue to nonreaders to know that a person is a Project Read volunteer, or has had some sensitivity training in that area and can help locate materials
 - Use of graphic novels for tutoring
 - Special family reading programs for literacy students
 - Showcasing the Project Read/GED program two Saturdays in a row, using the library as our venue

Goal 2: *Historic Preservation* — Establish and house a collection of historic artifacts

- Hayner Library would seek to serve in the capacity of a catalyst to bring interested parties together to determine the best way to achieve this goal. Our expertise in cataloging would be of value to such a partnership, as would the limited areas within our facilities that could be used for exhibits.

An appropriate facility to permanently house the exhibits would have to be in a location with adequate parking; be of a size to house our current materials as well as capable of future expansion; be located in an area easily accessible to the community; and have a physical structure that would promote preservation of artifacts (i.e., not prone to mold infestation, etc.). In seeking such a facility, the

library could work with partners by holding meetings, making phone calls to pertinent individuals, assisting in grant writing, and so forth.

As part of our historic preservation efforts, Hayner will investigate and potentially begin the task of digitizing materials, allowing electronic access to fragile and rare material items already part of our collections.

Goal 3: *Outreach* — Create Outreach Programs that will be of benefit to library patrons and the community at large

- We are researching the cost of, and grant possibilities for, re-establishing a Bookmobile service, implementing a Cybermobile, or both. Such a service would serve our general population as well as strengthen our literacy efforts in reaching this special needs group.
- We are partnering with several community organizations and other area libraries in developing grant proposals for the establishment of public computer centers that will extend the services of The Hayner Public Library District.
- We will continue to pursue local grant possibilities through community agencies such as Argosy, TelSar, and Conoco-Phillips for things such as museum cataloging software.
- We propose to develop a number of book clubs targeting varied groups, having particular themes, such as mystery and biographies; and meeting at various locations throughout the city, including businesses and schools.
- Emphasis will be put upon meeting the special needs of both adults and children within the library district.
- We will develop the methodology to understand and evaluate the needs of non-library users. Surveys of the general population will be made at non-library locations such as grocery stores, doctors' offices waiting rooms, restaurants, health clubs, Alton Square Mall, etc.

Goal 4: *New Building* — Purchase or erect our own building within 10 years

- We will mount a capital campaign to secure funding for this venture.
- Fund-raisers will be organized to help defray costs.
- Donations will be sought from known sources of philanthropy as well as from the community.
- A planning committee will be created consisting of representatives of
 - Board of Trustees
 - Staff
 - Local business leaders
 - Patrons
 - Jennie D. Hayner Library Association