



**2003 Progress Report
Green Lake County
Long Range Plan of Library Service
2002 – 2006**

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Green Lake County Long Range Plan of Library Service 2002 – 2006

In 2001, in order to plan improved services to the residents of Green Lake County, the directors of the five public libraries in the County set service priorities and goals for the years 2002-2006. In spite of difficult economic times the libraries have made significant progress toward reaching these goals.

Priority I: All libraries in Green Lake County recognize the value of establishing reading skills in youth as a basis for lifelong learning and will continue to consider services to children and families to be of primary importance.

Activities: The five Green Lake County libraries have continued to provide service to children & families. All libraries offer programs for children, including active summer reading programs. Berlin and Princeton libraries have been actively cooperating with other community organizations to improve early literacy. Princeton library has an innovative children's story hour program involving residents at Martha's, a community based residential facility. The Berlin library has partnered with the Berlin Hospital to provide books and information on literacy to all new parents.

Priority II: The libraries in Green Lake County will become the center of community life for all citizens of Green Lake County.

Activities: In many smaller communities the library is the one public space open to all residents. All county libraries are active in displaying and distributing information for businesses and organizations in their communities. Four of the libraries have meeting rooms available for community groups. The Caestecker, Berlin, and Markesan libraries recently reviewed their hours of operation and made changes in response to community comments.

Priority III: GLC Libraries will play a lead role in providing access to information technology to all citizens of the county, and they will take a lead role in promoting information literacy in the county.

Activities: All libraries have increased the number of computers available for the public with Internet access and word processing software. Three of the county libraries benefited from the generosity of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and received new computers in early 2003. Several of the libraries offer training, either one-on-one or community classes, to help residents improve their computer skills. Caestecker Library in Green Lake is one of the first libraries in the state to install a wireless network. Through their libraries, county residents have access to online databases funded by Winnefox Library System and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Priority IV: Green Lake County libraries will work closely with local schools and families that home school their children as partners in the educational process.

Activities: Public libraries are important partners in education and Green Lake County libraries continue to work as closely as possible with area schools. Research has shown that students who continue to read over the summer perform better in school and that library's summer reading programs encourage summertime reading. All five libraries work with schools in their communities, visiting the schools to present programs and encouraging class visits. Princeton library provides *Future Focus* students opportunities to volunteer at the library, thereby meeting their community service requirements. The libraries help showcase student artwork and other projects by providing display space to teachers and students. Markesan provides space and materials for students needing special tutoring.

Priority V: County libraries recognize the need to serve all citizens of the county, including those with disabilities and other special needs.

Activities: With the opening of the new Mill Pond Library in Kingston, all county libraries are now accessible to persons with disabilities. In 2002 the Winnefox Library System administered a federal LSTA program grant which provided hardware and software to make computer use easier for persons with disabilities. Three of the libraries deliver library materials to residents who are homebound or living in care facilities.

Priority VI: County libraries will be proactive in meeting changing needs within the county.

Activities: As communities change, libraries are changing to meet the needs of their residents. Winnefox Library System administered a federal LSTA grant to purchase materials in Spanish for children and young adults. Libraries continue to provide access to materials in different formats; examples are recorded books and online "e-books". The Berlin Library works closely with the Literacy Council to assist in their efforts to improve literacy.

Priority VII: Libraries within Green Lake County will facilitate lifelong learning for all residents of the county.

Activities: Recent research has shown the importance of lifelong learning in preserving physical and mental health. For rural residents past school age, the public library is the only free resource for improving job skills and learning new things. All five libraries take adult learning needs into consideration when selecting materials and proctor tests for distance education students.

Plans for 2003:

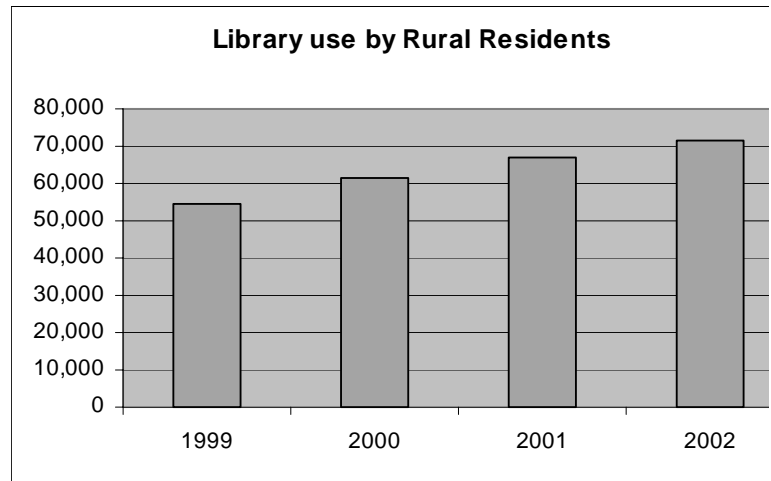
Green Lake County libraries continue to implement service improvements for area residents. Highlights for 2003 include:

- ♦ The opening of Kingston's new Mill Pond Library in January.
- ♦ Through the Winnefox Library System, residents of Green Lake County have access to the AskWisconsin Librarians project, a program to supplement local library reference service. Residents can send email or have real-time chat sessions with reference librarians when their local library is closed.
- ♦ A "web log" (BLOG) maintained by Tasha Saecker, director of the Caestecker Library, to spotlight new internet resources
- ♦ A "county read" program, to encourage residents across the county to read and discuss the same book, *Because of Winn-Dixie* in the fall.
- ♦ In May, Mill Pond Library became the final Green Lake County library to be fully automated, checking items in and out and having all materials listed in our shared online catalog. Now, all county residents have full access to the holdings of 25 Winnefox member libraries.
- ♦ The Princeton Public Library has begun a series of adult programs focusing on how-to or high interest topics. Pruning and orchard maintenance, basket making, feng shui, and stained glass have been featured subjects.

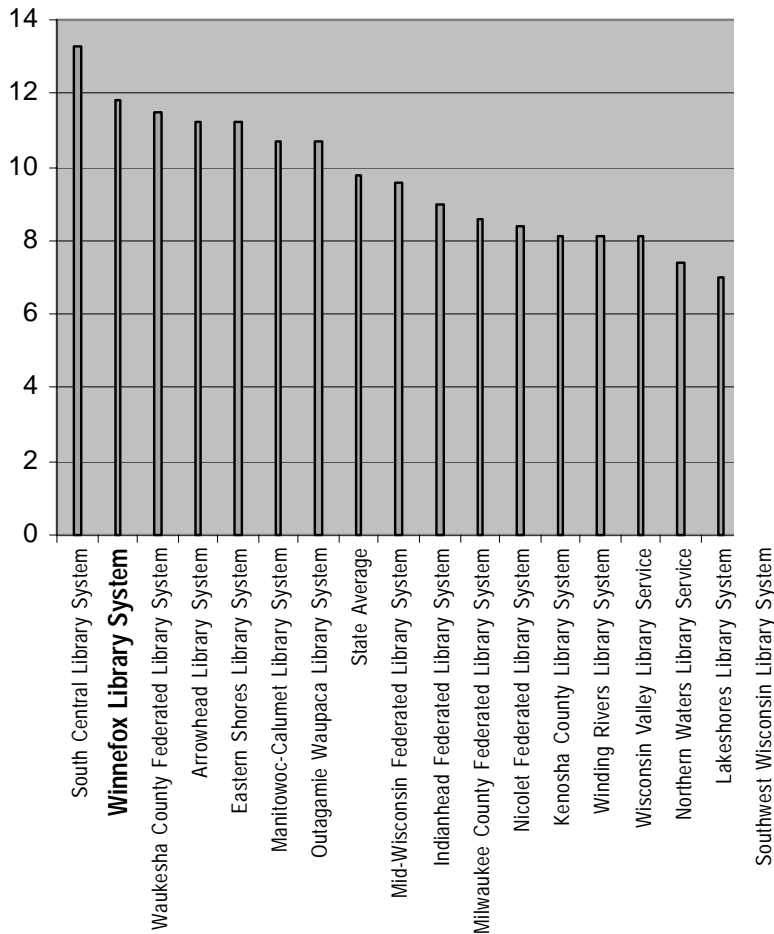
Library use by Rural Residents

As use of libraries in Green Lake County has increased we see a corresponding rise in use by rural residents. Between 1999 and 2002 use of county libraries increased by 26% while use by rural residents increased by 31%. In Winnefox as a whole, use by rural residents increased by 14% over the same period.

These increases reflect library use generally. In Winnefox Library System and around Wisconsin libraries continue to show record increases in use.



Library system Circulation per Capita -- 2002



Libraries in Winnefox Library System have the 2nd highest circulation per capita of all 17 public library systems in Wisconsin!

Population: 316,363
 Circulation: 3,959,955
 Circulation per capita: 11.8

There were 475,860 more items checked out in 2002 than in 2001—a 13.7% increase.