

Library Levy 2018 Annual Report

March 20, 2019

Seattle City Council

Civic Development, Public Assets,
and Native Communities Committee



- Library hours cut
- Week-long staff furloughs
- Book budget cut
- Outdated computers
- Building maintenance cuts


The Seattle Public Library

LIBRARY CLOSED

Aug. 27–Sept. 3

Due to budget cuts

<p><i>Limited access to the catalog and online resources will be available. Go to www.spl.org</i></p>	<p>The book drop at this branch closes at 5 p.m. Aug. 25 and reopens at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 4</p>
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- Do not leave Library books and materials outside the building during the closure. You will be responsible for theft, loss or damage to Library materials.
- No items will be due and no fines charged or accrued during the closed week.
- If you have book donations, please call the Friends Book Sale Office at 206-523-4053 or e-mail book.sale@spl.org.

Libraries will resume regular hours on Tuesday, Sept. 4

Branch Sunday Closed

Week-long closure each year 2008-2012



- August 2012
- 64% approval
- \$122.6 million seven-year levy





4 Levy Promises:

- Keep libraries open when patrons need them
- Provide a robust collection of books and materials
- Improve computer and online services
- Maintain buildings for the next generation

The levy also includes support for an additional \$5M of cuts the Library would otherwise have had to take during the economic downturn





Changes in Library use since 2012

- More community outreach
- Increased circulation of digital materials
- Increased reliance on free Wi-Fi
- More programs
- More challenging environment



Library by the Numbers

	Pre-levy 2012	2018	% Change
Total Open Hours In Buildings	61,122	67,037	↑ 10%
Total # of Active Patrons in prior 12 months	230,924	263,842	↑ 14%
New Library Card Sign Ups in prior 12 months	53,406	65,608	↑ 23%
Total # of Programs	7,023	10,060	↑ 43%
Total # of Program Attendees	226,380	304,290	↑ 34%
Total Circulation	11,435,302	11,931,657	↑ 4%
Total Digital Circulation	1,007,560	3,865,364	↑ 284%
Total Physical Material Circulation	10,427,742	8,066,293	↓ -23%
Total In-Person Visits	6,470,116	5,201,945	↓ -20%
Total Online Visits (spl.org + bibliocommons only)	12,466,267	11,996,231	↓ -4%
Total # of Public Internet Sessions*	1,329,421	830,601	↓ -38%

*Does not include in-building Wi-Fi sessions or HotSpot device lending



Hours = Access

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Retained 6,000+ new open hours systemwide
 - Open 52 weeks a year (one week added 2013)
 - All locations open Sunday (15 branches added 2013)
 - Friday hours at Columbia and Northgate branches (added 2013) and High Point, International District/Chinatown, South Park and University branches (added 2016)
- Restored borrowing privileges to 1,100 teens through Fresh Start, a fine forgiveness program, supported by funds from The Seattle Public Library Foundation

2018 Levy spending - \$4.1 million*

* Based on preliminary year end financials



Access when patrons need it

“I just experienced a 10 month job search and am starting a new job next week. During this time, I visited the Library many times per week. It provided me more than just career books. It was a place I could go and get out of the house and it was free... Knowing the Library was open 7 days a week was such a comfort. This job search was stressful and depressing. The Library offered me hope.”





Collections = Quality

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Bought 19,000+ copies of books for Peak Picks (no holds, no wait) collection
- Patrons checked out Peak Picks books nearly 200,000 times
- Added 63,000+ new titles in the physical and digital collections
- Bought 30,000+ more copies of popular materials to shorten wait times
- Used a “floating collection” model for DVDs, CDs and most books to reduce transit time and improve collection variety at branches
- Purchased overhead scanner to digitize oversize and bound materials from the Seattle Collection

2018 Levy spending - \$3.3 million*

* Based on preliminary year end financials



More titles in all formats

“I mostly use the Library's selection of digital audio books, e-books, and comic books on Hoopla, so I really appreciate that the Library is staying up to date with the technology I use to consume media. The holdings are also really current and thorough.”





Peak Picks in every branch

I make extensive use of the eBooks collection and Peak Picks (one of my favorite programs and the **#1 reason why I go to the physical branch**).

Peak Picks are my favorite thing about the Library. Love it!

Love Peak Picks. **Read several books would never have been on my radar.** Selection for these is varied and high quality. Keep it going please.

I usually pick up a Peak Picks book when I'm in the library. It is **so much easier than waiting** for a book on hold - which can be months. I have been able to read the latest books with no wait time.

*An extra shout-out for Peak Picks - love being able to **walk in and pick up a new popular book without a wait.***



Technology = Opportunity

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed new website optimized for accessibility and mobile use
- Offered 400+ technology classes to teach patrons how to use email, the internet, software and other digital products
- Replaced 38 levy-funded public computers and added 8 laptops
- Added widescreen TVs to meeting rooms at 13 branches to improve audiovisual capability

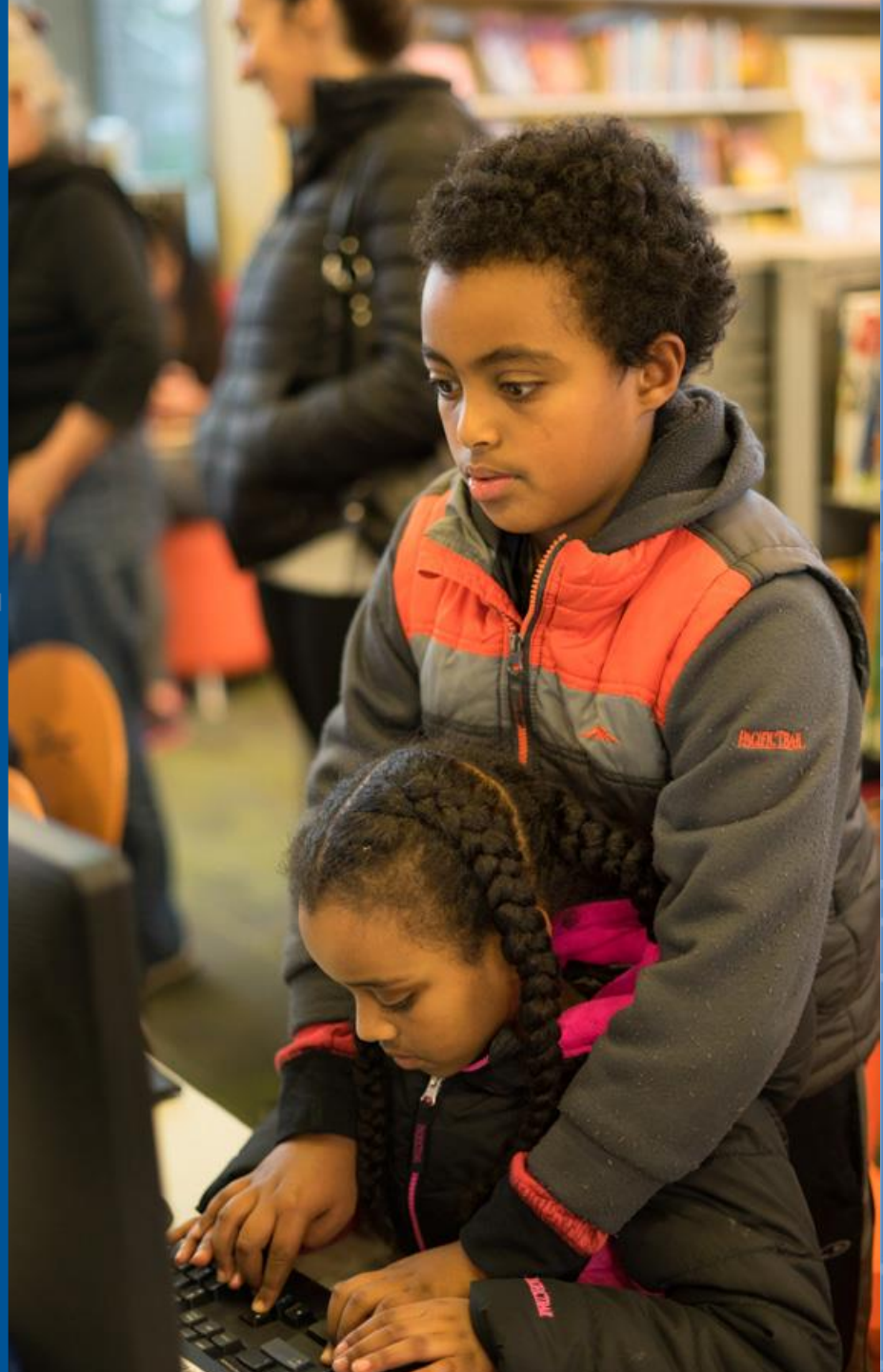
2018 Levy spending - \$2.0 million*

* Based on preliminary year end financials



Upgraded technology

“I love the library! When I first moved to Seattle I used the media stations a lot for school and work. While I have less need for those stations now, I recognize the immense value of the computer access to the community.”





Website redesign

“Just wanted to say that the spl.org website update that works on mobile phones is great! I use the Library more now that it is easier to navigate the book collection and place holds.”





Maintenance = Sustainability

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed renovation of heavily used Lake City branch
- Completed 17,000+ work orders to keep some of the City's most heavily used buildings clean, efficient and in good working order
- Completed chimney and roof repairs at Queen Anne Branch
- Completed window repairs at Fremont and University branches
- Performed deep carpet cleaning, high dusting, window washing and upholstery cleaning at all locations

2018 Levy spending - \$4.9 million



Preserving our assets

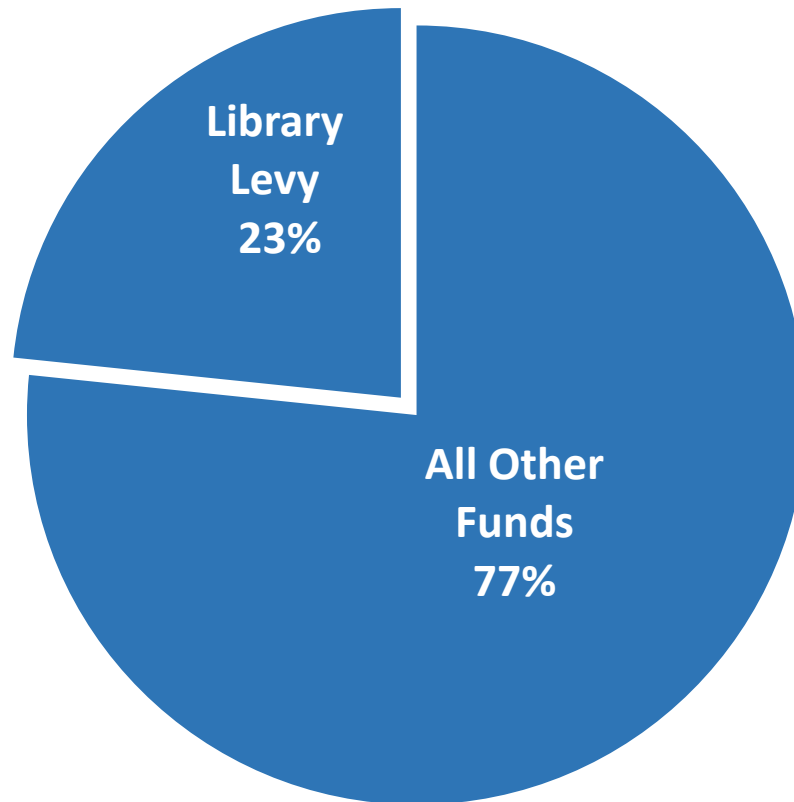
“SPL is a community treasure. There's no space as essential for gathering and supporting haves & have-nots, young & old, the 'learned' & the learning. It is a place where one can just be. It's comfortable, safe, temperature controlled. It doesn't require a purchase or eligibility or affiliation in order to stay. It is the best 'third place.’”





2018 Library Spending

\$83.2 million*

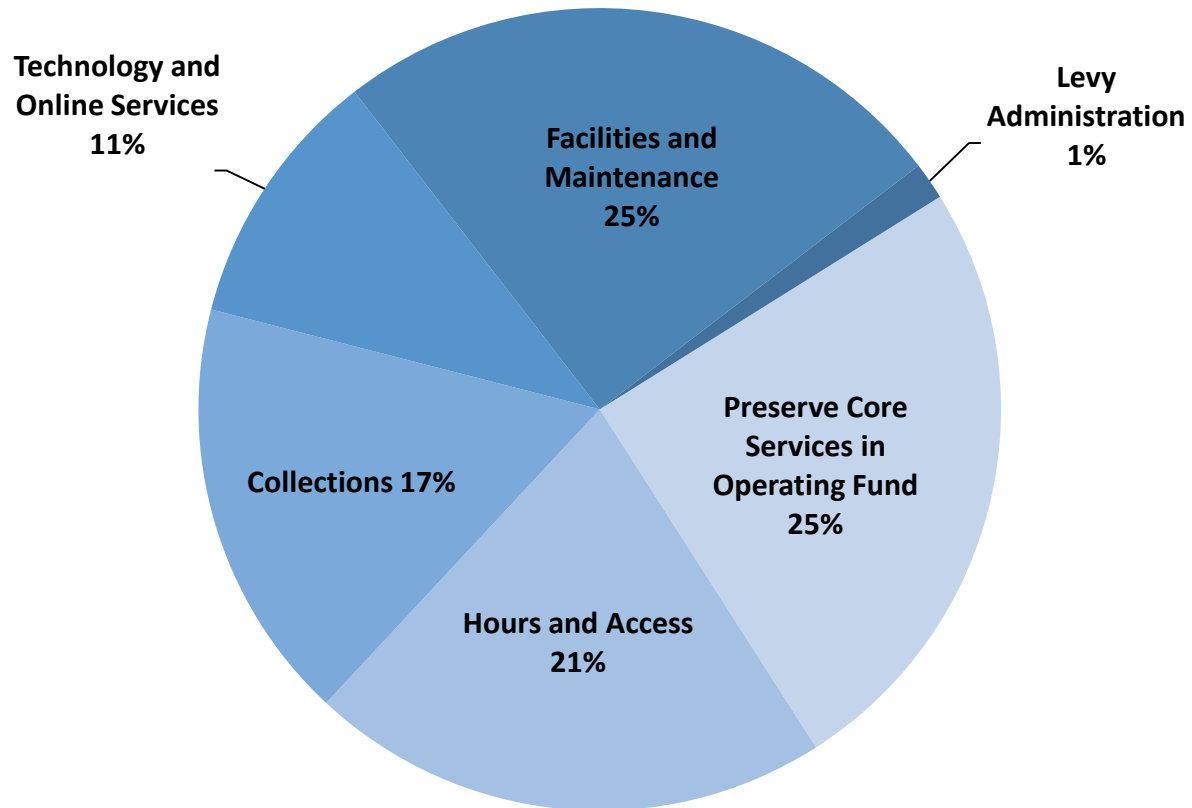


* Based on preliminary year end financials



2018 Levy Spending

\$19.4 million*



* Based on preliminary year end financials



Public Engagement

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Library Programs and Services Assessment Survey (April 2018)

- Public survey in 8 languages (online and in-branch) – 25,000+ responses
- Statistically significant sample (online and by telephone) – 712 responses
- Over 11,000 open-ended comments

New Round of Community Conversations –
The Future of The Seattle Public Library

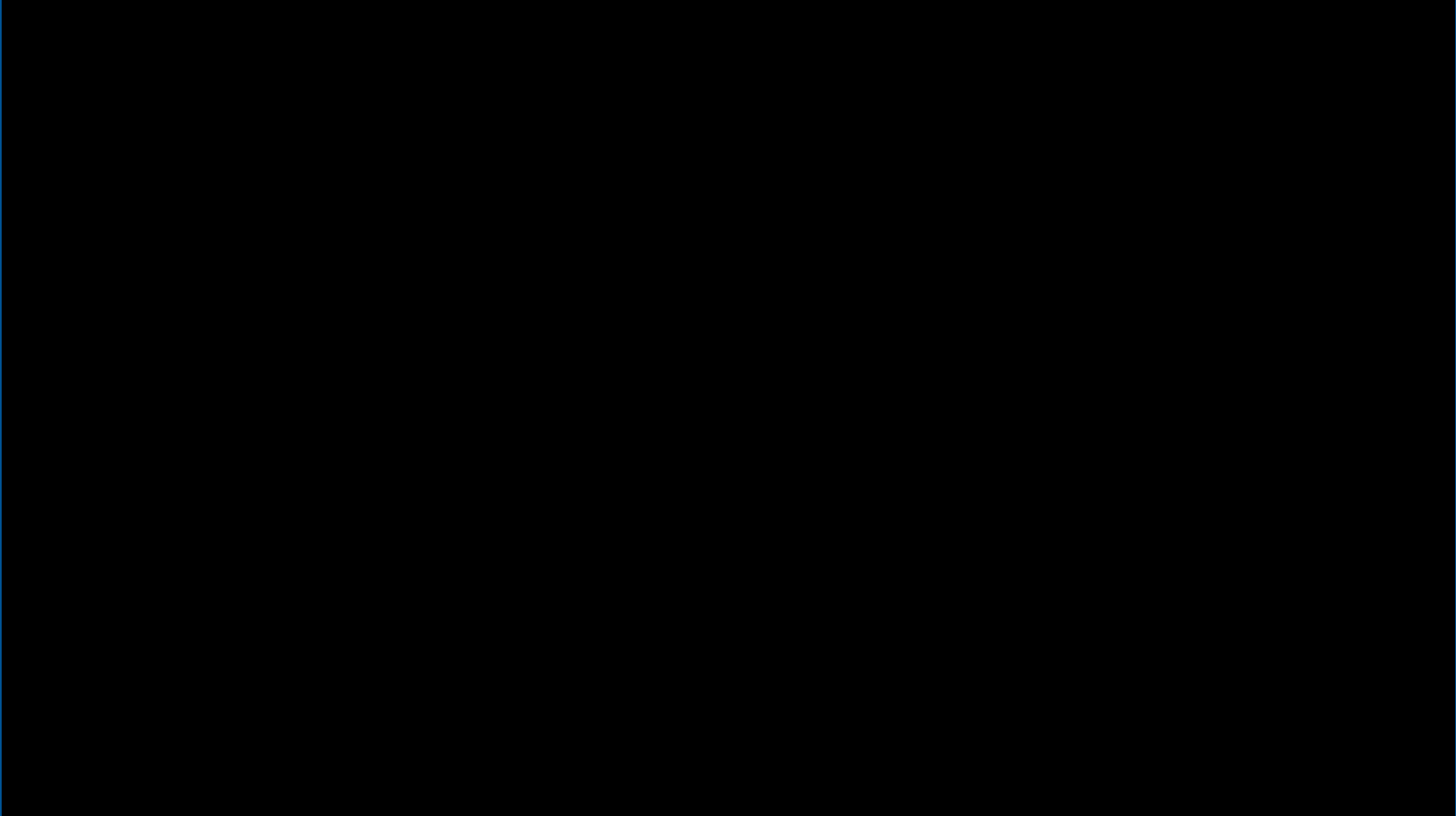
- Sept. 13, 2018 at the Columbia Branch
- Oct. 3, 2018 at the Southwest Branch
- Nov. 17, 2018 at the Northeast Branch



“There is nothing more important than listening to our patrons and delivering on our promises.”

**-Marcellus Turner,
chief librarian**







Library Levy Oversight

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www.spl.org/levy

