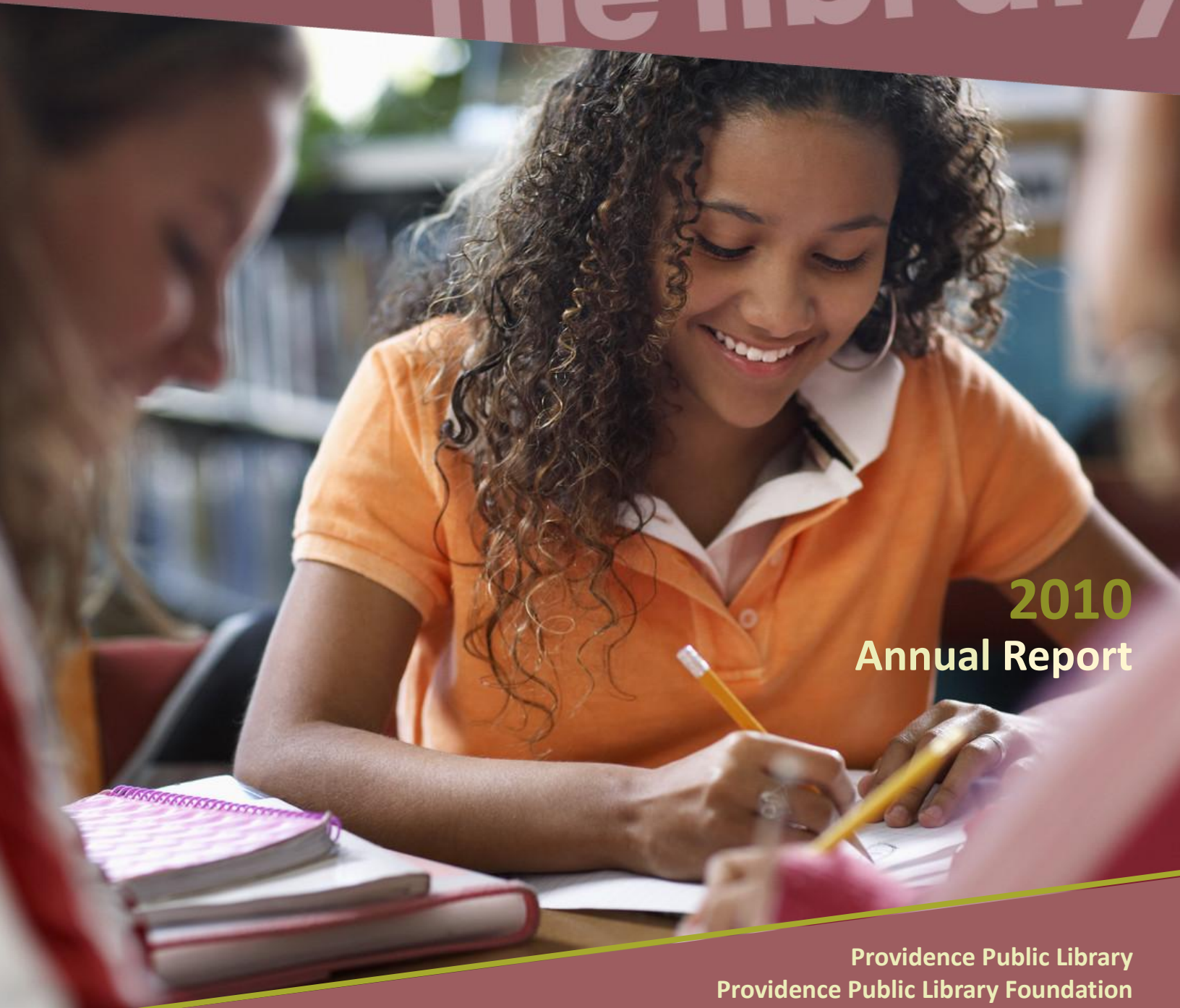


providence public library

the library



**2010**  
**Annual Report**

Providence Public Library  
Providence Public Library Foundation

*Explore, discover, connect...at the Library*

Providence Public Library inspires lifelong education among all Rhode Islanders, fostering personal fulfillment and enhanced quality of life for an informed, enlightened and engaged citizenry.

# Mission

*Explore, discover, connect...*

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Providence Public Library  
Foundation  
150 Empire Street  
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[www.provlib.org](http://www.provlib.org)

## From Our Chair and Director

### *Serving Rhode Islanders' lifelong education needs today...and in the future*

This year, the Library's 135<sup>th</sup>, marked the beginning of a new and exciting renaissance period for Providence Public Library, one dedicated to our role as a statewide anchor institution providing lifelong education and advancement opportunities for all Rhode Islanders – regardless of age, background or means.

Like public libraries everywhere during these challenging times, we have experienced record usage again this year. We have seen a 25 percent increase in circulation of all kinds of material and research assistance, as well as greater participation in computer and technology classes and other learning programs. We have been particularly busy providing adult literacy services, workplace skills building and job search help.

As Rhode Island's flagship personal learning institution, we are uniquely positioned to provide valuable service directly, or in partnership with other agencies' efforts, in three core areas: Early Childhood Learning, Economic Advancement and Lifelong Education. Our work in all of these areas involves leveraging the Library's unique and large collections – including our signature children's collection of more than 60,000 items, as well as our highly trained and specialized staff.

We've taken initial steps to develop the Library's **Early Literacy Learning Center** and **Ready to Read Exploratorium**. When the Center is fully established over the next year, more educators and caregivers, children and their parents than ever before will be able to access and use our vast books, materials and resources, including our premiere professional development collection.

The Library has always been a vital center supporting individuals' and the state's economic development – providing the information and skills necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Over this year, we have worked to broaden our services and their usage, both through the addition of new databases and resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and by enhancing our partnerships with state agencies and other service providers.

Similarly, the Library has continually been a central provider of lifelong education programs, classes, and workshops for all



William S. Simmons  
*Chair*



Dale Thompson  
*Director*

ages, establishing and maintaining critical collaborations in order to offer many and diverse experiences to learners statewide. This year, along with our continuing roles as the **Rhode Island Statewide Reference Resource Center** and the **Rhode Island Center for the Book at Providence Public Library**, we have pursued additional relationships with individuals and organizations in order to plan and offer new and enhanced learning opportunities.

Today, and into the future, as our work continues to be vital, Providence Public Library remains dedicated to its singular mission as an essential cornerstone for all Rhode Islanders pursuing personal education and advancement.

Whether in person or online, we welcome all to the Library to *explore, discover and connect...for a lifetime of education.*

*...for a lifetime of education.*

### **Notable achievements in digitization through collaborations in our Special Collections. . .**

We are happy to report that we were able to commission the digitization of more than 70 reels of microfilm, holding 99 percent of our collection of whaling logbooks and journals (some 750 volumes). Volunteer and local photographer Hannah Miller entered the voyage data for each logbook in order to create a database. She also digitized the logbooks acquired after the microfilm set was made, so 100 percent of the collection has been digitized. We will soon be placing all of these digitized records, representing 1,100 or more whaling voyages from the 1760s to the 1920s, in a searchable, online format.

Volunteers from the Paul S. Krot Darkroom (at AS220) finished a project of cleaning, archival housing, labeling and digitizing our glass negative collection (1,200 images of Rhode Island and New England subjects), and is working to put up a Web site album from which original prints may be ordered.

Robin Alario, a URI graduate student in library science, processed and created a finding aid to our collection of more than 400 Civil War letters written by Rhode Island soldiers and their families. Robin's salary was paid by PPL with a matching grant from the Rhode Island Civil War Roundtable. The finding aid will soon be available on our Web site.

Volunteers Robin Davis (Brown University 2010), Katherine Cummings (AS220 Community Print shop), and Janaya Kizzie (formerly of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences archives) have finished scanning more than 650 historic portraits of printers, publishers and booksellers in the collection. Robin has created a database of these figures, which will include basic information about the life, work, and influence of each. This is an ongoing project for which Robin won a fellowship for data curation in the humanities; this will fund her first year of graduate study in library school at the University of Illinois. Janaya continues to volunteer and regularly contributes to our popular blog "Notes for Bibliophiles."

## '10 Highlights

The Library celebrated its first-ever Open House in October, hosting hundreds of visitors.

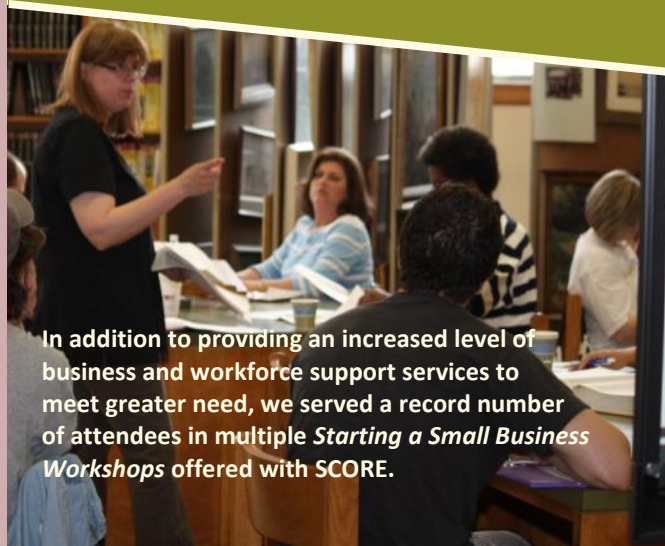
Our Center for Lifelong Learning launched several popular continuing education programs, including a year-long schedule of book and author talks and a multi-faceted *Mindfulness* series featuring varied lectures, demonstrations and even yoga classes.

With the RI Center for the Book at PPL, we sponsored the 8th annual *Reading Across Rhode Island*, our one-state, one-book project, with *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* and author Annie Barrows. Thousands of readers statewide enjoyed the book and 800 attended the May Breakfast to hear from the author. We also helped present the first *Youth Reading Across Rhode Island* project in June.

The Children's Room was very busy, providing more than 7,000 items and 300 Learning and Reading Kits (LARKs) to Rhode Island teachers, classrooms and early childhood caregivers. We also launched a new Summer Reading program — *FamilyREAD* — designed to help families to read together.

The Library worked with the RI Office of Library and Information Services to add several free online resources to **AskRI** — the online portal of the Statewide Reference Resource Center at PPL, including *Reference USA Business database*, *LearningExpress*, and *Mango Languages*.

The RI Family Literacy Initiative, a program of the Providence Public Library, served 240 adult and child immigrants with free English as Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation, job awareness and specialized reading classes, meeting or exceeding RI Department of Education performance targets for a third year.



**In addition to providing an increased level of business and workforce support services to meet greater need, we served a record number of attendees in multiple *Starting a Small Business Workshops* offered with SCORE.**

## Fiscal Year 2010

### Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations

July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010 (unaudited)

#### REVENUE

##### Public Funds

State of RI – Reference Resource Center	1,134,003
State of RI – Grant in Aid	498,229

##### Private Funds

Contribution from Endowment	2,132,835
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	515,542
Fees, Fines & Other	108,077
Donations (Unrestricted)	75,000

**Subtotal Income** **\$ 4,463,686**

#### EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 1,921,897
Benefits	950,205
Books, Databases & Materials	842,640
Library Supplies	139,986
Facility Maintenance	128,043
General & Administrative	367,738
Utilities	146,373
Security Services	3,972
<b>Subtotal Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,500,854</b>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (37,168)

*Note: Library Revenue Program Grants includes \$128,655 and Other includes \$56,700 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2010.*



## 2009-2010

### Library Statistics & Usage

Hours open (yearly)	<b>1,827</b>
Collection size	<b>1,431,024</b>

**208,101** people visited our library.

Patrons borrowed **203,124\*\*** items.

Rhode Islanders from outside of Providence borrowed **59,132** items.

New Library cards were issued to **2,081** adults and children.

There are **69,273** registered borrowers.

Reference staff answered **47,233** questions from the public, via online, phone and in person.

We purchased **4,572** new items for our collections.

*\*\* Includes more than 7,000 classroom-use items. Additionally, teachers and early childhood caregivers borrowed 300 Learning and Reading Kits (LARKs) for use with school children statewide.*

#### Electronic Information Services

People used our public computer workstations **39,153** times.

People visited our Web site **368,389** times and viewed **638,994** pages.

**985** learners attended **289** free computer classes.

PPL's varied blogs were visited more than **13,000** times.

#### Library Programs

Early Childhood	124	attendance	1,357
School Age	4	attendance	77
Young Adult	14	attendance	465
Adult	719	attendance	6,456
Family	34	attendance	729
Family Literacy	56	attendance	840

The Providence Public Library Foundation seeks to ensure continued excellence in library services for the Providence Public Library community by providing private funding to enhance programs and services.

# Mission

## From Our Chair

### *Fostering and Ensuring Lifelong Learning Statewide*

The Providence Public Library is a place of lifelong learning for all Rhode Islanders. Our youngest patrons attend early literacy and family learning programs with their parents and caregivers. Adults seek new opportunities, from first-time computer and Internet use, to literacy and a wide range of other learning programs, to help with job search and small business creation. In addition to these services, the Library's vast and unique collections and resources are utilized daily by libraries and library users, educators and students statewide.

Public libraries bring people together to learn, regardless of age, race, economics or citizenship. Over the past year, Providence Public Library, with support from the private sector through the Providence Public Library Foundation, has challenged itself to rethink how to create and foster new learning opportunities for all.

By re-visioning a 21st century library serving the entire state of learners, the Providence Public Library has embraced existing and new collaborations with Rhode Island's state, cultural and educational institutions, and leveraged its resources in these difficult economic times, continuing to transform lives not only as a rich repository of information and knowledge, but as a vital place for learning.

While our Library continues to establish itself as Rhode Island's Center for Lifelong Learning, the Providence Public Library Foundation stays committed to its equally important mission of ensuring the private support necessary for enduring success.

Howard E. Walker  
*PPL Foundation Chair*



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\* *Resigned*

## PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues — FY 2010 (unaudited)

Grants & Donations (Restricted)	\$	337,617
Annual Appeal (Unrestricted)		230,215
Endowment Funds & Bequests		30,948

**TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED**                      **\$ 598,780**

*NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation's endowment contributed \$2,132,835 to Providence Public Library's FY 2010 operating budget.*

# Supporters

Each year countless donors, volunteers, and organizations, too many to list here, collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. The Providence Public Library Foundation and Providence Public Library recognize and thank these and all Fiscal Year 2010 supporters and donors, whose contributions ensure that the Library continues in its mission as a vibrant and vital resource providing lifelong learning opportunities to all Rhode Island residents.

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For information on becoming a member of The Conservator Society, please contact Dawn Kelly at 401-455-8050 or email [dkelly@provlib.org](mailto:dkelly@provlib.org).

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