

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Wilmington Institute Library

Address:

P.O. Box 2303
10th & Market Streets
Wilmington, DE 19801

Contact Information:

(302) 571-7400
(302) 654-9132 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 45,592 SF

Hours:

Monday	11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,992 hours

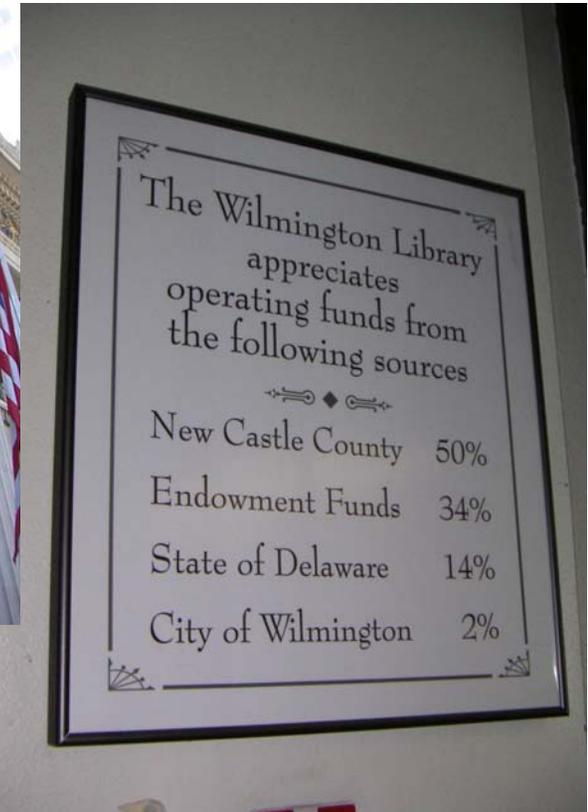


Wilmington Institute
Main Library
Children's Area
Floral Story Chair

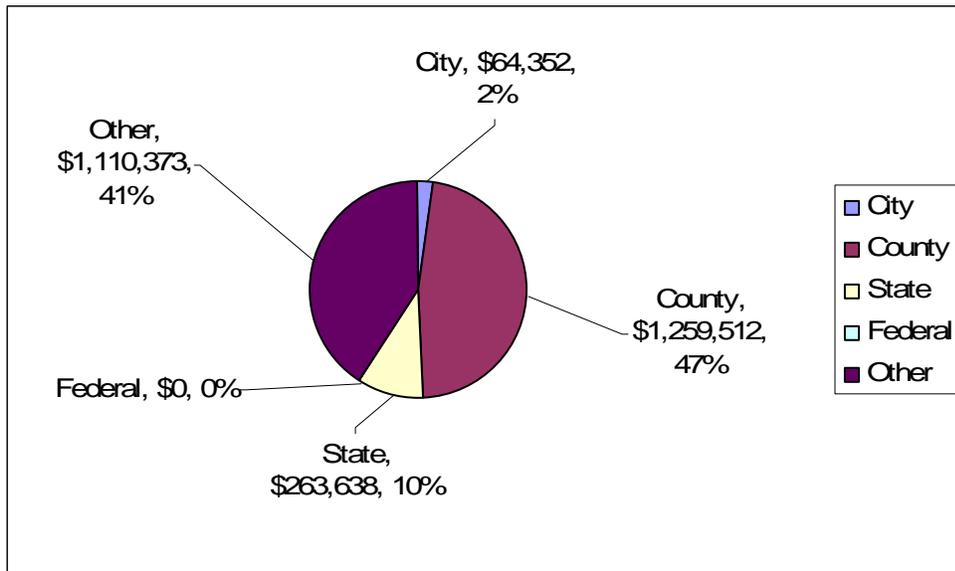


Wilmington Institute
Main Library

Wilmington Institute
Main Library
Funding Sign



Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

The early library, which was first incorporated in 1754, was located at the residence of the librarian who was responsible for maintaining collections for members who paid dues. As the size of the collections grew, the library quarters likewise expanded. The Town Hall, as it moved from the Marketplace near the river to 5th and Market Streets, was the primary site until 1861. At that time, the John Dickinson Mansion at 8th and Market was razed and a new building was constructed to meet the needs of the library. Functioning as an Institute (Since 1859, the library offered technical classes to Wilmington’s growing number of tradesmen.), the building also included first floor retail shops for the convenience of the residents.

The Wilmington Library houses the following collections:

- The original collection of 14 N.C. Wyeth paintings of Robinson Crusoe;
- Over 10,000 items of Delaware History;
- Congressional records dating from early 19th Century;
- A unique collection of older fiction;
- Nearly 50,000 volumes of children’s books; and
- 25,000 bound, hard copy periodicals, and newspapers dating back to their earliest publishing dates (i.e., New York Times, 1851).

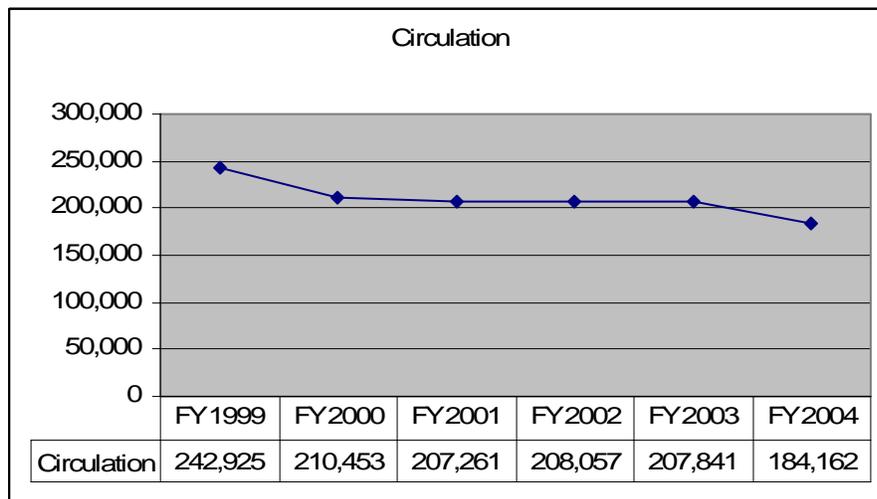
The Wilmington Library offers many children’s programs such as multicultural events for schools and the public, plays, live instrumental performances, puppet shows, singing, storytelling and Saturday afternoon movies. Art on the town and

Art Loop performance series at the Wilmington Library give local artists a free space to exhibit their art on a monthly basis. The Wilmington Library also provides a free space for local musicians, poets, and theatrical performers. In addition, the library houses Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA), which serves northern New Castle County residents. LVA's 150 volunteer tutors provide one-to-one tutoring to 180 students in basic reading and English as a Second Language.

General Description:

The Wilmington Institute is located in the heart of downtown Wilmington and attracts a considerable amount of walk-in use from non-residents of the City who work in the business district. The exterior of the building looks much as it did when it was opened in 1922. The facility is typical of the approach to urban main libraries of that period. An extensive renovation of the interior of the building took place in the 1970s. More recently, adaptations have been made to provide additional computer-based information services.

Six Year Circulation History:



Six Year Circulation History

- FY 1999 – 242,925
- FY 2000 – 210,453
- FY 2001 – 207,261
- FY 2002 – 208,057
- FY 2003 – 207,841
- FY 2004 – 184,162

Six Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation fell by twenty-four percent (24.2%) between FY 1999 and FY 2004. It fell by thirteen percent (13.4%) between FY 1999 and FY 2000 and by another eleven percent (11.4%) between FY 2003 and FY 2004.

2003 Library Visits: 352,664

2003 Registered Borrowers: 75,838

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	284,401
Audio Holdings	13,200
Video Holdings	13,168
Periodical Titles	1,110

Holdings per Capita:

3.9 items per person in service area
New Castle County mean is 3.2; Delaware mean is 2.8
State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	207,841
Juvenile Circulation	42,568
Adult Circulation	165,273

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)

Turnover 0.73

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 1,875,259

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	73,530
2009/10 (Projection)	73,531
2015 (Projection)	76,195
2020 (Projection)	78,451
2025 (Projection)	80,246

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 39.10 per person

Cost per Circulation: \$ 13.83 (Note: administrative costs and costs for automation for all of Wilmington are included in this cost)

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 626.76 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 2.8 circulations per person

Circulation per SF: 4.48 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 68.27 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.62 SF per capita State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 4.8 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 103.14%

Total Units of Service: 694,610

Total Units of Service per capita: 9.45

*Total Units of Service includes circulation, library visits, reference transactions, and number of persons attending programs.