

Time spent in summer reading pays dividends during school year

Summer Library Program creates millions of dollars in community value each year

Reading is the foundation upon which all education is built, and there is agreement among educators, researchers, and parents that time spent reading during the summer benefits students. But it also pays significant dividends to school districts and taxpayers because

CTA donates \$10,000 for youth programs

Commercial Tenant Advisors, which helped South Central Library System secure its new space on Biltmore Drive (the move will happen later this year), has made a \$10,000 contribution to the SCLS Foundation to support programs for youth.

The money will be used specifically for Summer Library Program performers that might otherwise have been eliminated by libraries because of budget cuts.

CTA helped SCLS find potential locations that would fit our unique needs, and they managed the RFP process for our tenancy and negotiated the pricing and lease. According to Stef Morrill, associate director, "Their knowledge of the in-and-outs of the real estate market created opportunities we would not have found on our own."

teachers and students spend less time each fall catching up.

According to Phyllis Davis, director of the South Central Library System, each year the Summer Library Program results in more than \$23.7 million in value to local communities, which is based on research that as much as three months of school time is saved by not having to bring children back to the reading level they were at when school ended the previous spring.

For example, in 2007 this "value to the community" was calculated by taking total program enrollment

of 26,633 and multiplying it by the average school district annual

educational cost per student of \$9,233.86 (average of all school districts within the SCLS service area). This was then multiplied by one-third—because reading is one third of the core curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and then again by one-third because

the three months spent catching up is one-third of the school year. The educational cost per student was that reported to the Wisconsin

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Alliant Energy grant supports family literacy

In support of family literacy, Alliant Energy recently awarded a \$2,100 grant to the South Central Library System Foundation. The grant will help fund the "Do and Learn Initiative," through which staff at 25 member libraries will learn ways to work with families that live in poverty.

The goal of the project is to build literacy skills by providing kinesthetic

activities that will strengthen existing family literacy programs. The Alliant

grant will cover the cost of the training workshop, at which Jim Gill will be the featured speaker. He has a Master's degree in Child Development, and uses music and play to enhance and

encourage literacy.

The literacy workshop will be held in September.



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Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and does not include transportation, debt service or food service costs.

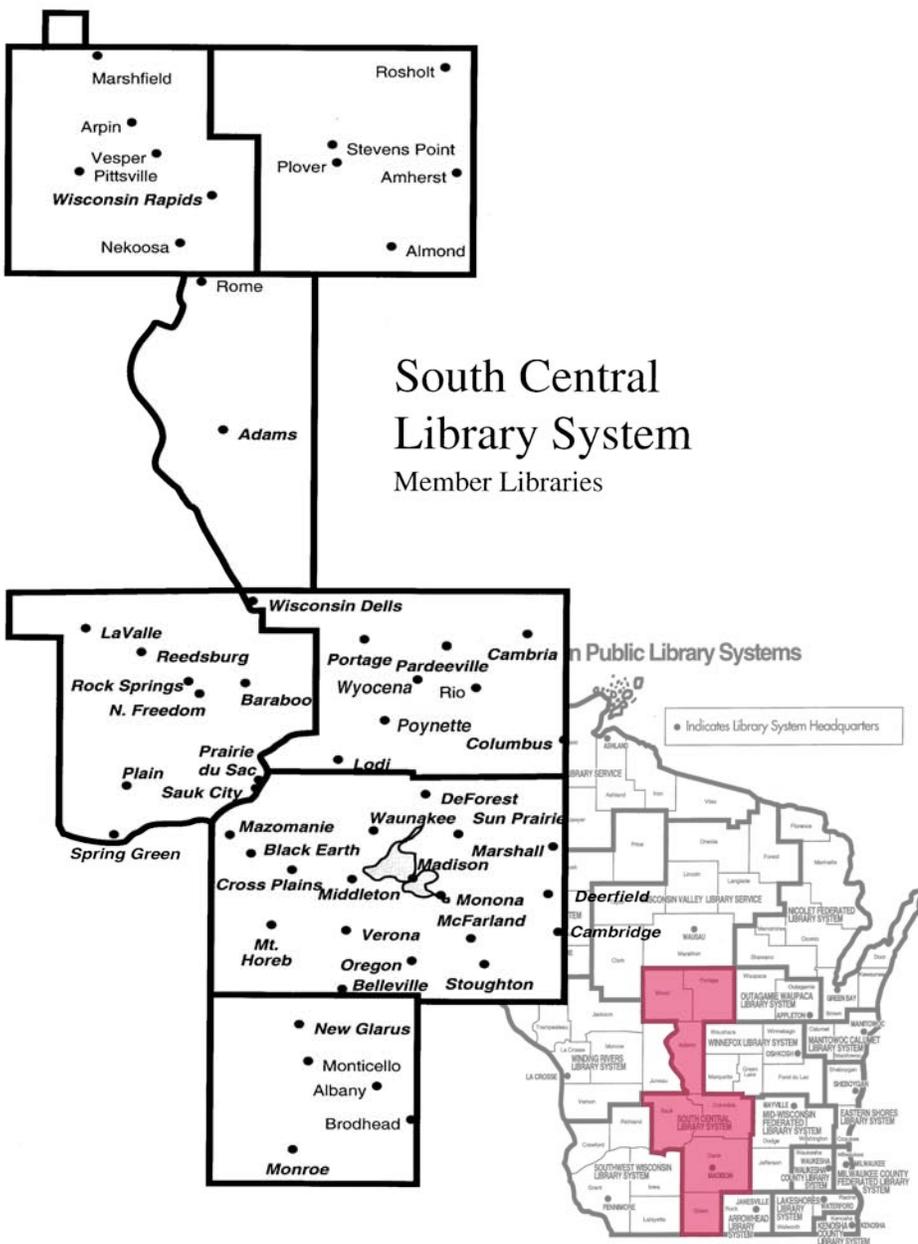
“Formal research and common sense tell us that summer reading loss is a key factor contributing to the achievement gap between struggling and successful students,” Davis said. Students who don’t read over the summer can lose as much as two months of reading skills. “In fact, this reading loss is cumulative, and by the end of sixth-grade these children

can be as much as two school years behind their peers. But reading as few as four books during the summer vacation can help keep children at their current reading level.”

According to Davis, lower-achieving students are less likely to read out of school, and those students most comfortable reading are more likely to choose recreational reading as a summer activity. “Public libraries can break these cycles and get materials into the homes of children who do not have their own books,” Davis said.

Attaching a monetary community value to the Summer Library

Program is not an exact science, Davis admits, but she said it is important to recognize that program participation does have financial benefits within the community. “It’s important that we recognize the vital role the public library plays in the community, and the contributions it makes to the educational achievement of the children who live here,” Davis said. “The positive impact of the SLP is significant, especially when you consider how little is spent on the program each year.”



Nelson is new board member

Paul Nelson, who retired several years ago as director of the Middleton Public Library, is the newest citizen member of the SCLS Foundation Board.

Paul has long been active in library advocacy, and was a long-time member of the Wisconsin Library Association’s Library Development and Legislation Committee.



He describes himself thusly: library advocate, adjunct assistant professor (UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies), inveterate gatherer of facts and figures, and library director (retired).

In retirement he is continuing his support of libraries through his blog Retiring Guy’s Digest, which offers “recommended reading on libraries, publishing, technology, politics, social issues, and more. You can find the blog at <http://paulsnewsline.blogspot.com/>.

But funding lags

New report shows libraries critical in times of crisis

The value of libraries in communities across the country continued to grow in 2008, according to the American Library Association's (ALA) annual State of America's Libraries report in April.

U.S. libraries experienced a dramatic increase in library card

Annual Joint Meeting is Oct. 27

The annual joint meeting of the SCLS Foundation Board and Foundation member libraries (and M&I) is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 3 p.m. at the SCLS office in Madison.

registration and usage as the public continues to turn to their local library for free services. More than 68 percent of Americans have a library card, and Americans visited their libraries nearly 1.4 billion times and checked out more than 2 billion items in the past year, an increase of more than 10 percent in both checked out items and library visits, compared to data from the last economic downturn in 2001.

However, public funding did not keep pace with use, according to a survey conducted by the ALA. Forty-one percent of states report declining state funding for U.S. public

libraries for fiscal year 2009. Twenty percent of these states anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year. This is why private donations to libraries are so critical!

For more information, read the full text of the 2008 State of America's Libraries, available at www.ala.org/2009state.

SCLS Foundation Contributors

Note: These people have donated to the SCLS Foundation since Jan. 1, 2009.

Stewards – \$1,000 +

Peter Hamon
Tim Ridders
Dan & Marcia Smith

Patrons – \$500 - \$999

Janet Pugh

Benefactors – \$499 - \$250

Kathryn Trudell

Sponsors – \$249 - \$100

Victoria & John Billings
Bob Blitzke & Jane Grogan
Pete Blum
John & Ruth Boll
Info USA
National Mutual Benefit

Advocates – \$99 - \$50

Kirsten Houtman

Friends – \$49 - \$25

Mark Luetkehoelter
Eileen Schroeder

Contributions for Specific Libraries

Lodi Woman's Club Public Library

Alliant Energy (\$25)
Kraft Foods Matching Gift Program (\$300)
Lodi Woman's Club Public Library (\$225)

SCLS Foundation Member Libraries

| Member Libraries | % Share | Adjusted Market Value |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| Adams County Library | 1.16% | \$3,090.24 |
| Angie W. Cox Public Library (Pardeeville) | 1.96% | \$5,221.43 |
| Black Earth Public Library | 0.17% | \$452.88 |
| Brodhead Memorial Public Library | 0.23% | \$612.72 |
| Cottage Grove Community Library | 0.20% | \$532.80 |
| Friends of McFarland Library | 0.35% | \$932.40 |
| Jane Morgan Memorial Library (Cambria) | 0.35% | \$932.40 |
| Kraemer Library & Community Center (Plain) | 0.17% | \$452.88 |
| LaValle Public Library | 0.50% | \$1,332.00 |
| Lodi Woman's Club Public Library | 1.69% | \$4,502.15 |
| Marshfield Public Library Foundation | 0.35% | \$933.06 |
| Mazomanie Free Library | 16.57% | \$44,222.33 |
| Monroe Public Library | 53.65% | \$143,189.77 |
| Reedsburg Public Library | 0.65% | \$1,731.60 |
| SCLS Foundation | 16.65% | \$44,438.36 |
| Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation | 5.19% | \$13,862.57 |
| Wyocena Public Library | 0.17% | \$452.88 |
| Totals | 100.00% | \$266,892.46 |

Ceremony to be held Nov. 12, 2009

Hamons to receive Foundation's 'Cornerstone Award'

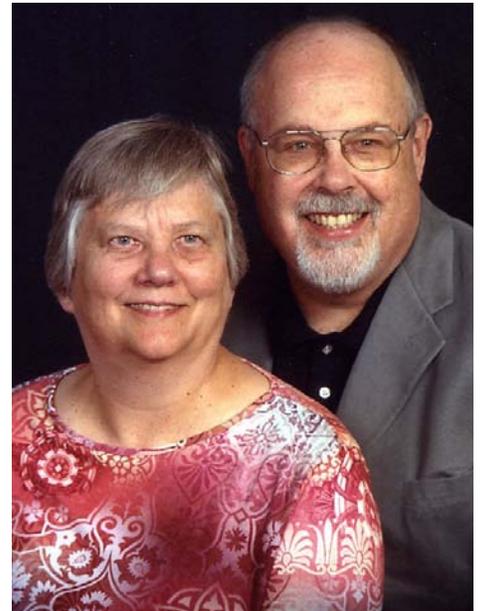
In recognition of their lifetime of work in support of area libraries, and most recently to the South Central Library System Foundation, Peter and Ann Hamon will receive the "Cornerstone Award" at a Nov. 11, 2009, fundraising reception. The event will be held in the atrium of Promega's world-renowned BioPharmaceutical Technology Center, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, in Fitchburg.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to say a public thank you to Peter and Ann, who have dedicated their lives to public libraries," said Linda Davis-Brown, foundation board president. The award is given to an individual or individuals who have had a significant and long-term impact on enhancing public libraries in South Central Wisconsin and represent the values and mission of the SCLS Foundation.

"What better way to honor their lifetime commitment, while at the same time raising funds for the SCLS Foundation," Davis-Brown said. "This reception will surely set the tone for the recognition of future recipients."

Their combined library careers over the last half century have included jobs at public libraries in Scottsbluff, NE, Appleton and Oshkosh, at university libraries at Lawrence and Oklahoma, at the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, and of course, the South Central Library System.

Ann usually was found in the cataloging department and Peter in a less cloistered position. Both are now theoretically retired, although Ann still catalogs for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and Peter still mixes consulting with occasional clowning.



Peter and Ann Hamon will receive the SCLS Foundation's first-ever "Cornerstone Award" at a Nov. 11 fundraising reception.