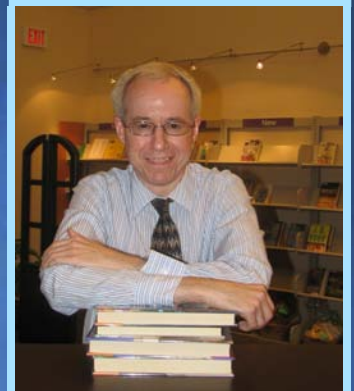


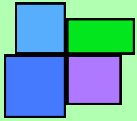
Library Excellence...

Reaching Higher

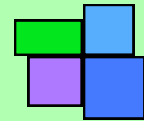
**A Strategic Plan 2010-2015
Executive Summary**

**Forsyth County Public Library
Winston-Salem, NC**





State of the Library



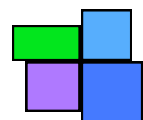
Public Libraries across the United States have become lifelines for people seeking critical community services ranging from job searching skills to technological literacy. With a difficult economy and tight resources, the public library has seen its traditional role as provider of free access to books, magazines, CDs and DVDs remain strong, while demand for free access to the Internet, public computers and technological training has mushroomed into an equally vital role. In a January 2010 Harris interactive poll, most Americans felt “the public library improves the quality of life in their community...and plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.”

Locally, in the midst of a tight budget and tough economic times, the Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) continues to provide the core library services that define a public library while integrating emerging technology. Of the approximately 360,000 residents of the County, 58.2% have a library card. Over 1.3 million people visited the Library in fiscal year 2009-10, checking out over 1.9 million items. The FCPL system consists of the Central Library and nine branches, two youth mini-libraries, three outreach departments and two bookmobiles. The Library’s Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library groups, volunteers and supporters all help to accomplish the mission and achieve the goals and vision.

This Executive Summary of the 2010-2015 strategic plan for the Forsyth County Public Library highlights some of the most important points in that plan, starting with the Mission, which articulates the Library’s role in the life of the community. The Vision is the statement of where we want library services to be, and the Strategic Directions provide the four key areas on which we will concentrate our resources and efforts in order to attain the Vision. The Goals map the course of action for the Library over the next several years, and the Service Values state how we intend to conduct the business of providing library services.



“The Library has resources, entertainment and technology for people who need it in this economy. Without the library how would people apply for jobs, learn new skills, be able to relax with a book or movie? The library is invaluable right now.”



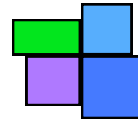
This and all following quotations are taken from a 2010 Library survey.

Our Mission

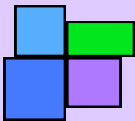
Connecting our community to reading, information, and lifelong learning.



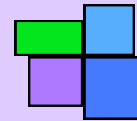
"There is nothing like holding a book in your hands and watching the kids' eyes get huge as they turn a page."



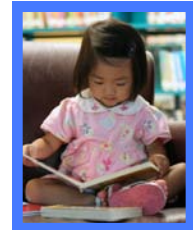
Our Vision



To be a destination which serves as a civic space encompassing the role of a public library, cultural center, and community gathering place.



Strategic Directions



Capture the Position of Community Center

by serving as the place for uniting individuals and nurturing community life.

Provide Access To Technology

by offering resources, services, and the training needed to use them.

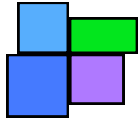
Stimulate Lifelong Learning

by supporting

- Information empowerment
- Educational pursuits
- Recreational reading, listening, and viewing
- Economic vitality
- Evolving community needs

Inspire Young Readers

by providing materials, programs, and services designed to encourage reading, writing, listening, learning, and exploring new ideas.

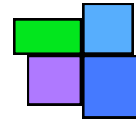


“Libraries promote community and literacy – no child should grow up without a library as a friendly, interesting place!!”

Goals

- Be an effective leader and integral partner in our community's future.
- Strengthen Library collections and services to support community needs and interests.
- Create inspiring Library facilities that are valued as a source of community pride.
- Integrate appropriate technologies to improve services and information access.

“...the ability to read and share knowledge is a requirement in all free-thinking societies.”



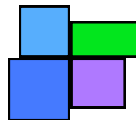
Service Values

All library services are provided in a fair and equitable manner that respects our customers and values diversity.

We support and defend intellectual freedom and the confidentiality of all users of the Library.

We are a learning organization that constantly reassesses our services and methods to adapt to the changing needs of our community.

Employees, volunteers and supporters of the Library are valued for their diverse contributions to our service.



“I am a senior citizen on a fixed income with physical handicaps. My library is like a lifeline to me.”

“In the current economic environment, information is vital to our survival. The Library is an ‘information warehouse’ and it’s FREE.”

