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Elaine Barnett, Vice President
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Joseph Sanchez, Library Director

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- Joseph Sanchez, Library Director
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Laurie Gomez, Public Services
Karen Kllanxhja, Literacy Services
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Mesa County LIBRARIES

GET INVOLVED!

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with Mesa County Libraries.

MESA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Mesa County Public Library Foundation supports the fundraising needs of the Mesa County Public Library District (Mesa County Libraries). The Foundation raises funds for special programs, projects, endowment gifts, and its general fund that will serve the community's public library for many years to come.

W: mesacountylibraries.org/support-us/foundation
P: 970-683-2438
E: lbecker@mcpld.org

FRIENDS OF THE MESA COUNTY LIBRARIES

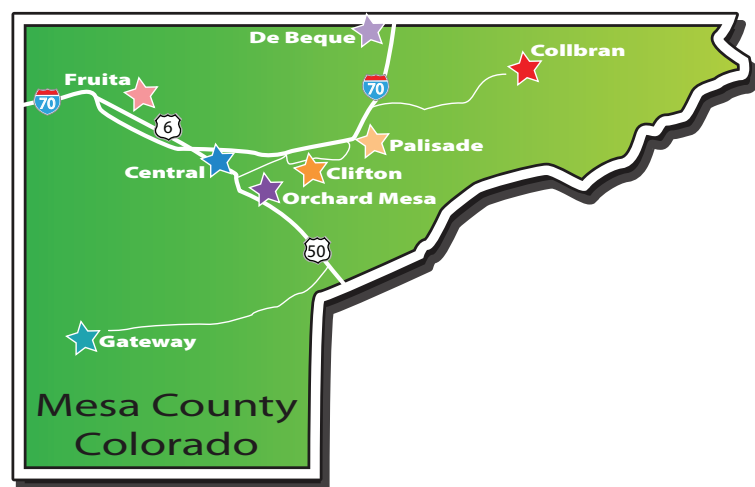
Friends of the Mesa County Libraries award funds to support programs, projects, art, equipment, and furnishings to our libraries. Proceeds come from membership dues and used-book sales at the Novel Idea Bookstore and other book sale events.

W: mesacountylibraries.org/support-us/friends
P: 970-683-2438

VOLUNTEER AT MESA COUNTY LIBRARIES

We depend on our volunteers at each Mesa County Libraries location. Visit the website for a complete list of volunteer opportunities or contact Volunteer Coordinator Marilyn Robinson.

W: mesacountylibraries.org/support-us/volunteer
P: 970-683-2432
E: volunteer@mcpld.org



Contact Mesa County Libraries

- CENTRAL LIBRARY (970) 243-4442
5TH ST. & GRAND AVE., GRAND JUNCTION
CLIFTON BRANCH (970) 434-6936
590 32 ROAD, 6F, CLIFTON
COLLBRAN BRANCH (970) 487-3545
111 MAIN ST., COLLBRAN
DE BEQUE BRANCH (970) 283-8625
730 MINTER AVE., DE BEQUE

- FRUITA BRANCH (970) 858-7703
324 NORTH COULSON ST., FRUITA
GATEWAY BRANCH (970) 931-2428
42700 HIGHWAY 141, GATEWAY
ORCHARD MESA BRANCH (970) 243-0181
230 LYNWOOD ST., ORCHARD MESA
PALISADE BRANCH (970) 464-7557
119 WEST 3RD ST., PALISADE



ANNUAL REPORT Letter from the Director

The year 2013 marked the long-anticipated completion of the Central Library Expansion and Improvement Project. Since then, the Central Library has been averaging 1,600 visitors per day and has seen even larger increases in program attendance. Our annual Culture Fest in November was the highlight of the year with more than 2,000 patrons who enjoyed the presentations of culture, food, music, and dance from all over the world.

2013 also brought a change in leadership to the library as Director Eve Tallman retired. I had the good fortune to step into the director's post. I come to Mesa County from Denver, and I bring academic and public library experience in leadership, management, and strategic planning. I plan to use my strong background in technology and media production to begin preserving and cataloging

our local cultural assets in new and exciting ways.

We at Mesa County Libraries are proud that we have accomplished a number of major capital projects without debt or tax increases, thanks to conservative budgeting and the generous support of private donors and the Library Foundation. Reception and enthusiasm for the new Central Library have been excellent, and we wish to thank everyone who supported us during the long and arduous construction process.

Inside the following pages, you will find anecdotal content as well as statistics and budget data. We have charted a path through the current economic downturn that should allow us to continue meeting your daily needs for reading and viewing material as well as all the programs you expect from us. In addition,

we will be able to take some early steps into new and exciting services that you will hear more about as 2014 progresses. While our ebooks and digital services will continue to grow, we will also maintain all our traditional resources as well.

We would like to thank our patrons and community for your support, enthusiasm, and daily presence in our buildings. You are the heart and soul of all that we do, and it is a pleasure to serve. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity. We look forward to another wonderful year of literacy, learning, and relationships.

Handwritten signature of Joseph Sanchez.

Joseph Sanchez, Library Director

INSIDE

- Record-Setting Stats
Financial Data
2013 Year in Review
Foundation Capital Campaign



for more information about the library visit mesacountylibraries.org

Checkouts set new record in '13

Despite the Central Library's three-week closure for the move to its expanded and remodeled home, Mesa County Libraries achieved a record number of checkouts and renewals in 2013.

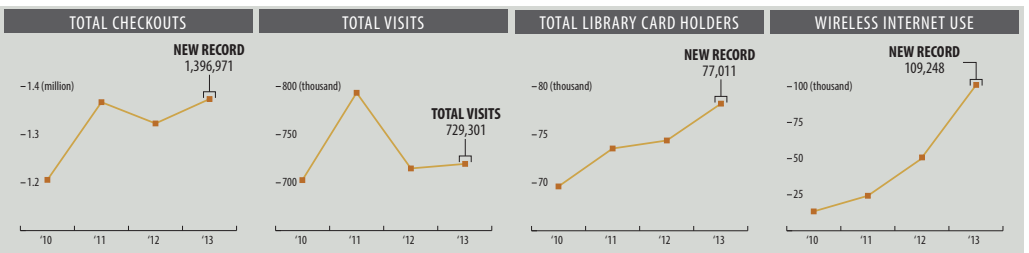
Circulation – which is the total number of checkouts and renewals – for the county-wide library system in 2013 totaled 1.397 million, edging by less than 1 percent the previous record of 1.392 million set in 2011. The circulation total for 2013 represented a 2.8 percent increase over 2012.

Total visitation to Mesa County Libraries' eight locations increased by 0.3 percent in 2013, to 729,301.

Circulation and visitation numbers for 2013 are remarkable because the busy

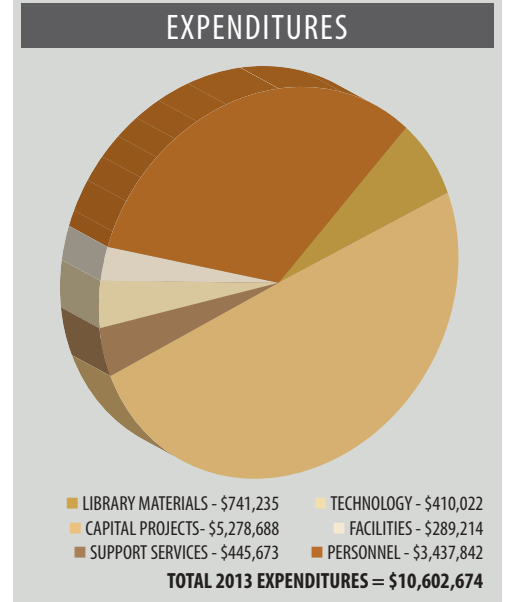
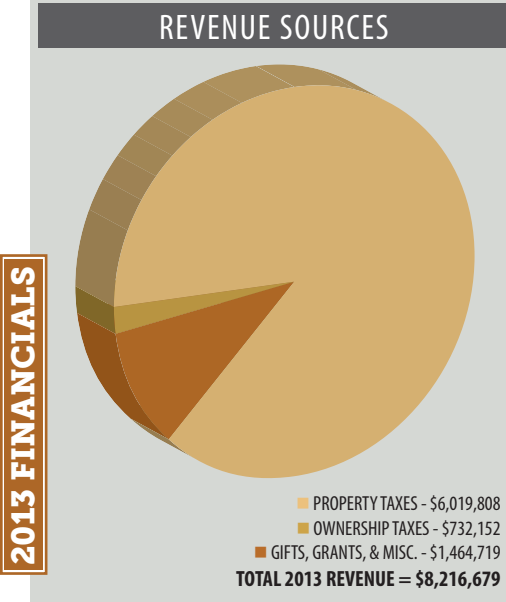
Central Library was closed for three weeks during June, the peak season for library use. Branch libraries throughout the county took up much of the slack during that time, as well as during the 11 months that the Central Library operated in a smaller temporary location. The strong numbers demonstrate that county residents appreciate the expert service and high-quality facilities and resources that Mesa County Libraries offer.

The Central Library in Grand Junction occupied a temporary location on North First Street during late 2012 and early 2013 while the main building downtown was expanded and remodeled. After the project's completion, the library closed June 1– 19 for the return move to Fifth Street and Grand Avenue.



Other numbers from 2013 attest to the growing use of Mesa County Libraries:

- ⇒ **Library cardholders** increased 3.8 percent to 77,011, the largest number ever.
- ⇒ **Event attendance** increased almost 11 percent, mainly because of a strong lineup of events in the new community room at the Central Library and at branches. Popular topics included travel, movies, and events for young children.
- ⇒ **Wireless Internet connections** at libraries more than doubled from 2012, reflecting the increasing popularity of smartphones, notebook computers, and other wireless devices.
- ⇒ **Volunteers** generously shared 16,702 hours with our libraries in 2013, a 7.6 percent increase.
- ⇒ **Online resources** were used 143,000 times by patrons seeking authoritative information about consumer issues, small businesses, auto repair, language learning, legal forms, and other topics.
- ⇒ **Library staff** provided more than 439 computer classes to 1,707 patrons on subjects ranging from basic skills to office applications, social media, and digital photography.



Note: All revenue and expenditure figures are unaudited.
 In 2013, the Mesa County Public Library District completed the Central Library Project to expand and improve space at the Central Library. Construction expenditures were paid from the district's capital reserves, a portion of the district's 2013 revenue, and funds raised by the Mesa County Public Library Foundation. Because of project-related spending, the 2013 finances reflect that the district's expenditures exceeded revenues, though the district operated within its adopted budget.



Expanded Central Library celebrates Grand Reopening

Mesa County residents celebrated a long-awaited goal in June 2013: the completion of an expanded and remodeled Central Library.

The Grand Reopening on June 20 attracted almost 3,600 people on the first day alone, more than twice the average daily traffic that the library experienced before the project. By the end of 2013, average traffic amounted to about 1,600 people per day, 100 more than before the project.

The project added 9,000 square feet of new space to the building, increasing its total size to about 45,000 square feet. The addition includes a versatile community room that can comfortably hold more than 150 people.

Numbers tell only part of the story; countless library patrons have praised the Central Library's new look and feel. New small-group meeting rooms throughout the building are almost constantly in use each day, and patrons can always be found enjoying a wide range of comfortable spaces, from the sunny mezzanine to the historically flavored Regional History Room.

Colorado-based Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture designed the project, which cost \$7.1 million and was paid for with existing tax revenues and a \$1.25 million fundraising drive by the Mesa County Public Library Foundation. Grand Junction-based Shaw Construction was the general contractor.

The Central Library Project received a "Three Green Globes" rating for energy efficiency and sustainability as measured by Green Globes assessment standards, recognizing the project's leadership in best practices regarding energy, water, and environmental efficiency. The project was recognized in Library Journal and its architectural supplement, Library By Design.

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

Highlights from a record-setting year



- Mesa County Libraries welcomed a new Library Director, Joseph Sanchez. Former Director Eve Tallman retired in August after serving as director since 2007. Under Tallman's leadership, the library moved several branches into newer, better facilities and opened the expanded Central Library. Sanchez comes to the library from Denver with an extensive background in library leadership and a national reputation as a technology innovator.
- True to its longtime role as a community center, the Palisade Branch regularly hosted a variety of groups, including knitters, writers, and a Spanish Conversation class.
- More than 2,100 people attended the sixth annual Culture Fest celebration at the Central Library. Culture Fest included food, art, and entertainment from around the world.
- The Gateway Branch registered a 49% increase in visitation. A Halloween party at the library attracted 33 kids and five adults, and the branch's interior space received a facelift to accommodate a larger number of users.
- The Clifton Branch continued to be the second-busiest Mesa County Libraries location in 2013, with a 2.7% increase in visitation. Circulation at the Orchard Mesa Branch increased by 1.7%.
- Collbran welcomed a new branch manager, Amanda Sheley, in April 2013. During the summer, a new Teen Time logged a total attendance of more than 70 teenagers.
- The De Beque Branch hosted the second Read for Easter event, which gives participants one month to read 10 hours. Participation grew to 12 kids from four in 2012.
- The Lucky Day Collection at the Central Library proved to be a hit with patrons. The Lucky Day Collection contains high-demand bestsellers (adult, teen, and children's books) that check out for seven days — no waiting required!
- Through its bookstore and annual book sale, Friends of the Mesa County Libraries raised more than \$40,000 in 2013. Friends proceeds support Mesa County Libraries.
- Mesa County Libraries served almost 2,000 adults in classes and workshops, including Book-a-Librarian sessions, group settings, and Tech Table. These classes improve digital literacy, increase access to library resources, and improve the quality of life for Mesa County residents.
- The Central Library hosted 34 authors at the third annual Regional Authors Meet & Greet.
- Mesa County Libraries were proud to host events with two well-known authors in 2013: Peter Heller, author of the 2013 One Book, One Mesa County selection, "The Dog Stars," and Ellen Hopkins, author of popular teen books such as "Crank," "Burned," and "Smoke."
- The Mesa County Libraries Literacy Center sponsored Hispanic Heritage Month at the Central Library, featuring well-attended events and performances. The celebration was highlighted by two showings of the film "Bless Me, Ultima," based on the novel by Rudolfo Anaya.
- The 2013 Summer Reading Program attracted 2,661 children, 736 teens, and 937 adults, with total participation of 4,334. Kids and teens blazed through books, and adults read for a cause — to help provide pet food for dogs and cats at Roice-Hurst Humane Society.

Foundation Capital Campaign meets \$1.25 million goal



An integral part of the funding for the \$7.1 million Central Library Expansion and Improvement Project was a \$1.25 million capital campaign by the Mesa County Public Library Foundation. Officials with the Foundation announced in October 2013 that they successfully completed the 11-month "Help Us Meet the Future" campaign, raising a total of \$1,251,509.

Funding sources included grants and contributions from numerous organizations, foundations, and individuals, among them a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Denver-based Gates Family Foundation and a \$100,000 pledge from Friends of the Mesa County Libraries.

Seven areas of the Central Library were named on behalf of donors who contributed at a certain level. Those areas are designated by wall plaques throughout the building. Do-

nors also will be publicly recognized on the Donor Wall, which is expected to be unveiled in 2014 in the library's main hallway.

Separately from the capital campaign, the Foundation celebrated receiving one of its largest single donations to date — a gift of \$250,000 from the estate of Jean D. Nelson.

Jean Nelson carried with her the powerful influence of her parents, G.E. and Frances M. Darrington, who deeply valued education and instilled a respect for reading in their daughter and their grandchildren. Jean Nelson's love of reading was so strong that she became an important, longtime supporter of Mesa County Libraries, helping the library promote reading and education throughout the area.

In recognition of her support, the bright, new reading room in the Central Library is named for Jean D. Nelson in honor of her parents.