

Annual Report 2011-2012



Milan Public Library
151 Wabash St.
Milan, MI 48160
734.439.1240 Fax: 734.4395625
Hours Open: Mon – Thurs. 10-8
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-4
Sundays Closed

This annual report for Milan Public Library covers the fiscal year of 2011 – 2012; all statistics reflect anything within the time frame of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Any questions concerning this report should be directed to Susan Wess, Library Director, at 734.439.1240 or susan.wess@milanlibrary.org.

Milan Public Library serves Milan City, Augusta Township and portions of York and Pittsfield Township. Over 5,000 people in the service area have library cards. The service population is 17,462, making Milan Public Library a Class IV library. The library is governed by an elected library board who take their stewardship of the library very seriously. Board members are:

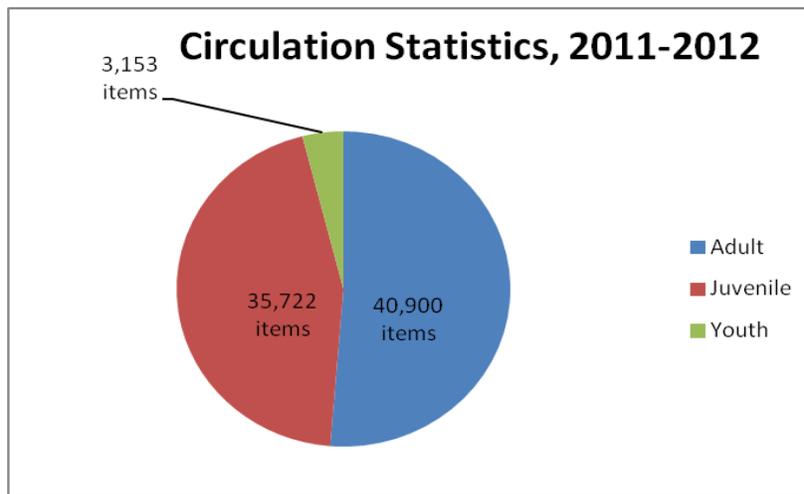
President, Larry Biederman
Vice President, Millard Phillips
Treasurer, Darlene Middleton
Secretary, Randy Westbrook
Trustee, Nancy Shaw
Trustee, Valorie Gleason

The library is open 54 hours a week; in 2011 – 2012 the library was open a total of 2,796 hours. The library was only closed 5 days last year: July 4, a full staff workshop on November 10, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Memorial Day.

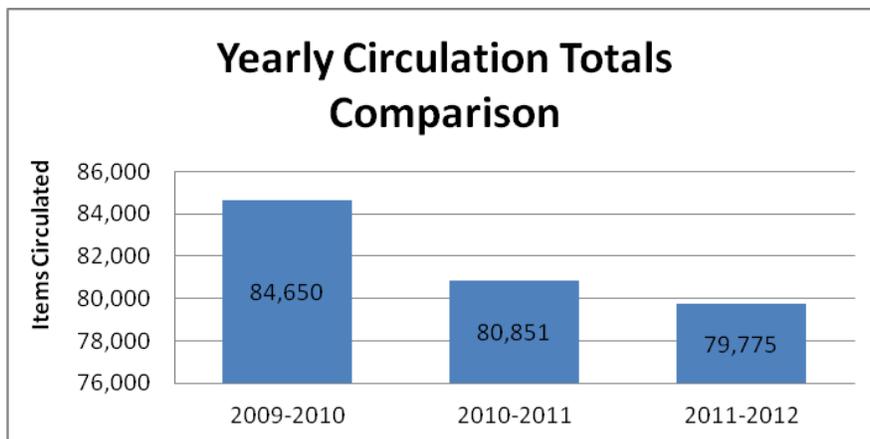
Milan Public Library Circulation and Collections

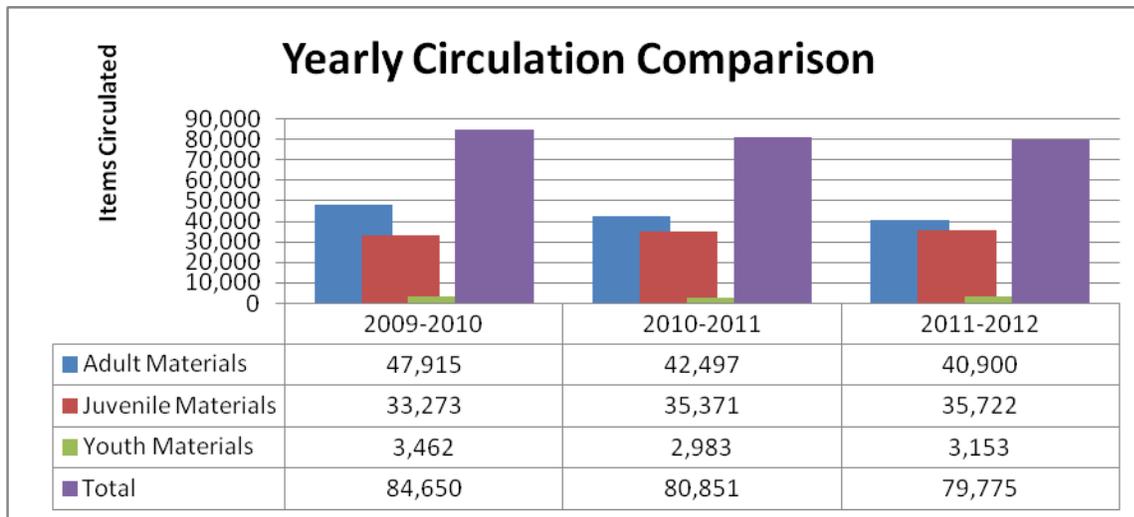
The library checked out (and/or renewed) 79, 995 items in 2011-2012. 71,107 items were checked in and shelved. We received 3,056 books through MelCat interloan and loaned out 627. The library maintains a strong collection consisting of best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, large print books, children's and young adult books, adult and youth magazines, books on CD, musical CDs, entertainment DVDs, non-fiction DVDs and downloadable books. If

a patron cannot find something at the Milan Public Library, they can request it from MelCat which encompasses most Michigan libraries, both public and academic.



The Milan Public Library is following a trend we are seeing with all libraries, and that is that circulation has decreased a bit over the last few years. What are the reasons for this? EReaders, fewer dedicated physical book readers, the Internet; no one is quite sure. We do see a request for eBooks more and more.

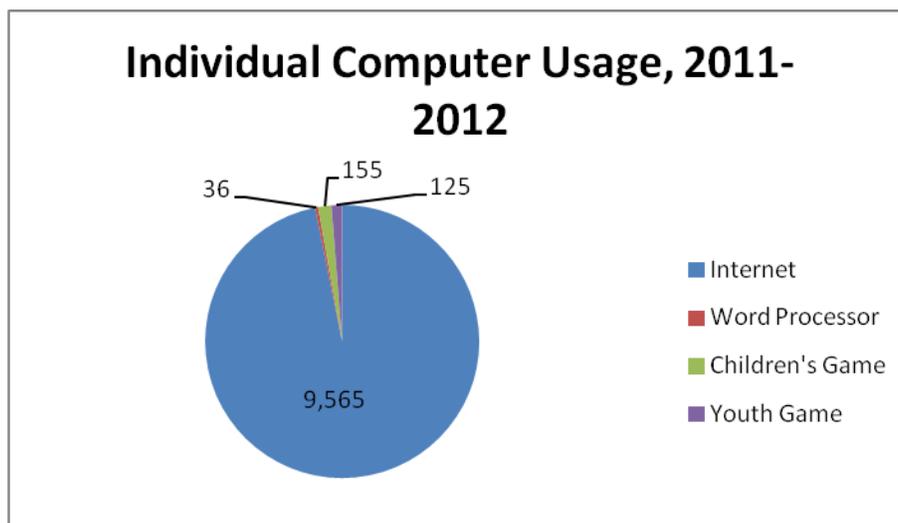


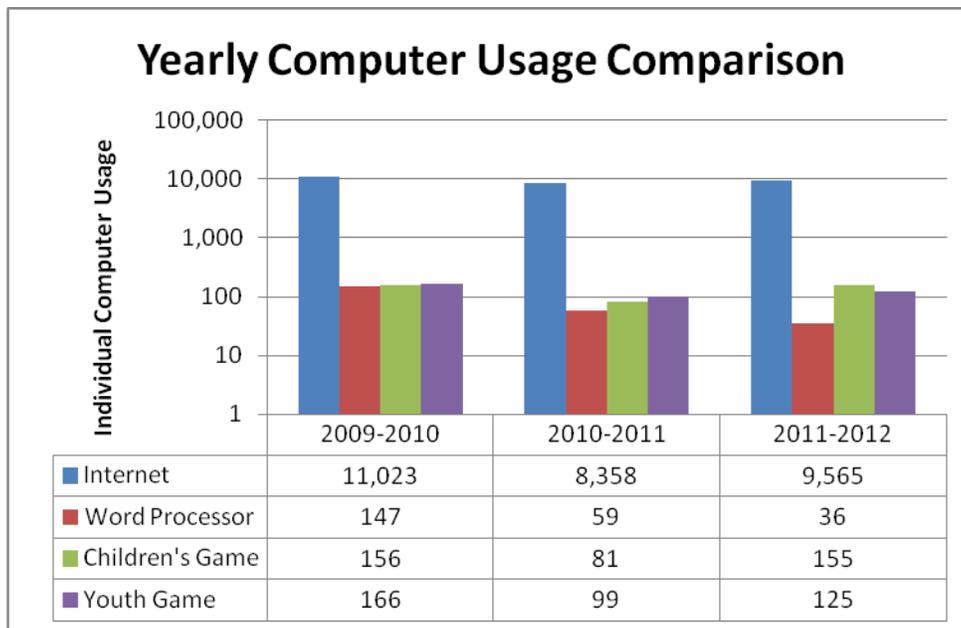


The past year, the library added 4,366 items to its collection of materials. The library owns 30,311 print items and 4,288 non-print. The collection has a value of \$738,717.18.

Computers, Social Media and the Web

The library provides free WiFi and has eleven computers available for adults (including an Internet express), one computer dedicated to genealogy research, four computers for youth, a word processor, and two children’s game computers. The computers are constantly busy and time limits are one hour; if no one is waiting to use a computer, that hour is extended.





Milan Public Library has an active Facebook page which currently has 328 likes. In late summer of 2011, we redesigned our web page and moved to the Wordpress platform, hosted by GoDaddy, which results in an easier interface for staff updates and a cost savings over our previous hosting setup. From September through June 30, 2012 the page has received 37,743 hits.

Patrons can access their own library records, search the library online catalog, place holds and renew their books online from home. The library catalog was searched 107,813 times.

Programming

The library offers a variety of programs for adults, children and young adults. Story times are always busy and the summer reading program, both for adults and children, is a big hit in the community. Computer classes and one-on-one “Book a Librarian” sessions are very popular. The summer of 2012, the library launched the “Geek the Library” program. “Geek the Library” is a community awareness campaign designed to highlight the vital role of public libraries and educate the public about the many critical funding issues many libraries face.

The library had 2,883 children and 993 adults attend children programs during the past year. Adult programming, including the Adult Summer Reading Program, had 258 participants.

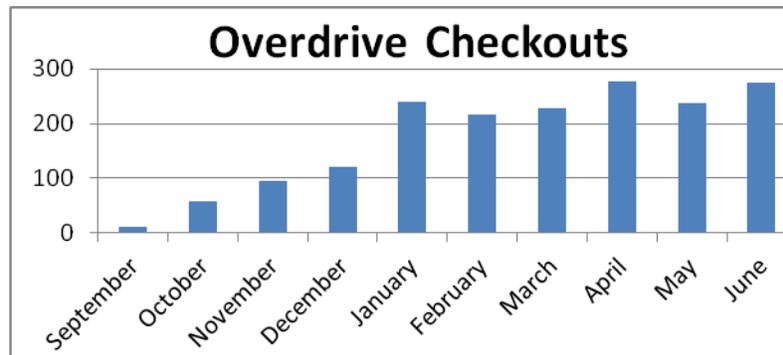
Milan Public Library sponsored its first annual “Share the Love” program in February. The library accepted over 300 non-perishable food items, weighing in at just less than 1,000 pounds, for Aid in Milan.

Staffing

None of the above activity would be possible without the library’s dedicated staff. The staff consists of nine people, three FTE staff members, six part-time staff members and one very dedicated volunteer. The Milan Public Library staff makes the most out of limited resources to provide the best possible service to the community.

What's New

The Milan Public Library added security cameras to the facility this past year. The library joined Overdrive in September, 2011. Overdrive is a downloadable e-book and e-audiobook database available to our patrons at no charge. Overdrive has become quite popular among our patrons, as the statistics below show.



We transitioned to a new email provider which allowed us to create email names that more accurately identify us as affiliated with the Milan Public Library (previously we had monroe.lib.mi.us addresses).

Milan Library Board President, Larry Biederman, worked diligently for recertification to QSAC. QSAC is an acronym for Quality Services Audit Checklist. The Milan Public Library has reached the “essential” status, meaning the library meets the requirements mandated for library service.

Building Maintenance

With new air conditioner units, we’ve noticed a significant drop in our Detroit Energy bills. We also removed an unused telephone circuit saving the library \$100 a month in telephone billing.

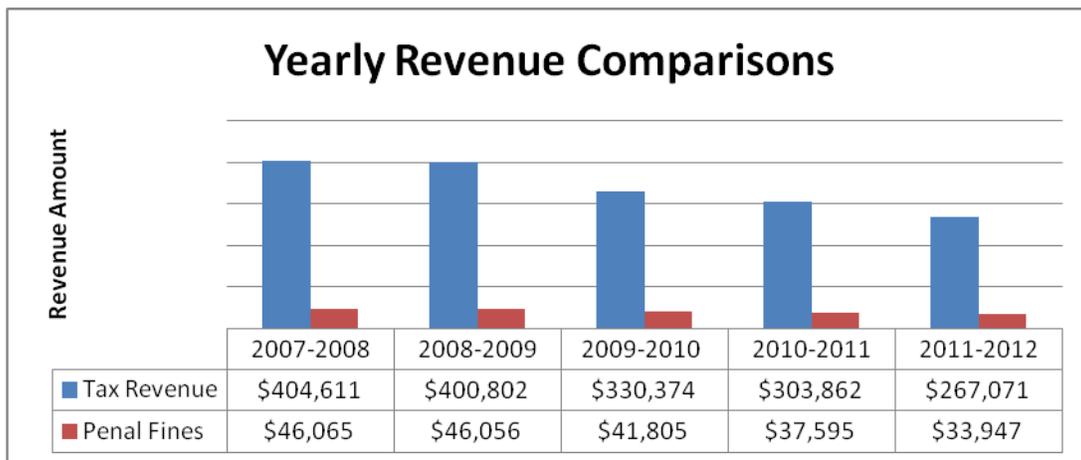
One of the biggest issues the library had to address was the basement flooding twice and the library’s boiler being completely submerged twice in the past year. The Milan Library Board of Trustees is looking into the feasibility of replacing the boiler and moving it to higher and drier ground.

Library Funding

In November, 2011, the library went out for a .25 millage that was approved and passed by the public. A .25 millage was due to expire in 2012 and the library decided to go the public a year earlier with a new millage and let the expiring one just expire. The library has had to really tighten expenditures as less and less revenue is coming in.

The Milan Library’s main revenue is tax revenue voted in by Milan residents. A secondary, but still important revenue is penal fines, which is a percentage of money collected from traffic fines. The library also receives State Aid, which averages .22 per capita for our service area; donations and money from overdue items, faxes and copies. The Friends of the Milan Public Library, led by Friends’ President Marilyn Alexander, fund many of the library’s needs and sponsor the Summer Reading Program annually. The Friends raise money through an ongoing book sale within the library.

Tax revenue continues to decline and so do penal fines which supply the majority of the library’s revenue. A comparison over the last five years shows a very bleak picture.



The library also applies for grants to help with funding. In 2011 – 2012, the Milan Public Library received six grants totaling \$4,100.

In Conclusion

The Milan Public Library remains a vital part of the Milan community. Programming, storytimes, bestsellers books, books on CD, DVDs, music CDs, computer training and free access to the library’s high speed wireless Internet, degreed librarians, a dedicated youth services co-ordinator, helpful circulation staff and other staff members all make the library relevant today.

The support of the community is valuable and vital to the functioning of the library. The Milan Public Library would not be able to function without the support of the community. The Milan Public Library is always open for suggestions; the library staff and trustees are always interested in comments from the public. The library would like to hear what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong, and what we could do better.