

Spokane County Library District HISTORY

- 1938** Voters in Spokane and Pierce Counties establish county library districts, the first in the state.
- 1939** Commissioners appoint first Board of Trustees; however, prosecuting attorney found 1935 enabling legislation “defective” in not providing legal basis for funding, so no actual service established.
- 1942** Second successful vote to form District after new legislation enacted in 1941.
- 1943** District library services initiated, operating out of Spokane Public Library through contract and bookmobile; Margaret Grein named County Librarian.
- 1947** Mildred Brackett named County Librarian.
- 1948** Building on West Riverside in Browne’s Addition purchased for District offices; services provided through deposit stations and bookmobile, as well as contract with Spokane Public Library.
- 1951** Bruce Carrick named County Librarian.
- 1955** Valley Library built as first branch and as District offices; service provided through 10 deposit stations, bookmobiles, and Spokane Public Library; Deer Park, Fairfield, Medical Lake, Rockford, Spangle, and Waverly contracting with District for services.
- 1960** Florence Johnson named County Librarian.
- 1962-64** Millwood, Orchard Avenue, North Spokane branches open.
- 1965** Susan Barclay named Director.
- 1966** Voters approve full \$2 million property tax levy for District operations.
- 1968** First Avenue headquarters building purchased; Valley Library remodeled; new Fairfield building and Cheney branch open; all deposit stations close.
- 1972** New North Spokane Library building opens; Outreach Services program initiated.
- 1974** Medical Lake Library opened; L. David Devine named Director.
- 1978** Orchard Avenue Library closes combining with Millwood Library.
- 1979** Administrative Offices and support functions move to North Argonne and Valley Library buildings.
- 1980** Millwood Library closes and North Argonne Library opens; bookmobile service ends; Spokane Cooperative Library Information System (SCOLIS) formed with four area libraries; Michael Wirt named Director.
- 1981** Automated circulation system implemented; property in Otis Orchards acquired from East Valley School District for possible future library.
- 1982** Former headquarters building sold; Latah and Waverly voters approve annexation to District.
- 1983** District voters approve lifting 106% levy lid, with additional funds to be used for facility expansion; Cheney and Medical Lake voters approve annexation to District.
- 1984** Latah and Waverly annexations effective.

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- 1985** Cheney and Medical Lake annexations effective.
- 1986** Valley Library major expansion and remodeling completed, more than doubling size of building; Cheney voters approve bond issue for new library building.
- 1987** City of Cheney receives Library Services & Construction Act matching grant for new library building.
- 1988** District voters approve \$4.975 million bond issue proposal for capital improvements in March 15 election; new Cheney Community Library building opens; SCOLIS formed into consortium.
- 1989** Automated circulation system upgraded and expanded; Eastern Washington University withdraws from SCOLIS consortium; groundbreaking held for North Spokane Library expansion; Medical Lake voters approve bond issue for new library building.
- 1990** North Spokane Library expansion completed, tripling size of building; new service contract with Airway Heights; Argonne Library/Support Services Center constructed and opened; North Argonne Library's name shortened to Argonne Library; computer catalogs installed at Airway Heights, Valley, and Argonne Libraries; City of Medical Lake receives Library Services and Construction Act matching grant for new library building.
- 1991** Medical Lake Library constructed and opened; new Otis Orchards Library built; Deer Park Library expands its space in City Hall; computer catalogs installed in remainder of District libraries.
- 1992** New Otis Orchards Library opens; voters approve levy lid override proposition to maintain levy rate in September 15 election.
- 1994** Spokane Public Library withdraws from SCOLIS consortium.
- 1995** Reciprocal use with Spokane Public Library ends: SPL begins requiring non-resident library card fee for District residents and District for adult City of Spokane residents; majority of voters approve \$7.66 million bond proposal for capital improvements, but issue didn't receive required 60% and validation in September election.
- 1996** District voters approve \$7.66 million bond issue proposal in February 6 election; Millwood voters approve annexation to the District; book return opens in Moran Prairie-Glenrose area.
- 1997** New Airway Heights Library opens; expanded and remodeled Cheney Library opens; Administrative Offices remodeled; new library automation system installed.
- 1998** New Deer Park Library opens; Valley library renovated; dial-in catalog access implemented; SCLD website launches.
- 1999** Renovated and expanded Fairfield Library opens; SCLD website redesigned and expanded.
- 2000** New Moran Prairie storefront branch opens in Cedar Canyon Village; property purchased for future Moran Prairie branch building; 2001-2003 Strategic Plan adopted; dial-in catalog access discontinued.
- 2001** Deer Park and Fairfield voters approve annexation to the District; new City of Liberty Lake approved library service contract with the District; mailing service for requested

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- materials discontinues; computer booking and time control system, with filtering options for minors, implemented.
- 2002** New integrated library system software installed; workstations with office, reference and educational software installed in all branches through Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant; reciprocal use agreement with Spokane Public Library approved; first Spokane Is Reading event.
- 2003** Spokane Public Library reciprocal use agreement takes effect; 2004-2006 Strategic Plan adopted; Moran & Glenrose Prairie voters approve Library Capital Facility Area formation and bonds for new library; Valley Library first floor reconfigured; City of Liberty Lake terminates library services contract for 2004.
- 2004** SCLD awarded 5-year City of Spokane Valley library services contract in RFP process; City of Spokane Valley library capital facilities plan developed; began installation of self-checkout and self-holds pickup; initiated regular adult programming and information literacy (computer) classes.
- 2005** City of Spokane Valley voters approve annexation to the District, effective January 1, 2006; new Moran Prairie Library groundbreaking; website redesigned; Valley Library name changed to Spokane Valley Library.
- 2006** New Moran Prairie branch opens becoming first of District branches to feature Wi-Fi; voters approve a levy lid lift in September election; outreach services moved in branch.
- 2007** Added 61 new hours, including Sundays for five branches; launched downloadable audiobooks; significant bandwidth increase; adopted Balanced Scorecard for future strategic planning; introduced "Look Inside" tagline; purchased Conklin Rd. property (Valley)
- 2008** Greater Spokane Valley LCFA and bond election not approved; participated in first NEA's The Big Read (Maltese Falcon); redesigned library cards; Spangle annexed to District; Medical Lake Library celebrates 25th anniversary; Deer Park celebrates 10th anniversary in new building; Cheney celebrates 20th anniversary of new building; purchased Hastings Rd. property (North).
- 2009** New services introduced - Tutor.com: provides Live Homework Help and career assistance; TumbleBooks - animated talking picture books to help teach kids reading in a different format; and Playaways - downloadable digital content designed for teens; work began on the 20-year Library Facilities Master Plan.
- 2010** Maintenance and operations levy lid lift receives 55% voter approval; 2nd participation in NEA's The Big Read (To Kill a Mockingbird); Board approves the 20-year Library Facilities Master Plan; new services introduced - eBooks: - electronic version of a printed book read on a personal computer or hand-held device; Text a Librarian - customers text a question, librarians text answers; and Library Thing - catalog personal collections, keep reading lists, posting book reviews, and chatting with other users who have the same books.