

**NEW this year in the Digital Collections
of the Birmingham Public Library**
The Rucker Agee Map Collection



*Atlas of the City of Birmingham and Suburbs - Plate G
Beers, Ellis and Co.
Date Original: 1887
From the Rucker Agee Map Collection*

Library Board

- Mrs. Lillie M. H. Fincher, President
- Mrs. Margaret Serra, Vice-President
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Representative from the Mayor's Office:
Ms. Vickie Reynolds



**THE BIRMINGHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

2100 Park Place
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
205-225-3600
www.bplonline.org

October 2006

THE BIRMINGHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY

**LOOKING BACK ON
A YEAR OF SERVICE**

**CLOSING THE BOOK ON
ANOTHER YEAR**

**The Year in Review
October 2005 –
September 2006**

The Birmingham Public Library has completed another year of the kind of achievement that inspires institutional pride. The many accomplishments acknowledged in this report represent the library's traditional dedication to providing high-quality library service in a user-friendly environment. While technological advances have changed and will continue to modify the tools for providing library services, the spirit in which the service is delivered continues to thrive.

By the Numbers

Circulation—1,425,546
Membership—146,125
Visits—2,103,377
 Central—391,196
 Branches—1,712,181
In-library use—1,873,920
Reference transactions—873,203
Public computer use—791,939
Summer Reading Club participants—6,331
Summer Reading Club certificates—3,832
Summer Reading Club programs—390
Summer Reading Club program attendance—23,319
Library programs—1,758
Program attendance—58,682
Meeting room bookings—3,868
Staff hours in continuing education—6,492
New material added—70,984
New bibliographic records created—43,035
Retrospective conversions—24,483
Digital collections usage—243,742
Best Sellers Club members—2,226
Photocopies—847,615

With New Services

New e-mail system for greater efficiency
Self-check stations at Central and the four regionals
Outside media book drop at Central
New computer training centers, Five Points West and Springville Road
BPL News Blog
BPL profile on MySpace.com
EventKeeper web calendar
Free Wi Fi at Central (coming soon at other locations)
Casual eating and Wi Fi access in the atrium at Central
Credit cards accepted at Central and the four regionals



Preserving the Past, Exploring the Future

With New Products

Downloadable audio books systemwide
Playaway audio books at some locations
New databases: *Serials Solutions*, *Price It*, *Alabama Legal Forms*, *Serial Set*, *African American Experience and Politics in America*
New local databases: *Alabama Coal Mine Fatalities, 1898-1938* (2,188 records), *Alabama Episcopal Church Registers* (14,301 records), *Alabama Inventors Database* (11,281 records), *Red Mountain Cemetery Interments* (4,710 records), *Obituary Index* (99,154 records), *BPL DVD Collection* (4,426 records)
Digital Collections: 2,525 items in CONTENTdm, 35 folders and pamphlets scanned, 14,699 items scanned, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church collection added to the *Librarians' Internet Index: Websites You Can Trust*, 687 maps digitized
Publication of two books: *A Woman of the Town* and *Historic Photos of Birmingham*



In the Schools and Daycare Centers

Off to a Great Start—packets for Birmingham City Schools students
Kindergarteners—129 classrooms
1st graders—135 classrooms
6th graders—101 classrooms
9th graders—3,167 students
Licensed to Read—15 schools, 803 library cards
Wild Card—9 schools, 400 library cards
Between the Lions—597 cards for Head Start students
BPL @ Your School—8 K-8 schools, 125 classrooms, 125 boxes of books provided to schools, 11,000 books checked out
Reading to be Remarkable / Jumpstart's Read for the Record—BPL librarians read to 2,609 children in a single day
Emergent literacy storytimes and workshops
Camp Birmingham and *Epic's Summer Enrichment Camp Reading Rally*—800 students and their parents
United We Read
Read It Forward book discussions
Birmingham Cultural Alliance—12 sessions, 324 students
Teaching American History Project—teaching materials for seminars for teachers in the Birmingham City Schools
Art in Asia—joint project with the Birmingham Museum of Art brought 1,156 students to the library
Homework Alabama Ambassador Program
Jefferson County Board of Education—media specialists in-service training
Birmingham City Schools—in-service day for administrators

CLOSING THE BOOK ON ANOTHER YEAR

In the Community

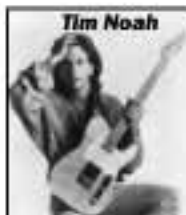
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 Pilot project—4 evening programs at Central, 112 attendants
 Family Fun nights at various branches
 Adventure Read—McWane Center, more than 300 participants
 Volunteer Birmingham—Brookwood Village
 Youth Fishing Rodeo—over 2,000 children and many parents
 Stokin' the Fire—Sloss Furnace Barbecue Cook-off
 City of Birmingham—Cease Fire Event
 Boo at the Zoo—over 6,000 participants
 Family Guidance Center—library orientation, career study and family literacy programs
 Grandparents Resource Day—Fair Park
 Scholastic Book Fairs
 December Swap Shop for non-profits
 Participation in the JCLC Speakers Bureau
 Neighborhood meeting participation
 Neighborhood Fun Days and other community events
 Participation on Community School Advisory Boards
 United Way Campaign—exceeded the goal set for 2005
 Free tax preparation sites
 Free health fairs and health seminars
 Common Bonds exhibit—lent to Vulcan Park
 Matched 32 adult learners and tutors
 Sister City Partnership—Hitachi Puppet Show
 Einstein's Big Idea—26 programs, 751 attendants

With Author Visits

Carmen Deedy
 Tim Noah
 John Scalici
 Judy Woodward Bates
 Jo Kittinger
 Mary Monroe
 and 21 authors at *Alabama Bound!*
 Allen Barra
 Clyde Bolton
 Sonny Brewer
 doris davenport
 Andy Duncan
 Deborah Ford
 Charles Ghigna
 Paul Hemphill
 Joe Hilley
 Peter Huggins
 Diann Jordan
 Don Keith
 Kirk McNair
 Brenda Rhodes Miller
 John Morgan
 John O. Northrop
 Kieran Quinlan
 Kathleen Sherwood
 Gary Sprayberry
 Scott Stantis
 (Mrs.) Michael Swindle



Carmen Deedy



Tim Noah



Mary Monroe

In the Media and In-Print

University of Alabama Marketing Class—presentations designed specifically for BPL
 Bright House Networks *Birmingham Public Library Presents*—12 shows, 120 hours televised
 Appearances on Fox 6 *Good Day Alabama*
 Full-page ad in *Book Pages* each month
 New design for BPL web site
 Design and production of invitations, programs, brochures, book-marks, and other promotional materials for the grand reopening of 5 branches
 Logo design and layout for new tablecloths for promotional events
 Layout and design for the 13th edition of *Season's Readings*
 38 press releases
 In-house production of more than 60,000 pieces of promotional materials, including business cards for *Free Wi-Fi*
 Production of the 2005 annual report
 Window displays for events including Summer Reading, Water Color Society, September Library Card Month, Read It Forward, Teen Read Week, Writing Today Conference, Arthur Shores, Holocaust, National Library Week, Friends of Rickwood Field, Brown Bag Lunches, Carmen Deedy
 PR materials for December Swap Shop for non-profits, Weed & Seed, Louisiana Library Association's Swap & Shop, Bring Your Child to Work Women's Conference, City Stages table, Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lakeshore Foundation, ONB breakfasts, Grandparents Resource Day
 Design of new BPL logos for library vehicles
 City Visions partnership—BPL happenings on the hotel channel
 Summer Reading Calendars for all locations
 Event listings in *activeculture.info*
 Monthly feature "Birmingham Timepiece" in *Birmingham Magazine*
 Adoption of new slogan—*Preserving the Past, Exploring the Future*



Behind the Scenes

Packing and moving 5 branches in 6 months: Ensley - October, Eastwood - November, Springville Road - December, Wylam - January, and Avondale - March
 Packing and moving the Literacy Center in September
 Packing, moving and installing technology for all new and renovated buildings
 HVAC repairs and upgrades for Avondale, East Ensley, East Lake, Ensley, Five Points West, Inglenook, North Birmingham, Powderly, Pratt City, Smithfield, and Central Linn-Henley
 Completion of 971 maintenance Track-its and 2,450 technology Track-its
 Roof repair and replacement
 Infrastructure upgrades for wiring, servers, software and security
 Installation of people counters at all locations
 New computer backup system for Central library
 New Innovative Interfaces server for training and testing

With Grand Re-Openings

Avondale
 Eastwood
 Ensley
 Springville Road
 Wylam



Avondale



Wylam



Eastwood



Ensley



Springville Road

West End

In the Gallery

Watercolor Society of Alabama
 Birmingham Historical Society—Olmsted Vision
 Kim Deale—photography
 Experimental Artists of Alabama
 Larry O. Gay—photography
 Southern Roots—The Academy of Fine Arts
 History of Summer Reading Programs at BPL
 Year of Alabama Outdoors—photography
 Split Complement
 Frederick Douglass Exhibit
 Courage to Remember (Holocaust)
 Herman Hatch—One Man Art Show

With Special Projects

Holding the 3rd Annual Garage Sale
 Publishing the 13th annual *Season's Readings*
 Cleaning more than 80 years of stored materials in the basement of Linn-Henley
 Clearing the loading dock and placing it under new management
 Planning for the next edition of the collection management policy
 Continuing work on the Southern History Project

Through Grants, Gifts and Recognition of Achievements

\$3,600 Junior League Grant—Career Development for Unemployed Women
 33 Books - ALA Great Stories Grant
 The only library in Alabama to receive this book discussion grant, a partnership between the North Birmingham Branch and The Opportunity Academy at Riggins.
 \$2,560 Literacy Council Grant—*Read It Forward* teen project
 Birmingham Beautification Award—Pratt City and Avondale Branches
 2006 Southeastern Library Association Outstanding Program of the Year for *BPL @ Your School*
 Occupational Safety Association of Alabama 2005 Best Safety Award Region III
 \$6,000 from Energen (Alagasco) for the Planetary Scanner
 \$2,000 for *Alabama Bound!* from Bruno's Memorial Classic Foundation
 \$1,500 *Beyond the Budget* award from the Friends of the Library
 \$300 Ezra Jack Keats award for an after-school activity
 \$2,500 from WGBH-TV for *Einstein's Big Idea*
 \$3,000 from Virginia Pounds Brown to underwrite *A Woman of the Town*
 \$3,177.55 from the Executive Women International to arrange and describe their records
 \$1,000 from NEH for *Forever Free*
 \$100,000 from Hibbert Masters Weathers
 \$20,656 LSTA grant for self-check computers
 \$42,450 LSTA grant for continuing education
 LAMA / PRMS Swap and Shop Best of Show Competition at ALA
 ALA-LAMA Honorable Mention in the Bibliographies and Booklists category for *Season's Readings 2005*

Community Development Grants

Five Points West	\$1200.00
North Avondale	1500.00
Powderly	500.00
Pratt City	1300.00
Smithfield	1200.00
Springville Road	2500.00
Woodlawn	4,144.53
Wylam	24,000.00
Grants from Legislators	
East Ensley	\$550.14
East Lake	499.57
Ensley	405.63
Inglenook	1900.59
North Birmingham	3709.00
Slossfield	1000.00
Woodlawn	398.00
Wylam	368.00

Barbara Sirmans, Director

Renee Blalock, Associate Director

Pam Lyons, Associate Director

The mission of the Birmingham Public Library is to provide the highest quality library service to our citizens for life long learning, cultural enrichment and enjoyment.