

whatcom county library system



the best place to begin!

Vision

WCLS envisions a future in which the curiosity of each generation flourishes and where our communities can not imagine a world without their libraries.

Mission

In partnership with our communities, WCLS brings the joy of reading and access to the world of ideas to every resident in an open and enriching environment.

Amory Peck,
*Board of Trustees
Chair*

Ferris Bueller, in the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, said "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop to look around once in a while, you might miss it."

As trustees of the Whatcom System, the five of us on the seriously our mandate to "look in a while." This Strategic Plan community feedback, from and from those not yet users and our library staff. It was our time spent at Listening Table people to talk freely with us dreams and ideas for their lib

In addition, we studied state library service trends. All the received has been incorporated focus areas presented in this

Thank you for helping us take library system; thank you for support you have shown WCLS sixty years.



**strategic
2008-20**

Focus areas - our priorities!

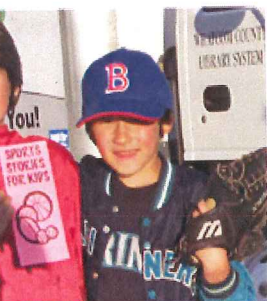
Inclusion of advocacy into planning and services

visibility through
outreach and partnerships

selection of books, audio,
magazines, balanced
new and old, the popular
common, for all ages

expand and improve our
library services in partnership
with Whatcom Public Library
and shared collections and

and county officials as well
by implementing a library
communications plan

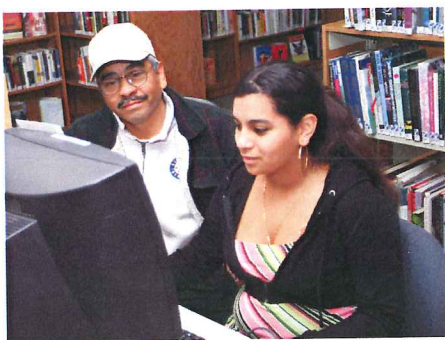


Whatcom County Library System throughout our county

ideas and suggestions,
many means, all ways!

was standing at the double glass doors
mom, brakes on. "But Mom" he says, "I
know!" "I know" she says, "but we really have
a wonderful look, he reluctantly followed her out.

- Offer quality programs throughout the year on topics of local interest:
 - ◇ Cultural and arts programs
 - ◇ Use of library computers, technologies, and resources
 - ◇ Teen and Tween fun nights
 - ◇ Bi-lingual story times
 - ◇ Cooperative programs with schools and homeschoolers
 - ◇ Enhanced library programs like book clubs and summer reading



FACILITIES

Initiate the Whatcom County Library System Facilities Plan, working toward suitable library buildings for all county residents

- Offer convenient open hours and welcoming, comfortable library spaces that include free meeting areas for community groups
- Make the best use of current facilities while planning appealing library spaces for the future

"I love the online library system that you can check out a book or request a book without having to go in to do it and pick it up all in one trip."

the plan @ your Blaine Library

Blaine Public Library - Whatcom County Library



For 2008, we plan to focus on:

1. Advocacy

- The public will be aware of the value of the Blaine Library in the community.
 - Enhance publication of library news and events in local media outlets.

2. Facilities

Provide a Comfortable Atmosphere

- Plans to expand or build a new library continue to move forward.
- Teens will find a welcoming and engaging place in the library.
- Patrons will enjoy the convenience of self-service holds and check out.

3. Usership

The library will partner with community groups and organizations for beneficial resource sharing.

Create Young Readers

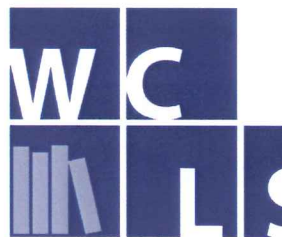
- The library will reach out to Schools, Timber Ridge High School, Homeschool groups, and Boys and Girls Club.

Increase Information Fluency

- Whatcom Literacy Council tutors will use the library.
- Non-English speakers will use the library's English learning collections.

Stimulate Imagination

- Library patrons will volunteer at Staffholt nursing home residents.
- Book discussion groups will be formed.



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Accomplishments!

Internet access for laptop popular service.

Needs of the Blaine Library is meeting the demand of visiting book buyers.

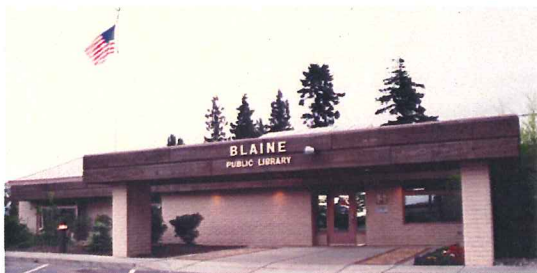
Checkout of library books is easy.

Internet stations help ease for computers.

Area was Increased by the meeting room with new study and laptop use.

Children's focus staff will be our younger patrons.

Reference Center is an repair manual available by and on home internet to anyone with a County Library card



The WCLS Blaine Public Library staff joyfully provides library service as part of the Whatcom County Library System.

Whether you need help in choosing your next book, answers to information and research questions, or online assistance, Blaine staff will make sure your library visit (in person or virtual) is a successful and positive experience. "We go overboard for you!"

Open 57 hours per week, the library provides service to an ever increasing number of residents and visitors. The present facility, opened in 1988, offers a welcoming and playful children's area, teen space, reading section for adults, six public internet stations and a multipurpose meeting room with seating for 50.

WCLS Blaine Public Library Hours

Monday 10 AM to 6 PM

Tuesday through Thursday 10 AM to 9 PM

Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM



For More Information, please contact:

Whatcom County Library System's

Blaine Public Library

610 3rd Street, Blaine, WA 98230

322-8146 wcls.org

Whatcom County Library System



Branch Locations

Blaine

Bookmobile

Deming

Everson

Ferndale

Island

Lynden

Maple Falls

Point Roberts

Sumas



Values

WCLS is dedicated to:

- Providing free, convenient access to a diverse collection of library resources that supports popular interests and lifelong learning
- Promoting the value and pleasure of reading and libraries, especially to children
- Assisting and instructing residents in finding and evaluating the resources and information that they seek
- Working as partners with our towns and rural areas to create environments that cultivate community connections and serve as sanctuaries for curiosity, thinking and the free exchange of ideas
- Supporting confidentiality and personal choice in regard to individual use of library materials and services
- Fostering a work environment that values employees and excellent customer service
- Operating in an economical and efficient manner

Joan Airoidi, Director, WCLS

Among the many treasures of Whatcom County are its library services, a vital part of our knowledge infrastructure.

Our libraries must achieve a balance of growth and stability over the next five years, as we strive to give the best of what Whatcom County residents deserve: the services that keep them coming back.

In a democracy, libraries are a responsibility and that is the responsibility of every one of us.

For more information,
Whatcom County
5205 Northwest Drive, Belvidere
360-384-3150



**thoughtfully developed and
innovated bold new ideas**

WCLS website to make it
relevant and useful for all ages

a range of attractive and
content in both the physical
library spaces such as
e audio books

specialties such as
children and youth

infrastructure including
connections with
bandwidth to support the
g, programs, and services



to find something inspiring and
get information that I might not
find on my own on the internet."

FINANCES

**Budget based upon solid financial
management supplemented by
creative approaches to securing funds**

- Ensure that Library Staff continue learning and adapting to change, seeking efficiencies while maintaining what is most appreciated by our users:

High quality customer service

accomplished through staff training and effective use of technology and other tools

- Promote and support local Friends of the Library groups and the Whatcom County Library Foundation, who help fund and support community and system wide projects and programs

Board of Trustees

The Whatcom County Library System is governed by a 5 member all volunteer Board of Trustees appointed by the Whatcom County Council.



Board of Trustees front row: Amory Peck, Janneth Hunter. Back row: Janet Boyhan, Tom Burton, Nina Cox

"I like the older fiction like from the 40's and 50's, and I look for how-to books. And books on nutrition, and let's see, needle work, arts and crafts, and sometimes I get the music CDs too."