

Cooperative Activities Between San Diego Public Library and San Diego Schools

The San Diego Public Library (SDPL) and the San Diego School Districts cooperate in many ways to promote reading, improve academic performance, and enhance self-esteem in students in elementary, middle and high schools. These include:

\$ Collection Development

The Library's collections are a major supplement to the schools' curricula. The Central Library's Children's Room routinely acquires core curricula materials and suggested reading lists for grades K-6. These are used to plan and develop the Library's collections at the Central and branch libraries so that adequate materials are available on subjects emphasized in the schools. Youth Services Librarians or Branch Managers meet with school librarians and build branch collections to meet the children's specialized needs.

\$ Homework Centers

These are areas in branches and the Central Library Children's Room with computers and a selection of books to assist students with school homework assignments.

\$ Satellite Homework Centers

Social Advocates for Youth (S.A.Y) partners with the library to create homework assistance centers at 13 elementary schools. Ten branches (Balboa, City Heights, Malcolm X, Mission Hills, North Clairemont, Oak Park, Paradise Hills, Scripps Ranch and University Community) developed these homework materials centers and maintain them.

\$ Homework Assistance

The San Diego Public Library is a partner with STAR/PAL, an organization composed of City and County libraries, Park and Recreation, Police, Fire, and Probation departments to provide after-school activities and homework assistance for youth at risk.

\$ Internet and Online Reference Access

All SDPL libraries provide access to the Internet and to online subscription reference data bases. The online data bases include full-text magazines and newspapers and now also on include encyclopedias, photo archives, and literary and biographical titles which support homework assignments. Library staff also work with students to utilize appropriate web sites in completing homework assignments.

\$ School Visits/Library Orientations and Tours

Class tours are conducted by Librarians at the Central Library and all branches to familiarize students and teachers with the materials and programs available to assist with homework. For example in FY 00-01, Central Library's Children's Room had 69 tours and class visits, 25 class visits and programs for teens and 90 special programs and story times. Emphasis in the downtown area is on bilingual classes and students at risk. Alternative schools with limited resources also depend heavily on the library and its materials.

- \$ Families for Literacy
The Malcolm X and City Heights branches help adult learners with preschool children become their first teachers, learning to read to them, and bringing them to the library.
- \$ Story Times
All branches have programs of reading to young children throughout the year.
- \$ Student Essay Contest
The Friends of the San Diego Public Library, the San Diego Public Library, and the San Diego Unified School District partner to sponsor an essay contest at City Schools. The contest supports the school district's literacy standards and portfolio assessment, as well as agency collaboration. It also serves to foster a love of libraries and reading in students.
- \$ Summer Reading Program
The Library's 75-year-old Summer Reading Program keeps children and teens reading, learning, improving their reading skills, and stretching their imaginations during the summer vacation months. It encourages them to look at reading as a fun and recreational activity. Prior to the Reading Program in June, Youth Services Librarians visit school assemblies and present the program theme and reading incentives. In the City of San Diego, over 20,000 children and teens participated in FY00-01 with over 36,937 attending programs at the Central and Branch Libraries.
- \$ Summer Reading Lists
Since 1966, Children's Services has provided a suggested Summer Reading list, which is then distributed by participating School Districts to principals of elementary, junior and senior high schools.
- \$ Library Card Campaign
In FY 98-99, the Library cooperated with City School's Instructional Media Center to conduct a Library Card Campaign. This resulted in 15,470 library cards being issued to students in grades Kindergarten through 6 in the San Diego Unified School District.
- \$ Multi-cultural Programs
To enhance learning of San Diego's rich cultural heritage, libraries provide music, dance, cultural celebrations and dramatic programs for children and adults.
- \$ Young Adult Resources Committee
A joint bi-monthly book review group, composed of librarians from public and secondary school libraries, meet to prepare bi-monthly annotated lists and an annual cumulated list of recommended materials for young adults.
- \$ Serra Cooperative Library System Workshops
Workshops developed by the Serra Cooperative Library bring school and public library staff together for professional development.