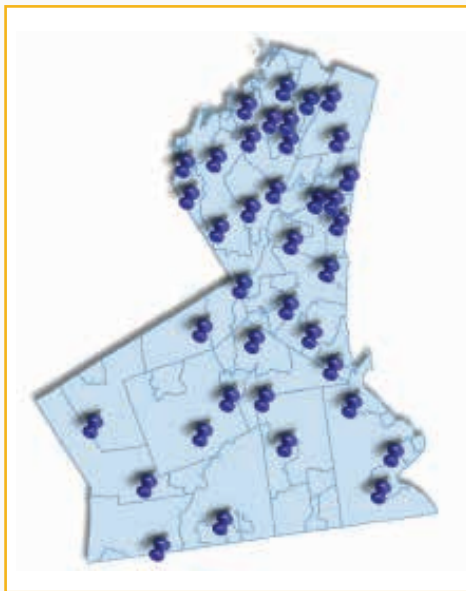


Westchester Library System is a tax-exempt organization registered with the NY State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271. Copies of the latest financial statements are available upon request from the NY State Charities Bureau or from Westchester Library System. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**Westchester Library System** provides the services and support to assist Westchester public libraries' efforts to empower and improve their communities with extensive open access to information, technology and personal development tools.

**Programs  
Activities  
Impact  
2012-2013**



Ardsley Public Library  
ardsleylibrary.org

North Castle Public Library  
northcastellibrary.org

Bedford Free Library  
bedfordfreelibrary.org

Bedford Hills Free Library  
bedfordhillsfreelibrary.org

Briarcliff Manor Public Library  
briarcliffmanorlibrary.org

Bronxville Public Library  
bronxvillelibrary.org

Chappaqua Library  
chappaqualibrary.org

Croton Free Library  
crotonfreelibrary.org

Dobbs Ferry Public Library  
dobbsferrylibrary.org

Eastchester Public Library  
eastchesterlibrary.org

Greenburgh Public Library  
greenburghlibrary.org

Harrison Public Library  
harrisonpl.org

Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library  
hastingslibrary.org

Irvington Public Library  
irvingtonlibrary.org

Katonah Village Library  
katonahlibrary.org

Larchmont Public Library  
larchmontlibrary.org

Lewisboro Library  
lewisborolibrary.org

Mamaroneck Public Library  
mamaronecklibrary.org

Hendrick Hudson Free Library  
hendrickfreelibrary.org

Mount Kisco Public Library  
mountkiscoliberal.org

Mount Pleasant Public Library  
mountpleasantlibrary.org

Mount Vernon Public Library  
mountvernonpubliclibrary.org

New Rochelle Public Library  
nrpl.org

Ruth Keeler Memorial Library  
keelerlibrary.org

Ossining Public Library  
ossininglibrary.org

The Field Library (Peekskill)  
peekskill.org

Town of Pelham Public Library  
pelhamlibrary.org

Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library  
portchesterlibrary.org

Pound Ridge Library  
poundridgelibrary.org

Purchase Free Library  
purchasefreelibrary.org

Rye Free Reading Room  
ryelibrary.org

Scarsdale Public Library  
scarsdalelibrary.org

Somers Library  
somerslibrary.org

The Warner Library  
warnerlibrary.org

Tuckahoe Public Library  
tuckahoelibrary.org

White Plains Public Library  
whiteplainslibrary.org

Yonkers Public Library  
ypl.org

John C. Hart Memorial Library  
(Shrub Oak)  
yorktownlibrary.org

**Westchester Library System**

540 White Plains Road, Suite 200 • Tarrytown, NY 10591  
914.674.3600 • westchesterlibraries.org • Twitter: @WestLibSys



Empowering libraries. Empowering communities.



# empowering libraries empowering communities

“ WLS is an important intellectual and economic generator for the county. Providing access to knowledge and inspiration for all Westchester residents is priceless; something we all need to cherish and support. ”

WILLIAM MOONEY,  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION

## westchester library system

From providing advanced technology to diverse outreach programs and events that create a stronger, more enriched, better educated Westchester, Westchester Library System (WLS) works continuously to support the needs of libraries – and by extension – all the people and businesses of Westchester. As a cooperative library system, WLS supports 38 independent public libraries among the diverse communities of the county. WLS empowers its member libraries and the communities served through:

- Access for library patrons to WLS’ member libraries’ extensive collection of 5.3 million items, including e-books, print books, audiobooks, music, DVDs, magazines, maps, pamphlets and more.
- Programs that connect each library to its community. Programs and services reach everyone including immigrants, bilingual



*WLS IT Department manages a network of over 900 computers, free internet and WiFi in 44 locations.*

speakers, children, older adults, parents, teens, low-literacy readers, the disabled, career-minded adults, and individuals re-entering from correctional facilities.

- Online tools and programs that foster lifelong learning, build job skills and support innovation.
- A technology network serving all 38 public libraries – one of the largest technology networks in the county.
- Efficiencies through cooperative and centralized services.
- Professional development and staff training for libraries and their boards, building stronger libraries in every community.



“ Learning Ambassadors taught me patience, time management and gave me a taste of work experience in the real world. ”

*Right: If the book you want is not available in the system, the WLS Interlibrary Loan Service will find it and deliver it to your library.*

## executive director

Terry L. Kirchner Ph.D.



## WLSfastfacts

Serves all county residents, Westchester businesses and employees

Established 1958 by the NY State Education Department

501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization

38 member public libraries, 44 locations, open 114,300 hours in 2012



# empowering libraries empowering communities

“ The WLS Trustee Institutes were very informative and well presented. It has never been more important for library trustees to fully understand the important leadership role they play in securing their libraries’ future. As a more informed trustee, I can better serve my library. ”

TONY OLIVIERI,  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE FIELD LIBRARY, PEEKSKILL

Why go to the library when you can research anything on the Internet?

“ Google can bring you back 100,000 answers; a librarian will bring you back the right one. ”

NEIL GAIMAN, AUTHOR AND LIBRARY ADVOCATE

Westchester librarians answered more than 1.5 million reference questions in 2012!

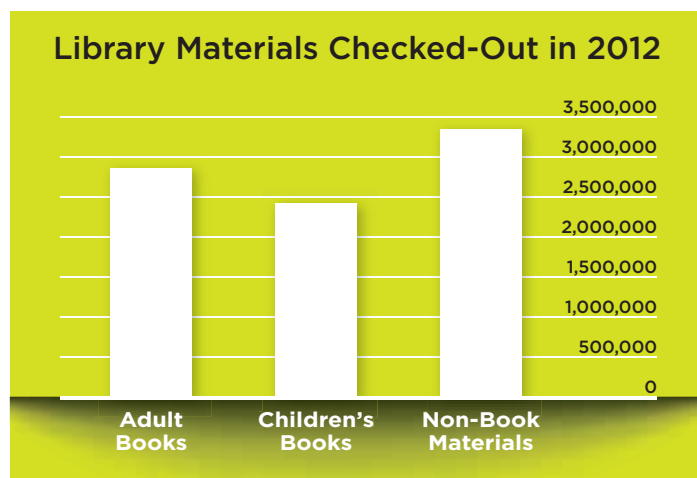
Below: WLS Cataloging Department provides centralized services. Items received at libraries are cataloged once, rather than individually for each library – a significant cost savings.



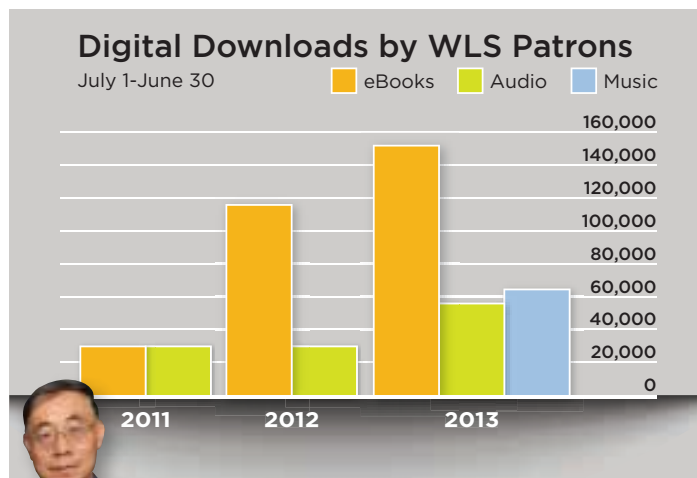
## supporting literacy

Libraries educate, inspire and encourage life-long learning for people of all ages and backgrounds.

- To assist patrons in finding and accessing information in the digital age, WLS offers one-on-one assistance, workshops and classes to help library staff and patrons navigate digital technology and build 21st century skills.
- Library story time in English and Spanish fosters the development of early language skills, helping children to be better prepared for the school learning environment.
- Through their strong collections, Westchester’s public libraries support the Common Core initiatives by providing nonfiction and primary source materials for school assignments.
- GED tutoring, ESL classes and cultural programming foster adult and family literacy.



Over 8.6 million items were checked out by library patrons, 2.4 million items were routed through the WLS System Delivery, saving libraries over \$5 million.



Westchester library patrons are downloading materials to their personal computers, laptops and digital devices, including Kindles and Nooks with nearly 500 downloads a day.

## resources available 24/7

Your library card provides access to exciting tools for learning, self-discovery, fun and adventure. At the library, from your home or office, you can learn a language, brush up on your computer skills, play a game or research your ancestry on the newly re-designed WLS website – [westchesterlibraries.org](http://westchesterlibraries.org)

- E-books and audio books in all subject categories – from leisure materials which inspire creativity to management and leadership tests which help individuals perform better in their business environment.
- Free music downloads – from popular to the classics, jazz to opera.
- Streaming video – this year WLS launched a small pilot of 74 award winning independent films.
- Business resources for the home office, entrepreneurs, emerging CEOs and career builders, including Lexis/Nexis, Morningstar, Business Insight Essentials, and ProQuest.



A centralized and shared online catalog of resources is available in English and Spanish 24/7.

## creating library leaders

WLS professional development programs help librarians, staff and library trustees keep pace with the latest trends in library technology, literacy outreach services, library advocacy and community engagement strategies.

- Spanish conversation classes through a partnership with Westchester Community College.
- Early literacy webinars to develop pre-K programs and training on the Core Curriculum.
- Social media workshops on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- A Spanish language book fair to learn and identify reading material for Spanish readers.
- Ongoing annual WLS Trustee Institutes to help member library trustees learn and share tools to better inform decision making on policy and advocacy issues that directly impact library service.

Below left: The Department of Community Connections helps libraries provide outreach services for their communities.



## WLSserviceindex

2012

8.6 million	Books and materials checked out
7.4 million	Visits to 44 library locations
3.9 million	Visits to member library websites
1.2 million	Visits to WLS website
480,600	Library Card holders



# empowering libraries, empowering communities connecting with older adults

“ Helping my 85 year old mother navigate the various agencies and resources available to her is overwhelming for both of us. But the kind and informative folks at the SBIC in the Warner Library (Tarrytown) really helped. Using the tools they shared with us, she was able to switch her Part D Plan and save money. ”

A GRATEFUL DAUGHTER

“ There are no words to describe the value and the sense of security your people provide me. They are a life raft in the turbulent ocean of healthcare. ”

SBIC CLIENT

Westchester County is home to more than 180,000 adults over the age of 60 – 20% of the population – and the numbers are growing. In less than 20 years, the U.S. Census Bureau predicts that Westchester’s population of adults over 60 will increase by 45%!

## senior benefits information centers

Senior Benefits Information Centers (SBICs) are senior directed counseling centers that help residents 60 and older learn about benefits and services to stay healthy, protected and connected. It’s a free walk-in service offered at nine library locations.

**SBIC HELP LINE: 914-231-3260**



*SBIC volunteer counselors bring personal experience and compassion to private one-on-one sessions; seniors and their families receive assistance in understanding and applying for Medicare, tax relief and other essential information.*

## aarp foundation tax-aid

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program helped approximately 3,900 Westchester taxpayers with Federal and State returns, amended returns, and general information at WLS member library sites. Through this program at Westchester libraries, \$2 million was returned to Westchester County residents.

## creative aging in the libraries

In 2014, WLS will join with 22 library systems across 12 states in a U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant that will extend the work of *Creative Aging in New York State Public Libraries*, a previous grant, to improve, expand and sustain art education programs in public libraries and position libraries as community cornerstones for positive aging.

To learn more about the Creative Aging Programs



in Westchester libraries and how you can support the program, watch our video using this QR code or visit:

[westchesterlibraries.org](http://westchesterlibraries.org)

## www.firstfind.org for low literacy adults

GED Connect! helps hundreds of Westchester adults improve their literacy skills. To assist low-literacy learners, WLS launched [www.Firstfind.org](http://www.Firstfind.org) a targeted, customized website with links to valuable online information and instructional resources. The structured sequence of GED subject tutorials online, combined with one-on-one instruction by GED Connect!

volunteer tutors help learners build confidence and skills needed to pass the GED exam.

For more information on GED Connect! sites in your community visit:

[www.firstfind.org](http://www.firstfind.org)

*Right: Working with teaching artists in the visual, performing or literary arts, seniors experience the joy of the creative pursuit and the camaraderie of working with others.*

*Below: On-going training helps SBIC volunteer counselors keep up to date on senior services.*



Photo courtesy of Lifetime Arts, Inc.

## WLSfastfacts

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

- 1,918 GED tutoring sessions
- 1,344 GED service hours across 6 libraries
- 42 GED tutor volunteers
- 798 SBIC counseling sessions
- 1,344 SBIC service hours at 8 library locations
- 50 Senior Benefits counselor volunteers





# empowering libraries, empowering communities workforcedevelopment

“ The libraries in Westchester have tremendous informational and technological resources, and the leadership of WLS has always worked with us to address vital issues in the community. Both of our organizations are committed to meeting the workforce preparation needs of people all over the county. ”

DONNOVAN BECKFORD,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
WESTCHESTER PUTNAM  
WORKFORCE  
INVESTMENT BOARD

## learning ambassadors

Now in its 7th year, the Learning Ambassador Program is an initiative for teens ages 14-16 fostering 21st century skills through work-based learning, training and mentoring. It prepares teens for their first job, develops skills for future employment and encourages further education. Prior to their summer work, teens participate in several day-long workshops and log at least 10 volunteer hours at the library during the spring. Over the summer, they are paid for 150 hours to work with a WLS-trained librarian-mentor to develop, promote, and deliver library activities that engage reading, math and digital literacy. The libraries receive much needed extra help during the busy summer months, and the teens have a meaningful work experience.

Learn more about the Learning Ambassador Program and how you can support the program, watch our video using this QR code or visit us at [westchesterlibraries.org](http://westchesterlibraries.org)



## WEBS career and educational counseling

“I want to thank you for your support and encouragement during my job search and for skillfully leading the seminar which I found so helpful. I’ve accepted a full-time position with an international media company as a project manager working with the global content team.”

WEBS PARTICIPANT

For more than 30 years, WEBS has supported the workforce in Westchester by providing group seminars, workshops and individual counseling for people in career transition. Participants receive crucial guidance, information, and strategies for “career-self-management” from highly skilled career counselors. Programs take place at libraries offering convenience and accessibility to the unemployed, underemployed, and career changers. People who attend WLS WEBS program are provided with expertise that is difficult to find elsewhere.

WEBS multi-session group seminars provide assessment, information, and career planning for hundreds of participants. In addition, over 30 workshops were presented at member libraries on a broad range of topics including: Developing Your Entrepreneurial Self, Career Change, Salary Negotiation, and Latest Trends in Resume and Job Search.

After a recent WEBS workshop, *Get LinkedIn to Your Job Search*, conducted at the Lewisboro Library, a participant reported renewed confidence to contact all her existing LinkedIn connections concerning her current job search. She heard from a few people who directed her to opportunities; and in a very short time she had some interviews, which happily resulted in a job.



*Right: Twenty-one teens were Learning Ambassadors in 2013; 16 worked at 8 libraries; 5 teens worked at child care centers in New Rochelle, Greenburgh and Mount Vernon.*

*Below: The WEBS program is recognized by the One Stop Employment Centers as a resource for job seekers and Elaine Sozzi, Program Director, is an active member of the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Investment Board.*



## WLSfastfacts

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

3150	Number of hours Learning Ambassadors worked during the Summer of 2013
128	Professional development hours for Learning Ambassador Librarian-Mentors
35	Number of Career and Job Strategy Workshops at WLS Libraries
442	Number of Participants attending Career and Job Strategy Workshops
613	Number of Free Individual Career Counseling Sessions



# libraries = intellectual capital = wise investment in the future

“ The Library’s position as a trusted informational resource and their convenient community access made them the perfect partner to present the Affordable Care Act information. ”

MARSHA GORDON, PRESIDENT/CEO, BUSINESS COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER

“ When we were looking to create Study Westchester, an online database of Westchester’s colleges, we were thrilled to discover that WLS beat us to the punch. WLS IT Department saved us money and provides County residents and businesses with easy access to higher education resources on their desk top or mobile device. ”

AMY ALLEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

## What is the most significant return on investment in Westchester Library System?

In a world where knowledge is power, your contribution is an investment in public free access to knowledge and life-long learning. It is an investment measured not only by financial impact, but also by our collective community pride in libraries as centers of innovation, promoting our quality of life, and insuring Westchester’s place as the intellectual capital of New York.

It’s about empowering libraries and empowering communities to serve the public good.

You can invest in Westchester Library System and support a wide range of library programs that build literacy skills, enhance learning and foster workplace development. Become a WLS Corporate Partner or an individual WLS Advocate.

*Terry Kirchner, Executive Director with Fran Feuerman, CFO and Pat Braja, Director of Development*



To learn how you can have a direct impact on a number of system-wide initiatives, contact WLS Director of Development, Patricia Braja, at 914-231-3241 or via email at [pbraja@wlsmail.org](mailto:pbraja@wlsmail.org). We will work with corporate donors to custom-design a program that meets their marketing and public relations goals while providing a wide range of benefits depending on the level of annual support.

### WLS 2013 Board of Trustees

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### WLS extends its sincere appreciation to the following government agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their contributions and generosity.

#### GOVERNMENT

County of Westchester  
U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services  
New York State Library, Division of Library Development

Naseem Jamali  
Dr. Terry L. Kirchner  
Joseph Krakow  
Sue Neale  
Julia Reid  
Edris Scherer  
Pamela Stockton

#### BUSINESS, CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

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Business Council of Westchester: Affordable Care Act Information Presentations  
Constant Contact  
Great Potential Program, Purchase College  
Greenburgh Central 7 Early Childhood Center (Head Start)  
Lifetime Arts, Inc.  
Medicare Rights Center  
Mt. Vernon Day Care  
Neighbor’s Link, Mt. Kisco  
New Rochelle Head Start  
New York Life Insurance Company  
Palmer School of Library and Information Science, LIU  
Westchester Community College  
Westchester County Association: Study Westchester  
Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)  
Westchester Seniors Out Speaking (WSOS)  
Westchester Workforce Investment Board

“ Learning Ambassadors taught me patience, time management and gave me a taste of work experience in the real world. ”

2013 LEARNING AMBASSADOR

*Learning Ambassadors at Peekskill Field Library.*

