

# *Empowering Libraries to Inform, Enrich, and Engage*



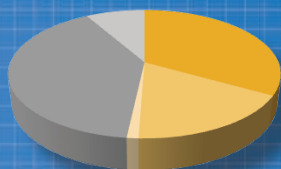


## Library Programs 2014: Engaging the Community



- 11,151 Adult Programs
- 19,540 Children & Teen Programs
- 903 Other Programs

## Library Collections 2014: Unlimited Possibilities



- 2,431,257 Adult Books
- 1,274,962 Children's Books
- 85,087 Other Print Materials
- 2,925,814 Electronic Materials
- 610,807 Other Materials

## Total Circulation 2014: What Westchester Checked Out



- 2,524,970 Adult Books
- 2,383,754 Children's Books
- 3,068,707 Other Materials

## Recent WLS Highlights

For over 50 years, the partnership between Westchester Library System (WLS) and the County's 38 public libraries has provided Westchester residents with the best in library services, open access to technology and free programming for anyone who lives or works in the County. This strong partnership proves that there is strength in numbers; shared resources save libraries thousands of dollars and offer patrons more options that would be difficult, if not impossible, for independent stand-alone institutions.

## System Wide Statistics

**7,448,874** Number of library visits in 2014

**1,515,423** Number of questions answered by library reference staff in 2014



Nearly 200 youth grades 4-9 participated in the first ever WLS Battle of the Books, a book trivia competition. Teams representing 16 libraries participated in a final competition held at Scarsdale High School on October 18, 2014. Ossining Public Library (6th-9th Grade Team) and Bronxville Library (4th-6th Grade Team) took home First Place trophies, and Ardsley (4th-6th Grade Team) and Briarcliff Manor (6th-9th Grade Team) took home Second Place Trophies.



The *Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast* during National Library Week featured journalist and author Frank Bruni.



The 2015 Learning Ambassador Program served 21 high school students. During the spring term they participated in a series of full day training and did 16 hours of volunteer work to prepare them to create, promote and deliver summer programs in the library. Working in 9 WLS partner libraries and the Greenburgh Central 7 Early Childhood Center, the Learning Ambassadors engaged children in reading, math and science literacy programs this summer.



Adults at Hendrick Hudson Free Library were guided by a teaching artist to explore the art of drama reading. They, studied, rehearsed and staged a public reading of *Twelve Angry Men*—launching a community theatre program at the Library. The program was made possible with a WLS Unlimited Possibilities Mini-Grant.



Tom Abinanti, NYS Assembly, Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, chair; Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly; Judith Johnson, NYS Regent, and Steven Otis, NYS Assembly are celebrating Unlimited Possibilities at Westchester Libraries!



# Enriching Lives at Home, Work, School, and Play

These programs and services are made available to all Westchester public library patrons because their libraries are members of the Westchester Library System (WLS). You can find information about these services and connect to these databases and more at your library, on its website or at [westchesterlibraries.org](http://westchesterlibraries.org).

**Freegal** Choose five weekly music downloads and three hours of music streaming per day.

**Rocket Languages** Speak and improve your language skills with every lesson by taking part in the modern, everyday conversations that make up this interactive audio course.

## FOR JOB SEEKERS

### • Career & Education Counseling Service (WEBS)

Specialized programs with trained professionals to guide your career path.<sup>2</sup>

### • Job and Career Accelerator

A comprehensive, online job search system.

### • Learning Express

Tools to prepare for professional exams, assist with occupation selection and improve workplace skills.

## The WLS Unlimited Possibilities Mini Grant Initiative

A WLS grant program established to fund community engagement projects that foster creativity and love of learning for all ages. In 2015, grants totaling \$40,000 supported projects at 24 WLS partner libraries focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Fashion & Design, and the Arts.<sup>1</sup>



**Learn English** Access selected websites to practice English grammar, vocabulary, listening, reading, pronunciation, and writing. Test your progress with games and quizzes.



## Senior Benefit Information Centers

Meet with trained counselors in a private setting in select libraries. Ask questions about Medicare, health plans, prescription drug coverage, and much more. Check the WLS website for participating libraries.<sup>2</sup>



## Morningstar Home Access

Proprietary stock and mutual fund analysis, screening tools, and portfolio-building features for library patrons.

**X-Plain Patient Education** More than 1,400 educational videos on basic health information about illness or conditions, medical tests, and procedures.

## OverDrive

Downloadable audio books, ebooks, and streaming video.



## FirstFind.org

A convenient portal to access information about how to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, learn English, update computer skills or access government benefits.<sup>3</sup>

## TASC Connect!

A free online study resource with one-on-one instruction provided by trained tutors helps prepare students for the New York State TASC high school equivalency diploma (formerly the GED Exam). Check the WLS website for participating libraries.<sup>3</sup>

## FOR STUDENTS

• **TumbleBooks** Animated picture books, reading comprehension quizzes, educational games

• **Amazing Animals of the World**<sup>4</sup> Facts and photos for over 1,200 animals

• **America the Beautiful**<sup>4</sup> Articles on US cities, states, and Presidents

• **eLibrary Elementary**<sup>4</sup> Over 140 magazines and books for elementary students

• **Kids InfoBits**<sup>4</sup> Engaging interface for kindergarten through grade five

• **Lands and Peoples**<sup>4</sup> Articles about countries, cultures, and current events

• **Multimedia Encyclopedia**<sup>4</sup> Quick-reference with rich media

• **New Book of Knowledge**<sup>4</sup> Reference and current events for elementary school and higher

• **The New Book of Popular Science**<sup>4</sup> Articles in the areas of science, technology, and medicine for middle and high school students

<sup>4</sup> Provided by the New York State Library. NovelNY is supported with temporary federal Library Services and Technology Act funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

## Academic OneFile

The premier source for peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading journals.

## Flipster

Digital editions of popular magazines: *Car & Driver*, *Dwell*, *Ebony*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Food Network Magazine*, *InStyle*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, *People*, *People en Español*, *Prevention*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Time*.

**Lynda.com** Extensive video library of engaging, top-quality courses taught by recognized industry experts in a broad variety of topics to improve business, creative, and personal skills.

**University of Fashion** Online video lessons created by fashion industry professionals to inspire and educate students, teachers, home sewers, and the fashion curious.

**Total BooX** Read, share, and discover e-books with no restrictions and no waiting.

**Westchester Seniors Out Speaking** The only volunteer group in the county devoted to delivering free services to help adults 60+ to achieve a better understanding of Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage.<sup>2</sup>

**IndieFlix** A streaming movie service with unlimited access to thousands of award-winning shorts, feature films, and documentaries from more than 50 countries.

**Freeding** A downloadable eBook service.

<sup>1</sup> This Grant Initiative was funded by Con Edison, Entergy, and the H.W. Wilson Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> The program is made possible with funds from Westchester County.

<sup>3</sup> TASC Connect! and firstfind.org is funded in part with funds from the New York State Library's Adult Literacy Services Grant, TD Charitable Foundation, The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation and Westchester County.



## WLS Board Of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are elected for a 5 year term to represent the 15 library districts within Westchester County.

District I: Croton, Montrose, Yorktown **Deborah Fay**

District II: Briarcliff Manor, Ossining, Tarrytown **Barbara Hickernell**

District III: Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah, Mount Kisco **Luke Vander Linden**

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# Thank you for your support!

Westchester Library System extends its sincere appreciation to the following government agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their generosity and support of our mission. Contributed support plays a critical role in sustaining and growing WLS services for Westchester partner libraries, businesses, and all County residents.

## January 2014- September 2015

### Government

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

### Business, Corporations and Foundations

AARP Foundation  
All Island Courier\*  
Alvanon\*\*  
The ARC Westchester\*  
Bedford Hills Library\*  
Brother USA\*\*  
Con Edison  
Eastchester Library\*  
EBSCO Information Services\*  
Entergy  
Field Goods\*  
The Field Library (Peekskill)\*  
Friends of the Mt. Vernon Library\*  
Friends of the Somers Library\*  
Gallin Beeler Design Studio  
Gonnett Foundation  
Hendrick Hudson Free Library Board of Trustees\*  
Hope for Youth Foundation  
Hudson Health Plan

H.W. Wilson Foundation  
IBM Corp.  
India Center of Westchester  
Infante Immigrant Connection, Inc.  
Jill Singer Graphics\*  
Katonah Village Improvement Society\*  
Larchmont Public Library\*  
Liberty Mutual\*  
Library Ideas  
Lothrop Associates LLP Architects\*  
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation  
Open Door  
Reforma  
Scarsdale Public Library\*  
Sheraton Tarrytown\*  
Sirsi Dynix  
Strategic Management Exchange\*  
Stop & Shop  
TD Charitable Foundation  
The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Westchester Community Foundation\*  
Westchester Hispano Newspaper  
Westchester Toyota  
West Harrison Agency\*  
White Plains Library Foundation\*  
Williams Raveis Legends Realty Group\*

\* Journal Ad

\*\* In-kind support

### Individuals

Mary Amato  
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Sharon Brand  
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Cherie Gillette Sigward  
Luke Vander Linden  
Jacqueline Vedder  
Mary Ellen Walsh  
Mary E. Warden  
Peter Williams

### Honor and Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Ralph Othouse

*An Honor or Memorial Gift offers a thoughtful, caring way to remember a loved one or special occasion while contributing to our mission of open access to life-long learning, technology and informational resources. Please contact Pat Braja: pbraja@wlsmail.org or 914-231-3241 for more information.*

### Our Program Partners

AARP Tax Preparation  
American Library Association  
Consumer Reports, Consumer Health Choices Program  
The Digital Arts Experience  
Family Ties of Westchester  
Great Potential Program, Purchase College  
Greenburgh Central 7 Early Childhood Center (Head Start)  
Lifetime Arts, Inc.  
Manhattanville College  
METRO  
Palmer School of Library and Information Science, LIU  
University of Fashion  
Westchester Community College  
Westchester Independent Living Center  
Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services  
Westchester/Putnam Workforce Investment Board

## Our Mission

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

Ardsley Public Library  
[ardsleylibrary.org](http://ardsleylibrary.org)

North Castle Public Library  
[northcastlelibrary.org](http://northcastlelibrary.org)

Bedford Free Library  
[bedfordfreelibrary.org](http://bedfordfreelibrary.org)

Bedford Hills Free Library  
[bedfordhillsfreelibrary.org](http://bedfordhillsfreelibrary.org)

Briarcliff Manor Public Library  
[briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](http://briarcliffmanorlibrary.org)

Bronxville Public Library  
[bronxvillelibrary.org](http://bronxvillelibrary.org)

Chappaqua Library  
[chappaqualibrary.org](http://chappaqualibrary.org)

Croton Free Library  
[crotonfreelibrary.org](http://crotonfreelibrary.org)

Dobbs Ferry Public Library  
[dobbsferrylibrary.org](http://dobbsferrylibrary.org)

Eastchester Public Library  
[eastchesterlibrary.org](http://eastchesterlibrary.org)

Greenburgh Public Library  
[greenburghlibrary.org](http://greenburghlibrary.org)

Harrison Public Library  
[harrisonpl.org](http://harrisonpl.org)

Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library  
[hastingslibrary.org](http://hastingslibrary.org)

Irvington Public Library  
[irvingtonlibrary.org](http://irvingtonlibrary.org)

Katonah Village Library  
[katonahlibrary.org](http://katonahlibrary.org)

Larchmont Public Library  
[larchmontlibrary.org](http://larchmontlibrary.org)

Lewisboro Library  
[lewisborolibrary.org](http://lewisborolibrary.org)

Mamaroneck Public Library  
[mamaronecklibrary.org](http://mamaronecklibrary.org)

Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose)  
[henhudfreelibrary.org](http://henhudfreelibrary.org)

Mount Kisco Public Library  
[mountkiscoliberal.org](http://mountkiscoliberal.org)

Mount Pleasant Public Library  
[mountpleasantlibrary.org](http://mountpleasantlibrary.org)

Mount Vernon Public Library  
[mtvpl.org](http://mtvpl.org)

New Rochelle Public Library  
[nrpl.org](http://nrpl.org)

Ruth Keeler Memorial Library (North Salem)  
[keelerlibrary.org](http://keelerlibrary.org)

Ossining Public Library  
[ossininglibrary.org](http://ossininglibrary.org)

The Field Library (Peekskill)  
[peekskill.org](http://peekskill.org)

Town of Pelham Public Library  
[pelhamlibrary.org](http://pelhamlibrary.org)

Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library  
[portchester-ryebrooklibrary.org](http://portchester-ryebrooklibrary.org)

Pound Ridge Library  
[poundridgelibrary.org](http://poundridgelibrary.org)

Purchase Free Library  
[purchasefreelibrary.org](http://purchasefreelibrary.org)

Rye Free Reading Room  
[ryelibrary.org](http://ryelibrary.org)

Scarsdale Public Library  
[scarsdalelibrary.org](http://scarsdalelibrary.org)

Somers Library  
[somerslibrary.org](http://somerslibrary.org)

The Warner Library (Tarrytown)  
[warnerlibrary.org](http://warnerlibrary.org)

Tuckahoe Public Library  
[tuckahoelibrary.org](http://tuckahoelibrary.org)

White Plains Public Library  
[whiteplainslibrary.org](http://whiteplainslibrary.org)

Yonkers Public Library  
[ypl.org](http://ypl.org)

John C. Hart Memorial Library (Shrub Oak/Yorktown)  
[yorktownlibrary.org](http://yorktownlibrary.org)

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*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.*