

Orcas Island Public Library

Long-Range Plan, June 2005

Phil Heikkinen, Library Director

Library Mission Summary:

The Orcas Island Public Library serves and enriches the community by maintaining a strong **core collection** of books, other materials, online resources, and services that share the best of human knowledge and self-expression created throughout history; and second, by offering materials and services that reflect **current issues and interests** of Orcas Island residents.

Library Goals and Objectives:

1. The community will be aware of and readily be able to research the wealth of human knowledge through books, other materials, online databases, and community resources.
 - 1.1. 80% level of user satisfaction or higher for this goal in annual surveys of library users.
 - 1.2. 80% level of community awareness of major library information resources in annual surveys of residents.
 - 1.3. Implement a fully operational Community Library and Resource Network within the first year of the plan, and maintain thereafter.
2. The community will find an ample representation of the world's great literature and other forms of self-expression.
 - 2.1. 80% level of user satisfaction or higher for this goal in annual surveys of library users.
 - 2.2. Within the first year of this plan, increase shelf space in the existing building by 20% without compromising accessibility.
 - 2.3. Fiction holdings at the library will maintain at least 90% of titles listed on major top-100 great books lists for children, young adults, and adults.
3. Library users will encounter library materials, programs, and services that satisfy their current recreational and informational interests, and that feature issues relevant to Orcas Island.
 - 3.1. 80% level of user satisfaction or higher for this goal in annual surveys of library users.
 - 3.2. Offer or co-sponsor at least 3 programs each year about topics identified by the community planning committee and successor groups as important to Orcas Island.
 - 3.3. Overall checkouts of library materials will increase 5% per year.

Approved by the Orcas Island Library District Board of Trustees on June 14, 2005.
Trustees: John Ashenhurst, Pierrette Guimond, Paige McCormick, Lynn Richards [not present at the June 14 meeting], Chase Riveland [President].

Community Planning Committee: Jeanne Beck, Helen Bee, Oak Boesky [unable to attend,; contributed written comments], Sidney Coffelt, Tony Ghazel, Emilie Gincig, John Greever, Harvey Himelfarb, Gene Knapp, Jan Koltun, Alan Lichter, Paige McCormick, David Sarver, Stan Williams. Facilitators from the Washington State Library: Karen Goettling, Library Development Specialist, and Rand Simmons, Library Development Program Manager.

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Supporting Documents

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Sample Library Activities (to be implemented to varying degrees, or not at all, depending on priorities as the Library works towards the plan service goals):

- Survey the community through various means and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the library's holdings for all ages in relation to perceived needs.
- Compare and adjust the library's holdings with respect to various lists of great books.
- Use published tools available for libraries for use in collection development, for example, books from Wilson Publishing such as [The Fiction Catalog](#) and [The Library Catalog](#).
- Maintain subscriptions to online resources that address gaps in library holdings.
- Maintain a vigorous and responsive inter-library loan service.
- Monitor library statistics concerning holdings and usage, and adjust purchases appropriately.
- Study and adjust library hours as appropriate to meet needs of library users.
- Maintain a suggestion box allowing people to suggest library purchases and new or modified programs and services.
- Publicize information regularly about new additions to the library collection, database products, inter-library loan and other services and programs.
- Monitor current political, recreational, educational, social, and other interests of Orcas Island residents via event listings and articles in *The Sounder*, and add materials relevant to those interests.
- Hold regularly scheduled family storytimes.
- Offer regularly scheduled author events and workshops.
- Conduct surveys of residents and use other means to learn topics and issues of greatest interest to them.
- Partner with local educators to identify and meet needs for student research materials.
- Monitor inter-library loan requests to identify areas for possible additions to our library collection.
- Offer reader's advisory services and databases.
- Compile lists of resources on Orcas including both individuals and organizations.
- Speak to community groups about resources and services available at the Library.
- Make laptops available for checkout to increase online and computer access without additional dedicated space.

- Coordinate intergenerational and family teaching sessions and book discussion groups.
- Maintain lists for local book clubs and other discussion groups.
- Facilitate meetings among artists, writers, musicians, and other like-minded members of the community.
- Cooperate with Skagit Valley College in offering credit and/or noncredit classes.
- Use volunteers and community groups to advise on projects, programs, and collection development decisions.
- Offer continuing education resources for all ages.
- Co-sponsor initiatives, forums, and programs with other local agencies, both in person and online, working in each agency's focus areas.
- Encourage sponsorships by local individuals, businesses, and agencies for specific library materials, services, and resources.
- Work with the Senior Center and other agencies as appropriate to offer training in using computers and information resources.
- Coordinate after-school programs with the school district, Funhouse, and others as appropriate.
- Provide public health information, insurance information, emergency medical information, and other health resources, especially for low-income residents.
- Undertake other activities as appropriate to achieve the above and compatible objectives, so that the Library can meet its service goals, supporting Orcas Island residents in meeting their needs and implementing their vision statements.
- In pursuing all service goals, make full use of partnerships with community organizations and individuals.

Planning Process Summary:

The Orcas Island Library District periodically undertakes a community-based long-range planning process. In April and May of 2005 fourteen residents of Orcas Island, Washington, who were selected by the Library Director in an effort to achieve a balanced representation of the larger community, discussed in three meetings the long-term service priorities for the Library.

From among numerous possibilities the planning committee chose to emphasize two, as stated below. Then the Library designed goals and objectives, and listed sample activities, in preparing to implement these priorities. The Library intends to engage in another planning process within five years, recognizing that for each community excellence is a moving target.

Background and Process-further discussion:

The Library last undertook a complete planning process in 1999. The priority chosen at that time was described as Lifelong Learning, with a mission "to provide open and equal access to ideas, information, and a place for reading, self-directed learning, and community interaction." The Library recognized that it was time to create a new planning process in 2005. Understanding that this active community has very strong and at times conflicting

views about library services, we felt it was important to form a group with as diverse a set of perspectives as possible, and then to ask the group members to work towards one or more library service priorities that they could all support.

We modeled the planning process after the Public Library Association's *The New Planning for Results*, created in 2001 to streamline public library planning. Two Washington State Library staff members served as facilitators. Several committee members expressed skepticism about the relevance of this particular process for Orcas Island. However, by the end of the second meeting participants seemed to feel that nevertheless they had been able to arrive at meaningful priorities, which, if implemented effectively, would serve the community well. During the first two meetings the committee brainstormed community vision statements; considered relevant strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; listed community needs; and, incorporating feedback from Library staff, prioritized service responses for the Library intended to meet these needs. At the third meeting, the Committee offered feedback to the Library's Director's written plan. The group met from 10 to 3 pm on April 15 and May 6, and 10 to 1 pm on May 27, 2005.

Community Planning Committee: Jeanne Beck, Helen Bee, Oak Boesky [unable to attend,; contributed written comments], Sidney Coffelt, Tony Ghazel, Emilie Gincig, John Greever, Harvey Himelfarb, Gene Knapp, Jan Koltun, Alan Lichter, Paige McCormick, David Sarver, Stan Williams. Facilitators from the Washington State Library: Karen Goettling, Library Development Specialist, and Rand Simmons, Library Development Program Manager.

Some of the constituencies, interests, and areas of expertise in this group include children's services, Senior Center, Choral Society, Camp Indralaya, elementary teacher, parent with pre-school children, artists, agriculture, business, the former Orcas Library Association, Library staff, Lions Club, Freeholder, college/university professor, corporate employees, school board, computer and network consulting, student, Friends of Orcas Island Library, Orcas Island Garden Club, Orcas Island Yacht Club, university administrator, San Juan Preservation Trust, attorney, San Juan County Land Bank, Orcas Island Medical Board, Orcas Center, Board of County Commissioners, poet, theater director, Moran State Park volunteer, mediator, Library Board, parent with school-age children, auditor, accountant, and physician.

Orcas Island Library District Board of Trustees: John Ashenhurst, Pierrette Guimond, Paige McCormick, Lynn Richards, Chase Riveland [President].

Orcas Island Public Library staff: Nita Couchman, Carol Erickson, Tony Ghazel, Phil Heikkinen [Library Director], Karen Hiller, Holly King, Mary Pugh, Kathy Stribling.

Orcas Island Vision Statements from Brainstorming Session (though as the Committee members made clear, this is not what they would issue as a definitive, comprehensive list):

- Agricultural workers/farmers will be able to make a living farming
- Individuals
- Will have healthy food, water, and shelter
- Will have a healthy life with adequate medical information and care
- Will have a choice in their social and cultural context
- Will have freedom from want, oppression, crime and have a safe community
- Will have full access to all information - equal access and power
- Will have Governmental transparency
- Will develop a sense of wonder
- Will have a sense of obligation and responsibility including for plants and animals
- Seniors will have a supportive community for longer independence including educational opportunities, individual care, inclusion in activities, and access
- Seniors will have attention to special medical, emotional, physical and psychological needs
- 25 - 50 year olds will have available middle income jobs
- 25 - 50 years will have increased number of higher income jobs
- Workers will have a diverse economy that provides a range of jobs that are safe for the workers and clean for the environment (agriculture, service, and industry)
- Youth (18 - 20s, graduates) will be able to remain on the Island and make a living
- Youth will have expanded recreational opportunities
- Children will be fulfilled and productive happy humans
- Children will have education, mentoring, security, love, protection, structure, and recreation
- Families will have affordable housing, education at many levels, and recreation
- Young families will have good jobs that keeps the family together
- Families will have a healthy social and cultural context where people are free to follow intellectual and spiritual freedom
- The community will have reduced dependence on tourism
- Community will have mutual respect for human diversity
- Community will have a mechanism for consensus building and conflict resolution
- Community will be able to go back and forth from the Island for medical reasons
- Community will keep and preserve its rural ambience
- Community will be able to have housing and jobs here without having to commute to and from the Island
- Community will continue the current state of conservation & preservation -- balance between conservation and growth
- Community will maintain an integration of diverse subgroups and geographical subgroups of Islanders
- Community will have a mechanism to encourage interaction of diverse groups
- Community of creatures (land and marine) will have non interference with and support of their natural cycles

Orcas Island Needs Statements from Brainstorming Session (though as the Committee members made clear, this is not what they would issue as a definitive, comprehensive list):

- Provide educational support for people who want to start businesses (financing, business plan development)
- Have a company to help provide financing for small businesses
- Hold public forums through which citizenry is informed, educated, and heard and which are completely separated from all organizational and self-interested agendas
- Through public forums, create an awareness of the issues and assign issues to appropriate groups that can solve given problems, e.g., government for zoning, or growth and conservation
- Create a list of all the resources on the Island (people's talent, mentoring)
- Increase offering of computer skills at the Senior Center
- Increase the range of courses offered, e.g., literature skills
- Increase the opportunities for education without leaving the Island by using technology
- Provide more variety in the curriculum so programs are tailored to personal skills and interests of students
- Provide more individualized instruction for students