2009 was another trying year, as economic indicators lagged, jobs were scarce, and New York’s finances grew ever-worse. Amidst these problems the nation’s public libraries remained a point of light, providing positive education and recreation opportunities for people of all ages and economic situations.

Some of our service measurements grant a good indication of how today’s libraries are being used—and how they have changed. While the number of items borrowed remained steady, huge increases occurred in other areas: reference questions, interlibrary loans, program attendance, Internet and wireless usage, study room use, and public fax transmissions. Libraries have truly adapted to changing times, and despite home Internet use and e-books, are busier than ever. As such, they remain a great value, and the very model of shared services.

We’ve been working hard to make your library experience more enjoyable. The building is more accessible. Our Laptop Lounge has helped meet growing demand for Wi-Fi, and the Overdue Café is now serving fresh-brewed coffee and tea. A grant is in the works for a sorely needed renovation of the public restrooms. Grants were also secured to update the public computers, and to purchase equipment to add Wii gaming to our programs. The library web page was completely overhauled, with the addition of many interactive features, including the exciting BookLetters service to keep you informed of all the newest titles.

Children’s & Young Adult services remain a key focus, as we work to open the wonderful world of reading to our youth. Reading remains our core service. I encourage you to take advantage of our excellent collection—everyone should always have a good book close at hand! — Ed Duncombe
Highlight of Activities from our 94th Year of Service to the Community

- Added five new public computing stations through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Revamped website
- Debuted BookLetters service - register for free e-mail delivery of newsletters to keep you informed of the latest books!
- Opened Overdue Café & Laptop Lounge
- Added auto front door opener for handicap access
- Improved climate control in GF Johnson meeting room utilizing NYS grant
- Applied for NYS grant for bathroom renovation
- Awarded video gaming grant
- Adult & Youth Book Clubs formed
- B.A.R.K.9. program continues—children reading to therapy dogs
- Added 7,378, new books, 244 music CD's, 502 DVD's, 198 audio books—all collections remain among the largest of the 43 Four County System member libraries
- 1,758 new patrons registered
- 157,106 patron visits
- Free tax prep program saved participants thousands of dollars

Board of Trustees
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- Brian Steele, Secretary
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- Jennifer Musa, PhD
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Service Measurements:
- Days open: 295
- Circulation: 197,023 (decreased 0.4%)
- Reference questions: 16,080 (increased 20%)
- In-house reserve requests: 4,302 (decreased 2.7%)
- Interlibrary loans received: 7,025 (decreased 13.7%)
- Interlibrary loans provided: 10,420 (increased 40%)
- Registered borrowers: 25,063 (increased 0.6% - 2nd largest total in Four County System)
- Programs: 240 (increased 0.9%)
- Program attendance: 7,384 (increased 23%)
- Internet usage: 33,866 (increased 28%)
- Wi-Fi sessions: 1751 (increased 87%)
- Study room use: 426 (increased 61%)
- Public fax transmissions: 699 (increased 21%)
- Group meetings: 314 (decreased 1%)
- Free tax returns prepared by volunteers: 398 (decreased 29%)

Financial Report

2009 Receipts:
- Union library district: $771,422
- Broome County: $136,812
- Fines/Fees etc.: $4,074
- Grants & NYS aid: $25,372
- Gifts & Donations: $1,815
- Interest on deposits: $3,889

Total Receipts: $979,734

2009 Expenditures:
- Salaries & benefits (current staff): $525,239
- Print material: $109,690
- Health insurance (retired): $34,341
- Automation: $37,484
- Building operations & maintenance: $27,774
- Building improvements: $21,875
- Audiovisual material: $24,047
- Contracted services: $16,541
- Equipment/furniture: $11,045
- Office supplies: $9,139
- Liability insurance: $8,743
- Publicity: $4,663
- Miscellaneous: $3,056
- Programming: $2,325
- Postage: $1,378
- Travel: $1,146

Total Expenditures: $837,486