

## Big Steps Forward in a Leap Year



**EVEN BEFORE** February 29 arrived last year, YDL took another step toward completing its Strategic Plan of 2007-2010 with the purchase of the Navigator. The second bookmobile in the library's fleet immediately hit the road circulating 22, 554 books and other materials while making 1,344 stops along the way.

Several other items in the Strategic Plan were also implemented last year. The Ypsilanti District Library Board approved a construction contract for a full-service coffee shop to be completed this spring. Hours at YDL-Superior were expanded and library usage there soared to 18, 562 in 2008. An intranet for YDL staff was also developed. In addition, the Board approved a marketing plan to engage the underserved populations of the district.

This year, YDL plans to enhance the library's role as a community art resource and to redesign its web site to become a functional virtual library.

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Library Director: Jill Morey

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

### YDL-Whittaker Road

5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI  
48197 (734) 482-4110

### YDL-Michigan Avenue

229 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI  
48197 (734) 482-4110

### YDL-Superior

8975 MacArthur Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI  
48198 (734) 482-3747

### OPERATING FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2008

REVENUE			EXPENDITURES		
Property Taxes	\$3,810,111	88%	Salaries	\$2,524,941	60%
Penal Fines	\$164,352	4%	Library Materials	\$610,584	14%
State Aid	\$52,114	1%	Contractual	\$160,617	4%
Interest & Other	\$223,928	5%	Auto./Capital Outlay	\$423,060	10%
Grants/Donations/Friends	\$45,992	1%	Utilities/Repairs	\$309,886	7%
State Revenue Sharing	\$11,622	0%	Other	\$211,044	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,308,119</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,240,132</b>	<b>100%</b>

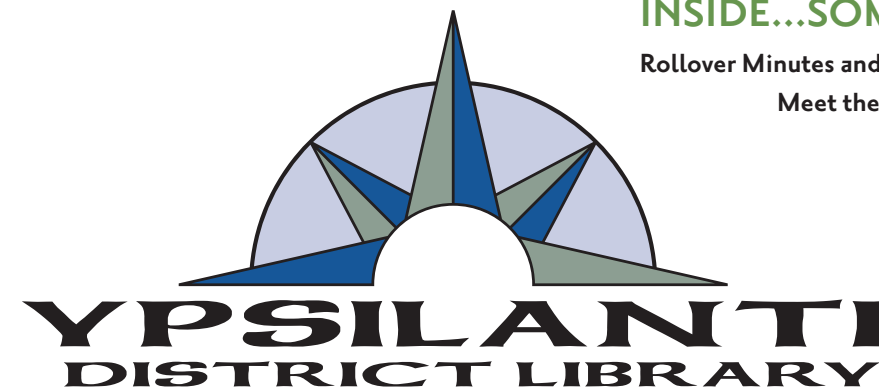
*This budget is an audited statement of actual revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning December 1, 2007 and ending November 30, 2008.*

**Our Mission:** As a community resource, our mission is to enrich life, stimulate intellectual curiosity, foster literacy and encourage an informed citizenry.

### YDL'S TOP 10 REASONS TO GET A SMART CARD

- 10 Sit in front of a crackling fire as you read.
- 9 Knit and chat in a YDL community room.
- 8 Find out how to change that sparkplug at e-library.
- 7 Take in an art display while you're checking out a book.
- 6 Meet a famous author.
- 5 Read a book in your native language.
- 4 Challenge someone to a chess match.
- 3 Make a friend in a book group or become one in Friends of YDL.
- 2 Use YDL resources to apply for a job or update your resume.

And the number 1 reason to get a Smart Card?  
Get 300,000 of your favorite intellectual pursuits **FREE!**



## A Very Popular Destination

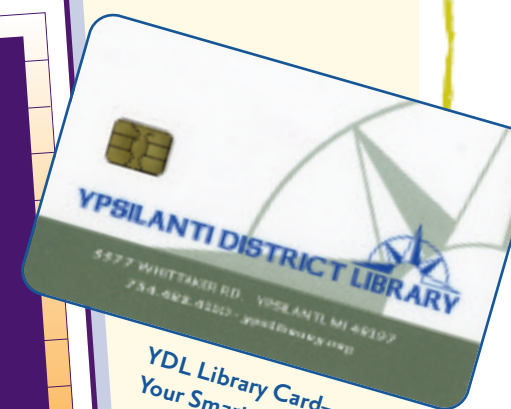
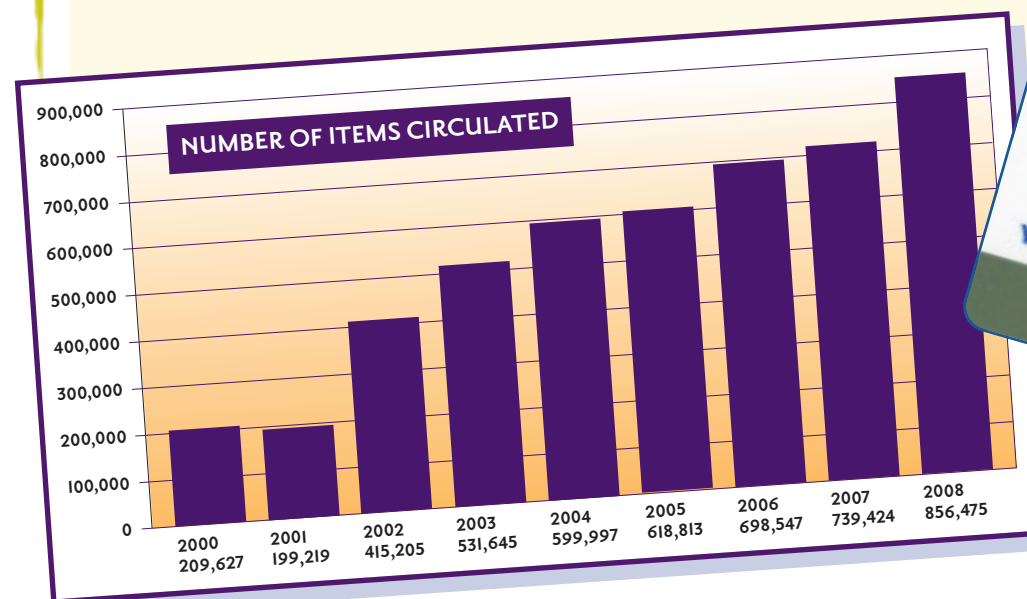
**YOU MAY HAVE TAKEN** fewer trips to the mall this past year. Maybe you didn't eat out as much or see as many movies at the cinemplex. You also may have downsized your cable programming and even cut out the Internet altogether. But the one thing you didn't do in response to the economic challenges of 2008 is limit your visits to the Ypsilanti District Library.

In fact, for 83% of the people who live in our community, the YDL library card (also called the Smart Card) turned out to be one of the most valuable pieces of plastic in their wallets. Every day, at any time of the day (or night), they used their Smart Card for entertainment, information, or to feed a hungry mind. And all for free.

Historically in America, as the economy goes down library visits go up. But what makes last year noteworthy is how many times the doors swung open at libraries all across the country. According to the American Library Association, there were nearly 1.3 billion visits to local libraries with more than 2 billion items going out the door.

Although the numbers are staggering, they're really not so surprising—not when you consider all that YDL has to offer. With a collection that now numbers over 300,000 books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks, and an e-library with scores of online references and databases, it's easy to understand why YDL was, and is a popular place. However, that's just some of the offerings. There are also public access Internet stations and wireless access, study and tutor rooms, a community room, and a Michigan/Ypsilanti Historical Room. In addition, there are hundreds of activities and special events throughout the year.

And with three locations and two bookmobiles serving the residents of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township, it seems like there's a YDL location right around the corner. In these economic times, that helps lots of people get the most mileage out of their Smart Card.



**INSIDE...SOME REAL PAGE TURNERS!**

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Meet the typical library patron [pg 3](#) | Backward and forward progress [pg 4](#)

2008  
**COMMUNITY**  
report



## From the Director

### Dear Patrons,

Celebrating its 140th birthday this past summer was a joyful reminder of how large a part of our community YDL has become. Yet, YDL's role as a valuable community resource is even more evident in our current difficult economic times.

As belts tightened and family budgets dwindled this past year, many people turned to YDL – for entertainment, for activities, for communication and, in some cases, for job searches. To know we could provide these services when friends and neighbors are struggling made our jobs especially gratifying.

While YDL is not immune from future economic uncertainties, we remain committed to fulfilling our mission to provide quality library services for the community.

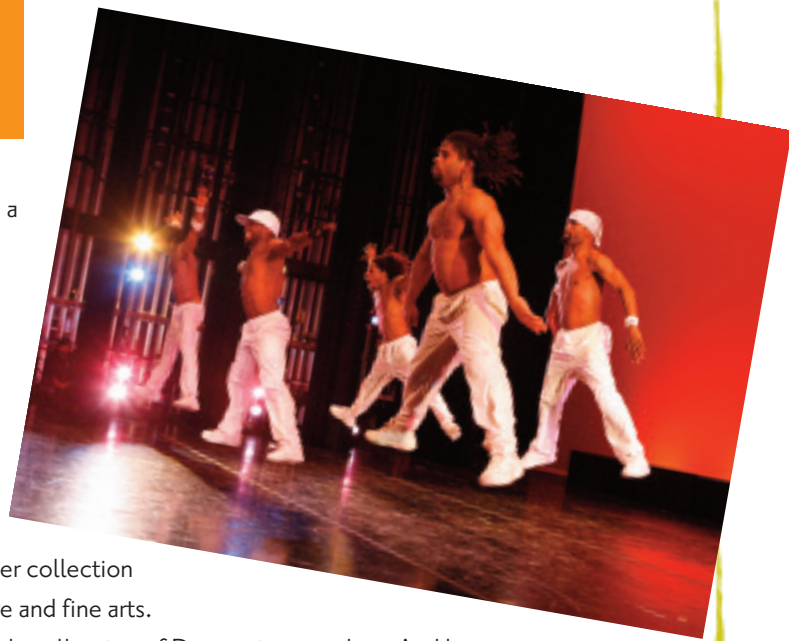
–Jill Morey

## Art + Soul

**FROM A DRAMATIC** 24x24 ft. fabric collage to a serene oil landscape, a permanent collection of art has always made YDL feel like part library, part gallery. Add to that this past year's traveling exhibits, and many days YDL turned into an art museum.

In April, YDL was the first stop on a national tour of *The Dancer Within* – a Smithsonian exhibit featuring photographs that captured the essence of such performers as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Jacques d'Ambroise, and Chita Rivera. Fall brought *Picturing America*, a poster collection which features paintings, photos, sculpture, architecture and fine arts.

In October, the Heritage Room was home to a lovely collection of Depression era glass. And last winter, YDL served up some outdoor art with a carving of 600 pounds of ice that very much resembled Harry Potter and friends.



**NEW NAVIGATOR**  
Gets 4 \*\*\*\* Rating  
36 ft. long, 11' 5" high  
weighs 33,000 lbs  
3125 items

**LOTS.** As part of YDL's new Outreach Services department, the Navigator joined the first bookmobile Big Blue on February 4, and has been racking up the miles ever since to Ypsilanti and Willow Run kindergarten classrooms and HeadStart classrooms. The bookmobiles also visit neighborhoods from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday making 40 stops along the way. That's a lot of patrons on one tank of gas.

All in all, the Outreach Services department includes the two bookmobiles, YDL-Superior, large print deposit collections to senior citizen sites, books-on-wheels homebound delivery, and visits to schools by a YDL outreach specialist.

## YDL Rocked and Rolled and Read

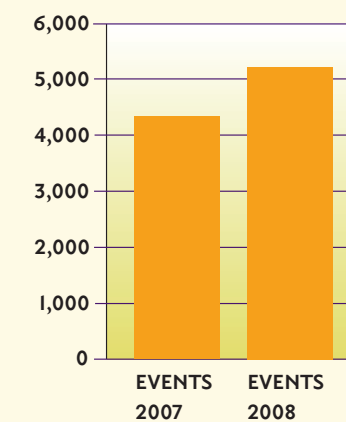
**THE BREADTH** of activities and the number of people who attended them this past year at YDL could be summed up in the phrase: something for everyone. Aspiring songwriters attended a festival where they received tips on turning their homes into audio studios and followed the pros through the songwriting process. For those who preferred to sit back and enjoy the works and performance of others, YDL offered a *Take Note* concert series that satisfied a variety of musical tastes. Even the younger crowd was entertained in *kinderconcerts* by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.

Reading-related activities were a big part of 2008 at YDL. Many patrons participated in "China and America: Bridging Two Worlds," the theme for Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads and welcomed author Anchee Min as part of the events. During National Library Week readers enjoyed a presentation by Alexander McCall Smith, author of the popular *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*.

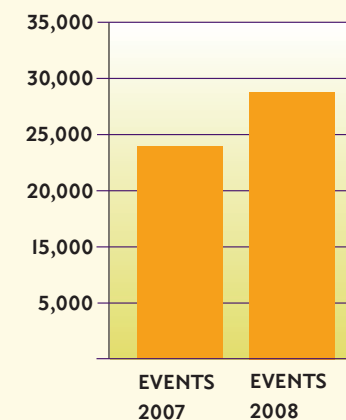
In summer, YDL celebrated its 140th birthday by kicking off the 2008 Summer Reading program with ice cream, musical entertainment and special rewards for adult, teen and children readers. YDL offered lots of different activities for the district's youth this past year including Readers Theater, the Reading Team (teens reading with young children), a teen film festival, a crime lab with the Hands On Museum, a Reptiles Program, Bats Incredible, even a mobile planetarium.

And then, there were activities that just don't fit under any one category, unless the category is FUN. A Pop Trivia contest for example. Learning Chinese paper cutting. Making a chocolate creation. Playing in a Fantasy Football League. And hundreds more.

Adult Event Attendance  
2007–2008



Youth/Teen Event Attendance  
2007–2008



## Every Picture Tells a Story

### EVERY QUARTER

Lester Bates earns a tile credit from his employer, Motawi Tile. Mr. Bates saved until he had enough credits for the Storybook Mural, a fanciful depiction of a young boy surrounded by storybook characters.

As the credits mounted, Mr. Bates thought about the perfect home for this Motawi Tile mural. His mother has always been a voracious reader so he decided to celebrate her favorite pastime with all of our community by donating the mural to the Ypsilanti District Library. As word spread about Lester's plan, his employers decided to lend a hand by framing the mural. It is currently on display at YDL-Michigan Avenue. You can't miss it as you descend the stairs to the youth department where many other storybook characters abound.



### Typical YDL Patron

She was very busy last year...

- Checked out 856,475 books, DVDs and CDs
- Went to 57 meetings of book discussion groups
- Participated in 330 computer classes
- Attended 214 library-sponsored programs
- Enjoyed 5 Take Note @ YDL concerts

And this doesn't account for all the places she accessed online through YDL's E-Library!

