

RICE STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

1011 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117

At a Glance: 2008

Built-Remodeled	2002
Square Ft	12,846
Hours/week*	51.5
Days/open/week	Six
Materials Budget	\$73,376
Collection Size	56,184
Material:	
Adult	21,360
Juvenile	25,764
Total Circulation	117,880
Adult	68,682 (58%)
Juvenile	49,198 (42%)
Circulation/FTE	16,603
Total Information	20,436
Information/Ref FTE	4,753
FTEs Public Service*	7.1
Gate Count	279,260

Computer Workstations (Public) 29: Internet/Word processing workstations: 22;
Catalog workstations: 2; Children's workstations: 1; Homework Center: 4;

Lounge chairs: 16; Study tables: 9 with 36 chairs; Study carrels: 13

*Information on hours and staff reflect system-wide changes implemented in November 2006

SERVICE PROFILE:

The Rice Street Branch is a community library serving the North End of Saint Paul. Its patrons reflect the diverse population of the area including Southeast Asians, African Americans, immigrants from several African countries, Caucasians, American Indians, and growing Karen and Latino populations. The branch also serves patrons living in a nearby building housing disabled persons. Rice is bustling most days, boasting one of the highest gate counts among the branch libraries.

The present Rice Street Branch Library was built in 2002 to replace a 7,644 square foot building which had entirely outgrown its ability to accommodate the needs of the community. It includes a computer lab with workstations for 10 and an instructor's PC with a projector. There are 4 private study rooms accommodating 2 students each and a well-used community meeting/programming room. In 2003, a Homework Center, STARS (Students Together Afterschool at Rice Street), was created to help meet the needs of the many students frequenting the library. It is coordinated by an Americorps VISTA worker and staffed by volunteers. A total of 2,133 students of all ages received help during the 2008-09 school year.

Use by families with children is high. It is a prime location for students of all ages, but especially

pre-teen through the teen-aged students doing homework and accessing the internet. On school nights most of the tables and chairs are occupied. The 19 Internet PCs, with an hour limit, are in greater demand than ever, and a waiting list often develops in late afternoon and early evening. The library also provides service to educators of the early childhood through high school aged and, in turn, the youth they serve.

Circulation of juvenile books is consistently greater than circulation of adult books, and the juvenile collection is significantly larger in areas that are heavily used for homework assignments. All teen materials, especially graphic novels, are well used.

The 15 minute express Internet terminal gets frequent use, with a line forming during the busiest times. Internet use by job seekers, always common, has increased, with computers being used for filing unemployment, resume building, and job applications. The library's two word processors are in high demand from adult patrons, as well as students of all ages during the school year.

The library hosts regular mentoring and programming for youth, including four weekly early literacy based pre-school story times, the Summer Reading program, a Summer Vista program, and the "Read with Me" program,. Programs specially tailored to teens and tweens are offered, including weekly Runescape Club, Saturday Movie Matinees, and a weekly variety program. Teen volunteers help with regular activities and Youth Job Corps workers are a welcome addition to the staff during the summer.

Adults also depend on the Rice Street Branch Library for educational and recreational information and materials in many formats. Non-fiction materials in the highest demand are GED, English language learning, those in a variety of languages representing our diverse clientele, Hmong Culture, educational and career information, and family life and health topics. Urban fiction and the "Black Authors" collections are also very well used. DVDs are in great demand, representing a third of the total circulation. There is a strong and growing demand for staff assistance with various computing needs and skills. In collaboration with North End Community Education, Rice Street has regularly offered various computer classes for seniors. Two book clubs meet at the branch and many community organizations hold regular meetings there. A weekly Sewing Circle has begun meeting on Saturday mornings and the library offers weekly job counseling in collaboration with Goodwill/Easter Seals. The Friends of the Library organization offers year round educational and cultural events for adults.

The branch is actively involved in community outreach and collaboration. The library is a member of the North End Business Association and is regularly in contact with the staff of District 6, the City Council representative or his aide, the North End Area Team Police, the North End Senior Program, Parks and Recreation staff, and teachers from schools in the area. Two Green Bookshelf partners, Keystone Community Services and Open Cities Health, distribute used and withdrawn library materials to their clients. Strong partnerships between the branch and North End organizations have been a hallmark of the Rice Street Branch Library. North End community leaders, planners, and educators are intensely proud of the library they worked so hard to build.