



**National Library Week 2009, April 12-18, 2009**  
**News Release**

For release National Library Week: *This is the 51st Anniversary of National Library Week!*  
Contact: Alan Bern, Community Relations Librarian, 510-981-6107, [alb2@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:alb2@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

On March 18, 2009, the California State Senate passed **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 -- Relative to National Library Week**, introduced by Senator Wolk (Principal coauthors: Senators Corbett and Simitian and Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Torlakson). The resolution recognizes the tremendous value of public libraries that serve as centers for education, information, knowledge, and entertainment by helping the general public, students, faculty, and researchers obtain the best, most accurate, and complete information.

The resolution also recognizes public libraries as changing and dynamic places that offer not only books and other materials to check out, but also computers, Internet access, e-mail reference, and other innovative services to connect their users with ideas and information. More than 21 million people use California's public libraries each year, and California's public libraries provide technology training for library users of all ages and help to bridge the "digital divide" for those who do not have access to technology at home or at school.

California's public libraries change lives by serving users of all ages especially in these difficult economic times, and Berkeley Public Library is no exception:

- Almost 1.8 million items were borrowed from the Berkeley Public Library by just under 85,000 borrowers last year, an 8.4% jump and double the rate of increase over the previous year.
- The Library saw almost 1 million visits to its "electronic branch," [BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org](http://BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org), with library card holders using full-text journals, online tutoring, and homework help, and more, all free.
- The Library held over 1,500 programs for people of all ages, with total attendance of 35,298. 1,137 of these events were for preschool or schoolage audiences.

And, finally, the state resolution recognizes that California's public libraries provide equal and economical services to library users, and in many cases, serve as a community's only point of access to resources for learning. California's public libraries preserve our cultural heritage, inform our present, and inspire our future. Berkeley's voters have recognized the importance of their libraries by passing Measure FF in November 2008 to make the four Branch Libraries seismically safe and ADA-accessible, and the Berkeley Public Library thanks them for this support.

Please visit your Berkeley Public Library today! We are there for you through tough times!

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