

DEKALB
PUBLIC LIBRARY
EST. 1893



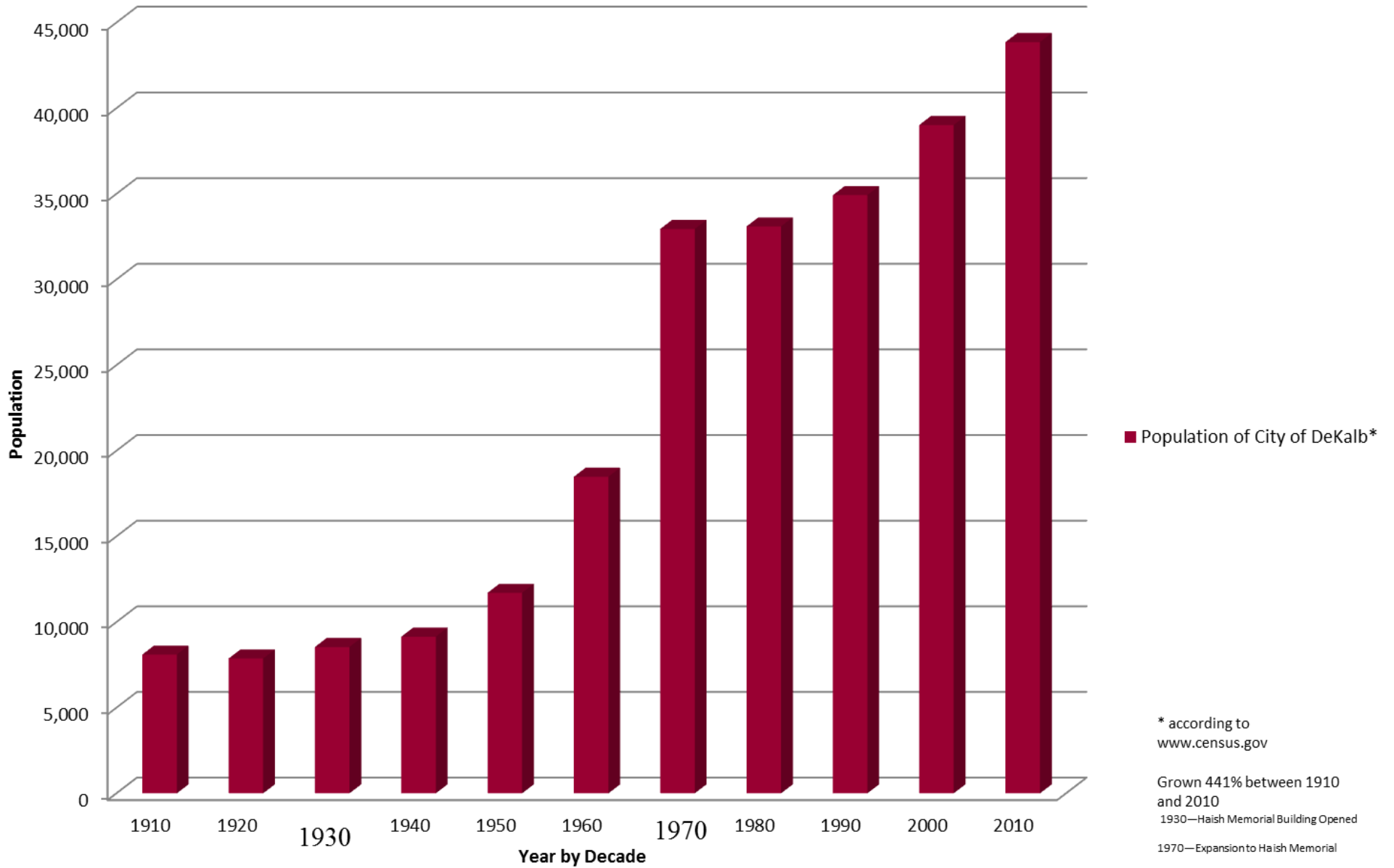
**Establishing the Need
for Growth
2011**

The Need for Growth



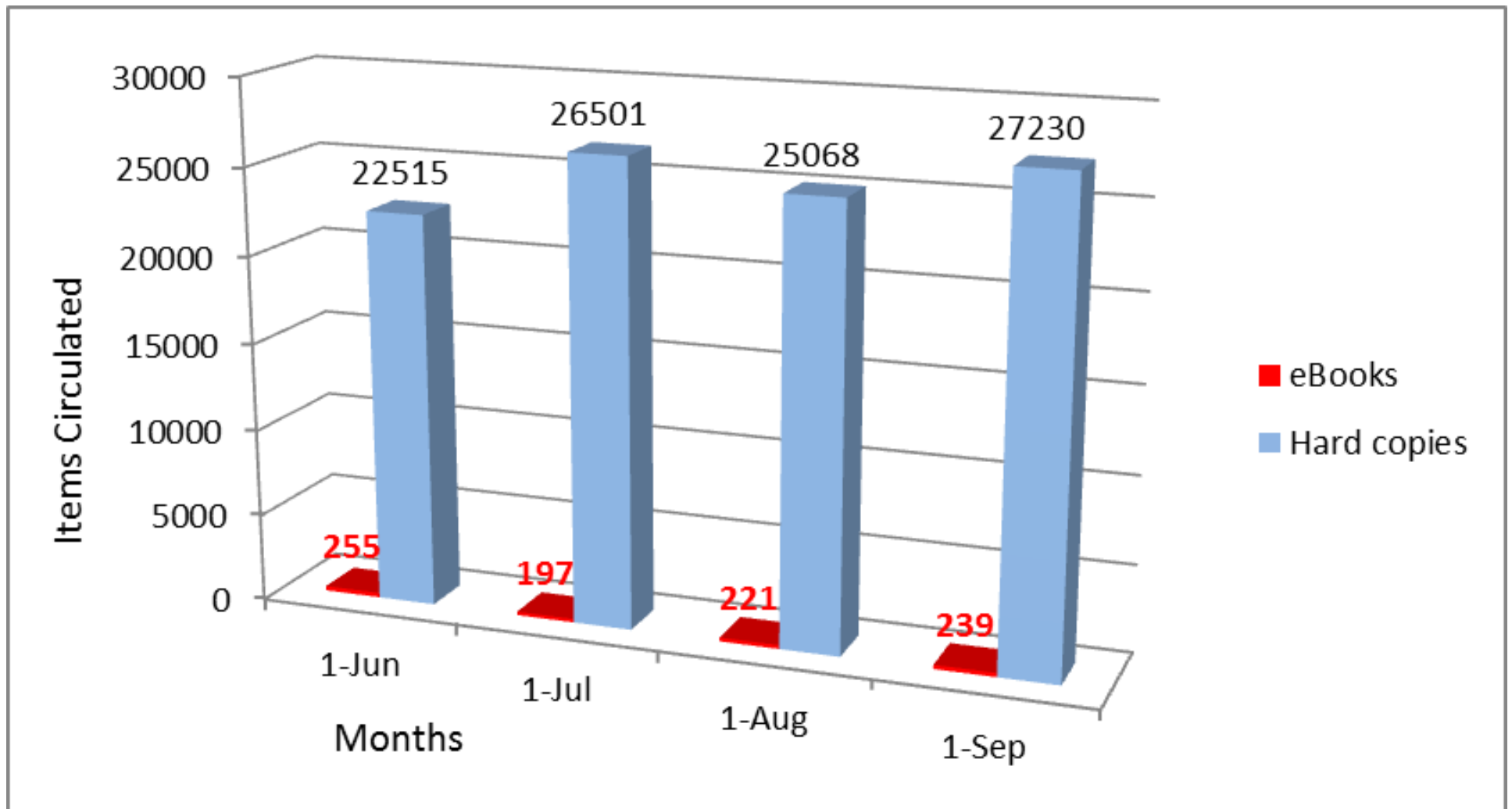
Population Growth

Population of City of DeKalb* 1910 - 2010



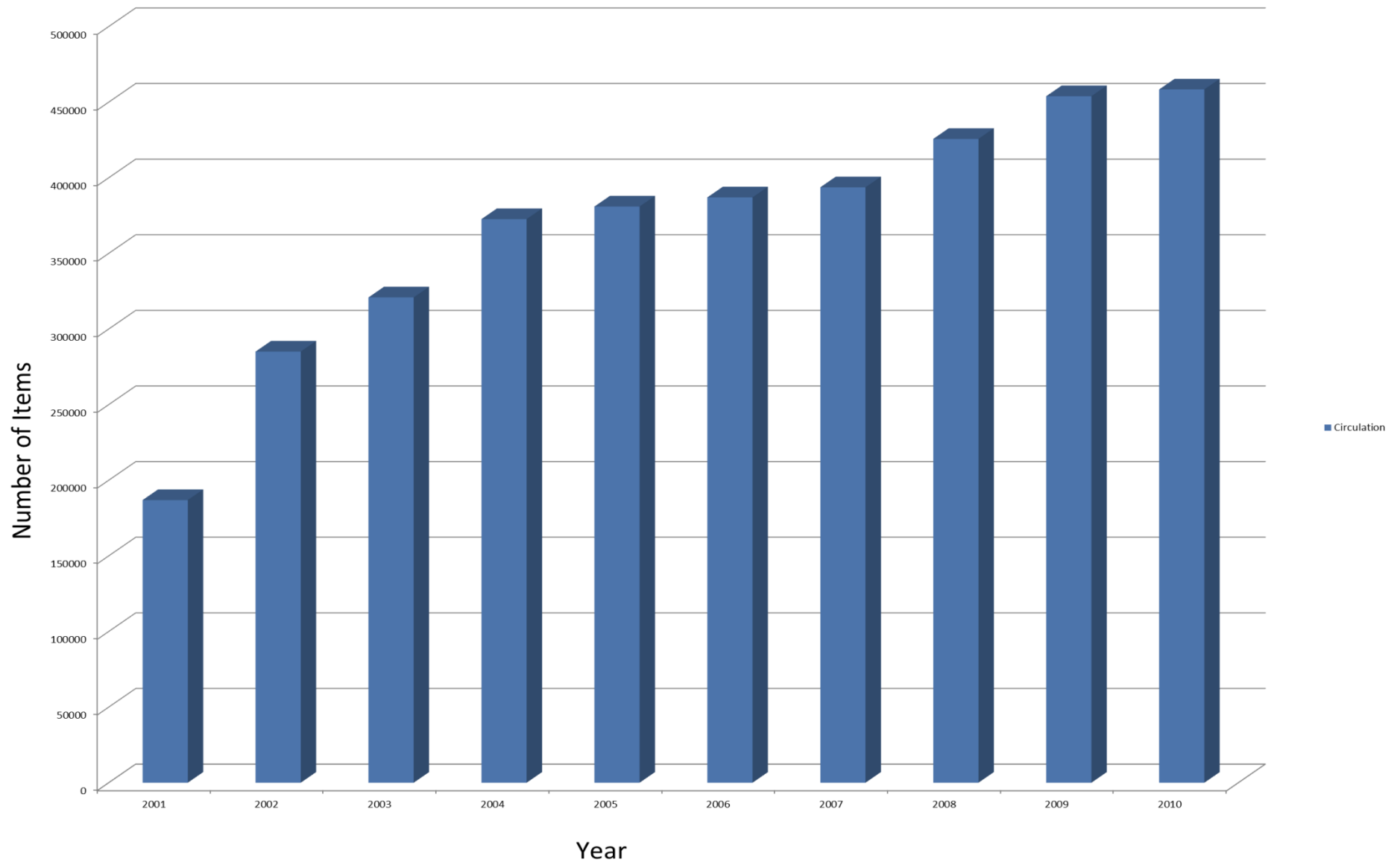
Digital Books Statistics

Comparison between circulation of eBooks and Hard copies at the
DeKalb Public Library
June 2011-September 2011



Circulation Statistics

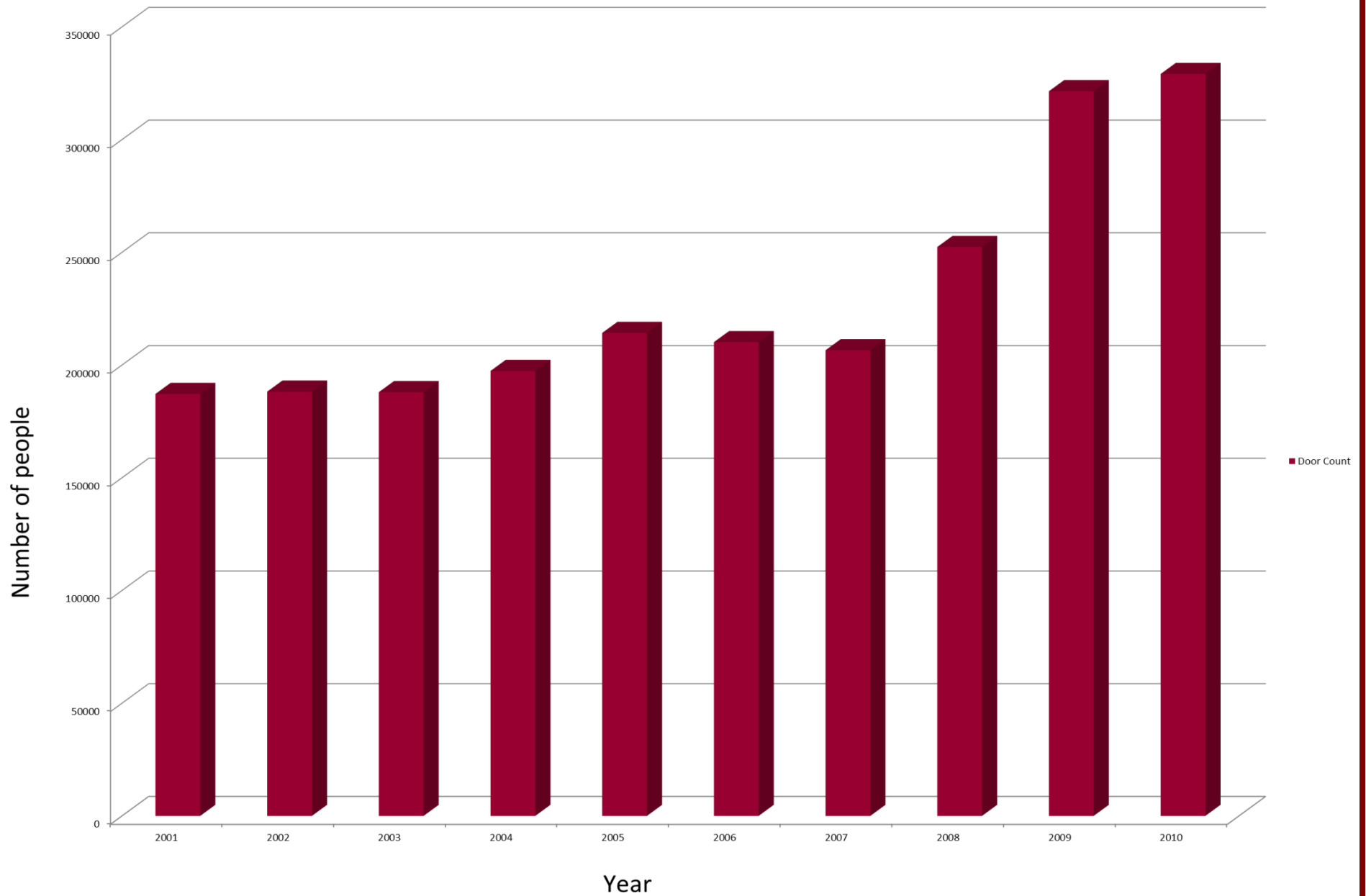
Total Circulation Statistics (AS & YS Combined) 2001-2010



Percentage increase by 145.27%

Door Count Statistics

Total Door Count Statistics (AS & YS Combined) 2001-2010 (Annual Year)



Percentage increase by 75.8%

Further Research to Establish the Need for Growth

Article #1: Manjarraz, Carlos A., Cigna, Jessica, Bajaj, Beata.
“Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local
Economic Development” Urban Institute. 2007. Urban Institute. 20 Oct.
2011 <<http://www.urban.org/publications/1001075.html>>

Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development

Abstract

The Making Cities Stronger report, which is based on data from a national survey and case studies from nine sites across the country, provides new insights into the economic impact of public libraries in American cities. The report highlights ways in which library programming in the areas early literacy, employment services, and small business development, contribute to local economic development strategies. The study also identifies ways in which library construction is used to bolster place-based development in a wide variety of settings. Commissioned by the Urban Libraries Council, the study was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

About This Report

The rules of engagement in economic development are changing. More and more, economic development success strategies involve people, technology, and growing an infrastructure for economic activity built on ideas, knowledge, experience, and quality of life.

The Urban Libraries Council commissioned this study to look at how public libraries contribute to the human dimension of economic development. In the process, researchers also uncovered more evidence of the important contributions public libraries make to strengthening places and community quality of life.

This report indicates that public libraries today are deeply involved with people, technology, and quality of life. Public libraries have tremendous reach geographically and virtually. Within the U.S. there are over 9,000 public libraries providing services in over 16,000 branch facilities and through the Web. Nearly every one of these locally-funded organizations offers collections and programs that support early literacy, workforce readiness and small businesses. As such, they are an important and dynamic part of the community’s learning infrastructure which supports local economic development.

This study finds that the return on investment in public libraries not only benefits individuals, but also strengthens community capacity to address urgent issues related to economic development. Public libraries are increasingly finding their “fit” in the formal and informal network of

agencies, corporations, nonprofits, and community organizations working together to elevate levels of education and economic potential, making cities stronger. We deeply appreciate the public library members of our Urban Libraries Council who provided input for the research of this report. We also appreciate the insights of our Advisory Committee that guided this work, the Urban Institute for helping us to learn more about the businesses we are in, and the support and funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

We hope you will use this information as a tool to re-frame discussions regarding the public library role in local economic development. Our hope is to stimulate a dialogue among developers, planning professionals, elected officials, business and public library leaders to think differently about the value of public libraries as unique and versatile partners in these human resource and communitybuilding arenas. We urge public libraries to extend and expand their resources and strategies that can profoundly impact local economic development conditions.



History of the DeKalb Public Library

Brief History

What we know as the DeKalb Public Library began life in the 1880s as a reading room, staffed entirely by volunteers and populated with donated books. In 1893, the City Council established a public library in a room on the second floor of City Hall, which was then located at 125 South Second Street. By 1895, the library was growing but it lacked adequate funds to serve the public and nearly closed down. Into this breach marched Annie Glidden and the ladies of the Library Whist Club who donated a portion of their card winnings to the Library for the purchase of books. This partnership continues to this day.

Although the library had a home, it lived next to the city jail and was eager to move. In 1923 the library moved to the second floor of the Daily Chronicle building at 114 East Lincoln Highway, which also housed a roller skating rink on its third floor. Because of the noise from the skates the library was forced to drastically reduce its hours.

On February 15th, 1931, the beautiful Haish Memorial Library Building at 309 Oak Street was dedicated. Built on land provided by the city and financed by a bequest of \$150,000 from barbed-wire millionaire Jacob Haish, the striking building with its Indiana Bedford limestone façade soon gained national recognition through an article in *Architecture* magazine. In 1934, the library received a mural by Gustaf Dahlstrom from the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project. Currently, the mural is installed over the fireplace in the main reading room.

Through the years the building has seen many changes. In the 1960's the art gallery in the east wing was made into a children's room and the stacks were expanded upward. In 1978-79 a two-story addition on the south side provided for the reference room and a lower-level children's room, and saw the east wing become the fiction room. In 1980, the Haish Memorial Library Building was added to the National Register of Historic Place.

Timeline of the DeKalb Public Library



1893

The Ladies of the Library Association of DeKalb petitioned the DeKalb City Council to provide an adequate and renovated public reading space that was well lit and heated. In April, 1893 the ladies succeeded in transforming the Library room on the second floor of city hall on 125 South Second Street into a Public Reading

Room. On April 1st 1893, the

city council agreed to levy a library tax. A city ordinance passed on July 1, 1893, established the reading room as the DeKalb Public Library. Within the same year, a nine member public library board of directors was appointed.

1923

With its growing collection and its inability to fund a new library building, the DeKalb Public Library sought new accommodations. In 1923, the library reached an agreement with the DeKalb Chronicle to move into the second floor of the Chronicle building at 114 South Lincoln Highway.



1930s

The library board of directors opted to buy the McCormick property at 306 North Third Street—the northeast corner of Third and Oak Street late in the winter of 1929. The City Council agreed to the \$20,000 asking price by a 7-3 vote. The cost of the Haish Memorial Library building, adding expenses totaled

\$179,391.78 and was partially funded by the bequest from Jacob Haish's will. The library was dedicated on Sunday February 15, 1931.

1970s

In the 1970s, a three phase expansion took place, allowing the children and reference collections the space they needed. Phase 1 in 1975 turned the basement stacks into offices. 1976 ushered in Phase 2 and the creation of additional stack space on the third floor level.

Phase 3 began in 1977 adding 3,328 sq. feet to the library on two floors. The reference wing was extended out another 42 feet matching the length of the original art gallery in the process. The basement level became the children's room and a separate entrance was created on 3rd street.

2011

The DeKalb Public Library offers more services to a wider variety of patron groups than ever before, from homeschooled students, the homebound, teachers, and non-English speakers to children, tweens, teens, and adults.

As technologies advance and the community grows bigger, the library always has and always will maintain its dedication to the advancement of learning.

Resources

Bigolin, Steve, et al. *The DeKalb Public Library*. DeKalb, IL: DeKalb Public Library, 2011. Print.

Manjarraz, Carlos A., Cigna, Jessica, Bajaj, Beata. "Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development" Urban Institute. 2007. Urban Institute. 20 Oct. 2011 <<http://www.urban.org/publications/1001075.html>>

"A Brief History of the DeKalb Public Library" *dkpl.org*. DeKalb Public Library, n.d. Web. 20 October 2011 <<http://www.dkpl.org/history/history.htm>>

Financial Implications

The State of Illinois has passed legislation allotting **\$50 million** for the “Public Library Construction Grant Program” available to public libraries in the state.

The application for this grant was released early October of 2011 and is due April 16, 2012. According to the grant’s restrictions, the DeKalb Public Library is eligible to apply for up to **65% (\$32.5 million)** of construction costs but... we have to have land before we can apply.

The Library in Motion

