

COUNTYWIDE FREE LIBRARY SYSTEM



Interesting Facts

- ✦ There are now more public library buildings in the U.S. than there are McDonald's – a total of 16,592.
- ✦ Public library visits exceed 1.3 billion, and libraries circulate more items than Fed Ex ships – more than 2.1 billion books, CDs, DVDs and more.
- ✦ Americans check out on average more than seven books a year. They spend about \$31 for the public library – about the cost of one hardcover book.
- ✦ Americans spend about two-and-a-half times as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.

American Library Association

Purpose

- ✦ Overview of libraries
- ✦ Function
- ✦ Organization
- ✦ Trends
- ✦ Challenges
- ✦ Video and Q & A

Provide information services, reading materials, and educational resources to residents of all ages from the Santa Ynez Valley to Carpinteria.

Mission Statement
Santa Barbara Library

Strengthen our community and
enhance the quality of life for its
citizens by offering free and public
access to a vast array of ideas and
information...

Mission Statement
Lompoc Library

**The Santa Maria Public Library
provides materials and services to
help community residents obtain
information to meet their personal,
educational and professional needs...**

**Mission Statement
Santa Maria Library**

Programs/Services

- ✦ Preschool story time, including bilingual programs and sing-a long programs
- ✦ Online and in-person help with homework
- ✦ Class visits to libraries
- ✦ Teen programming, summer book clubs
- ✦ Family Movie Night
- ✦ Jazz at the library
- ✦ Art exhibits
- ✦ Adult programming: Theater book clubs, poetry readings, mystery reading, genealogy research
- ✦ Adult literacy programs
- ✦ ELF: Literacy skills programs for young children with parents
- ✦ Santa Barbara Reads: community reading program

Programs/Services

- ✦ Access to computers, Wi-Fi access
- ✦ Internet training
- ✦ Digital downloads of audio books
- ✦ Request materials & delivered locally, delivery to homebound patrons
- ✦ Bookmobiles
- ✦ Books, magazines, periodicals, videos, DVDs, CDs: in-library or check-out
- ✦ Meeting rooms and community space

Libraries in the Community

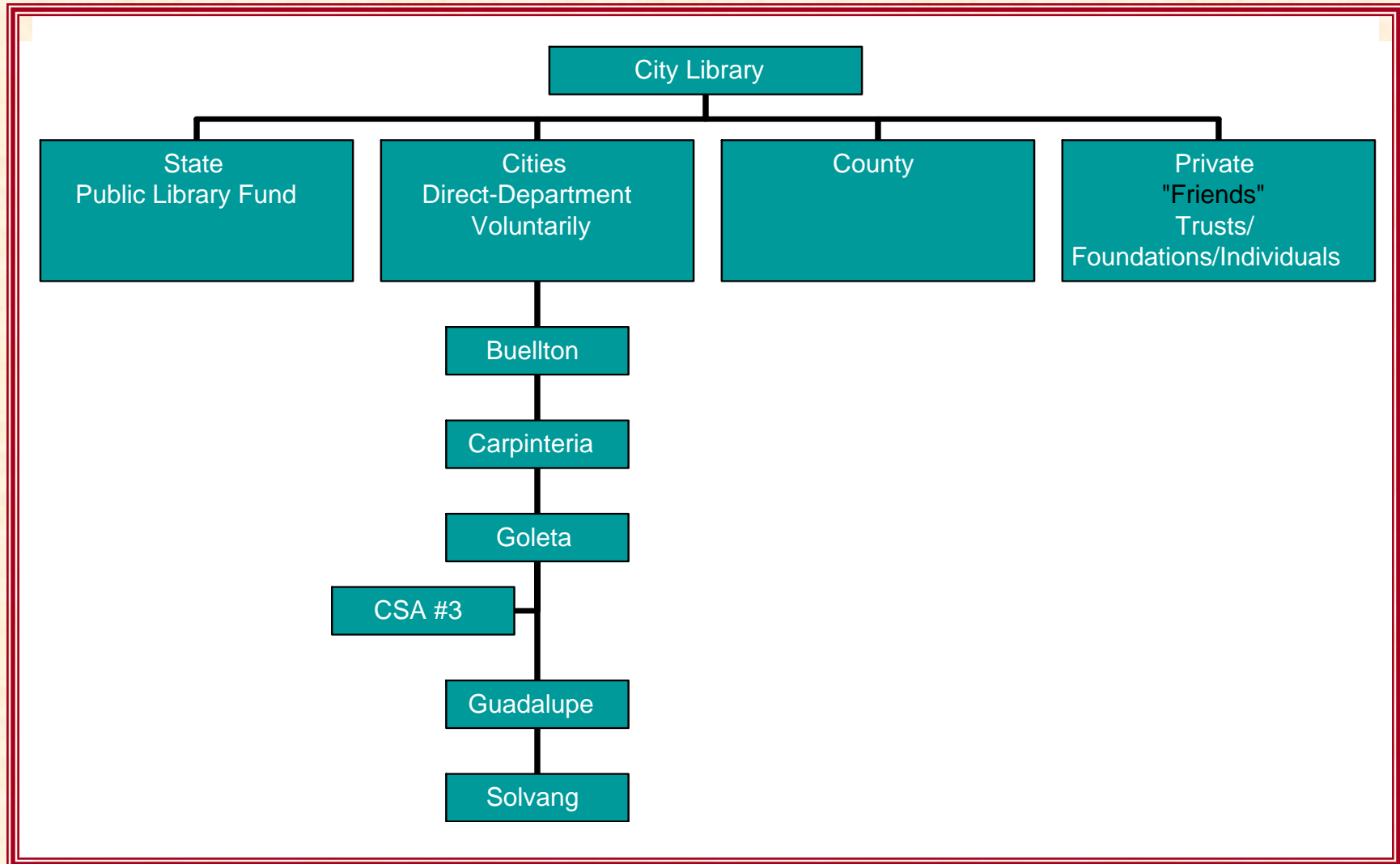


Martin Luther King Branch
– deluged by Katrina and rebuilt today

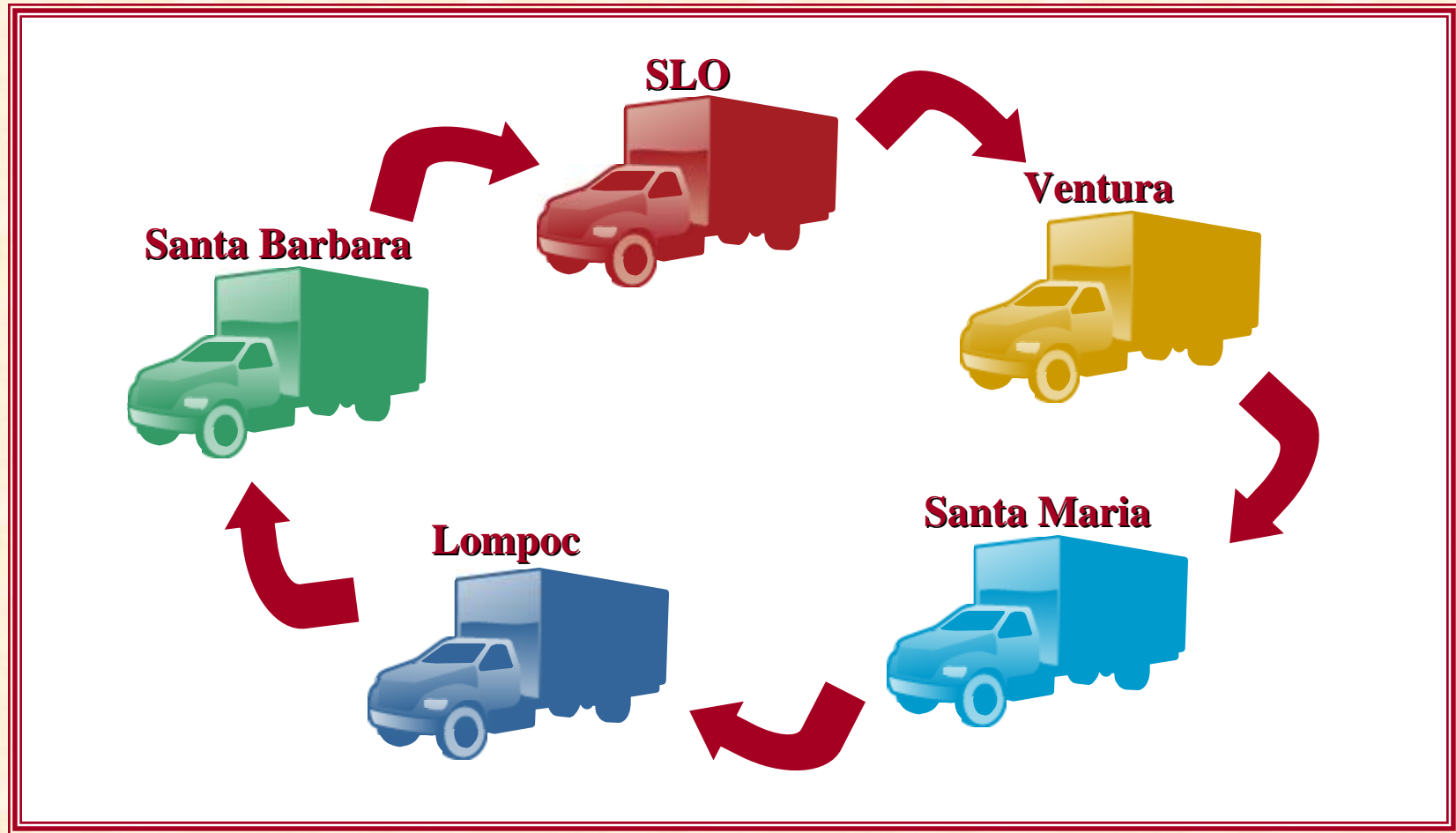
Countywide Free Library System Administration



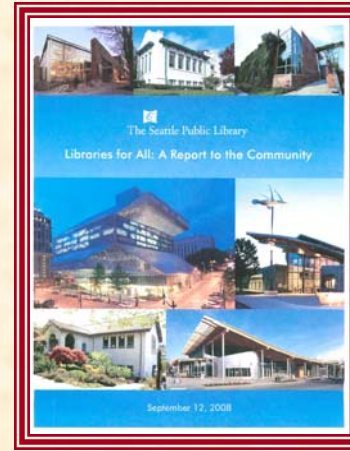
Library Funding Sources



Flow of Materials via Black and Gold Cooperative System



Technology



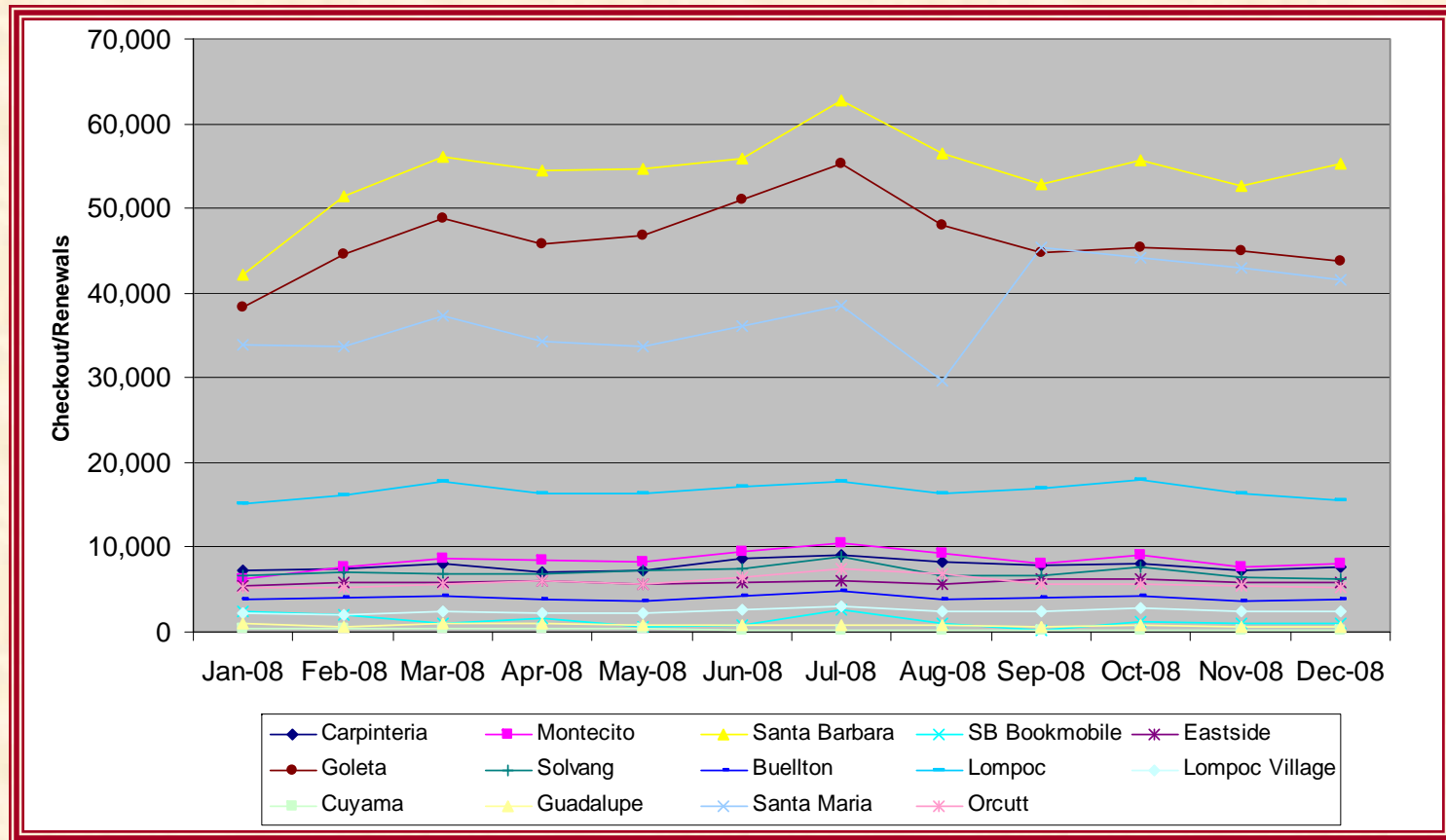
- ✦ Communities known for technology have high usage of libraries; library usage up overall
- ✦ Libraries use technology to deliver materials and to modernize facilities to respond to user needs
- ✦ Libraries provide computer access/training as effort to help prepare job seekers

Economy

“During tough economic times, people turn to libraries for their incredible array of free resources, from computers to books, DVDs and CDs, for help with a job hunt or health information. The average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book. In good times or bad, libraries are a great value!”

2008-2009 ALA President Jim Rettig

Local Circulation for 2008



Challenges

- ✦ Provide different services to all library users
- ✦ Provide services that match and support community's needs, operate a local branch
- ✦ Maintain branch and traditional operations while also modernizing, responding to new user needs
- ✦ Provide these services without impeding mission statement-- access to all
- ✦ Balance needs within fiscal parameters

Conclusion

- ✦ Gained understanding of libraries
- ✦ Role and value of libraries in community
- ✦ Trends on user needs
- ✦ Challenges
- ✦ Appreciate support including holding this hearing
- ✦ Entertain questions
- ✦ Video