

## Library Annual Report 2012-2013

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The Bank Street College Library is the meeting ground for children's programs and the Graduate School and adult programs of Bank Street. Located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, it quite literally falls right in the middle of our 11- floor building. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor is where you may see a library class of children, a graduate student writing her independent study, a parent and child reading together, a tutor working with a School for Children student, a faculty member consulting with a librarian about electronic reserves, an alum choosing a set of nonfiction material for his classroom at another school. Many such situations happen simultaneously, creating a vibrant atmosphere quite unusual for an academic or school library setting.

In addition to serving our many constituents, the Library, through its Center for Children's Literature (CCL), plays a vital role in advocating for high quality children's literature far beyond the walls of Bank Street. The CCL consists of four components - The Children's Book Committee, the Irma Simonton Black Award and Cook Prize, the Writers Lab, and BookFest. Through the activities of each of these groups, the CCL reaches hundreds of librarians, educators, publishers, editors, children, parents, authors, illustrators, and children's literature experts, bringing to them a range of programs, awards and highly regarded book lists.

The following report highlights the growth, achievements, and events that the Library and the Center for Children's Literature have experienced during the academic year.

## **Staffing**

Our major story at the start of the 2012-13 academic year was the departure of two key members of the Library team. Our children's and reference librarians, both longtime employees of the institution, left us at the start of the year to take on greater responsibilities and embrace new opportunities in other states. Lisa Von Drasek, our children's librarian for 15 years, is now curator of the Children's Literature Research Collection at the University of Minnesota. Carol Van Houten, our reference librarian, has become the executive director of libraries for Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, New Jersey. The depth of expertise they each held and shared so eagerly with us and the college community will be greatly missed.

In order to fill Lisa's dual role as children's librarian and director of the center for children's literature, we decided to separate the positions into two. We hired an interim children's librarian, Allison (Allie) Bruce. Allie is the teacher/librarian for the School for Children, Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We also hired Jennifer Brown as our interim director of the Center for Children's Literature. Jenny is the program administrator for the Center's various programs and awards. She also coordinates author visits with the School for Children. Both Allie and Jenny have proved to be outstanding hires.

With Carol's departure as reference librarian, we took the opportunity to make changes in the number of staff hours devoted to reference. We hired Peter Hare, our part-time reference librarian, into the full-time position. Peter has been with us for many years and an increase in hours was an appropriate way to reward him for his excellent work. We then hired Maureen Garvey to take over for Peter as our evening and Saturday reference librarian. By reducing the number of hours devoted to this position, we were able to save money while maintaining our high standard of service. Maureen is a fabulous addition to our team as well, and by the start of 2013, we had all settled in to the changes brought upon us.

## **Committees**

Library staff maintain connections to the College in many ways, including committee work. Jackie DeQuinzio and Audrey Pryce represent the Library on Staff Council. Peter Hare sits on the IMP Committee. Nora Gaines is on Curriculum Committee. Jenny Brown is a member the Children's Book Committee (CBC) and also serves on the Executive Board of the CBC. Allie

Bruce is a member of the CBC and she serves on the SFC Agenda Committee. She also headed the Library Workgroup for the NYSAIS Accreditation Committee for the School for Children. Kristin Freda served on the Executive Committee of the Children's Book Committee.

## Collections

- **Physical:** As of June 30, 2013, the Library holds 123,971 volumes – 49,727 adult books and 68,823 children's books. In addition, the Library owns 6,535 nonprint items, such as electronic books, DVDs and CDs. We subscribe to 26 journals, down from 154 last year and 319 a year before that. We have vigorously slashed our journal subscriptions over two budget cycles in order to make up for deep budget cuts.
- **Electronic:** The Library subscribes to 28 databases that allow full-text access to 30,500 journals and newspapers. We also provide access to 3414 electronic books through our library catalog.
- **Archives:** The Bank Street College Archives contains the institutional records of Bank Street College of Education as well as historical materials relating to the College. The collection documents the history and evolution of the College from 1916 to the present. Materials in the collection include: official divisional administrative records, faculty and staff papers, audio-visual materials, photographs, and artifacts. The archives consist of 680 linear feet of materials – which includes three special collections: the Edith Lisolette Gordon papers, the Child Study Association of America Collection, and the Lillian Dropkin Weber papers. In addition, the archivist has created several digital collections, expanding access to important historical documents to researchers beyond the walls of the College.



## Services

**Reference:** The reference desk is available from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm Monday through Thursday, as well as all day on Fridays and Saturdays. We average about 464 reference transactions per week. Reference services extend far



beyond face-to-face patron inquiries, however. Librarians continually develop resources that allow our patrons to access the information they seek in an efficient manner. We do this with our web-based Research Guides, our Pinterest Boards, and with our tutorial screencasts. The Research Guides bring together into one place a range of resources for students to use

as they explore a topic. There are currently 40 guides and the list is growing by the month. We use Pinterest to highlight a collection of materials, such as children's or adult books, on a specific topic. We also make available short screencasts which teach the use of the catalog, searching the databases, and information on EReserves. The reference librarians keep the information on our website updated so the user can find what they need without actually needing to come in and ask – although we love it when they do!

**Library orientations and APA classes:** The Library conducts 10 or so library orientations each semester. An orientation, geared toward graduate students, begins with a physical library tour, identifying the various collections and areas where group work occurs, where quiet work is expected, where the copy machines are located and how they function. We talk about library policy, such as loan periods and fine structure. We then sit down with the group and show them the ins and outs of database research, managing their library accounts, and going over the online offerings on the library website. We also conduct three to five APA specific workshops each semester. Peter and Maureen visited 13 GS classes this year for specific instruction geared toward the needs of each class.

**Children's Services:** Allie taught 15 SFC classes per week in the Library and gave book talks and research lessons to the upper school students in their



classrooms. She and other librarians also act as reader's advisors to the students, their parents, and caregivers. Allie lent her expertise to the graduate students and faculty in the form of reference help when needed.

**Circulation and reserves:** The Library circulated 70,306 items this year, including 1,961 reserve book transactions. Circulation staff collected \$10,911 in overdue fines or lost charges and collected \$2,341 in printing charges for the College. There were 1520 filled holds. Our patrons find our hold service quite beneficial – they can place a book on hold from the catalog and come in the next day where it will be waiting for them at the circulation desk.

## **What we accomplished this year**

**EReserves** – We continue to grow our ereserve offerings as faculty become familiar with its benefits. Nora and Maureen created 40 ereserve course pages over the course of the year, uploading over 250 documents. Side by side with ereserves is the management of associated copyright fees and fair use and permissions issues. We saved approximately \$2,200 in copyright permission fees as a result of broader interpretation of the fair use provision of US copyright law, based on the recent Georgia State decision. Library staff advise and educate faculty on copyright and fair use, in association with ereserves as well as more broadly.

**Copyright** – Nora and Kristin attended "Fair Use in Your Library After Georgia State," a webinar sponsored by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) on December 4, 2012. Presenters were Dwayne Buttler, J.D., Evelyn Schneider, University of Louisville, Donna Ferullo, Director, Purdue University Copyright Office, and Tim Gritten, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. They also attended the daylong symposium "Copyright Exceptions for Libraries in the Digital Age: Section 108 Reform" at Columbia Law School, presented in cooperation with the US Copyright Office. We launched the Research Guide on Copyright and Fair Use, which provides a



brief overview of the topic and gives specific guidance to Bank Street students and faculty.

**Growing and improving our online resources** - We have been hard at work ramping up our website with digital resources that fit the needs of our students and faculty. We created 17 new research guides on topics such as Colonial New York, Native American Indians in the New York Area, Museum Education, and Bank Street Philosophy. Two of our research guides, Resources for Families of Gender-Variant and Transgender Children, and Resources for Families of Children of Incarcerated Parents, were named Best Guides in January by Springshare, the software company that hosts the service. We've also reinstated the online "chat" feature which we once had but had to let go when the new website was launched. The chat box is on the front page of the library website and is available for patrons to start up a reference conversation with the on-call reference librarian. We are able to answer questions and send files in real-time using the chat feature. The online catalog of our holdings is expanding ever so slightly in the realm of digital assets. We are maintaining our ebook collection, accessible through the catalog, and providing links to streaming videos when we can.

**Archives** – Lindsey, our archivist, has been busy on many fronts. She answered 66 research requests during the year, including 34 requests from



external researchers who are working on books and articles on various topics. She also happily hosted three Teachers College students from a "Historical Figures in Education" class. Lindsey also completed the online and print versions of a finding aid for the Irma Black Papers. She secured a second NEH grant to purchase preservation supplies, including document cases to rehouse the entire processed collection. Some new materials donated to the archives this year include materials from Dick Feldman, Ann Morgan, Linda

Reing, Lisa Von Drasek, and Ann Marie Mott. As part of the team that was awarded an Innova grant, Lindsey uploaded more than 45 pieces of content to the Bank Street iTunes U collections.

**Social media** – The Library spent myriad hours keeping our followers updated on all sorts of news and events. We maintain two library blogs, each with a different audience in mind. The main library blog focuses on news and information about the Library and its offerings for our “in-house” population, mainly the graduate students and faculty. Our Center for Children’s Literature blog focuses on news and information around CCL events. Many of the readers of this blog are outside the institution, those in the field of children’s literature, including authors, illustrators, teachers and librarians. Beyond blogs, we actively update our Facebook and Twitter accounts (we sent 403 tweets this year!) and in October, 2012, we created an Instagram account where we post photos and videos of the goings-on at the Library. Other outlets for our videos are Vimeo and YouTube, as well as the College’s iTunes U account.

Allie Bruce **APA Archives**  
**authors awards** BookFest  
**book lists** books call numbers  
**catalog** Children's Book Committee  
children's stories citations  
communication copying  
**databases** eBooks eReserves  
**events exhibits** Ezra Jack Keats  
facebook flash drives folklore formatting  
fun Google graphic novels holidays  
**hours** illustrators  
**improvements Irma**  
**Black** Jackie DeQuinzio Jon  
**Scieszka** LibGuides **Lisa Von**  
**Drasek** magazines Margaret Wise Brown  
mathematics Mental Measurements

**Children’s Services** – Allie, our interim children’s librarian, was fortunate to work with Lisa Von Drasek, our departing children’s librarian, for one month before she was handed the reins. Allie jumped right into the position and made the transition for her students, the Library and herself seem easy. She



successfully guided the project that Lisa had started in the previous Spring, “One Book Bank Street” to its amazing conclusion. All of the middle and upper school children, SFC administration, teachers, and many of us within the institution read R.J. Palacio’s book *Wonder*. In

December, the author came to Bank Street to speak candidly about the story and how it came to be written. We were all mesmerized. Later in the year, Allie embarked on an unanticipated and unplanned curriculum (with

the head teacher of the 11s/12s class) around book covers and how they marginalize races and genders. When the children in the class questioned what they saw, Allie and their teacher took the chance to explore with them the issue. "Loudness in the Library: Empowering Students to Think Critically About Identity and Bias" was born. Allie, Jamie Steinfield (the teacher) and Anshu Wahi (the diversity coordinator in the SFC) will present the topic at the PEN (Progressive Educators' Network) conference on the subject in October, 2013.

**Center for Children's Literature** – Jennifer Brown started in September as the interim director of the Center of Children's Literature. Lisa Von Drasek had held the position previously. The first order of business for Jenny was to take the lead and make sure our annual BookFest at Bank Street event went



smoothly. And that it did. BookFest, held on October 27<sup>th</sup> had 147 paid registrants, all geared up for a great day celebrating children's literature. While busy promoting and organizing our biggest event of the year, Jenny also started to bring the Writers Lab back into the fold of Bank Street. The Writers Lab is a group of authors who meet monthly in workshop format to get feedback from each other on their current works for children.

Formed in 1934, with Lucy Sprague Mitchell as its first director, the Lab has a long and distinguished history as an incubator for children's book authors and illustrators. Jenny was tasked with integrating the Writers Lab more fully into the Bank Street College community. She expanded membership to include teachers in the SFC, GS faculty, and Children's Book Committee members. She organized the first Writers Lab Mini-Conference. This half-day conference attracted 56 paying attendees. Also a first for the CCL this year, Jenny launched an informal "expert speaker" series for the Children's Book Committee. Caroline Ward from the Ferguson Public Library in Stamford, CT spoke to the committee about beginning readers. Susannah Richards from Eastern Connecticut University and advisor on the Common Core Standards spoke to the committee about their role in selecting titles to recommend to teachers, librarians, and parents. Both talks were attended by Writers Lab members and several trustees of the College.



## CCL Events

**BookFest** – October 27, 2012. 147 people attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event where Mary Pope Osborne, author of the best-selling *Magic Tree House*



series, delivered the keynote address. A panel of middle-grade authors – Bruce Coville, Liz Levy, John Coy, Michael Dahl and Adam Gidwitz '08 – engaged in a lively discussion of series writing moderated by Jennifer Hubert Swan, middle school librarian and library department chair at Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School. An afternoon

panel about Window-Mirror books moderated by Children's Book Committee member Rita Auerbach raised penetrating themes about the importance of books that reflect the experiences of children and that also offer them a window into other children's experiences. The featured authors and artists were Jacqueline Woodson, Dan Yaccarino, Andrea Davis Pinkney and E.B. Lewis. Rounding out the day was the autographing session for attendees, who then made their way home just one day before Hurricane Sandy was to unleash her power.

**Children's Book Committee Award Ceremony** – March 7, 2013.

Approximately 120 invited guests attended our annual award ceremony. Each year, the Committee selects three books out of their *Best Books of the Year* list for three awards. This year, R.J. Palacio won the 2013 Josette Frank Award for her debut novel, *Wonder*. The Josette Frank Award honors a book of "literary merit in which children or young people deal in a positive and realistic way with difficulties in their world and grow emotionally and morally." The Flora Stieglitz Straus Award for "a nonfiction book that serves as an inspiration to young readers" was given to Doreen Rappaport for her book *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*, and J. Patrick Lewis won the 2013 Claudia Lewis Award for the best poetry book of the year for young readers, for his anthology *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!*

**Official Launch of *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen** – April 2, 2013. Publisher Little, Brown and Company asked if Bank Street would be interested in participating in the launch of *The Dark*. The 7/8s, 8/9s and 9/10s



all jammed into the auditorium as author Lemony Snicket, illustrator Jon Klassen, and audio book voice-over guy Neil Gaiman offered up a hilarious presentation. The whole affair was live-streamed to hundreds of schools around the country, through Little, Brown.

**Writers Lab Mini-Conference** – April 13, 2013. For our first mini-conference, called “Early Childhood Literature: What Do You Need to Know?” we were aiming for 30 attendees to spend half a Saturday with us. To our pleasure, 56 signed up. Dr. Perri Klass was the opening keynote speaker; Laura Vaccaro Seeger was the closing keynote. In between we had a world-class panel, moderated by Robbie Harris on creating books for early childhood.

**Irma Black Award and Cook Prize** – May 23, 2013. We are proud to say that this year we had our largest participation from schools ever. More than 7500 first and second graders voted to make *Big Mean Mike* the favorite for the Irma Black Award. More than 2000 third and fourth graders participated in voting for the Cook Prize, up from last year’s 619. They chose *How Many Jelly Beans*, written by Andrea Menotti and illustrated by Yancey Labat. Peter H. Reynolds (author and



artist of the Irma Black Honor Book *The Dot*) delivered the keynote speech at the ceremony.

## Looking Ahead

We have work to do on many fronts, from digital to collection management to marketing. We have in place the protocol ready to begin placing graduate student independent studies directly online. We no longer collect these in print, but they will be sent to us electronically for upload and cataloging. The user will find these documents as they do now, through our catalog, but they will be able to click on the url and be brought directly to the document.

We would like to start allowing patrons to pay their fines and fees with a credit card right here in the Library. Currently they must go to the business office to pay, then come back to be cleared. We will set up the same procedure as the cafeteria for collecting fines this way, using an iPad mini and the Square device.

The technical services department, under the direction of Jackie, will conduct a thorough inventory of the collection. This has not been done in over 10 years. We will also ramp up book weeding again to clear out less important materials from the collection.

The Center for Children's Literature will continue to broaden its reach and work on making connections outside of Bank Street. We would like to become more adept at marketing and branding.



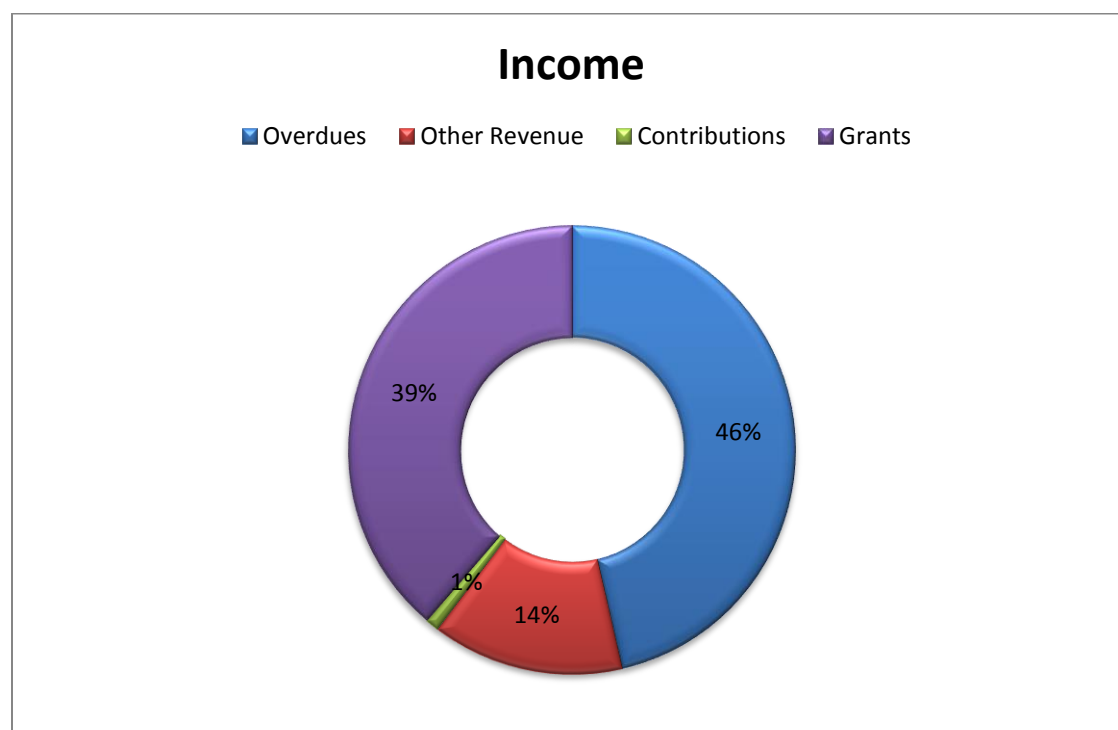
# Bank Street Library by the Numbers

## Income from Library operations: \$15,094

- Overdue and lost book charges: \$11,616
- All other revenue (thesis binding, book sale, etc.) \$3,478

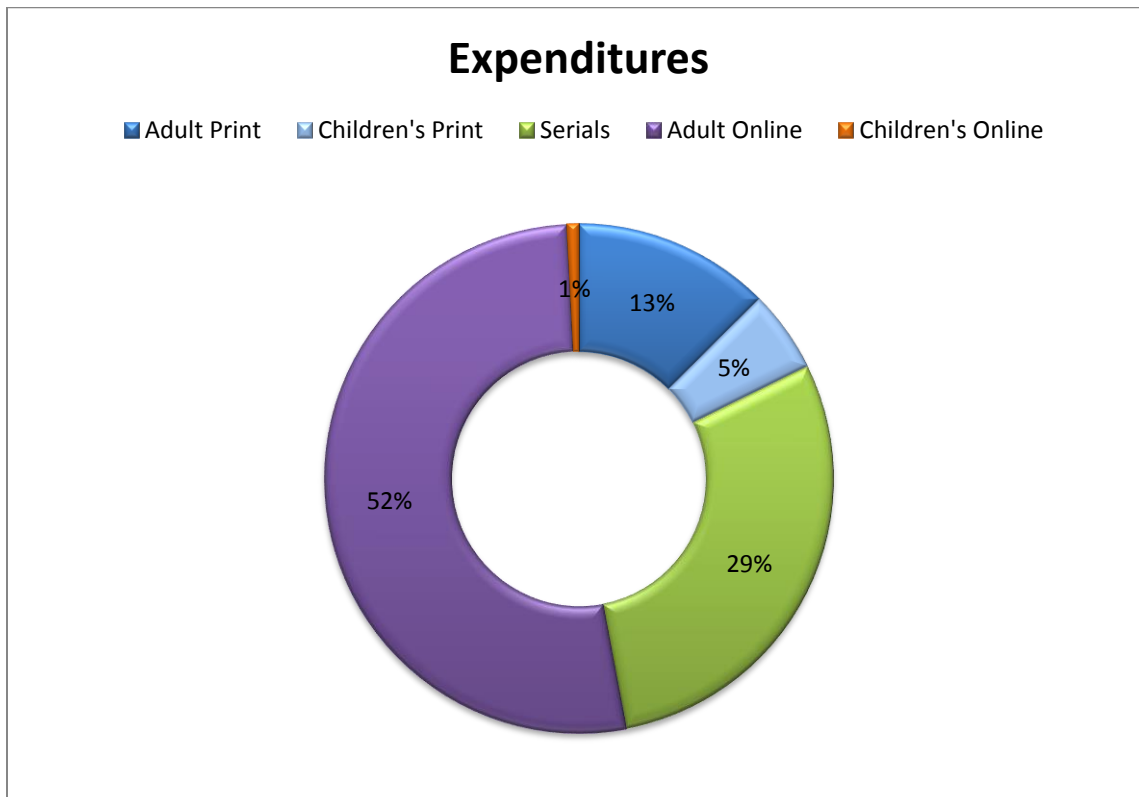
## Income from Grants and Contributions: \$9,949

- Coordinated Collection Development (CCD) \$4,516
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) \$5,183
- Contributions: \$250



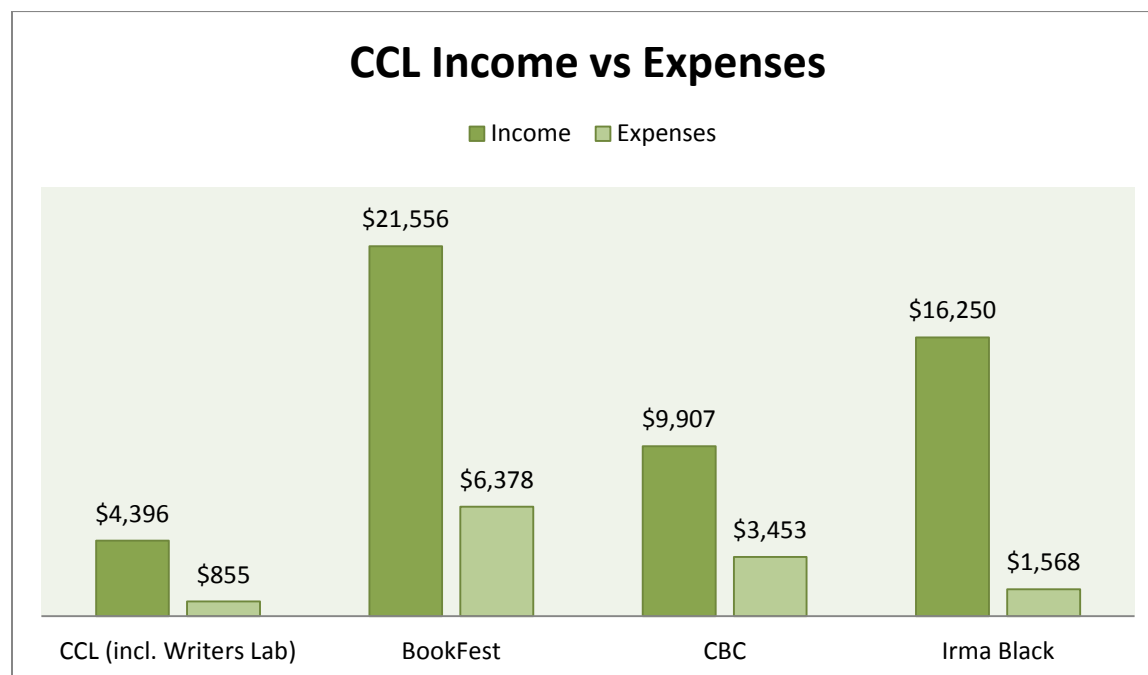
## Materials Expenditures: \$83,207

- Adult Print: \$10,422
- Serials: \$24,388
- Adult Online & Nonprint: \$43,439
- Children's Print: \$4,326
- Children's Online & Nonprint: \$632





## Center for Children's Literature Income and Expenditures



The Center for Children's Literature encompasses four branches that support its mission: The Irma S. and James H. Black Award (Irma Black), the Children's Book Committee (CBC), BookFest, and the Writers Lab. Each branch earns some income that is used toward running its programs. Income comes from endowment, event registration fees, and contributions.

### Library Services

- Number of Graduate School class visits: 13
- Number of author visits to SFC: 10
- Reference transactions: 464 per week, on average
- Circulation checkouts and renewals: 70,306
- Holds filled: 1520
- InterLibrary Loan: Items borrowed from other libraries for Bank Street users: 60; Items lent to other libraries: 258
- Library hours during the academic year: 67 per week.

## Library Collections

- Print volumes: 123,971 (49,727 adult; 68,823 children's)
- E-books: 3414
- Current journal and other serial titles: 26 print titles; 30,500 electronic
- Digital resources: 28 databases; 37 iTunes U videos, sound recordings, and documents; 135 archival documents
- Archival materials: approx. 680 linear feet

## Website

The Library website (<http://bankstreet.edu/library>) received 102,101 page views in 2012-2013. Top page hits were:

- Home page (69,323)
- Research databases (6,969)
- Children's book lists (2,134)

The Center for Children's Literature website (<http://bankstreet.edu/center-childrens-literature>) received 55,991 page views in 2012-2013.

Top page hits were:

- CBC Best Books of the Year, 2012 (13,052)
- CBC Best Books of the Year, 2013 (9,141)
- CCL Homepage (6,124)

Our Library Blog received 8095 page views

Our CCL blog received 17,849 pages views

## Space

User Seats: 105

Public computers: 30

## **Library Staff**

Director: *Kristin Freda*

Acquisitions & EReserves Librarian: *Nora Gaines*

Technical Services Librarian: *Jackie DeQuinzio*

Reference Librarians: *Peter Hare, Maureen Garvey*

Children's Librarian: *Allie Bruce*

Archivist and Special Collections Librarian: *Lindsay Wyckoff*

Director of the Center for Children's Literature: *Jenny Brown*

Circulation Desk Assistants: *Alex Iwachiw, Yesi Pedraza*

Technical Services Assistants: *Micheline Thomas, Audrey Pryce*

Acquisitions and ILL Assitant: *Debbie Taybron*