

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 02-043

Proclaiming Multnomah County Library's 100th Anniversary of Public Library Service to All

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

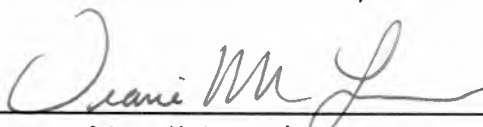
- a) In the late 1890's Portland merchant and entrepreneur, John Wilson, made a bequest of \$2,500 in gold coins and 8,000 books, atlases, maps and other items with the express purpose that the Library Association of Portland use his significant and generous gift to create a free reference library for the public;
- b) In keeping with the growing interest of having libraries open to all people, the legislature of 1901 passed "an act to authorize the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and to provide for their control and protection";
- c) The Library Association of Portland which had existed for 38 years as a private subscription library opened its doors to the public for the first time on March 10th in 1902;
- d) Within one month of opening its doors to the public, the Library Association of Portland's circulation increased from 1,600 books borrowed per month to more than 400 books borrowed per day;
- e) Today Multnomah County Library users check out 14 million books and other materials, an average of 21 items per every man, woman and child in the County;
- f) Thanks to the generosity and vision of many people in the last 100 years, Multnomah County Library has grown to become an exceptional institution, recognized regionally and nationally as one of the finest libraries in the United States.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

- 1. Multnomah County Library's 100th Anniversary of public library service to all, and recognizes the significant contribution Multnomah County Library gives to all our residents throughout the County.

ADOPTED this 21st day of March, 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair