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## Report to the Library Board July, 2009

### *Updates to the 2010 Capital Budget*

Working with the Comptroller's office on the 2010 Capital Budget submission resulted in the following change: Reauthorizing \$450,000 of approved South Madison funds from the 2009 budget into the 2010 budget (since it won't be spent until 2010) and adding the \$275,000 of additional expenses to that reauthorized amount. This results in a new amount of \$725,000 for South Madison in 2010.

Project # 15168 "Reallocating Library Technology Funds and amending the 2009 Capital Budget" (in your packet) is the resolution that the Library Board approved at its June meeting seeking funding for technology projects affecting all library locations; it is scheduled to be introduced to the Common Council in July.

### *Denigrating Dewey*

I recently received a complaint from a person who was annoyed with the process one has to go through in order to find a book in our libraries, as follows: Using the Dewey Decimal System in public libraries is really annoying. Looking up the title in the catalog, noting the Dewey placement number, trying to read the small print on the books that are positioned next to other books with very similar numbers among shelves and shelves of books seems like a system for librarians, not ... normal people. (Well, maybe he didn't actually say that last.)

In this Google, one-click-of-the-finger world, Dewey does seem difficult. But, there's a reason that most public libraries still use it. MPL is part of a seven-county multi-library consortium, and we have all agreed to share our holdings. If a person at the Pinney Branch wants a particular book (or DVD or CD), and it's not available at the Pinney Library, a hold is placed for that title in LINKcat for that user and magically, overnight, the LINK software has located that book and sent a message to the owning library to find the book, and to put it in the delivery system. Voila, within 24 to 48 hours, that book appears at Pinney and the person seeking the book receives an email notifying its availability at Pinney.

To date this year, 683,817 books or media have been located, put on an SCLS delivery truck, and united with their intended Madison users (about 34% of the total items checked out, year to date). People in Madison use this efficient reservation system a lot, and those of us working in libraries do NOT denigrate Dewey, because we can always quickly locate and return books to their allotted place in the Library world – ready, again, to be of service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "BP".