

Providing for Knowledge, Growth, and Prosperity

A Benefit Study of the San Francisco Public Library



2007



Providing for Knowledge, Growth and Prosperity

A Benefit Study of the San Francisco Public Library

Conducted by Berk and Associates, a Seattle-based research and economic analysis firm, the study illustrates how the SFPL has evolved to be a characteristically San Franciscan institution uniquely suited to serve the City and its inhabitants, particularly those most in need.

The report describes and – when possible – quantifies the value which the library system provides to the San Francisco Community.

Providing for Knowledge, Growth and Prosperity

A Benefit Study of the San Francisco Public Library

- The SFPL is both a symbol of San Francisco and a direct contributor to what makes San Francisco the place that it is.
- This is most evidenced in:
 - SFPL's specialized services for entrepreneurs and job seekers
 - The library's exceptional partnering with the San Francisco Unified School District and the early literacy community
 - The support and resources the library provides for the city's most vulnerable populations
 - The library's role in helping define and celebrate San Francisco's diverse populations and distinct neighborhoods

Providing for Knowledge, Growth and Prosperity

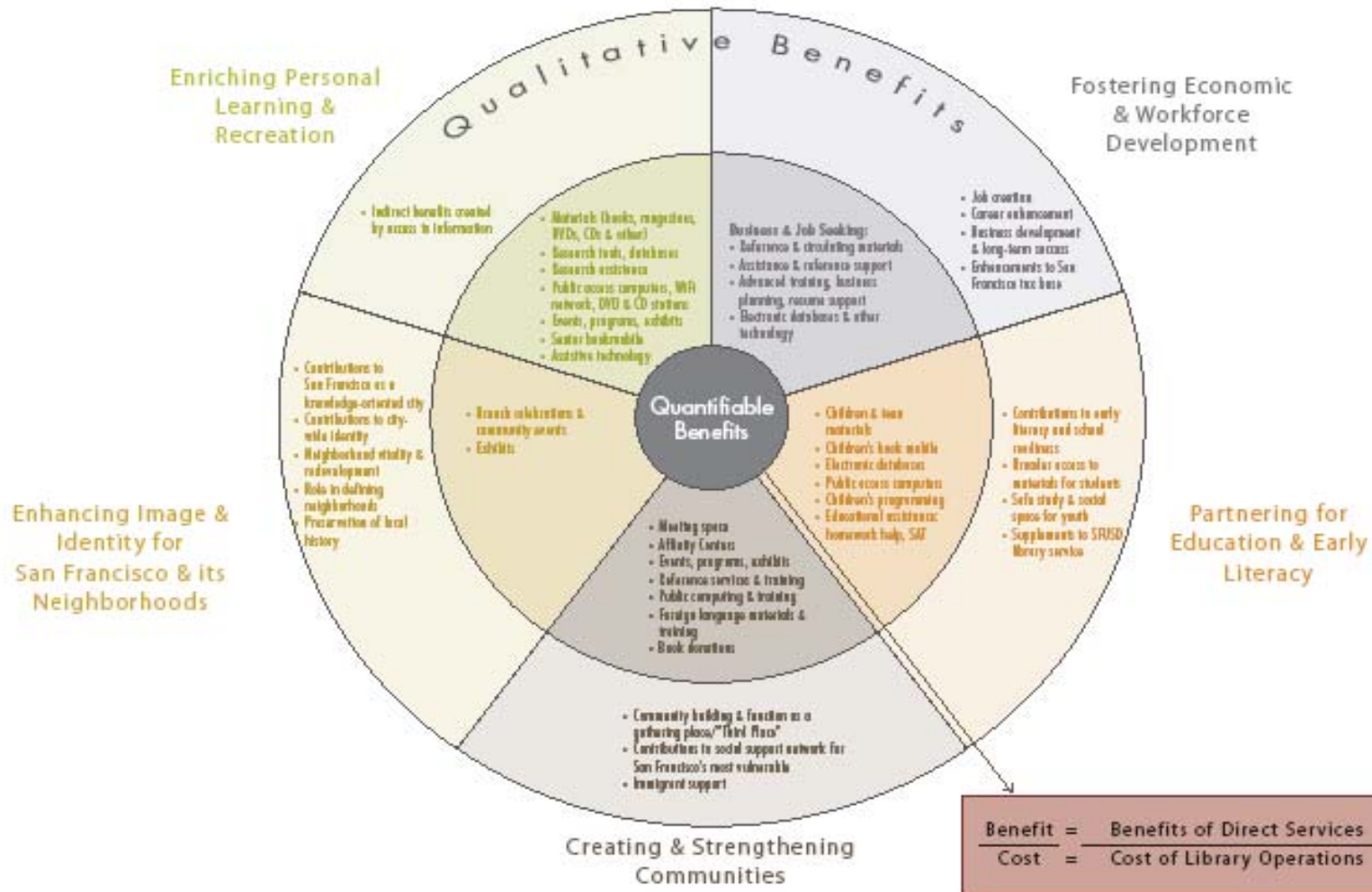
A Benefit Study of the San Francisco Public Library

One dollar in, more than three out!

- The SFPL generates an impressive return of up to **\$3.34** for every dollar spent on its operations and services.
- Quantifiable benefits include:
 - circulation of library collections
 - use of a wide range of library services, including computers, trainings, programming, and other specialized services
- Value estimated by determining the market cost of a comparable service or other means of acquiring the same benefit. This market value was then multiplied by the number of uses by SFPL patrons in the 2005-06 fiscal year. The total value of these benefits ranges from **\$87 million to \$207 million.**
- The actual value of benefits provided by SFPL is substantially larger than this conservative value as many of the benefits provided by the library cannot reasonably be quantified.

02/07/08

Benefit Assessment Framework



Providing for Knowledge, Growth and Prosperity

A Benefit Study of the San Francisco Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library's contributions to the health and vitality of our city are essential and vast. SFPL is an extraordinary civic institution, unique in its consistent ability to reach and serve diverse populations with great impact and longevity.

The library not only perfectly represents the principles of our community, it answers the needs of each and every San Francisco citizen. It is public in the very best sense of the word: of and for all people.

Mayor Gavin Newsom, City of San Francisco