



Library Summary

Institution name:	Poetry Foundation
Library name:	Poetry Foundation Library
Library type:	Special
City:	Chicago
Primary library contact:	Katherine Litwin, Library Director
Recommended board action:	RECOMMEND FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP
Major metropolitan area:	Chicago
Population served:	The Poetry Foundation Library has a national reach. There were approximately 5,000 (adults and children) served by the library last year through programs and library use.

Library Information

Holdings:	33,000 books/100 periodicals/200 AV titles and various broadsides
OCLC member (yes or no):	No
Online catalog (OPAC):	EOS (SirsiDynix ILS for special libraries)
eRead Illinois member (yes or no):	No

Strengths: The Poetry Foundation mission is to promote a wider readership for poetry with the general public. The physical library has a great advantage for visitors to the space as it is front and center when first entering the building as a public resource of the organization. The staffed information desk in the library is available for visitors to seek poetry recommendations to read whilst visiting from the non-circulating collection. The library director also participates in the curation of exhibits, Poetry Time in the library for small children and partners with local hospitals in a poetry for patients program for those in hospice.

Challenges: The library is very interested in expanding partnerships to suburban libraries to support these libraries in developing poetry programming. The Poetry Foundation Library is open to the public and they have a fair number of visitors there for casual poetry reading. However the hours are not as compatible for those who cannot visit during traditional business hours or their limited weekend hours.