

Dwight McInvaill
Director
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Dwight McInvaill is the Director of the Georgetown County Library which serves about 60,000 citizens in sunny, rural, coastal South Carolina. His family has been in America since the 1650s and in South Carolina since the 1820s. His clan helped to found Myrtle Beach at the commencement of the 20th Century and also has long associations with Horry, Georgetown, and Charleston Counties. He was educated at Presbyterian College, SC; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Central College, London, UK; and as a Rotary Foundation Scholar at the University of Bordeaux, Talence, France.

Dwight has 30 years experience as a public librarian, first as a reference librarian in North Carolina (17 years) and then as the Director of the Georgetown County Library since January 1996 (14 years). Last year alone, he won 11 grants for Georgetown County totaling altogether \$1.3 million to do innovative projects ranging from creating a digital library with 17,000 historical images and documents (www.gcdigital.org) to using interactive gaming with teens to encourage them to stay in school. He typically generates about \$300,000 annually in such extra revenue for his community.

From 2002-2004, he chaired the American Library Association's Taskforce on Rural School, Tribal, and Public Libraries. In 2003-2005 and 2007-2008, he chaired the Rural Libraries Committee of the Public Library Association. He served recently on the Gaming Experts Panel of the American Library Association. He is also a Board Member of the Association of Rural and Small Libraries.

As for recent honors, in 2009, he was presented with an I Love My Librarian Award from the Carnegie Foundation and the New York Times, credit given to 10 librarians annually. In 2005, for successful library advocacy work, he received a National Honor Roll Award from the American Library Association, recognition granted only to 3 persons per state every 5 years. In 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation featured some of his accomplishments in a nationally-distributed video on innovation in four libraries entitled "Your Public Library: Keeping Your Community Connected." This may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM7jAbvLUFc>. And in 2008, he accepted, from First Lady Laura Bush at the White House, South Carolina's first National Medal for Library Service, an honor going to only 5 U.S. libraries annually.

More importantly, in the course of his career – and especially as a Director – he has toted boxes, vacuumed floors, cleaned toilets, changed light bulbs, disarmed patrons, charmed funders, and done all sorts of interesting daily work. Dwight believes in doing anything that's required to keep a public library afloat. Almost nothing is beneath his dignity. And he never gives up. He approaches his professional life with sleeves rolled up, because to him, being a public librarian is like a sunny beach, great beer, or a good friend. It's a pure joy.

