

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
December 2007

Extension Services

Staff members from the Extension Services department continue to work on the inventory project at Headquarters, using Polaris Inventory Manager software.

The bookmobile was taken out of service at the end of November, so that an overhaul of the air conditioning system could be made. This is specialized work, and the vehicle was taken to a firm in Belmar to have the work done. We expect to have it back in service in January, 2008. Because December tends to be a slower period for bookmobile use, and because we normally do not have scheduled service during the Christmas – New Year's holidays, the impact on the public should be lessened.

We have encouraged the member libraries to send back a lot of weeded materials this month, since we have staff available to delete the materials from our computer system. This should help all of the libraries with their overcrowding issues, and "freshen" the collections for the patrons at the same time.

We anticipate a visit of a new bookmobile that is being delivered to a client in Florida, from the company that we may be purchasing a similar vehicle from. This will give us and the Garage mechanics a chance to see the vehicle itself, and help us in our selection process.

Programs & PR

2007 marked a very successful year for Adult Programming at HCL Headquarters and the North County Branch Library. Attendance for our wide variety of lectures, workshops, concerts, and Festive Fridays reached all time highs. In fact, an average of about 30 additional people attended the musical programs in 2007 than did in 2006.

The Public Relations Committee, consisting of Jim Thatch, Jennifer Winberry, Dana Neubauer, Karen Kilpatrick, Terry Edwards and Kathleen Connors worked hard to present and publicize a full slate of programming, including some summer offerings for the first time. Newspaper coverage of Library events increased greatly in 2007 thanks to the efforts of Karen Kilpatrick. Friday evening programs at HCL Headquarters were very popular with patrons and refreshments were served at a number of performances.

Scheduling is already well under way for 2008. There are plans for a movie series in February, an author meet-and-greet series, opening receptions for artists in our gallery, a National Library Week celebration, and increased programming during the summer months, including some outdoor events on our new outdoor stage on the side of HCL Headquarters. All of this in addition to our regular schedule of lectures, concerts and Festive Fridays should make 2008 our most successful year yet!

Circulation

We have now issued 18,500 new library cards! Patrons have commented how nice it is to have the option of our new key chain library card. Most patrons use their key chain card since it's more convenient than the wallet card.

Our RTFs (Request to Fill) are still growing. On a recent Monday there were 145 items which needed to be pulled from the shelves to fill holds.

Youth Services

Storytimes continued at all locations through mid-December. There will be a break until mid-January to allow staff to prepare for spring programs. Tweens programs are growing in popularity. All locations are weeding in full force in preparation for the picture book re-labelling project. The Headquarters YS office is preparing for a new closet organizing system, courtesy of the Friends! We now have a fish maintenance man, also courtesy of the Friends! He is creating a new environment in the tank with a variety of new fish. Our YS aquarium has proven to be very popular!

Circulation Statistics

	Nov. 07	Oct. 07	% Change	Nov. 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	41,038	41,797	-1.8%	35,250	16.4%	454,163	374,391	21.3%
North County	39,755	40,103	-0.9%	32,642	21.8%	441,379	412,913	6.9%
South County	8,590	8,431	1.9%	6,723	27.8%	91,257	83,445	9.4%
Bunnvale	3,073	3,133	-1.9%	2,553	20.4%	34,957	27,229	28.4%
Readington	5,941	6,224	-4.5%	6,052	-1.8%	69,789	67,084	4.0%
Holland/Alexandria	3,576	3,663	-2.4%	3,148	13.6%	39,488	37,284	5.9%
Tewksbury	4,053	3,846	5.4%	3,212	26.2%	40,982	30,888	32.7%
Three Bridges	2,997	2,698	11.1%	2,448	22.4%	29,827	27,104	10.0%
High Bridge	1,047	1,020	2.6%	1,038	0.9%	11,459	10,742	6.7%
Frenchtown	488	541	-9.8%	546	-10.6%	5,978	6,093	-1.9%
Bookmobile	1,310	1,477	-11.3%	1,001	30.9%	12,228	10,961	11.6%
Total	111,868	112,933	-0.9%	94,613	18.2%	1,231,507	1,088,134	13.2%



