

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
January 2007

HCL Rings in the Holidays!

Patrons who visited the Hunterdon County Library in December were able to enjoy a variety of holiday treats.

The library was decorated with lights, holiday banners and snowflakes. Also on display for the entire month was a replica of the Hunterdon County Library made with gingerbread. Our gingerbread library was a real team effort. Jim Thatch designed the model to scale, Kathleen Connors baked the gingerbread, and HCL staff decorated the library with candy. The final creation was enjoyed by patrons young and old. Our "Edible Library" was even featured in the January issue of *American Libraries!*

HCL also treated patrons to a series of holiday concerts throughout the month of December. The series was kicked off by tenor Stephen Snow and pianist Rosetta Bacon performing "Spirit of the Season" at both HCL and NCB. The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library sponsored a program featuring jazz and holiday standards performed by The Mark Titus Trio. A special performance in the lobby of HCL Headquarters featured The Hunterdon Central Fiddle Club. Holiday music drifted throughout the library and patrons gathered to hear these remarkable students perform. Finally, The Eric Mintel Quartet performed "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The show was so popular that he added a second performance two weeks later and, once again, the Meeting room was filled to capacity.

Polaris Training

All Circulation staff are receiving training sessions and are working out various scenarios to become familiar with the new system. Technical Services staff have created two small study groups – one for people who work primarily with acquisitions and one for people who work primarily with cataloging. They are individually studying Polaris and meeting once a week in groups to share information and ask questions. They are making a lot of progress in becoming as educated as possible before the final switchover to Polaris in February.

Outreach in Glen Gardner

The bookmobile made a recent visit to the Voorhees Residential Community Home in Glen Gardner. Serving approximately 27 residents ranging in age from 15 to 18 years, this facility provides vocational training in addition to a traditional classroom education. Staff members Lisa Storm and Elizabeth Erwin were greeted enthusiastically by approximately twelve young men who were eager to find some good books to read. Questions asked ranged from author recommendations to what electronic resources were available off-site. Yet, the one question asked by the majority of the residents was when we were going to be coming back. The young men were very excited at the prospect of being able to get the books they requested so quickly. The interest the bookmobile generated among residents coupled with the opportunity to publicize other library materials and programs made this outreach initiative a successful one!

Holland Alexandria Staff Receive Dedication from Local Author

The staff of Holland Alexandria Library received an acknowledgment from local publisher, John Gattuso in his new book entitled *Talking to God*. John donated a signed copy of the book to the library for circulation. "That was a wonderful Christmas present!" said head library employee Donna Longcor on behalf of all the staff.

NCB Youth Services Department Gets a Face-Lift

The Youth Services Department at North County Branch received a wonderful gift from the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library: a train table complete with tracks and trains! The children love it and flock to the back of the Youth Services area to play with it. To accommodate this great addition, a large four-unit study carrel was moved to the front of the YS area. The carrel fits in very well in its new location and the rearrangement provides more space at the far end of the room. Children and parents are happy to have better access to the puzzle table, the books on CD, the fairy tales, board books, and, of course, the train table. Another transformation was to relocate all of the juvenile DVDs to shelving along the meeting room wall. Browsing in this very popular area is now much easier and much less crowded.

Circulation Statistics

	Dec 06	Nov 06	% Change	Dec 05	% Change	FYTD 06	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	33,180	35,250	-5.9%	244	3498.4%	408,111	241,927	68.7%
North County	30,283	32,642	-7.2%	34,450	-12.1%	443,196	442,327	0.2%
South County	6,615	6,723	-1.6%	8,837	-25.1%	90,060	97,421	-7.6%
Bunnvale	2,460	2,553	-3.6%	1,752	40.4%	29,689	24,914	19.2%
Readington	5,221	6,052	-13.7%	4,826	8.2%	72,305	70,032	3.2%
Holland/Alexandria	2,662	3,148	-15.4%	2,779	-4.2%	39,946	37,690	6.0%
Tewksbury	2,923	3,212	-9.0%	1,808	61.7%	33,811	27,300	23.8%
Three Bridges	1,983	2,448	-19.0%	2,589	-23.4%	29,087	25,932	12.2%
High Bridge	923	1,038	-11.1%	685	34.7%	11,665	9,841	18.5%
Frenchtown	388	546	-28.9%	245	58.4%	6,481	6,050	7.1%
Bookmobile	691	1,001	-31.0%	637	8.5%	11,652	11,589	0.5%
Total	87,329	94,613	-7.7%	58,852	48.4%	1,176,003	995,023	18.2%