

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
September 2007

South County Branch

The South County Branch Library has now been open on Mondays for three months. The volume of business immediately rose to the level of our other days, with the patrons thrilled to have the extra convenience of six days per week service.

Inventory Project

Staff members from the Extension Services department have been working on the inventory project at Headquarters, using the Polaris system's Inventory Manager. Staff from other departments will be trained to use the Tablet PC also, which will enable the project to be completed faster.

Bookmobile

The RFP for the new bookmobile has been released for a second time, since no acceptable bids were received the first time. The time frame for delivery of the new vehicle has been extended to one year, to allow for delays in the manufacturing of vehicle components. The new bids are due to be received in early October.

Outreach to School Libraries

In August of each year, our Extension Services Dept. sends out packets of information to each school librarian reviewing our school borrowing and school visits policies. Most of the school libraries need to borrow additional books from us when teachers assign a specific project to a whole class. We supply additional age and grade appropriate materials to augment their own collections, as well as specific titles that students want to read. Forms for requesting library materials for use in the school are included in the packet, which the librarian can fax to us. Each school is assigned a specific day of the week for deliveries and pick-ups, so they can rely on getting their requested materials by their need date. This service is greatly appreciated by the school librarians, and is one we are happy to provide.

HCL staff will be meeting with school librarians on Oct. 3rd at North Hunterdon Regional High School as part of our ongoing involvement in the Hunterdon County Librarians Association. These meetings provide a great opportunity to spread the word about HCL's services and develop a strong partnership for sharing our resources with the schools.

Sundays at HQ

Sunday hours resumed at the Headquarters Library on September 9th, and the circulation figures indicate that Sunday is another important day for the library, with over 750 items checked out in the four hour period.

HCL Goes to the Fair!

The Hunterdon County Library was again represented in the Community Services Tent at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair, which ran from August 22 to August 26, 2007.

Library staff set up an exhibit that included a book display, a daily drawing for books and DVD's donated by the Friends of HCL, crafts for children, and information detailing all of HCL's services and programs.

Giveaways to fairgoers included pens with the library's web address on them, HCL plastic bags, HCL tattoos, HCL fans, magnets with HCL, NCB, and SCB's hours, and last but not least candy! The pens, fans and bags were so popular that we gave them all away and it was not uncommon to stroll around the fairgrounds and see people fanning themselves with an HCL fan with one hand and carrying an HCL bag in the other.

25 staff members volunteered to man the exhibit, covering all 113 hours that the fair was open. Staff members also wore HCL t-shirts, which easily identified us to visitors at the exhibit. Some staff members were even able to answer questions on their way from the parking lot. Now, that's "outreach"!

The *Daily Drawing* for books and DVD's was once again a big hit and two prizes were given away each day. Additionally, the afternoon prize winner's name was announced on WDVR FM. Thanks to the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library for sponsoring the drawing and donating the prizes.

A large mockup of our new, soon-to-be-released HCL Library Card created a lot of buzz about when the new cards will be available. We had 20 people fill out applications for library cards as well.

HCL received many compliments and favorable comments from fair goers as staff continued to spread the word about our services and programs.

Summer Reading Club

The Youth Services Dept. had a very successful summer. Summer Reading Club had 1,011 participants who read over 22,000 books! Staff conducted over 135 programs for all ages at all locations. Special programs, as well as storytimes, Tweens, Teens, and crafts were filled to capacity with waiting lists.

Adult Summer Reading Club

Our adult readers were also very active this summer. For the first time ever, HCL formed an Adult Summer Reading Club. The Club had a total of 176 participants who read 896 books!

Circulation Statistics

	July 07	June 07	% Change	July 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	45,126	41,528	8.7%	44,009	2.5%	286,204	219,313	30.5%
North County	47,633	41,149	15.8%	43,046	10.7%	279,121	266,957	4.6%
South County	9,114	8,734	4.4%	8,228	10.8%	56,842	53,924	5.4%
Bunnvale	3,526	3,450	2.2%	3,091	14.1%	21,926	16,552	32.5%
Readington	7,936	6,476	22.5%	7,334	8.2%	45,127	41,718	8.2%
Holland/Alexandria	4,517	3,509	28.7%	3,814	18.4%	25,137	24,059	4.5%
Tewksbury	4,070	3,787	7.5%	3,448	18.0%	24,709	17,464	41.5%
Three Bridges	3,478	2,642	31.6%	3,048	14.1%	18,060	17,605	2.6%
High Bridge	1,282	1,207	6.2%	1,242	3.2%	6,990	6,520	7.2%
Frenchtown	751	657	14.3%	712	5.5%	3,833	3,684	4.0%
Bookmobile	1,111	950	16.9%	749	48.3%	7,240	6,771	6.9%
Total	128,544	114,089	12.7%	118,721	8.3%	775,189	674,567	14.9%

	Aug 07	July 07	% Change	Aug 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	46,714	45,126	3.5%	45,567	2.5%	332,918	264,880	25.7%
North County	45,890	47,633	-3.7%	44,142	4.0%	325,011	311,099	4.5%
South County	9,739	9,114	6.9%	8,981	8.4%	66,581	62,905	5.8%
Bunnvale	3,814	3,526	8.2%	2,994	27.4%	25,740	19,546	31.7%
Readington	7,227	7,936	-8.9%	7,578	-4.6%	52,354	49,296	6.2%
Holland/Alexandria	3,984	4,517	-11.8%	3,976	0.2%	29,121	28,035	3.9%
Tewksbury	4,667	4,070	14.7%	3,717	25.6%	29,376	21,181	38.7%
Three Bridges	3,618	3,478	4.0%	2,644	36.8%	21,678	20,249	7.1%
High Bridge	1,354	1,282	5.6%	1,124	20.5%	8,344	7,644	9.2%
Frenchtown	615	751	-18.1%	731	-15.9%	4,448	4,415	0.7%
Bookmobile	937	1,111	-15.7%	1,029	-8.9%	8,177	7,800	4.8%
Total	128,559	128,544	0.0%	122,483	5.0%	903,748	797,050	13.4%