

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
August 2008

Youth Services

Summer Reading Club began full force on June 1st. As always, we had programs - storytimes and crafts - for ages 2 - 12 at all locations, including two bookmobile stops. Nearly 110 programs were presented countywide. In addition, we had 14 professional performances at HQ and NCB. These included a magician, a reptile expert, musicians, and a theater group. All performances were sold out at all locations!

A traveling farm (Quiver Farm) visited HQ and NCB in July. Ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, baby chicks, a calf, a sheep, a goat, a piglet and a free-spirited turkey delighted scores of kids and their parents who were able to feed, pet and hold most of the animals. One of the interesting farm facts learned by children and adults was that before mechanized farm equipment was developed, farmers used pigs to till their fields. The piglet demonstrated this skill by digging up every bit of grass and turf in his pen within minutes. Everyone agreed that this program was a huge hit!

For grades 6-12, we have the Teen Cafe at HQ and NCB. Meetings included studying butterflies, a lesson from a cartoonist, and a juggler. Both clubs conclude with a traditional ice cream sundae party. Teen Cafe at NCB set new records for Summer Reading Club and program attendance. This year 73 young people registered for SRC, compared to 49 in 2007. Teen Cafe offered four Wednesday night programs in July, and the overall attendance was up 50% from last summer with programs averaging 34 teens.

Additional programs for Tweens and Teens were fully or partially funded by a gift from Commerce Bank and included a scientist from Pearl Observatory, who had young people search for prehistoric insects embedded in amber, and a local author who told stories about his experiences with ghosts. Especially popular was the evening making edible bugs and the program on metamorphosis via the world of butterflies.

Extension Services

The bookmobile vendor has reported that they now have the basic vehicle which they will convert into our new bookmobile. Final selections for interior finishes and the paint and graphics for the exterior are being made and will be sent to the vendor shortly.

The bookmobile has augmented its regular schedule with one special stop at a summer enrichment program in Stanton. This has gone well, and the school has requested consideration for a permanent stop. Decisions about an expanded schedule will be made when we have the new vehicle to use.

Packets of information concerning requests, the electronic databases, etc. have been prepared and will be mailed to each public school, in anticipation of the start of the new school year. Many of the County's public schools have made extensive use of our services, sending their subject collection requests as well as individual title requests. These are all selected and delivered by the Extension staff.

Public Relations Committee

July used to be a time when the Public Relations Committee would catch their breath after the Winter/Spring program schedule and before getting ready for the fair in August and the upcoming fall program schedule...but not anymore!

HCL Headquarters and the North County Branch Library each hosted 5 well-attended programs during the month of July. That is a long way from 2006, when there were no programs offered at either library location during July.

Library patrons were treated to the first ever outdoor concert at HCL Headquarters new outdoor stage, located on the Route 12 side of the building. The Irish band "Hobnail" performed for attendees of HCL's Block Party Festive Friday on July 25th. The second outdoor concert is scheduled for Friday, August 15th. Celtic folk singer Jodee James will be performing that evening.

Other programs in July included a visit from the popular fiddler Lew Gelfond, who currently resides in Ashville, North Carolina, but still includes HCL as one of his stops on his summer tour. Also at HCL Headquarters was the first of a series of "Land and Food" films, presented by the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Performers at NCB included popular local folk singer Spook Handy and operatic soprano Kelly Birgfeld.

Adult Summer Reading Club

The Adult Summer Reading club has 171 readers, who read a total of 1,030 books, in its first nine weeks. Check out the club's blog on our website for an interesting assortment of readers' reviews.

Self-Checkout

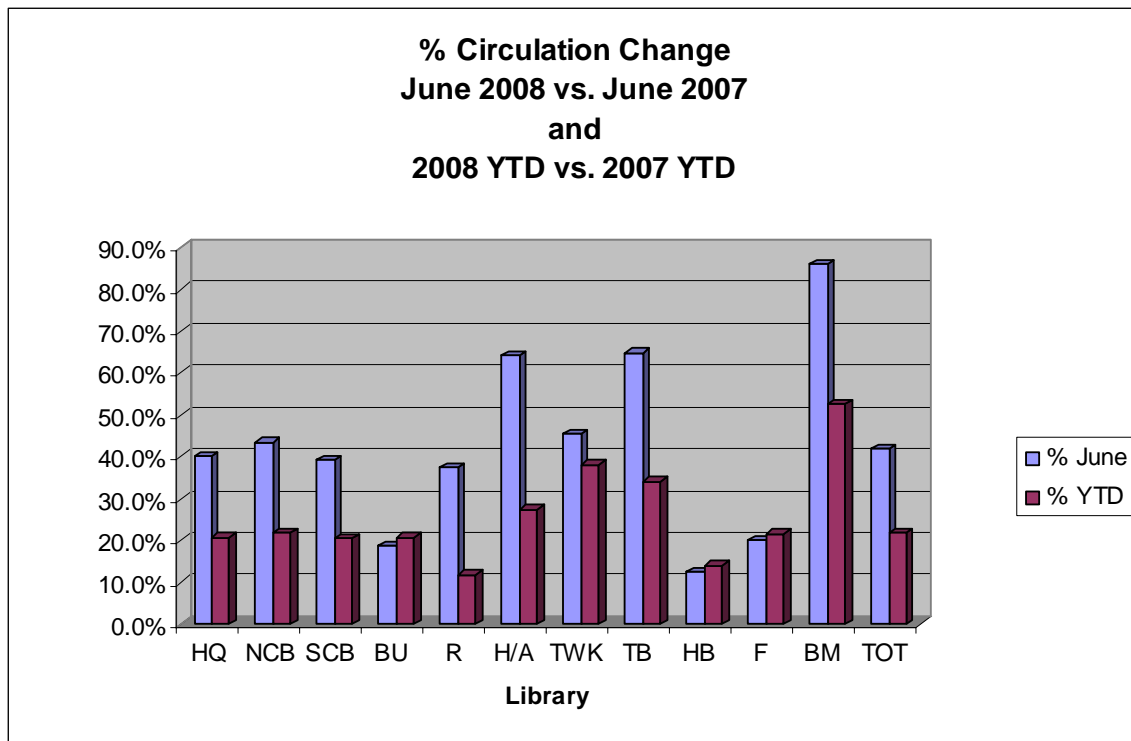
The Friends of HCL have generously provided full funding for two self-checkout machines (one for HQ and one for NCB) at a total cost of \$11,720. The Polaris ExpressCheck Workstations have built in scanners, wireless capability, and receipt printers to enable patrons to check out materials on their own. Self-checkout machines have become quite popular in a number of libraries and are especially appealing as an alternative to waiting in line during busy times at the circulation desk.

WAM Manager Interface Software

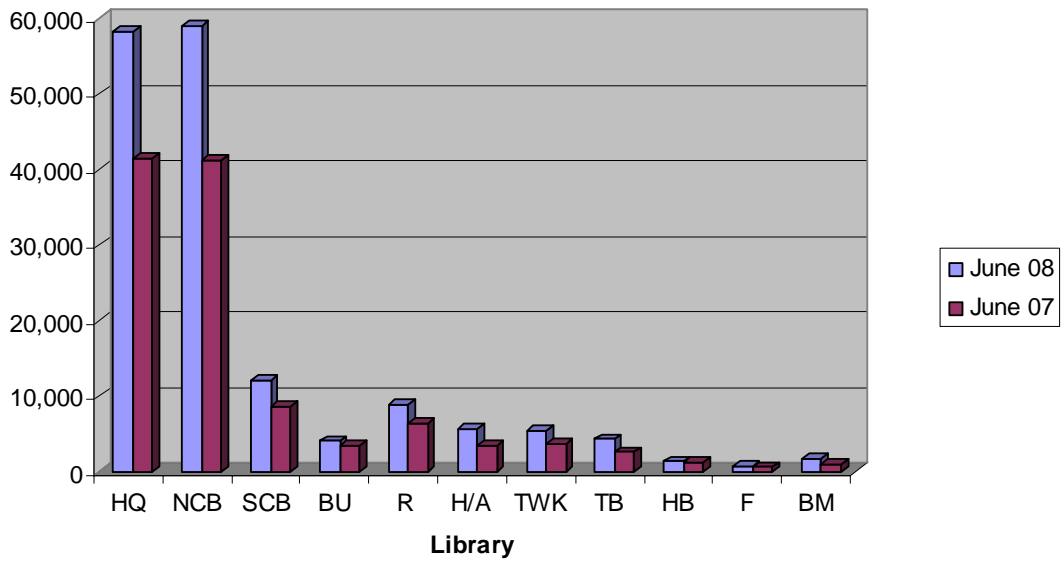
WAM Manager Interface Software has been ordered from Polaris for HQ and NCB. This will establish an authentication process for all wireless laptop users that mimics the one currently in use for our public internet stations. Patrons will now have to provide identification (with a permanent or temporary library card and pin number) before gaining access to the internet on their personal computers in the library.

Circulation Statistics

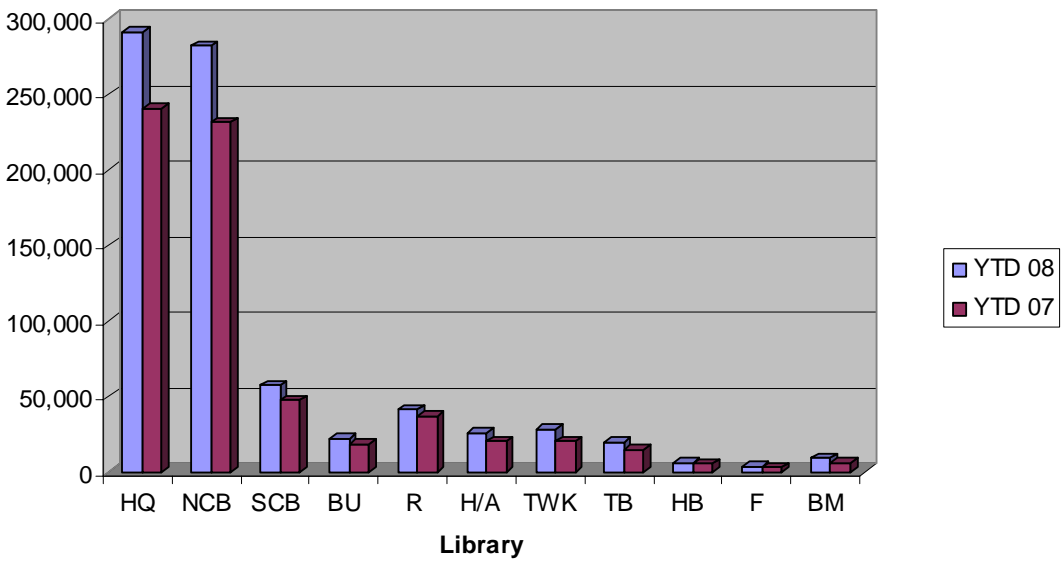
	June 08	May 08	% Change	June 07	% June	YTD 08	YTD 07	% YTD
HQ	58,169	45,198	28.7%	41,528	40.1%	291,108	241,078	20.8%
NCB	59,042	44,743	32.0%	41,149	43.5%	282,053	231,488	21.8%
SCB	12,168	9,178	32.6%	8,734	39.3%	57,457	47,728	20.4%
BU	4,097	3,901	5.0%	3,450	18.8%	22,207	18,400	20.7%
R	8,898	7,054	26.1%	6,476	37.4%	41,549	37,191	11.7%
H/A	5,762	4,393	31.2%	3,509	64.2%	26,280	20,620	27.4%
TWK	5,512	4,748	16.1%	3,787	45.6%	28,489	20,639	38.0%
TB	4,354	3,362	29.5%	2,642	64.8%	19,548	14,582	34.1%
HB	1,356	958	41.5%	1,207	12.3%	6,504	5,708	13.9%
F	788	490	60.8%	657	19.9%	3,750	3,082	21.7%
BM	1,767	1,897	-6.9%	950	86.0%	9,353	6,129	52.6%
TOT	161,913	125,922	28.6%	114,089	41.9%	788,298	646,645	21.9%



**Items Circulated
June 2008 vs. June 2007**



**Items Circulated through End of June
2008 YTD vs. 2007 YTD**



	July 08	June 08	% Change	July 07	% July	YTD 08	YTD 07	% YTD
HQ	58,166	58,169	0.0%	45,126	28.9%	349,274	286,204	22.0%
NCB	59,620	59,042	1.0%	47,633	25.2%	341,673	279,121	22.4%
SCB	11,588	12,168	-4.8%	9,114	27.1%	69,045	56,842	21.5%
BU	4,099	4,097	0.0%	3,526	16.3%	26,306	21,926	20.0%
R	9,267	8,898	4.1%	7,936	16.8%	50,816	45,127	12.6%
H/A	5,518	5,762	-4.2%	4,517	22.2%	31,798	25,137	26.5%
TWK	5,692	5,512	3.3%	4,070	39.9%	34,181	24,709	38.3%
TB	4,400	4,354	1.1%	3,478	26.5%	23,948	18,060	32.6%
HB	1,239	1,356	-8.6%	1,282	-3.4%	7,743	6,990	10.8%
F	936	788	18.8%	751	24.6%	4,686	3,833	22.3%
BM	1,681	1,767	-4.9%	1,111	51.3%	11,034	7,240	52.4%
TOT	162,206	161,913	0.2%	128,544	26.2%	950,504	775,189	22.6%

