

Hunterdon County Library  
Director's Report  
February 2008

Polaris Update

The upgrade to a new software release for Polaris 3.3 is proceeding according to schedule. We have provided an overview lecture for most staff, and prepared handouts explaining the changes for circulation. The staff has been practicing with the Training module, which permits performing all the circulation functions with our own patron and record data, without really changing anyone's records. Library staff from almost all the member libraries came to HQ to be trained as well. We expect to be able to implement the upgrade by the end of February.

Circulation Dept.

The Circulation Dept. hit a one day, all-time high of 250 items to be pulled to fill holds! The daily average is usually 140.

Reference Department

Cindy Knight has been building the literacy collection with some unique titles. One set that should be popular is "Words to Know!" The set includes "Supermarket Words," "Restaurant Words," "Computer Words," and "Department Store Words." She has also added some CDs and DVDs to the collection dealing with grammar and slang terms.

Interlibrary loan statistics for 2007 have been calculated: 2,753 items were borrowed from other libraries, and 1,146 items were lent to other libraries.

North County Branch

NCB's *Cookies & Books* has taken off in a big way. In one month, we increased our attendance from three to twelve. Some people who had not signed up, just showed up to participate in the discussion of "The Kite Runner." All these attendees, including three men, signed up for the February discussion of "Girl with a Pearl Earring."

Kudos to Mary Fran Daley, a member of NCB's YS Dept., who has been selected to present HCL's innovative *Tween Zine* program at the NJLA's conference in April. The program will be presented in a poster session. Fran's poster is called *Write @ the Library* and will detail NCB's writing workshop project for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Students will read their work aloud, write, and compile their work in a *Tween Zine* which is published by the library and released in a June party.

NCB's new DVD shelving in both the adult and YS areas is a big hit with plenty of space to display our DVDs.

PR/Programming

SCB's Joan Brelsford has replaced Kathleen Connors on the PR Committee. She will oversee the running of the "Welcome Packet" sent to new county residents as well as assist on Special Projects.

The Festive Friday Committee's Teddy Bear Collection, run in conjunction with February's Festive Friday, "All You Need is Love," was a tremendous success. Over 300 new teddy bears were donated at HCL Headquarters to benefit the Hunterdon Medical Center.

During the month of February, we are asking patrons to tell us in 50 words or less, "Why Do You Love the Library?" There will be weekly prizes, donated by the Friends of HCL, given to random entries. Submissions may also be chosen to be used in future library promotion. Judging by the many responses we have received, our patrons really do "Love Their Library!"

Plans are already underway for National Library Week, April 13-19, 2008. This year's theme is "Discover the World at Your Library."

Circulation Statistics

	Jan. 08	Dec. 07	% Change	Jan 07	% Change	FYTD 08	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	45,442	37,964	19.7%	40,917	11.1%	45,442	40,917	11.1%
North County	43,113	36,515	18.1%	39,119	10.2%	43,113	39,119	10.2%
South County	8,752	8,023	9.1%	8,190	6.9%	8,752	8,190	6.9%
Bunnvale	3,400	3,046	11.6%	2,736	24.3%	3,400	2,736	24.3%
Readington	6,165	4,842	27.3%	6,077	1.4%	6,165	6,077	1.4%
Holland/Alexandria	3,977	2,993	32.9%	3,429	16.0%	3,977	3,429	16.0%
Tewksbury	4,416	3,751	17.7%	3,207	37.7%	4,416	3,207	37.7%
Three Bridges	2,999	2,205	36.0%	2,349	27.7%	2,999	2,349	27.7%
High Bridge	1,123	742	51.3%	1,045	7.5%	1,123	1,045	7.5%
Frenchtown	540	366	47.5%	441	22.4%	540	441	22.4%
Bookmobile*	1,264	28	4,414.3%	1,178	7.3%	1,264	1,178	7.3%
Total	121,191	100,475	20.6%	108,688	11.5%	121,191	108,688	11.5%

\*Out of service for Dec. 2007.

