

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
October 2008

Bookmobile

The vendor for the new bookmobile has reported that they have completed outfitting the vehicle except for painting the exterior graphics. The contractor who will paint the graphics is preparing the final drawings now, in conference with Jim Thatch who did the design work. They expect to have the bookmobile ready for delivery by Thanksgiving.

The current bookmobile continues to be used for some special events in addition to the weekly scheduled service. This month it participated in the Bloomsbury Arts Festival on Saturday, September 27th. The staff reported a lot of visitors and a lot of interest in the bookmobile. They registered several new borrowers and held a Story time program for several children, and gave all children an opportunity to make a craft during their visit.

The bookmobile is also continuing to visit nursery schools in the County for special programs, in conjunction with the Youth Services department. This month they visited the Goddard School and presented Story programs to three classes of preschoolers who were uniformly excited and enthusiastic about the bookmobile visiting their school.

Technical Services

Kristin Momberg attended the seventh annual PUG (Polaris Users Group) conference in Syracuse, NY from Oct. 2nd – 4th. Polaris supports its Users Group very strongly and was greatly involved in the conference, even offering a free training class, *Maintaining Your Polaris Database & the Effect it has on Year-End Activities*, which Kristin attended.

Attendees learned about the next two upgrades, 3.4 and 3.5. There were classes in using Polaris tools, PAC customization, getting information to patrons, and gaming in libraries. There were three separate meetings where librarians discussed problems they were having with circulation, systems administration, acquisitions, etc. and what they were doing to solve these problems.

An important benefit of PUG membership is the ability to suggest enhancements to Polaris to improve the software. Each PUG member may suggest 24 enhancements a year. After a vote by PUG members, the highest ranking 8 to 10 enhancements are included by Polaris in an upcoming upgrade, usually the first upgrade of the following year. We will be joining in this process throughout the 2008 - 2009 year, so that we can get our ideas for enhancements voted on by PUG next year.

It was an information-packed conference. The workshops and classes given by Polaris staff and PUG members were very informative. Talking to the other library attendees and forming relationships with other users will certainly help as we encounter questions about the Polaris system.

Youth Services

The Summer Reading Club statistics are in and almost all categories experienced an increase this year. 1,232 children read 28,239 books. In the summer months alone, we had 131 programs attended by 2,568 children and 992 adults. We couldn't have done all this without the assistance of the three seasonal librarians who join us in YS for the summer months.

YS lost a FT librarian position in September when Elizabeth Erwin resigned. Although the number of programs that we provide for the public have been reduced as a result of this decrease in personnel, we were still able to begin the storytime schedule at HQ, NCB, and SCB.

We also had our first fall Bookmobile visit at the Goddard School in Flemington. We visited with 60 children who were all fascinated by the library on wheels!

North County Branch

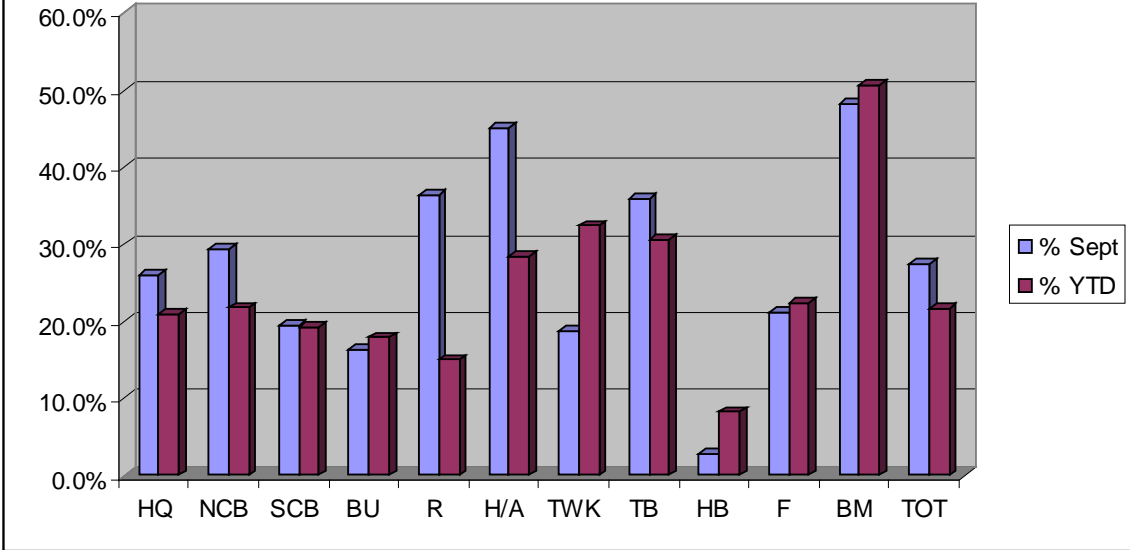
The North County Branch is going eclectic with our October and November programs. We have scheduled programs on Hypnosis, Mental Health Awareness, a Sylvan Learning seminar, Haunted New Jersey, Reincarnation, and a two-part I Ching seminar. Two of these programs feature local authors: Gordon Ward for the Haunted New Jersey, and Glenroy Wolfson for the I Ching.

On a lighter note, there will be the ever-popular Fred Miller, the Cookies & Books book group, a jazz concert with the Bill Noren Group, and a performance by the acclaimed harpist Carol Thompson.

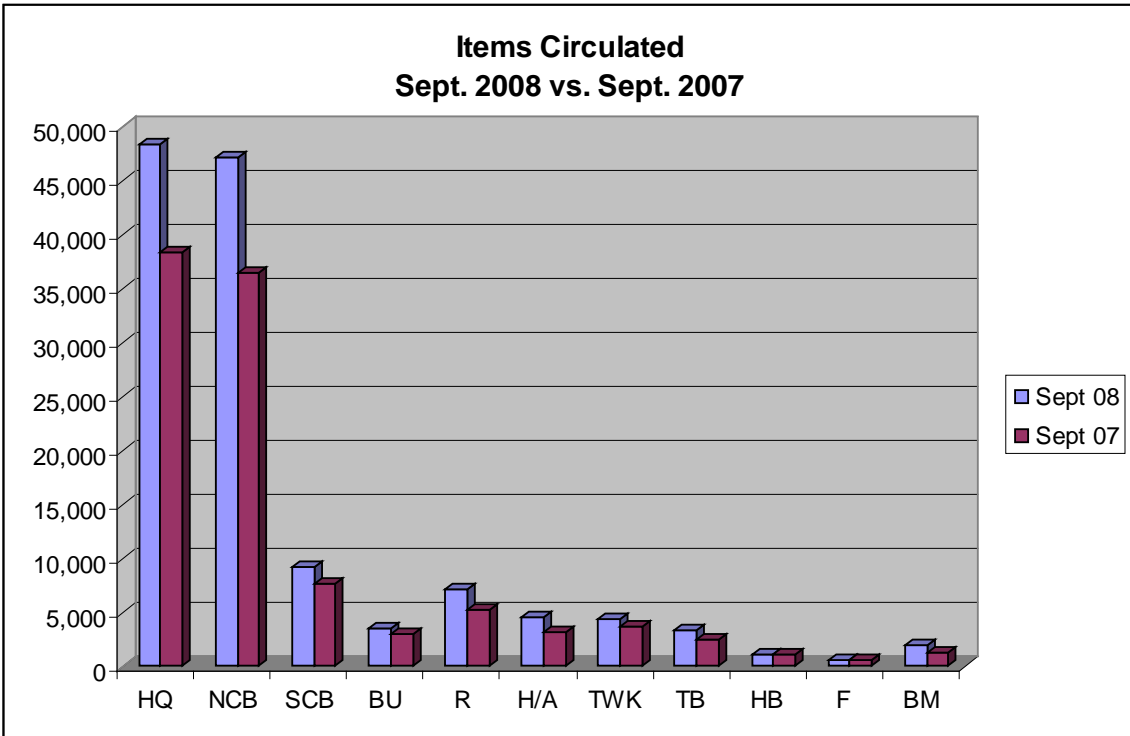
Circulation Statistics

	Sept 08	Aug 08	% Change	Sept 07	% Sept	YTD 08	YTD 07	% YTD
Headquarters	48,394	51,584	-6.2%	38,410	26.0%	449,252	371,328	21.0%
North County	47,242	51,410	-8.1%	36,510	29.4%	440,325	361,521	21.8%
South County	9,152	10,375	-11.8%	7,655	19.6%	88,572	74,236	19.3%
Bunnvale	3,500	4,097	-14.6%	3,011	16.2%	33,903	28,751	17.9%
Readington	7,185	8,279	-13.2%	5,270	36.3%	66,280	57,624	15.0%
Holland/Alexandria	4,539	5,067	-10.4%	3,128	45.1%	41,404	32,249	28.4%
Tewksbury	4,402	5,228	-15.8%	3,707	18.7%	43,811	33,083	32.4%
Three Bridges	3,334	4,235	-21.3%	2,454	35.9%	31,517	24,132	30.6%
High Bridge	1,078	1,345	-19.9%	1,048	2.9%	10,166	9,392	8.2%
Frenchtown	607	764	-20.5%	501	21.2%	6,057	4,949	22.4%
Bookmobile	1,874	1,318	42.2%	1,264	48.3%	14,226	9,441	50.7%
Total	131,307	143,702	-8.6%	102,958	27.5%	1,225,513	1,006,706	21.7%

**% Circulation Change
Sept. 2008 vs. Sept. 2007
2008 YTD vs. 2007 YTD**



**Items Circulated
Sept. 2008 vs. Sept. 2007**



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

