

Hunterdon County Library  
Director's Report  
July & August 2009

Anniversary Celebration at North County Branch

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, NCB celebrated three milestone anniversaries by throwing a big birthday party for our patrons. NCB moved into our current location on Halstead Street on July 19, 1999. Ten years before that the library had moved into a leased location in Annandale and 30 years before that, on July 10, 1979, the branch opened in a 50 foot trailer at Clinton Point.

Many activities were offered. Music from the past three decades was performed by singer/guitarist Kenny Cunningham. Staff pianists Marilyn Goktuna and Mark Titus played a variety of old favorites and a little jazz, too. The display in the meeting room showed articles and photos of NCB taken over the years and timelines of the past 30 years highlighted the most popular books, movies and songs.

Children were able to choose from an assortment of crafts including coloring a 3-layer cake. Both young and old came to our *Paws to Read* program with therapy dogs. Everyone loved patting the dogs and the dogs loved being read to.

NCB was the happy recipient of extremely generous donations by Shop Rite of Hunterdon, Rita's of Clinton, and MacDonald's of Clinton. Shop Rite donated two huge layer cakes and enough cookies, juice boxes, bottled water and paper goods for 500 people. Rita's donated three tubs of their water ice -- mango, cotton candy and lemon. MacDonald's added two coolers of Hi-C Orange Lavaburst drink to the mix. Rita's and MacDonald's were served on the front porch. Drawings were held throughout the day for donated items from musicians that have performed at NCB, including the Eric Mintel Quartet, Fred Miller, and Jack McDade.

Cake and cookies were served in the meeting room. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments, the performers, the fun-filled activities and a joyful celebration of so many wonderful years.

Flood at Headquarters

On Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, water from a broken supply line in the upper level staff men's room, combined with a cracked drain pipe above the ceiling tile on the main level, caused minor flooding in the meeting room below and the periodicals room on the lower level. Luckily Buildings & Maintenance staff discovered the problem in the afternoon and immediately went to work to stop the flooding. They used wet vacuums and fans to remove the water and worked diligently throughout the week to clean up and ensure that all drainpipes are now fully operational.

## Youth Services

The summer reading program began on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Storytimes for kids in preschool through grade two and craft programs for those in grades three through six were offered during the month of July. Also beginning in July, summer performers began offering twice-daily shows on Wednesdays at NCB and Thursdays at HQ for six consecutive weeks. Summer librarians were on the road again, offering storytimes and activity programs to the member libraries for kids in preschool through grade six. Outdoor preschool storytimes were held at the Bookmobile stops at Bloomsbury and Hampton. *Library Babies* continued during July and August, and *Paws to Read* was offered at NCB over several Saturdays in June and July.

## Adult Summer Reading Club

The Adult Summer Reading Club is going strong once again this year under the able management of Terry Edwards. After seven weeks (the half-way point), its 187 members have read 732 books!

Check out our website, <http://www.hclibrary.us/asrc.htm>, to join or just to see the best of what we've read so far and to read our members' reviews. It's not too late to join – the club runs through Labor Day.

## HCL Scrabble Club

The first meeting of the Scrabble Club was an overwhelming success! We had 28 extremely enthusiastic attendees, and other people have called or emailed to say they're interested but couldn't make the first meeting. HCL Headquarters and North County Branch will each hold monthly meetings of the club through the end of the year. The PR Committee is considering having some kind of year-end tournament for club participants.

## Reference Dept.

Linda Reynolds held her first volunteer orientation/training session on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Six new volunteers attended and are all currently active volunteers. Linda will continue to do the group orientation/training sessions periodically, as the need for new volunteers arises.

Amanda Philipp and Buff Barr participated in a JerseyCat upgrade webinar on July 30<sup>th</sup>. They will have an opportunity to customize the interface once the upgrade has taken place at the end of August. The upgrade should make it easier for library staff and patrons to navigate the JerseyCat system.

### Circulation Dept.

Our Circulation staff still continue to provide the best service possible despite our staff shortages. Staff continue to do walk-throughs, shelf reading, and shelving. Self-placed patron holds continue to do well. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, after a two day holiday weekend, we set a new record of 416 items pulled from HQ's shelves for patrons to pick up. This was accomplished within one day with all holds efficiently routed to their destinations.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, an upgrade to our integrated library system, Polaris 3.5, took longer than planned. Instead of being down half a day, we were without our computers for one and one half days. During this time Circulation staff had to check out patrons by hand. Close to a 1,000 patrons were processed system wide with a limit of five items each. All information was written down on check out sheets by library staff.

After Polaris was up and running all checked out items had to be entered by hand on the computer. Staff also had to deal with piles of books which were returned during the down time and could not be checked in. Circulation staff worked feverishly to get everything checked in as soon as Polaris was up and running.

When problems arose with telephony after Polaris came back online, staff kept up with contacting patrons for their requested books by making all the phone calls for the following five days. Polaris is now running well and all circulation problems have been resolved.

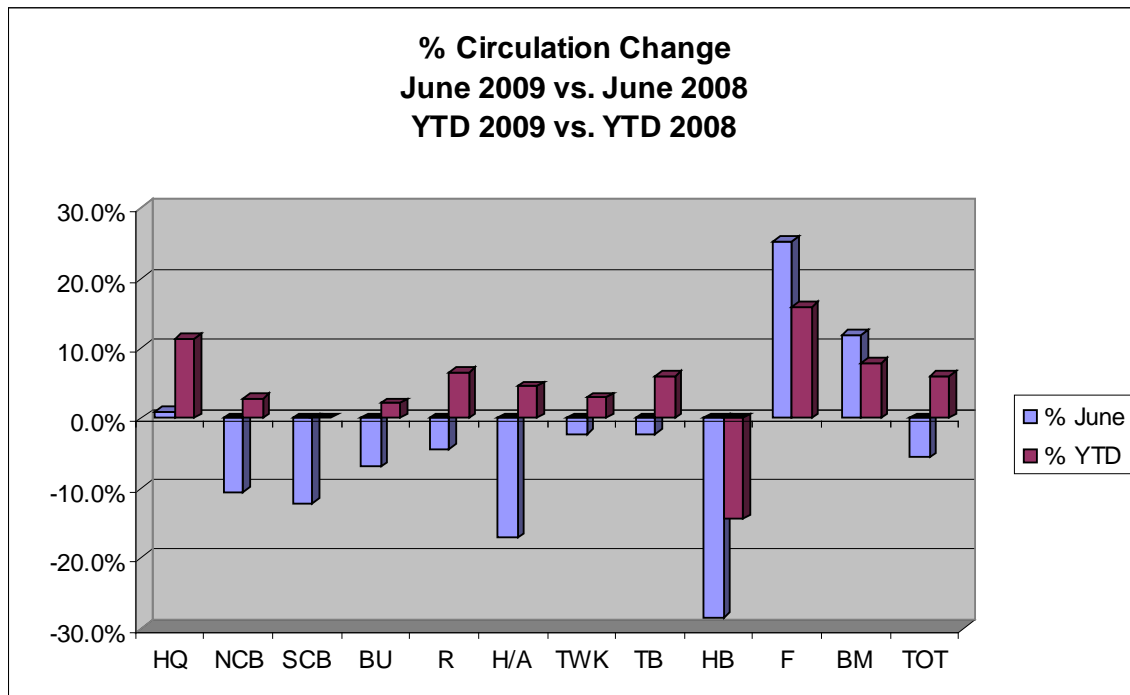
### Extension Services

The Extension Services department is gearing up for the start of the new school year. Packets of information about the Library and our services to the schools are being mailed out to each public school (about 45) in the County. Many schools depend on our resources for curriculum support materials throughout the year, and this service is very highly appreciated in the school community.

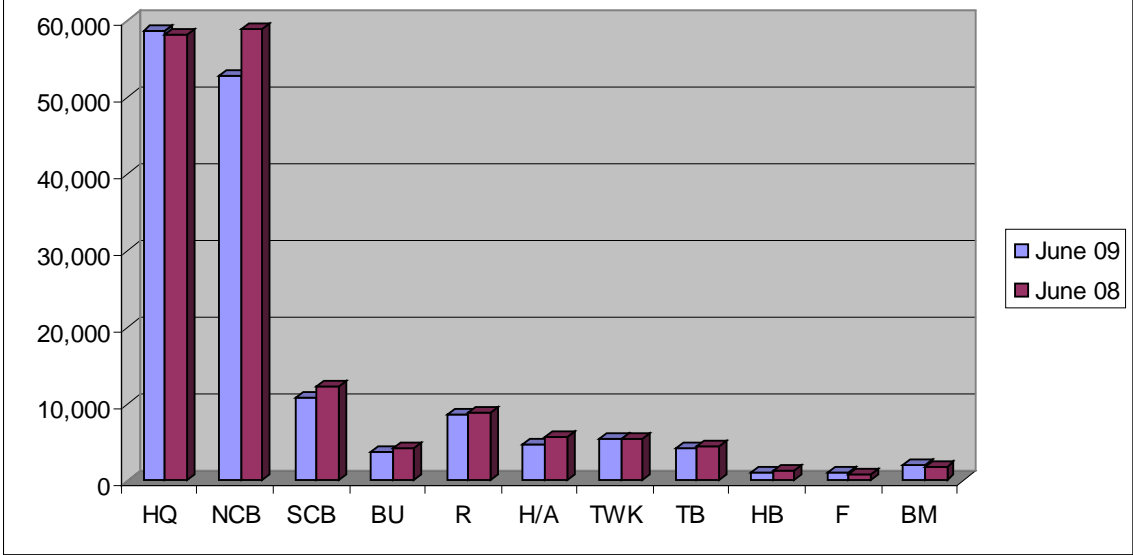
As part of our Outreach efforts, a flyer has been prepared in Spanish in an effort to inform the Hispanic community of the resources available to them in their library. Copies are being distributed through the offices of *Hunterdon Hispanos* and through placement in two of the local Mexican restaurants in Flemington, as well as the upcoming Hunterdon 4-H and Agricultural Fair. Another flyer in Spanish, promoting the two Spanish language databases that the Library offers, is in preparation.

Circulation Statistics

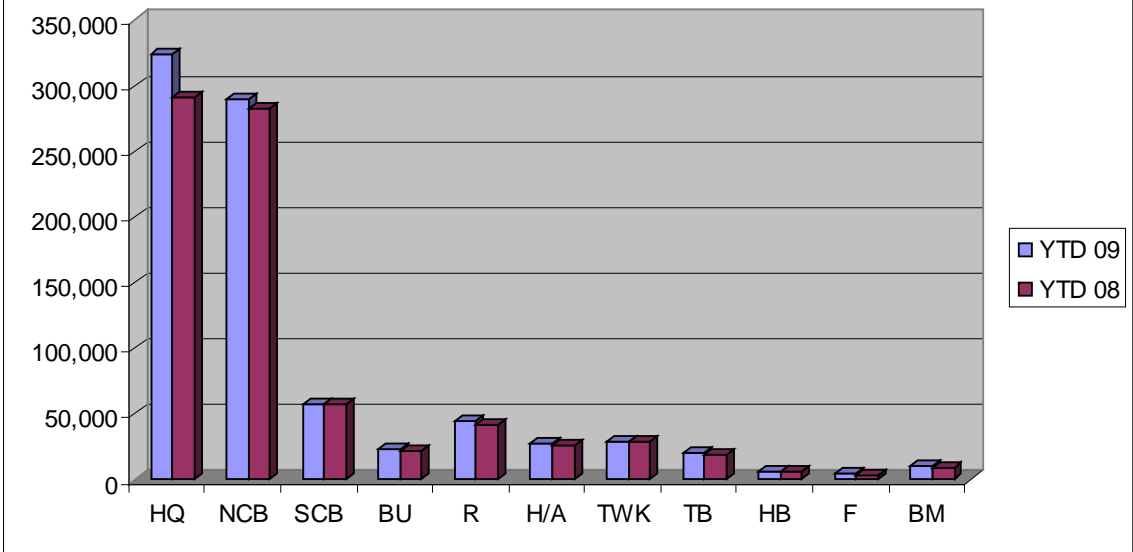
	June 09	May 09	% Change	June 08	% June	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
Headquarters	58,696	51,103	14.9%	58,169	0.9%	324,273	291,108	11.4%
North County	52,759	45,322	16.4%	59,042	-10.6%	290,099	282,053	2.9%
South County	10,695	8,929	19.8%	12,168	-12.1%	57,452	57,457	0.0%
Bunnvale	3,811	4,107	-7.2%	4,097	-7.0%	22,687	22,207	2.2%
Readington	8,502	7,257	17.2%	8,898	-4.5%	44,277	41,549	6.6%
Holland/Alexandria	4,777	4,223	13.1%	5,762	-17.1%	27,469	26,280	4.5%
Tewksbury	5,385	4,661	15.5%	5,512	-2.3%	29,322	28,489	2.9%
Three Bridges	4,251	3,438	23.6%	4,354	-2.4%	20,715	19,548	6.0%
High Bridge	970	897	8.1%	1,356	-28.5%	5,563	6,504	-14.5%
Frenchtown	987	730	35.2%	788	25.3%	4,344	3,750	15.8%
Bookmobile	1,976	1,851	6.8%	1,767	11.8%	10,088	9,353	7.9%
Total	152,809	132,518	15.3%	161,913	-5.6%	836,289	788,298	6.1%



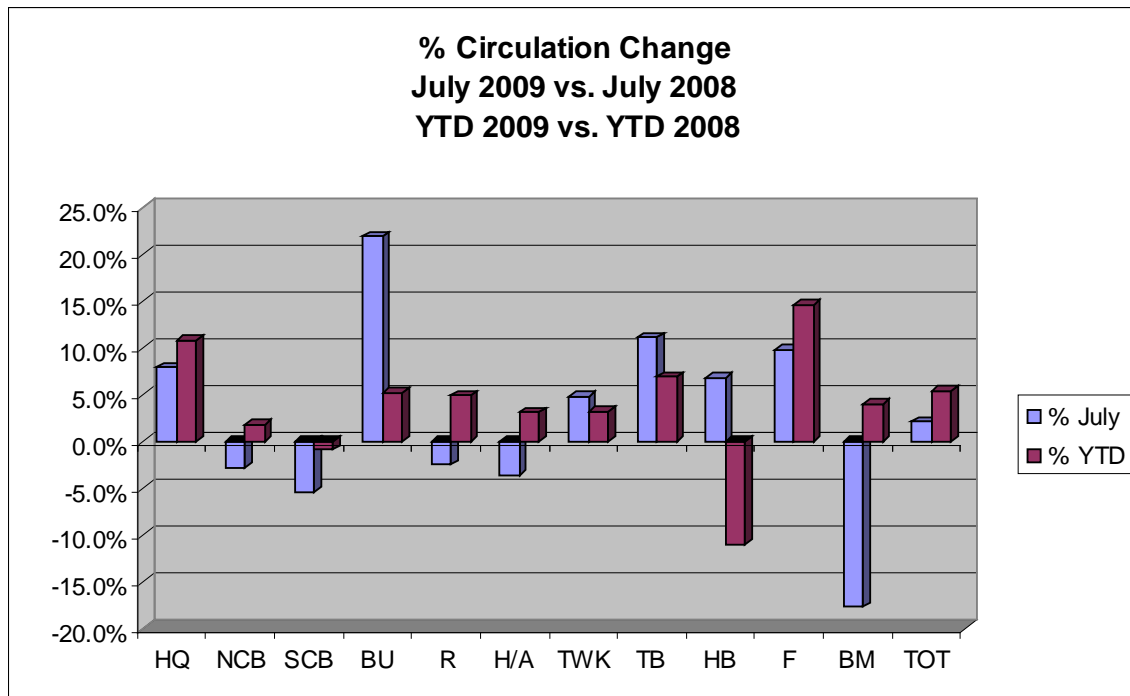
**Items Circulated  
June 2009 vs. June 2008**



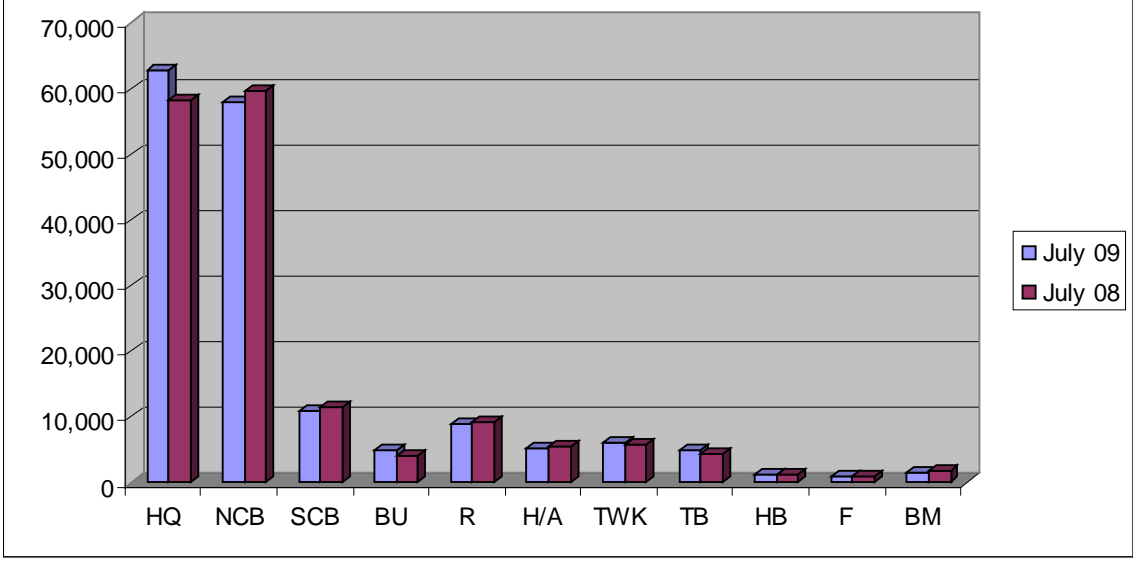
**Items Circulated through end of June  
2009 YTD vs. 2008 YTD**



	July 09	June 09	% Change	July 08	% July	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
Headquarters	62,766	58,696	6.9%	58,166	7.9%	387,039	349,274	10.8%
North County	57,919	52,759	9.8%	59,620	-2.9%	348,018	341,673	1.9%
South County	10,958	10,695	2.5%	11,588	-5.4%	68,410	69,045	-0.9%
Bunnvale	5,000	3,811	31.2%	4,099	22.0%	27,687	26,306	5.2%
Readington	9,033	8,502	6.2%	9,267	-2.5%	53,310	50,816	4.9%
Holland/Alexandria	5,318	4,777	11.3%	5,518	-3.6%	32,787	31,798	3.1%
Tewksbury	5,967	5,385	10.8%	5,692	4.8%	35,289	34,181	3.2%
Three Bridges	4,890	4,251	15.0%	4,400	11.1%	25,605	23,948	6.9%
High Bridge	1,324	970	36.5%	1,239	6.9%	6,887	7,743	-11.1%
Frenchtown	1,028	987	4.2%	936	9.8%	5,372	4,686	14.6%
Bookmobile	1,382	1,976	-30.1%	1,681	-17.8%	11,470	11,034	4.0%
Total	165,585	152,809	8.4%	162,206	2.1%	1,001,874	950,504	5.4%



**Items Circulated  
July 2009 vs. July 2008**



**Items Circulated through end of July  
2009 YTD vs. 2008 YTD**

