

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
January 2009

Extension Services

Floyd Saums and Jennifer Winberry will be visiting several of the affiliated libraries this month, to assist with weeding of their collections and to help with any problems, issues they have with Polaris, other procedures, etc. A review of possible sites for additions to our bookmobile schedule is now in progress.

2008 Marks the Most Successful Year of Programming at HCL and NCB!

The attachment to this month's Director's Report contains statistics and charts demonstrating the remarkable variety of programming offered at the Hunterdon County Library and the North County Branch Library during 2008. We have also included information on the programming schedule for 1998, the first year statistics were kept, for comparison. Looking at the two schedules illustrates the incredible progress made by the Programming and Public Relations Committee over this period of time. Especially noteworthy is the fact that attendance at musical programs has almost doubled. Scheduling for 2009 is already well under way and the Public Relations Committee expects to have another successful year featuring a variety of musical performers and speakers.

Youth Services

Our very popular Preschool Storytimes for children between the ages of 2 and 5 resumes the week of January 20th at HQ, NCB, and SCB. Library babies will be held on Friday, January 9th, at HQ and will resume at NCB the beginning of February.

December was a slow month for school tours, but they will resume in January. A preschool tour and a few tours for grades 5 - 8 are scheduled throughout the month.

YS at NCB is gearing up for a winter of exciting programming. Teen Café will host a Karaoke Night on January 14th. The first *Tween Zine* writing workshop for 2009, on January 29th, features a visit by the very popular children's fiction writer Todd Strasser. Todd, award-winning author of dozens of books (including *Is That a Dead Dog in Your Locker?* and *Help! I'm Trapped in a Professional Wrestler's Body!*) will present a writing workshop entitled: "Story Structure: What You Need to Know to Write a Hit Movie."

Volunteers at North County Branch

In 2008, 10 adult and 37 junior volunteers donated 1,582 hours of their own time to NCB. That's more than 45 weeks of a full-time staff person. "No wonder we treasure them!" notes Mary Noone-Kozakiewicz, NCB's Volunteer Coordinator, in her following report:

What kinds of people volunteer here?

- high school students applying to college
- a charming retired couple
- friends and siblings of other volunteers
- folks working off Community Service hours
- an energetic young woman 'downsized' from the corporate world

- a grandmother with extra time because her grandson is now in school
- a graduate school applicant advised to get some library experience
- a special high school student in the Career Program
- two enthusiastic junior high girlfriends working excellently as a team

In other words, everyone is welcome and anyone just might join our team.

What do they do – just shelve books?

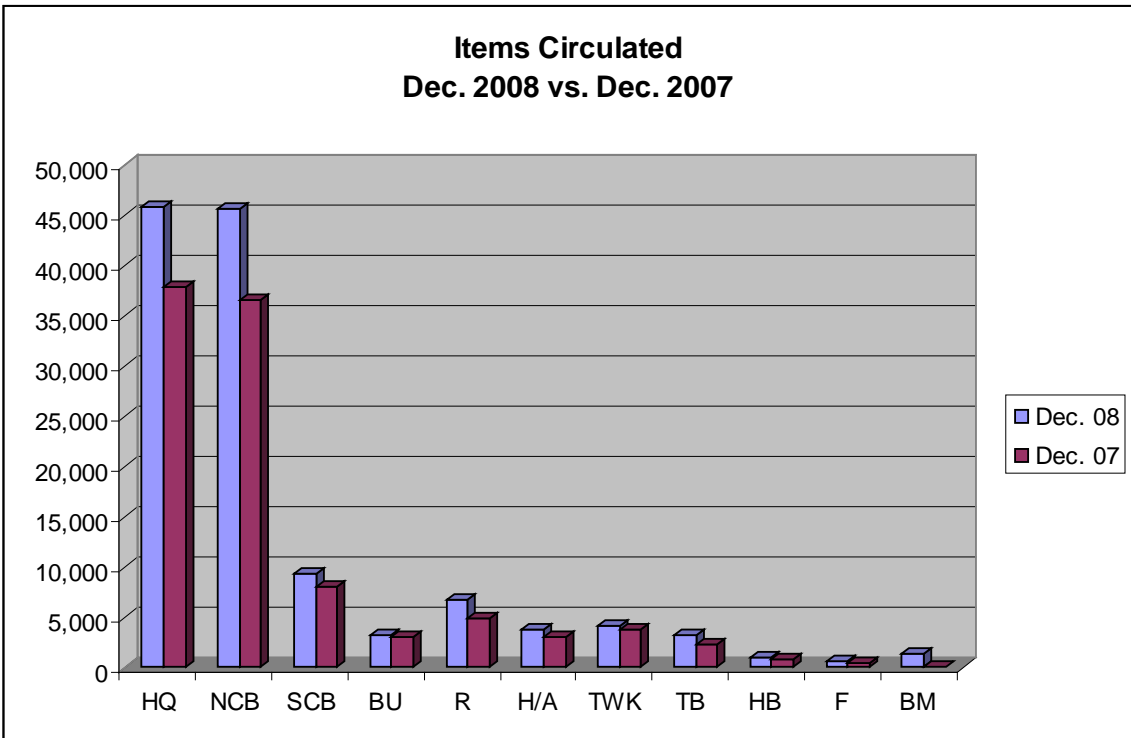
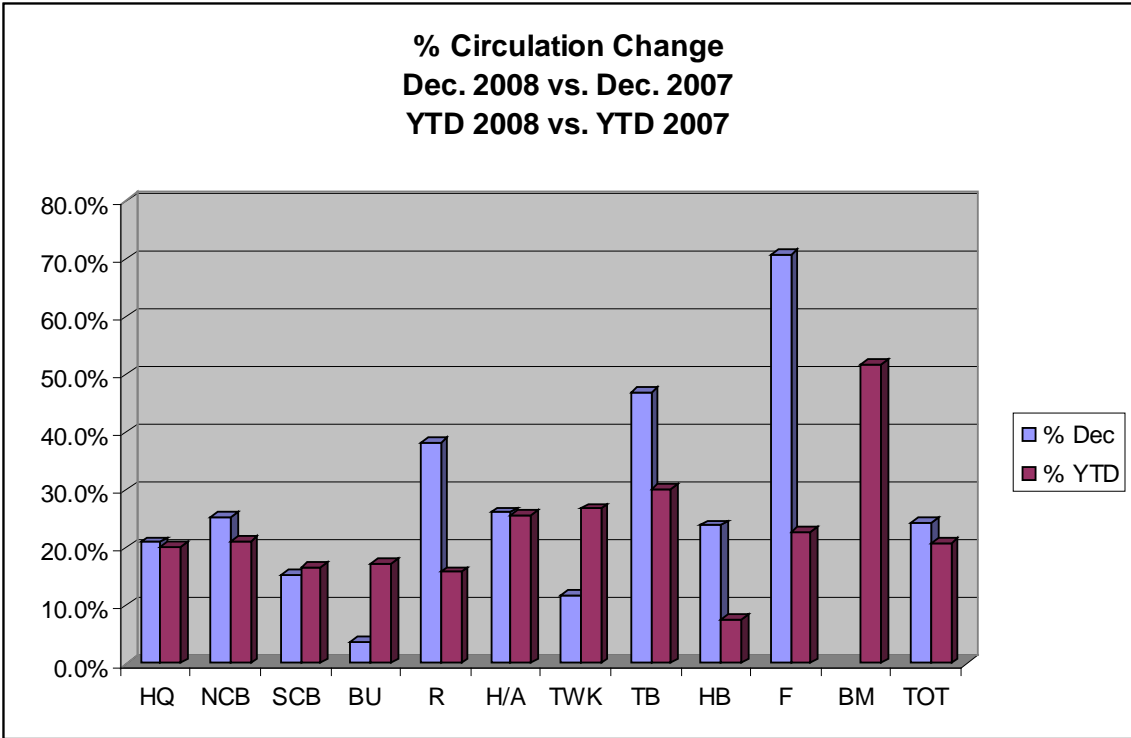
Volunteers do not shelve or perform any job for which a paid position exists. However, in addition to a plethora of vital (but somewhat un-glamorous) daily jobs, NCB Volunteers took on many unusual tasks, always cheerfully. Some of the more unusual projects include:

- Library Anniversary Display – sort & select photos, articles and artifacts for the display cases
- Local History Articles – photocopy articles of historical significance from 1999 newspapers being discarded
- Magazine Box Labels – create an easily updatable database for printing new labels as needed
- Annual Magazine Changeover – remove oldest magazines, tie up those needed, recycle the rest, relabel boxes
- Cart Cleaning – scrub off years of dirt, tape and sticky gunk
- Event Set-Up – set up chairs, especially for Saturday events; also put chairs away after programs
- Emergency Phone Calls – notify people registered for a program that the speaker suddenly had to cancel
- Printing Images – print images of the covers of our latest DVDs and CDs for in-house displays and handouts

Circulation Statistics

Circulation for all of 2008 (1,608,532) exceeded all of 2007 (1,331,982) by 276,550 (20.8%)!

	Dec. 08	Nov 08	% Change	Dec. 07	% Dec	YTD 08	YTD 07	% YTD
Headquarters	45,927	48,668	-5.6%	37,964	21.0%	591,045	492,127	20.1%
North County	45,754	46,682	-2.0%	36,515	25.3%	579,318	477,894	21.2%
South County	9,248	9,257	-0.1%	8,023	15.3%	115,792	99,280	16.6%
Bunnvale	3,158	3,482	-9.3%	3,046	3.7%	44,605	38,003	17.4%
Readington	6,692	6,436	4.0%	4,842	38.2%	86,441	74,631	15.8%
Holland/Alexandria	3,775	3,940	-4.2%	2,993	26.1%	53,378	42,481	25.7%
Tewksbury	4,189	4,147	1.0%	3,751	11.7%	56,705	44,733	26.8%
Three Bridges	3,238	2,891	12.0%	2,205	46.8%	41,724	32,032	30.3%
High Bridge	919	878	4.7%	742	23.9%	13,115	12,201	7.5%
Frenchtown	625	525	19.0%	366	70.8%	7,794	6,344	22.9%
Bookmobile	1,358	1,385	-1.9%	28	4750.0%	18,615	12,256	51.9%
Total	124,883	128,291	-2.7%	100,475	24.3%	1,608,532	1,331,982	20.8%



**Items Circulated through end of Dec.
2008 YTD vs. 2007 YTD**

