

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
June 2009

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, with a new one-day record of 262 items pulled from HQ's shelves for patrons to pick up!

Reference Dept.

We are now working with staff from the New Jersey Dept. of Labor to help them promote their services, especially to the unemployed. Reference staff have been trained in helping patrons use the Dept. of Labor's website. All pertinent materials/links are being developed for the library's web page.

The Adult Summer Reading Club has begun, with expectations for it to surpass last year's program, now that folks are staying closer to home this year.

HCL and Hunterdon Central Work Well Together!

The Hunterdon County Library has recently been partnering with Hunterdon Central Regional High School's Fine Arts' Department to bring a variety of exhibits and programs to the library and our patrons.

In May, teacher Will Magalio and the HCRHS Fiddle Club once again performed an "impromptu" concert in the library's lobby. A dozen members of the club, which is made up of about forty members of the school's string orchestra, performed a concert of mostly traditional fiddle music from around the world. Over two dozen patrons sat and enjoyed the performance while others enjoyed the surprise as they browsed our collections or worked on the computers.

On the first Saturday in June, drama teacher Greg Bernet brought what is known as *The Children's Play* to the library. *The Children's Play* was created many years ago as a way to take a group of students to the sending districts' grammar schools. This year, two separate casts performed *The Wind in the Willows* at schools in Raritan, Readington, Delaware and East Amwell Townships, and were gracious enough to give up a Saturday afternoon to perform at the library. Over one hundred people came to the performance, ranging in age from toddlers to grandparents. As a final farewell, Mr. Toad made his famous wild ride up the grand staircase into Reference and back down, to the delight of patrons and staff!

Every January, The Art Department of Hunterdon Central Regional High School, led by Art Teacher Helaine Schectman, collects the best students' projects and presents a very

impressive show of mixed media work in the gallery and display cases of the Hunterdon County Library.

HCRHS Librarian Harlene Rosenberg has been a willing participant in helping the PR Committee distribute e-mail announcements to the student body and staff, targeting departments that might find a specific program of interest. The Hunterdon County Library has also been the subject of many HCRHS Public Service Announcements projects, created by students of the Media Department.

Youth Services

Youth Services finished up the school year tour schedule with Whitehouse 1st graders making five visits to NCB and the Bookmobile visiting over 100 kindergarteners at Robert Hunter School. Fran Daley returned as a volunteer to help us finish the Tween Zine spring session at NCB. It is one of our most popular programs and Fran, who left HCL in March, is sorely missed.

The Youth Services Department is preparing for another busy and fun-filled summer. In addition to the summer reading program which began on June 1st, storytimes for kids in preschool through grade two and craft programs for those in grades three through six will be offered during the month of July. Also beginning in July, summer performers will offer twice-daily shows on Wednesdays at NCB and Thursdays at HQ for six consecutive weeks. Returning favorites include World Music with Daria, Duet Productions, a storyteller, a magician, and the Lizard Guys. New to YS this summer will be a program offered by the NJ State Aquarium. Summer librarians will be on the road again, offering storytimes and activity programs to the member libraries for kids in preschool through grade six. Outdoor preschool storytimes will be held at the Bookmobile stops at Bloomsbury and Hampton. Library Babies continues during July and August, and Paws to Read will be offered at NCB over several Saturdays in June and July.

For the older kids, another great line-up of summer activities is planned for Teen Café including Makin' Music, Makin' Didgeridoo with Daria, Radio Revue (skits with the Radio Theatre group), Edible Expressions, Rock the Stax with Station 12, Teen Idol Talent Night, and Improv Anyone?

Extension Services

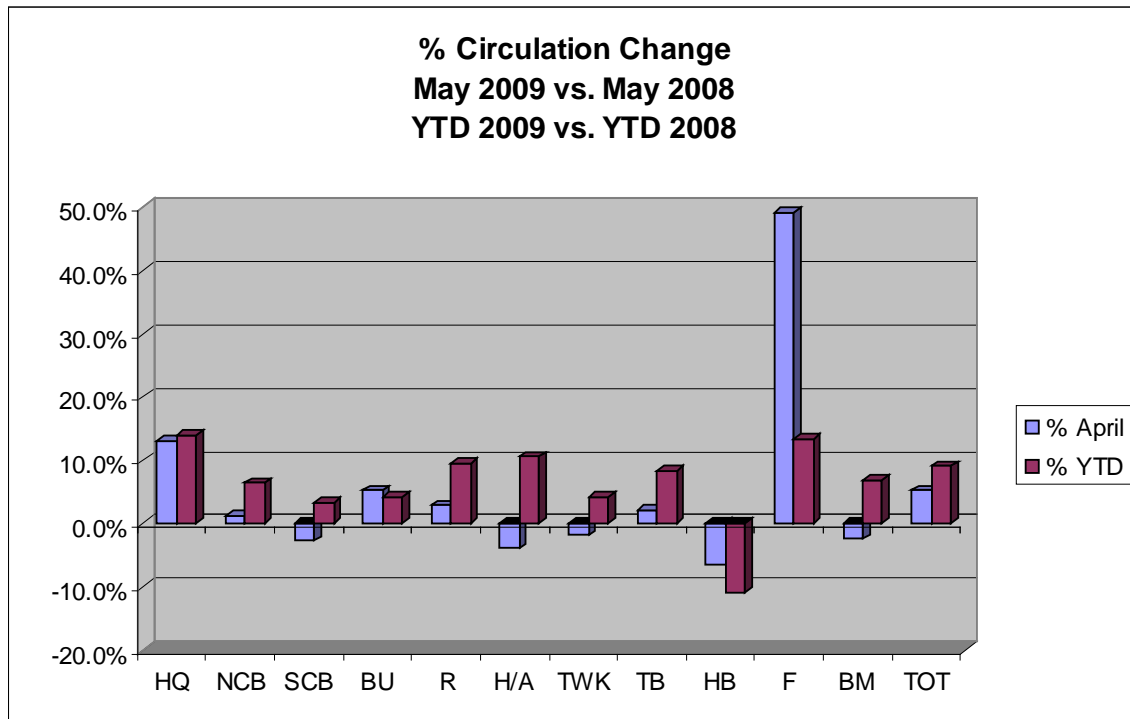
The bookmobile took part in *Kids Day America*, a festival dedicated to children's health, safety and environmental awareness, held at HealthQuest on Saturday, May 16th from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. The staff reported that about 75 people toured the bookmobile, and they issued three new library cards. This was a very successful outreach opportunity.

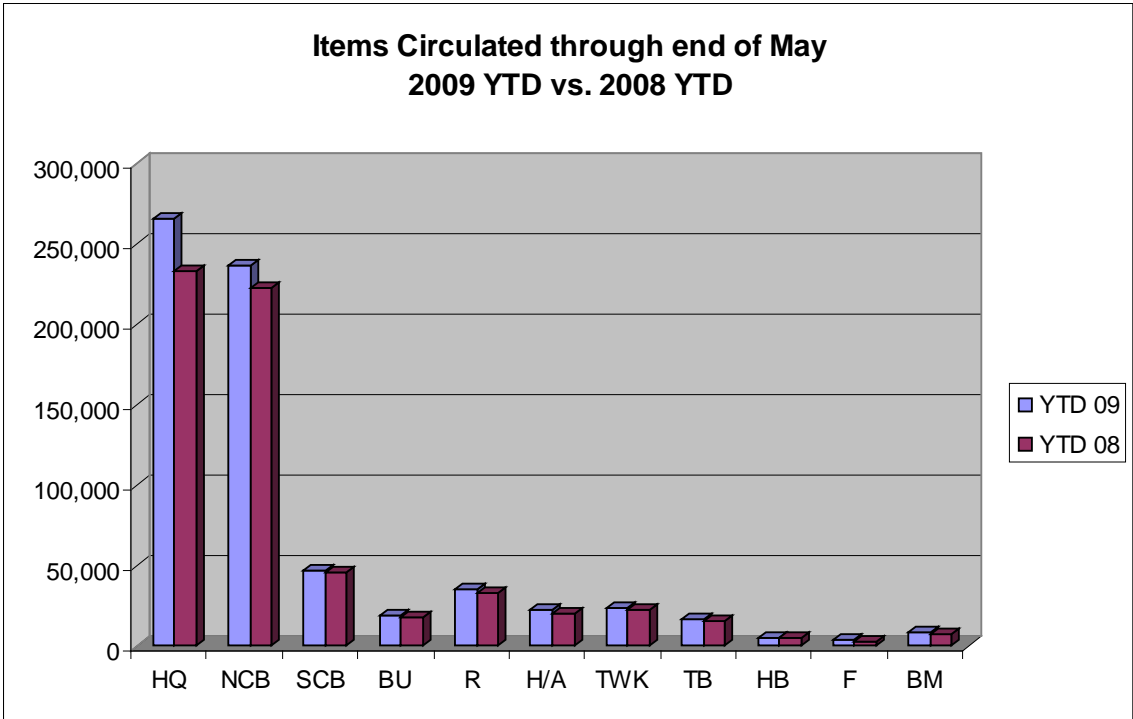
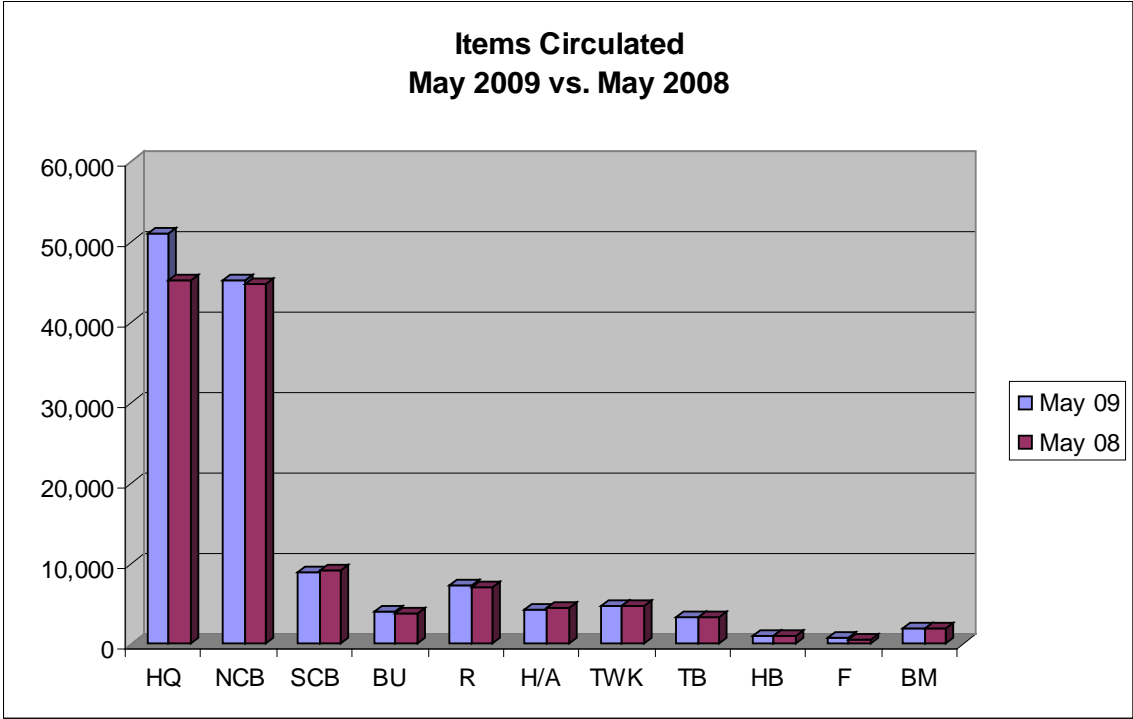
Our "senior" bookmobile stop at Independence Manor is proving to be very successful. More residents are using the bookmobile each time, and they are very grateful and enthusiastic about the service.

School services are winding down for the season, with our focus on getting our books back from all of the schools before summer.

Circulation Statistics

	May 09	April 09	% Change	May 08	% April	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
HQ	51,103	51,669	-1.1%	45,198	13.1%	265,577	232,939	14.0%
NCB	45,322	46,658	-2.9%	44,743	1.3%	237,340	223,011	6.4%
SCB	8,929	9,186	-2.8%	9,178	-2.7%	46,757	45,289	3.2%
BU	4,107	3,703	10.9%	3,901	5.3%	18,876	18,110	4.2%
R	7,257	6,951	4.4%	7,054	2.9%	35,775	32,651	9.6%
H/A	4,223	4,373	-3.4%	4,393	-3.9%	22,692	20,518	10.6%
TWK	4,661	4,847	-3.8%	4,748	-1.8%	23,937	22,977	4.2%
TB	3,438	3,311	3.8%	3,362	2.3%	16,464	15,194	8.4%
HB	897	935	-4.1%	958	-6.4%	4,593	5,148	-10.8%
F	730	598	22.1%	490	49.0%	3,357	2,962	13.3%
BM	1,851	1,380	34.1%	1,897	-2.4%	8,112	7,586	6.9%
TOT	132,518	133,611	-0.8%	125,922	5.2%	683,480	626,385	9.1%





Children's Materials	May 09	% of All Circulation
Headquarters (HQ)	17,730	34.7%
North County (NCB)	18,471	40.8%
South County (SCB)	3,824	42.8%
Bunnvale (BU)	1,899	46.2%
Readington (R)	3,373	46.5%
Holland/Alexandria (H/A)	1,325	31.4%
Tewksbury (TWK)	1,589	34.1%
Three Bridges (TB)	1,606	46.7%
High Bridge (HB)	182	20.3%
Frenchtown (F)	237	32.5%
Bookmobile (M)	879	47.5%
Total	51,115	38.6%

