

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
February 2010

Reference Services

It's tax time again. Federal tax forms are conveniently available for patrons to take. State forms are no longer being provided to libraries for distribution, but patrons are able to download what they need from HCL's public computers.

Karen Kilpatrick has also been occupied in working with the Friends of the Library in preparation for the upcoming book sale.

EBooks are now available via the library's contract with Overdrive. Terry Edwards was instrumental in coming up with a starting collection of eBooks for the ListenNJNW project. She also recommended modifications to the ListenNJNW website and promotional materials to reflect the addition of eBooks.

HeritageQuest has been eliminated from the library's list of database offerings since the State Library is no longer underwriting its subscription.

Rosemary Francone updated the E-resource flyers and listings on HCL's web page.

Linda Reynolds has been busy with volunteers and book displays. The volunteers are now working on making new spine labels for all of Holland Alexandria's picture books and easy readers. They have finished about half so far -- approximately 1,000.

January displays included *January White Sale* and *Get Organized Month* (both very popular), as well as the books of several recently deceased authors -- Robert B. Parker, J.D. Salinger, and Erich Segal. February displays include *Short Books for a Short Month* (also very popular), *Winter Olympics* and *Black History Month*.

North County Branch

Amanda Philipp is adjusting nicely to her new surroundings as NCB's new Branch Manager. She has been meeting with NCB staff individually to get to know everyone and their duties.

Fiction weeding continues with Dana Neubauer at the helm.

A new shelving unit for graphic novels was assembled and is already full!

Mary Noone-Kozakiewicz had the volunteers collect and bundle the to-be-recycled magazines. Each year certain titles are put aside for interested patrons to take home.

NCB Programs

Despite the cold and snow, NCB kicked off the new year with patrons bursting out of the doors at the programs. For Fred Miller, we had to drag chairs in from Youth Services and line the walls with them. Pilates was towel to towel, and walk-ins had to be turned away. The FrostKings put on a great show - we know this since several patrons commented on it and wanted to know when they would be back. The antiques appraisal program filled, as it usually does. Eight sessions of *Paws to Read* were held at both HQ and NCB. Each branch is now averaging 4 - 6 dogs and 25 - 30 children a week.

-- Dana Neubauer

Technical Services

Technical Services is ordering, receiving, cataloging, and processing as usual. The volume of new items has slowed down from the end of 2009.

Claire McFadden, Lisa LaFevre, and Cheryl Grotrian have trained on Polaris inventory tablets to assist Extension Services.

Tech. Services Dept. Head Kristin Momberg and Alison Naftal are converting multi-part CDs to separate bibliographic records to make it easier for patrons to place correct holds on them.

Circulation Services

HQ's new schedule has improved our ability to better serve the public. Circ. Services Dept. Head Lee Ann Comella is now able to schedule Circ. staff in the Periodicals Room and at the Readers' Service Desk on the Lower Level. Staff can now do any projects, such as inventory and checking for missing books, while keeping an eye on the Lower Level. They are also better able to walk around the Lower Level to help patrons and to serve as a deterrent to theft or vandalism.

Lee Ann now has an expanded role as head of Circ. Services at NCB in addition to HQ. This has made scheduling much easier, since she is now able to draw from staff at either location to fill in gaps left by staff absences. She now visits NCB on a weekly basis and is in touch with staff there almost every day. Lee Ann has been able to form a very close working relationship with Julie Hrinyak, the Principle Library Assistant at NCB. Lee Ann is finding that the transition in her taking over responsibility for NCB Circ. staff has gone smoothly and that staff have been handling it well. Lee Ann is continuing to work with NCB staff on communication so that she is aware of anything there that needs her attention.

Youth Services

Storytimes restarted for the Winter/Spring session in mid-January. All time slots for all ages at all locations are full. One 3 - 5 year old storytime and two tweens programs have been eliminated at NCB. Patrons have expressed disappointment, but have been very understanding.

There have been a few tours. Immaculate Conception Preschoolers and Califon 5th and 6th graders visited NCB.

Youth Services staff took advantage of the downtime between storytime sessions to weed at HQ, NCB, and SCB.

Oh Freedom! Revolutionary War Traveling Exhibit

The Hunterdon Historical Society and the Hunterdon County Library, working in partnership, will unveil a traveling exhibit entitled *Oh Freedom! Blacks on the Battlefield and in the Aftermath of the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey* in HQ's lobby on February 23, 2010 and continue it through March 31, 2010. An additional exhibit focusing specifically on slavery in Hunterdon County also will be on display.

Created by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the traveling exhibit spotlights African-Americans' contributions on the battlefield during the American Revolutionary War and their outcomes at the War's end. The Hunterdon exhibit was created locally by HCL staff using documents from the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Blacks fought on both sides during the Revolutionary War, seeking personal freedom while many American colonists sought political freedom. Black soldiers comprised nearly 5,000 or 20 percent of American troops. On the British side, the number who served is estimated to approach 10,000. Blacks joined whichever side they believed offered them the best prospect of freedom.

The traveling exhibit's name, *Oh Freedom!*, captures the key reason blacks chose to serve: freedom from slavery and oppression. The exhibit features details about both British Loyalist and American Rebel freedom fighters and references authentic documents from the New Jersey State Library and Archives and other sources. The exhibit is being showcased at New Jersey state historic sites and various other locations statewide during the year.

Materials from the Hunterdon County Historical Society for the local exhibit include an estate inventory, slave sale record, and manumission document. Long after the Revolutionary War, in 1790 Hunterdon's slave population was 1,492 or 7.36% of the total population.

Circulation Statistics

	Jan. 10	Dec. 09	% Change	Jan. 09	% Jan.	YTD 10	YTD 09	% YTD
HQ	55,124	50,890	8.3%	52,314	5.4%	55,124	52,314	5.4%
NCB	50,468	46,111	9.4%	49,390	2.2%	50,468	49,390	2.2%
SCB	9,196	9,515	-3.4%	9,534	-3.5%	9,196	9,534	-3.5%
BU	3,546	3,131	13.3%	3,812	-7.0%	3,546	3,812	-7.0%
R	6,568	6,503	1.0%	7,511	-12.6%	6,568	7,511	-12.6%
H/A	4,523	3,731	21.2%	4,793	-5.6%	4,523	4,793	-5.6%
TWK	4,611	4,576	0.8%	4,560	1.1%	4,611	4,560	1.1%
TB	3,787	3,494	8.4%	3,095	22.4%	3,787	3,095	22.4%
HB	1,059	1,077	-1.7%	960	10.3%	1,059	960	10.3%
F	567	637	-11.0%	634	-10.6%	567	634	-10.6%
BM	1,521	1,398	8.8%	1,564	-2.7%	1,521	1,564	-2.7%
TOT	140,970	131,063	7.6%	138,167	2.0%	140,970	138,167	2.0%



