

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
October & November 2011

Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Business and Home Expo

The Hunterdon County Library was invited to host a booth at the recent *Hunterdon County Business and Home Expo* at Aspen Ice Sports Arena. The event was a huge success and the library received a lot of exposure. Joan Brelsford of the PR Committee organized our involvement.

Joan's report:

"On Tuesday, Oct. 11th, I attended the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, held at Power Time Sports Arena in Flemington, NJ. Jim Thatch was on hand to help set up our booth, with Mary Noone-Kozakiewicz from NCB and Jeremiah Harris from HQ both working shifts with me. In addition to our always-popular library pens and magnets, we also handed out flyers for upcoming programs. Questions were asked and answered, most involving e-books. Many patrons stopped by to say hi with the most popular comment being - "The library? I love the library!" It was a great chance to promote ourselves while interacting with local business owners and patrons alike."

Thank you Joan, Mary NK, Jeremiah, and Jim for reaching out to our community to tell our story!

Hunterdon Chamber Radio

Jennifer Winberry and Jim Thatch have now done four shows for the new Hunterdon Chamber Internet Radio Station. They spend an hour every Thursday morning at 11:00 am talking about all of the great programs and services the Hunterdon County Library offers to the community. Go to hunterdonchamberradio.com and click on the "listen now" button on the home page if you want to hear the latest scoop on the Library or just have fun listening to Hunterdon's own Regis and Kelly!

Gingerbread Competition

Entry forms are now available for the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread Competition. Entries will be on display in the lobby and main gallery of HCL Headquarters during the month of December. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, December 1st. All entries will be depictions of Hunterdon County buildings, images, etc.

Library Café

The wheels are in motion for the new library café, which will be located on the lower level of HCL Headquarters. A coffee bar has been ordered and the room will be painted shortly. The bar will hopefully be up and running by the end of the year. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for all of their support with this project.

Youth Services

We have added more storytimes and they are growing in popularity as patrons realize that we have added new time slots and new age groups.

TWEENZ and Teen Café's fall programs at HCL were off to a great start in September. Yvonne Kusters from *Let's Play Together* visited HQ for an afternoon of games and physical fitness with 21 tweens (children in grades 1 through 4), and Teen Café hosted a successful outdoor water balloon volleyball game. Let's Play Together also visited 21 TWEENZ at NCB, where everyone had a "blast."

Paws to Read, consisting of 5 – 6 Therapy Dogs with their owners/handlers, started off at 3:00 pm on Wednesdays at Headquarters, following the 2:00 pm Story Hour. After a little tweaking, Story Hour was moved up to 1:30 pm with *Paws to Read* immediately following to enable children to read to the dogs before leaving with their parents to meet the afternoon school buses.

Paws to Read at NCB on Saturdays at 11:00 am continues to thrive with an average of 35 - 40 children reading and talking to the Therapy Dogs. Many parents and teachers have said that the love of reading and reading levels have noticeably improved because of this innovative program.

The Teen Advisory Board for the North County Teen Café is in the process of compiling a Teen Café yearbook for the years 2005 - 2011. They are compiling photos, anecdotes and mementoes of the more than 100 programs that have occurred in the past six years.

Teen Café is also offering its first fall series of *Writers Workshops*. William Spear, who has conducted these workshops for the past two years, is again leading this round of writing sessions, which is focusing on the short story. The goal for the workshops is to produce a 1,000-word short story to give as a gift or submit for publication. The first workshop held in September drew 19 aspiring and enthusiastic writers. The second workshop, which dealt with plot development, drew 14 dedicated writers in October. Their goal is to produce the 1,000-word short story by the end of the November program.

The TWEENZ were very interested in The Seeing Eye Program during October with Anita from *The Seeing Eye* in Morristown, and her dog, Campie. Each of the 15 children, grades 1 - 6, pretended to be legally blind and tried walking with the new Seeing Eye harness. They had so many questions that the program lasted an extra half hour!

Youth Services (cont.)

Spooktacular for grades 1 - 4 at NCB on Friday, October 28th, was a howling success with 25 children and a few younger spooks. One terrifying story, 2 simultaneous yummy edible crafts, the limbo and monster freeze to creature music, Trick or Treating around the scary North County Library, Fright Night Bingo, and making their gooey Goody Bags turned out to be a nail scraping-teeth chattering party!

NCB's Teen Café flyers have a new look, thanks to Teen Board members. Ryan Zabihialam, a 9th grader, designed the *Cirque du Teen Cafe* flyer for the upcoming November Teen Café program. The Teen Board members enjoyed painting the faces of 13 young people who attended October's *Face Painting Explosion*. The teens also hand printed a giant pumpkin, which is on display on the Teen Café bulletin board.

Teen Café at HQ hosted a very successful program in celebration of the release of the newest book in Rick Riordan's popular "Heroes of Olympus" series this October. Nineteen young people participated in an evening of shield making and games inspired by the books.

HQ's Youth Services department, in conjunction with the PR department, held a very popular Halloween party that drew a crowd of 45 preschool-aged children who enjoyed an afternoon of Halloween crafts, music, games, snacks, and trick-or-treating, as well as a pumpkin decorating contest and parade around the library.

Extension Services/South County Branch

Joan Bonham and Greg Slomczewski took the Bookmobile to *Touch-a-Truck*, an event sponsored by the Hunterdon County Parks Department on November 5th. This is always a popular event and wins the library many young fans.

The October snowstorm did not disrupt the courier routes. The drivers were able to navigate the roads and detours to keep library materials moving to the affiliate libraries before and after the storm. The South County Branch Library was very popular during this time as many of the residents in the southern part of the county were without power for several days.

Joan Brelsford operated a table at the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on October 11th with Mary Noone-Kozakiewicz and Jeremiah Harris. It was a great opportunity to show the business community all the outstanding resources the library has to offer.

Polaris ILS Upgrade

On October 25, 2011, our Polaris ILS was successfully upgraded without any major disruptions in service to our patrons. Special thanks go out to Jennifer Winberry, who did an outstanding job overseeing this project on the library end, and to Tim Kooker, from our County IT Department, for working all day and late into the evening (despite a bad cold) to ensure a smooth and timely transition for our library system.

Freaky October Storm

The Hunterdon County Library served as place of refuge from a bizarre early season snowstorm that knocked out power for a number of Hunterdon County residents for up to a week or longer into the first week of November. Our libraries were swamped with patrons who needed access to the internet and/or a place to charge their laptops and mobile devices. HCL also provided DVDs for residents who were forced to spend time at the temporary shelter in Building #1 at the Route 12 Complex. The following address is a link to an ABC news report that features our Headquarters Library:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/video?id=8414825>

Customer Comments

Mary Noone-Kozakiewicz had a very creative idea for collecting comments from our patrons at NCB during October 17 – 22, 2011. She set up a table with die cut autumn leaves for passersby to record their views. Thank you, Mary NK, for helping us get a “read” on the folks who use our library!

General Comments:

The best place in Hunterdon County!

I love the library, I've been going for a long time.

I enjoy the library, I come here all the time.

It's my second home – Thanks. - Pat Devine

This library Rules the SCHOOL!! - Maya & Erin

The Hunterdon County Library is #1! ☺

I love our library. You are organized, well stocked, helpful & pleasant!! Keep it up!

Best place in Hunterdon County! - June Wenzel

We love this library! King Family

Love this library! My family is here every week! ☺

HC Library staff rocks!

Thanks for such a great Library. – Alison R

It's always great fun to come to the library!

Thank you! I love this place! Go Clinton Library!

My kids are here all the time! - Ingz

Great & friendly place. I'd be lost without you. Thanks!

We love everything at the Library! – the Orlando Family

You can judge a town by its library. You get A+

Great Place! – JLB

We are so lucky to have such a great library. We are here twice a week. Thank you. – Maria & Isabelle ☺
I love the library.
Love it, my most favorite spot in town – Kristina ☺
I love □NCL! – Lisa Henderson
Love the Library! What a great Community Resource!!
I think the library is family friendly and convenient. Thank you.
I like coming to the library with my family. – Kelsey ☺
I love the Library! – Cathleen Maloy

Collections:

I like all the movies, esp. Scooby Doo. - Keara DiNicola
I love the DVDs so much – Isabelle
I love your books & DVDs – Julia & Mia
The books on tape make me happy – Jen
I like all the books, movies and computers. – from Tyler
I love your books Love - Madison.
I love this library! Harry Potter especially!
I love all the movies at the library – Delia ☺
I love the board books! – Love - Lily (1 year old)
The Library has gotten me many books that I could not have afforded myself.
We love Books! THE END

Services and Programs:

I hope you never shorten your hours or close down.
I like to study at the library!
Free summer shows & kids' programs – I love all the online features!
Love the books on hold & emails!
The Tween Programs are GREAT! Thank you, - the Menichillos
10/21/11 We love the library and the kids programs! – Ben and Zoe
Always has what I am looking for or can do an inter-library loan
Love ordering books online - & renewing online
I Really appreciate & use the on-line request feature to reserve books & DVDs. What a Great Service! – Susan S.

Staff:

I like Ms. Cathy in the kid section. She is VERY nice. – Rhea Kochhar
Jean in the kid section is VERY nice and has a good sense of humor. – Rhea Kochhar
We love the librarians! – Carol
Love the staff here at NCB.

Other:

Thank you for providing such a convenient, wonderful place – Not only am I supplied with marvelous reading but I use the photocopiers often. The Staff is SO congenial & helpful. I LOVE to read & getting my books here is such a pleasure – Thank you

As a teacher I use the children's section! As a reader, I borrow books consistently! I love the email reminders to keep my fines the lowest in years! We moved here in the summer of 1999 as the building was being built. It met our expectations! THANK YOU!

The best and well stocked library. Upstairs – quiet, peaceful always a spot to sit & read. Excellent selection of magazines/newspapers

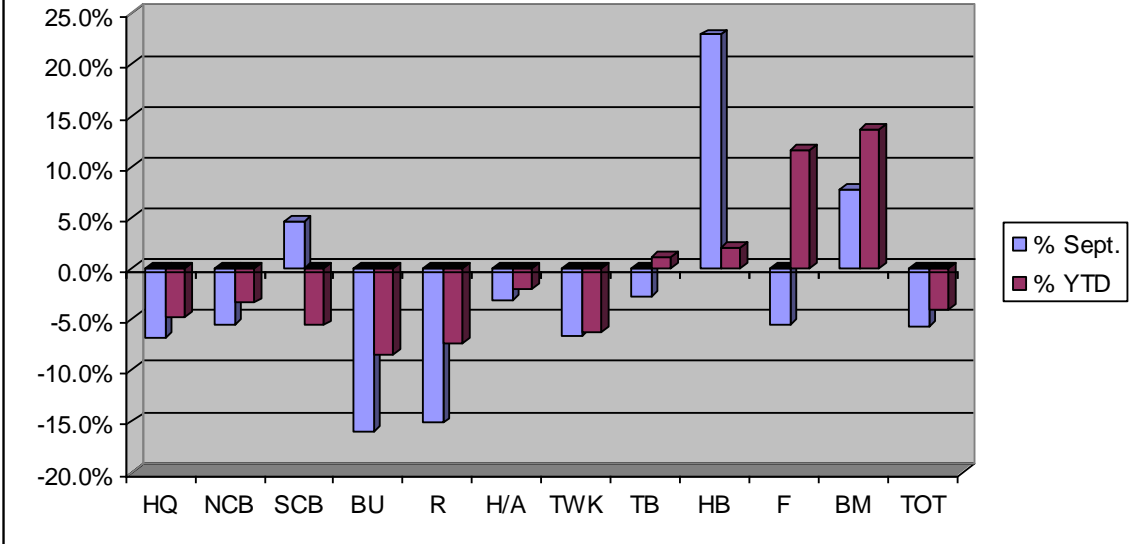
To Clinton Library – It is very nice to come to clean library, also very nice staff.

I couldn't live without my Clinton library. It brings me pleasure, information & places to do things.

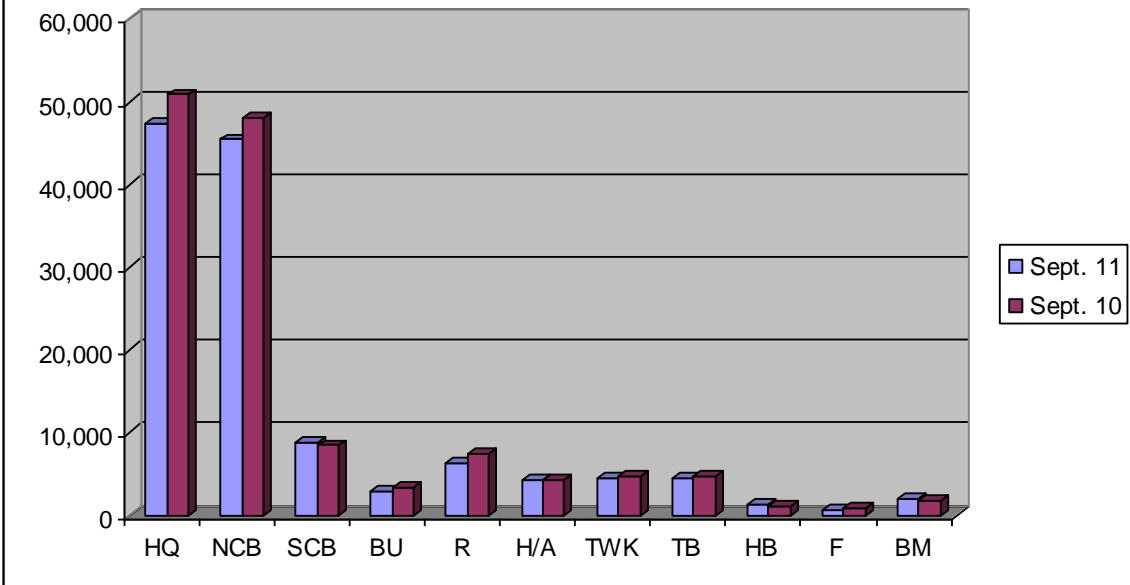
Circulation Statistics for September 2011

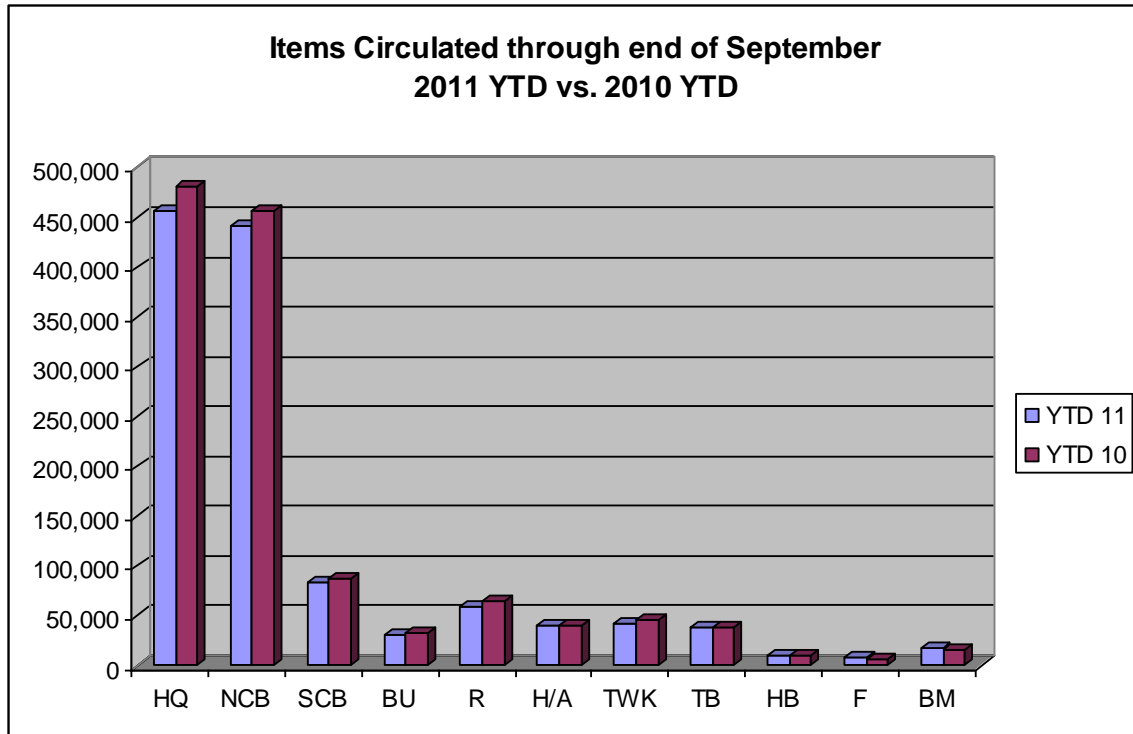
	Sept. 11	Aug. 11	% Change	Sept. 10	% Sept.	YTD 11	YTD 10	% YTD
HQ	47,393	56,331	-15.9%	50,861	-6.8%	457,088	480,258	-4.8%
NCB	45,421	56,913	-20.2%	48,094	-5.6%	441,196	456,813	-3.4%
SCB	8,852	10,854	-18.4%	8,460	4.6%	82,599	87,523	-5.6%
BU	2,907	3,458	-15.9%	3,463	-16.1%	30,435	33,274	-8.5%
R	6,241	7,820	-20.2%	7,361	-15.2%	59,709	64,432	-7.3%
H/A	4,213	4,868	-13.5%	4,346	-3.1%	39,991	40,829	-2.1%
TWK	4,443	5,012	-11.4%	4,759	-6.6%	42,568	45,394	-6.2%
TB	4,511	5,397	-16.4%	4,637	-2.7%	37,868	37,449	1.1%
HB	1,258	1,477	-14.8%	1,023	23.0%	10,269	10,068	2.0%
F	731	890	-17.9%	774	-5.6%	7,463	6,684	11.7%
BM	1,917	1,534	25.0%	1,778	7.8%	17,560	15,444	13.7%
TOT	127,887	154,554	-17.3%	135,556	-5.7%	1,226,746	1,278,168	-4.0%

**% Circulation Change
September 2011 vs. September 2010
YTD 2011 vs. YTD 2010**



**Items Circulated
September 2011 vs. September 2010**





Circulation Statistics for October 2011

	Oct. 11	Sept. 11	% Change	Oct. 10	% Oct.	YTD 11	YTD 10	% YTD
HQ	46,576	47,393	-1.7%	49,972	-6.8%	503,664	530,230	-5.0%
NCB	44,435	45,421	-2.2%	46,936	-5.3%	485,631	503,749	-3.6%
SCB	7,990	8,852	-9.7%	9,043	-11.6%	90,589	96,566	-6.2%
BU	3,203	2,907	10.2%	3,800	-15.7%	33,638	37,074	-9.3%
R	5,785	6,241	-7.3%	6,765	-14.5%	65,494	71,197	-8.0%
H/A	3,765	4,213	-10.6%	4,531	-16.9%	43,756	45,360	-3.5%
TWK	3,742	4,443	-15.8%	4,644	-19.4%	46,310	50,038	-7.5%
TB	3,898	4,511	-13.6%	4,084	-4.6%	41,766	41,533	0.6%
HB	1,123	1,258	-10.7%	1,276	-12.0%	11,392	11,344	0.4%
F	642	731	-12.2%	719	-10.7%	8,105	7,403	9.5%
BM	2,208	1,917	15.2%	2,201	0.3%	19,768	17,645	12.0%
TOT	123,367	127,887	-3.5%	133,971	-7.9%	1,350,113	1,412,139	-4.4%

