

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
December 2011 & January 2012

Youth Services

The second fall session of storytimes was a big hit at all locations. With patron input, we made some changes in the schedule and it worked out very well. TWEENZ (Grades 1 – 5) and Teen Café (Grades 6 – 9) also had a full schedule of activities.

TWEENZ at HQ hosted a *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* - themed program this November to get kids geared up for the latest release in the popular book series. Sixteen children in grades 2 through 6 tested their Wimpy Kid knowledge with a wild game of "run to the chairs" trivia after creating their own journals inspired by the book.

The TWEENZ at North County really loved weaving baskets with Liz Braidwood Fulmer from the Parks Department. Each basket was completely different even though we were all weaving the same basket! There is a 20-person wait list for an encore presentation of this program.

Children in grades 1 through 5 were able to create their own towers made from raw spaghetti and marshmallows in December's TWEENZ program at HQ - *Spaghetti Structures*. It was a huge hit, and the tallest tower is currently on display in the Youth Services room!

Teen Café at HQ, with the help of PR, celebrated the release of the film adaptation of *Breaking Dawn*, the last book in the *Twilight* series by hosting a "Twilight Prom" for students ages 10 and up. Nearly 30 young people (all dressed to the nines) attended the event, where they were able to create charm bracelets and body glitter, play games and have snacks inspired by the books and, of course, were able to take their very own prom photos with our life-size cutouts of *Twilight* heartthrobs Edward and Jacob.

Teen Cafe at HQ hosted *Holiday Craftapalooza* this past December, a program where young teens in grades 5 through 9 had the opportunity to craft marble magnets and duct tape wallets to give as gifts, all while watching a winter movie on the library's wide-screen television

NCB Teen Café set a new school year attendance record with its November program, *Cirque du Teen Café*. Thirty young people attended the evening of magic, illusion, and juggling, which was organized and led by 9th grade teen board member Sophy Warner. Members of the Board, along with Sophy's dad Craig Warner, entertained the audience with card tricks and a juggling exhibition. Later the attendees had the opportunity to practice their skills and give a mini performance. To go along with the circus motif, popcorn and corn dogs were provided by the Board. A surprise of the evening was the return of four former board members, who joined the fun.

NCB Teen Café ended 2011 with a *Create Your Own World Record* program on December 14th, which 15 young people attended. Choosing from a variety of everyday items, teens came up with individual "feats" and set out to establish records. Teens

could choose to attempt to break a record or create their own. From hula hoop revolutions and non-stop basketball dribbling, to incredible balancing feats and building the tallest spaghetti structure, 11 individual records were created, which are posted at the North County Branch Library

NCB Writers Workshop held its final program of the Fall series on November 16th, with 16 dedicated writers in attendance. Several writers read their completed short stories. NCB Teen Café announced that a new spring session of Writers Workshop will resume in January, with Bill Spear continuing to conduct the workshops. An average of 16 young people attended the fall workshops.

The Youth Services Department, with the help of PR, also hosted HQ's first Open Mic Night, a coffee-house style event where older teens could come share their musical and writing talents or simply enjoy the live performances.

PAWS TO READ at North and at Headquarters continued with their faithful followers: children reading, therapy dogs, and dedicated volunteers.

Gingerbread Competition

The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread Competition was on display in the main gallery of our Headquarters Library throughout the month of December. Even though there were only six entries this first year, the gallery and lobby smelled quite enticing. We are confident that the show will get bigger each year, much like our annual photography show. There was a reception for the contestants on Tuesday, December 13th and awards were given. Thanks to the Friends of HCL for their support of the show.

Storytelling Festival

The Friends of HCL are joining forces with the Red Mill Museum to present a *Storytelling Festival* in Clinton next summer. Particulars are still being worked out and more information will be forthcoming on this exciting event.

Library Café

The Library Café, located on the lower level of the Hunterdon County Library Headquarters, is scheduled to open to the public on February 1, 2012.

The furniture has been put into place (including a coffee bar purchased by the Friends of the Library), the walls have been painted, and the area is now WiFi accessible. The coffee will cost \$1 per cup and proceeds will go to replenishing supplies for the café. Plans are underway for decorating the walls, including using the long wall as another exhibit gallery for local artists to show and sell their work.

Circulation staff member Linda Zdepski is the head of the committee in charge of creating and maintaining the café.

Movie License

The library continues to make good use of their movie license. A series of movies with February themes will be shown every Friday during the month. The schedule can be found at HCL or online. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for their support of the library movie license.

Extension Services

The delivery routes did not slow down at all this year as they often do in December. County patrons continue to use our branches and affiliate libraries and count on this service to return library materials to their proper location. Schools continue to request materials at a brisk rate also.

Even as the Franklin Township School got closer to their permanent Certificate of Occupancy, the Bookmobile continued to provide every-other-week service for the students. The Bookmobile goes to Independence Manor, an assisted living home across from the Hunterdon Medical Center, to provide those residents with library materials. Independence Manor has an active book group and uses the library quite often to provide titles for the group.

South County Branch Library

The South County Branch Library was once again decked out for the holiday season. SCB staff are very pleased with the new shelves purchased by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library that were recently installed by the Hunterdon County's Buildings and Maintenance staff. The shelves, which replaced repurposed fixtures from the Annandale location of the North County Branch, hold the library's DVD and Music CD collections while also providing some room to display and showcase books in the children's area as well. Many thanks to the B & M staff and to our Friends for making this possible.

Circulation Department

Part-time Library Assistant Nancy Routh retired on December 31, 2011 after ten years with HCL. She worked at North County Branch for most of that time, but also fit in quite well with staff at HQ where she worked for the past few months.

Our Top Ten List for 2011

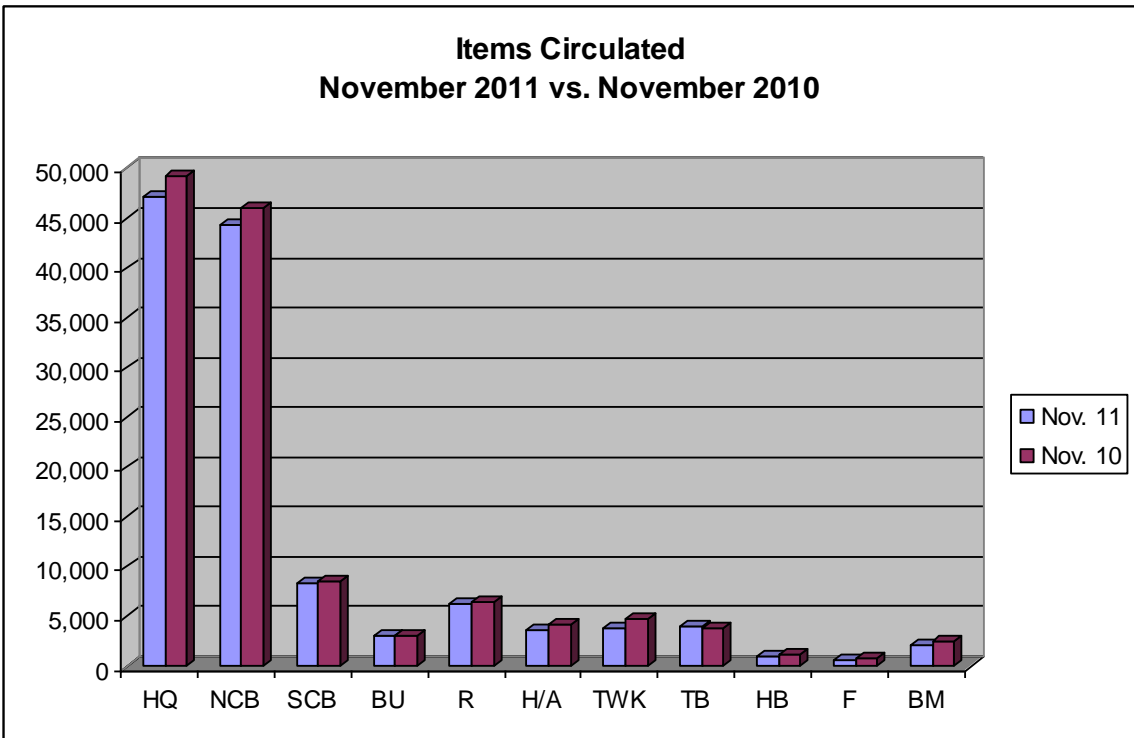
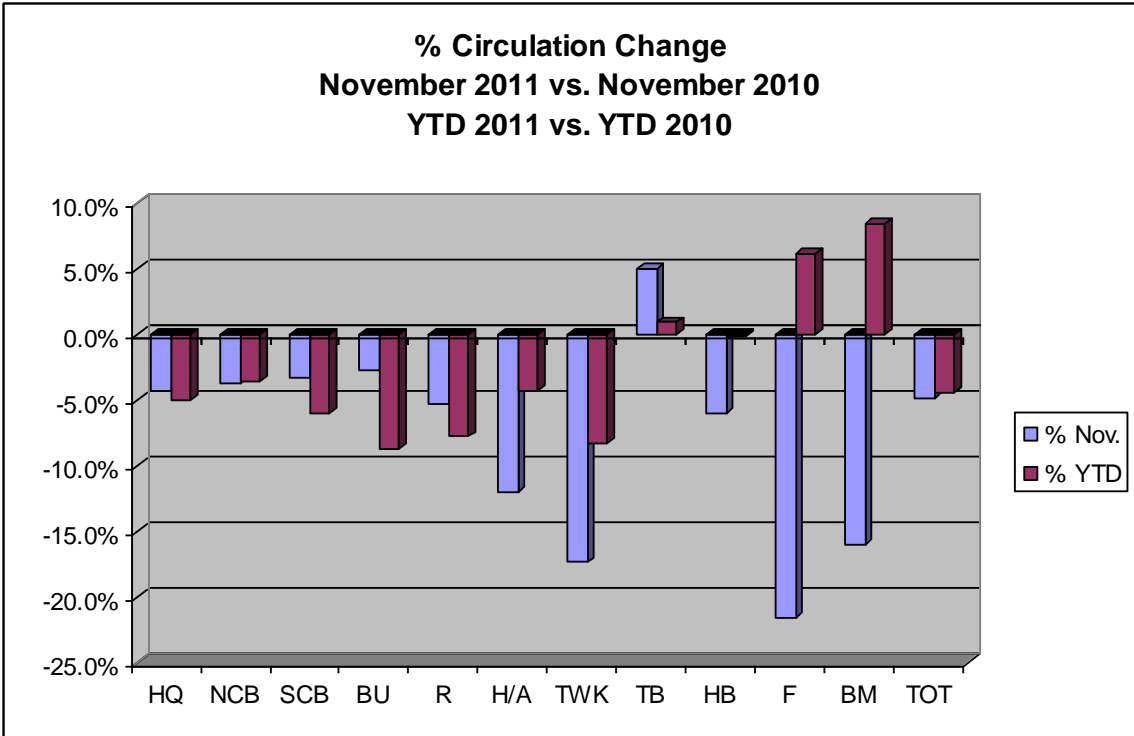
During 2011 the Hunterdon County Library had 130 titles published in 2011 that went out more than 100 times each (books that were published in January had an edge over titles published later in the year). The top circulating title, *Tick Tock* by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge went out 553 times. James Patterson and his co-authors top the list with five titles, holding the number one, two and three positions. Rounding out the top ten list were Jodi Picoult, Janet Evanovich, Mary Higgins Clark, Harlan Coben, Jonathan

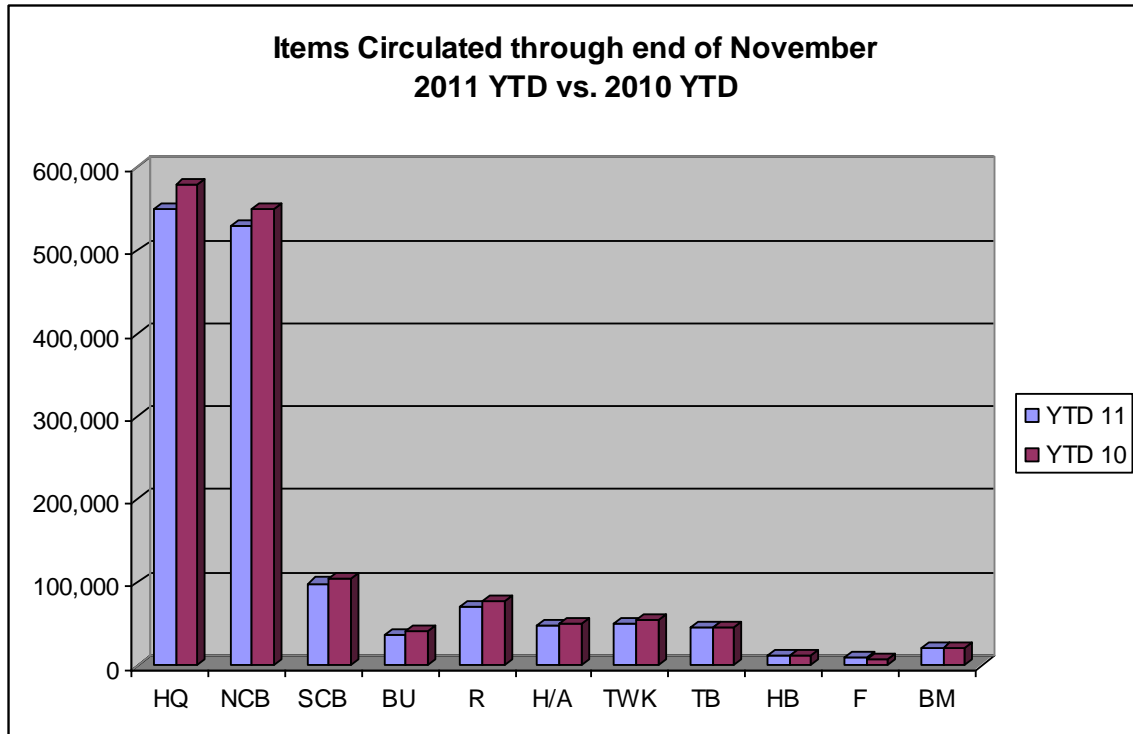
Kellerman and Maeve Binchy. Author number twelve is Robert B. Parker who died in January 2010 (this was the last Spenser novel he wrote). Two debut authors appear on the list, Eleanor Brown's *The Weird Sisters* number 41 and S.J.Watson's *Before I Go to Sleep* came in at number 76. Perennial favorite children's author Mary Pope Osborne appeared on the list at number 80 with *Crazy for Cobra's*.

1. *Tick Tick* by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge
2. *Toys* by James Patterson & Neil McMahon
3. *10th Anniversary* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
4. *Sing You Home* by Jodi Picoult
5. *Smokin' Seventeen* by Janet Evanovich
6. *I'll Walk Alone* by Mary Higgins Clark
7. *The Sixth Man* by David Baldacci
8. *Live Wire* by Harlan Coben
9. *Mystery* by Jonathan Kellerman
10. *Minding Frankie* by Maeve Binchy

Circulation Statistics for November 2011

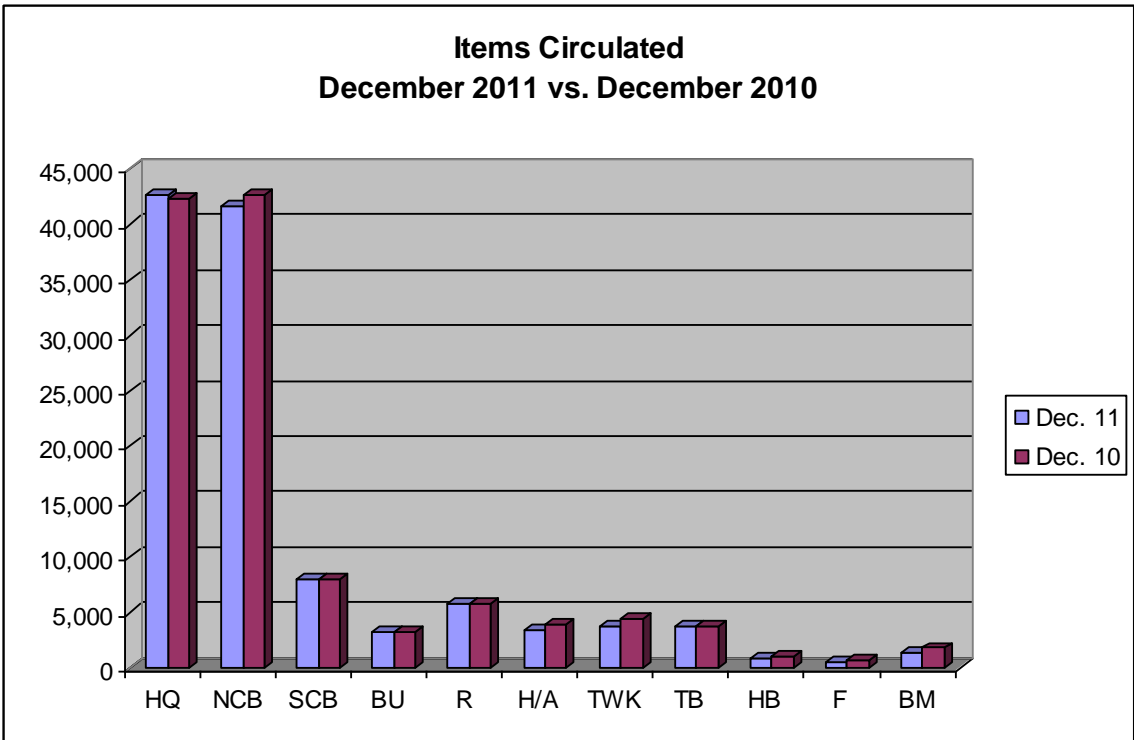
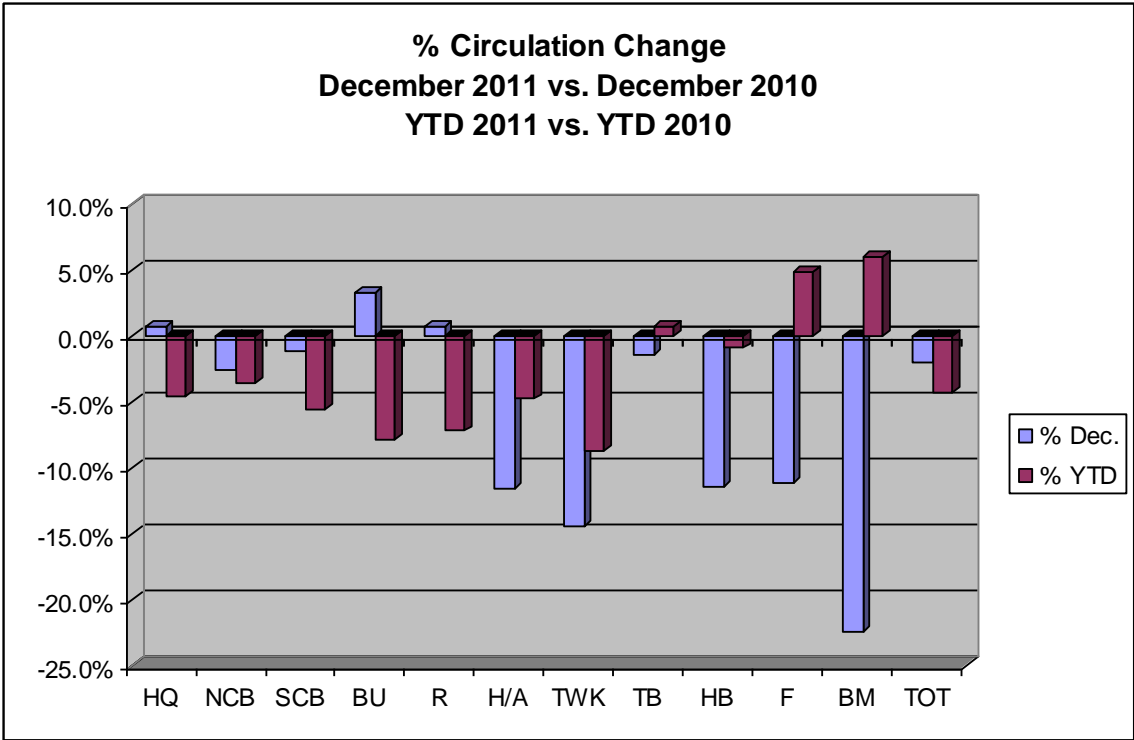
	Nov. 11	Oct. 11	% Change	Nov. 10	% Nov.	YTD 11	YTD 10	% YTD
HQ	47,102	46,576	1.1%	49,233	-4.3%	550,766	579,463	-5.0%
NCB	44,273	44,435	-0.4%	45,975	-3.7%	529,904	549,724	-3.6%
SCB	8,252	7,990	3.3%	8,538	-3.3%	98,841	105,104	-6.0%
BU	2,999	3,203	-6.4%	3,084	-2.8%	36,637	40,158	-8.8%
R	6,172	5,785	6.7%	6,515	-5.3%	71,666	77,712	-7.8%
H/A	3,625	3,765	-3.7%	4,119	-12.0%	47,381	49,479	-4.2%
TWK	3,876	3,742	3.6%	4,693	-17.4%	50,186	54,731	-8.3%
TB	4,039	3,898	3.6%	3,845	5.0%	45,805	45,378	0.9%
HB	1,033	1,123	-8.0%	1,099	-6.0%	12,425	12,443	-0.1%
F	694	642	8.1%	886	-21.7%	8,799	8,289	6.2%
BM	2,143	2,208	-2.9%	2,552	-16.0%	21,911	20,197	8.5%
TOT	124,208	123,367	0.7%	130,539	-4.8%	1,474,321	1,542,678	-4.4%





Circulation Statistics for December 2011

	Dec. 11	Nov. 11	% Change	Dec. 10	% Dec.	YTD 11	YTD 10	% YTD
HQ	42,679	47,102	-9.4%	42,347	0.8%	593,445	621,810	-4.6%
NCB	41,576	44,273	-6.1%	42,664	-2.6%	571,480	592,388	-3.5%
SCB	7,890	8,252	-4.4%	7,977	-1.1%	106,731	113,081	-5.6%
BU	3,231	2,999	7.7%	3,127	3.3%	39,868	43,285	-7.9%
R	5,752	6,172	-6.8%	5,709	0.8%	77,418	83,421	-7.2%
H/A	3,402	3,625	-6.2%	3,849	-11.6%	50,783	53,328	-4.8%
TWK	3,768	3,876	-2.8%	4,407	-14.5%	53,954	59,138	-8.8%
TB	3,629	4,039	-10.2%	3,682	-1.4%	49,434	49,060	0.8%
HB	806	1,033	-22.0%	910	-11.4%	13,231	13,353	-0.9%
F	547	694	-21.2%	616	-11.2%	9,346	8,905	5.0%
BM	1,359	2,143	-36.6%	1,754	-22.5%	23,270	21,951	6.0%
TOT	114,639	124,208	-7.7%	117,042	-2.1%	1,588,960	1,659,720	-4.3%



**Items Circulated through end of December
2011 YTD vs. 2010 YTD**

