

2010 Hunterdon County Library Commissioners

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2010 Hunterdon County Freeholders

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Libraries in the Hunterdon County System

Hunterdon County Library Headquarters (HCL)

314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3, Flemington 08822 908-788-1444
Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday-Thursday, 9-9 [Open Sunday 1-5 Sept-May]

North County Branch (NCB)

65 Halstead St., Clinton 08809 908-730-6262
Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9-9

South County Branch (SCB)

1108-A Old York Rd., Ringoes 08551 908-782-3564
Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9-5; Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-9

Bunnvale Library

7 Bunnvale Rd., Califon 07830 908-638-8884
Wednesday, 1-8; Thursday, Friday, 9-5; Saturday, 9-2

Frenchtown Public Library

29 Second St., Frenchtown 08825 908-996-4788
Monday 9:30-12:30; Tuesday, Wednesday, 3-5, 7-9; Friday, 9:30-12:30

High Bridge Public Library

71 Main St., High Bridge 08829 908-638-8231

Monday, Wednesday, 10-12, 3-8; Friday, 10-12, 3-7; Saturday, 10-2

Holland Alexandria Free Public Library

129 Spring Mills Rd., Milford 08848 908-995-4767
Monday-Friday, 9-12, 3-8; Saturday, 9-3

Readington Township Library

105 Route 523, Whitehouse Station 08889 908-534-4421
Tuesday, Thursday, 12-8; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9-5; Saturday (Closed August), 9-12

Tewksbury Public Library

31 Old Turnpike Rd., Oldwick 08858 908-439-3761
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10-6; Thursday, 12-8; Saturday, 10-3

Three Bridges Library

449 Main St., Three Bridges 08887 908-782-2908
Monday, Thursday, Friday, 9:30-5:30; Wednesday, 12-8; Saturday (Closed August), 9-12

HCL Bookmobile

Call 908-788-1421 for schedule.



Hunterdon
County Library
www.hclibrary.us



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09



ANNUAL
REPORT



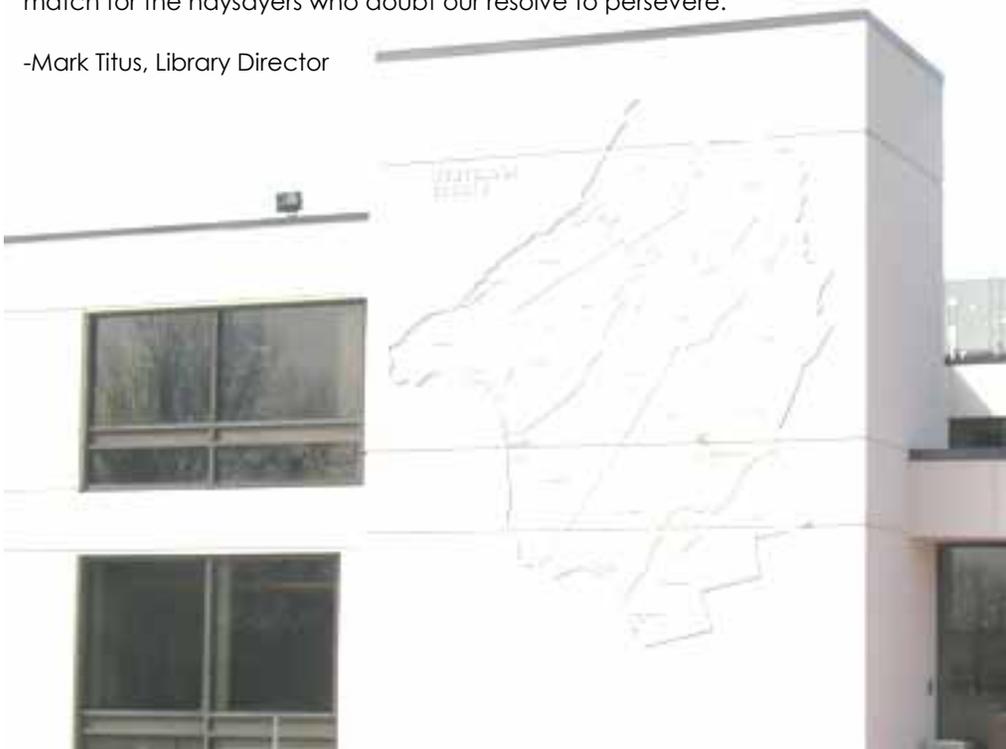
Message from the Director

Libraries always feel like special places to me. There's something humbling about being in the presence of the vast array of ideas, sounds, and images that represent the diversity of human thought and creation. Good bookstores feel that way, too, but they can't ever match the generous sharing of their riches the way our libraries do. Like everything else in life, this comes at a cost.

2009 was the year we became acutely aware of the cost of everything. It's a whole new world now, with shattered 401(k)s, foreclosed dreams, and the uneasy feeling that our country may never get back to where it was before the party got out of hand. Fortunately for us, we were never lulled into a sense of complacency by our ranking as one of the most affluent counties in the U.S. We will continue to build on the long tradition of common sense management, strategic thinking, and creative problem solving that has served us so well in the past.

It's true that Hunterdon County Library is doing more with less. Difficult decisions and sacrifice are the norm now more than ever. That forces us to be more resourceful stewards of your library tax dollars. It's a transformative process, and we can't ever be sure where this transformation will ultimately take us. We do know that, despite hiring freezes, shortened hours, and budget cuts, our capacity to creatively reinvent ourselves, our services, and our methods of delivering those services will triumph over any limitations in the short term. The resilience of our staff and you, our loyal friends and patrons, is too great a match for the naysayers who doubt our resolve to persevere.

-Mark Titus, Library Director



Volunteers at Headquarters 2009

Twelve adult and seventeen junior volunteers donated 907 hours of their time during 2009 to HCL Headquarters. Week in and week out, these hard workers supported the staff by doing many tasks, including assimilating reference materials into the collection, keeping the brochure racks and community bulletin boards current, and helping set up and take down eight new book displays each month. During the summer when the library benefited from extra student volunteers, there were opportunities to work on long-range projects such as compiling a comprehensive index to the local history books.

The volunteers at Headquarters continued to work on the massive spine label project which was begun in 2007. Because the original spine labels on juvenile picture books and easy-readers showed only the first letter of the author's last name instead of the entire name, it was often a time-consuming process for patrons to locate a particular book. The original scope of the project was to make new labels for the books at Headquarters. Those volunteers who were trained to generate new labels on a computer completed Headquarters juvenile books- about 14,000- in 2008. Because the project, staffed solely by volunteers, was going so well, the decision was made to continue on and re-label the picture books and easy readers at the South and North branches. These were finished in 2009 and there seemed to be no reason not to re-label all the picture books and easy readers in the system.

Presently, the volunteers are working on Holland/Alexandria Library's books. Since 2007, they have generated and attached new labels to over 30,000 books! Clearly, this is one of the volunteers' favorite tasks.

Linda Reynolds, Headquarters Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers at North County Branch 2009

A total of 60 generous, industrious people – 16 adults and 44 students – donated 1,560 valuable hours to their Library. This equals over 44 weeks of one full-time employee. In addition to the usual myriad of daily tasks, our 2009 volunteers updated the Adult Summer Reading Club display each week by dressing a "dummy" in reading material and Mystery Clues.

A big surprise in 2009 was the rush of high school students clamoring to volunteer for the summer. Nineteen enthusiastic new junior volunteers were accepted before the schedule was saturated. Most gave up their timeslots once school started, but they accomplished a lot during those three months.

According to US Department of Labor statistics, the minimum wage is \$7.25/hour; and the median hourly wage for Library Aides/Clerks is \$10.88/hour. Using these figures, the North County Volunteers' contribution to the Library system and to Hunterdon County was worth between \$11,308.18 and \$16,970.08.

Mary C. Noone-Kozakiewicz, North County Branch Volunteer Coordinator

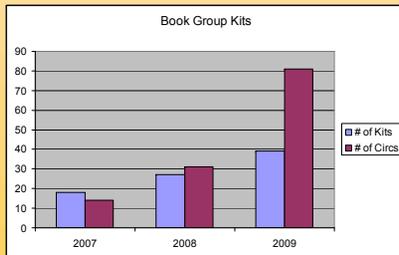
Reference Department

Reference queries are continuing to increase. There were 21,921 transactions handled at Headquarters, up 7% over 2008 and 18,363 at the North County Branch, an increase of 6%. Interlibrary loans also increased from 2008. The number of items borrowed for our patrons went up by 12% and the number of items loaned out to other library systems increased by 21%.

A record number of exams, over 100, were proctored for distance learners. This reflects the economic necessity of students needing to work full time, and downsized employees seeking new professions. Providing this service is a natural extension for libraries, where people seek information about schools, test taking, jobs and resumes. This free service, uniquely offered by the library, is invaluable to people struggling to make ends meet while improving their chances of a better tomorrow.

Due to budget cuts, some of the library's electronic resources had to be discontinued. After carefully evaluating usage statistics and cost, the following were eliminated: *Country Watch*, *Digital Sanborn Maps**, *Facts.com World News Digest*, *Daily Life Online*, *Litfinder*, *Mango Languages* and *Proquest Newspapers 9*. In addition, the State Library's funding of *Heritage Quest* was withdrawn. Fortunately, we were able to add a few resources we thought would be of great value to our patrons: *Hunterdon County Democrat*, *Power Speak Languages*, and *Star Ledger*. (**Digital Sanborn Maps* is available now courtesy of Princeton University's Firestone Library)

The book group kits continue to grow in popularity. Twelve new kits were added to the library's collection in 2009. Circulation of book group kits has gone from 31 checkouts in 2008 to 81 checkouts in 2009, an increase of 161%. Thanks are due to the Friends of the Library volunteers who, as they sort through the annual book sale's donations, look for books we request for future kits.



Youth Services Department

2009 was a challenging year for the Youth Services department. Although we lost two librarian positions and had to cancel a number of programs, our patrons have been very understanding and supportive. We were still able to accommodate most age groups at all locations.

Summer Reading Club had 1,105 active participants who read 25,501 books! Youth Services also had 611 total programs in 2009. 9,512 kids and 5,599 adults attended.

2009 – The Year In Review

The Hunterdon County Library began the year with a mandate to do more with less, as declining tax revenues due to the devastated economy forced the County Freeholders to ask every County department to cut its budget lines. A concurrent hiring freeze also caused the library to re-evaluate, streamline, and re-prioritize as fewer staff members were left to provide services to an increasing number of active users. Library use, and demand for library services, went up dramatically as the economy went downhill.

As you will learn elsewhere in this annual report, the library made ever greater efforts to provide even more free, interesting programs for the educational and cultural benefit of the community. County residents have really taken to using the library's catalog from their home computers, and have utilized the "hold" feature in ever burgeoning numbers. Many popular library books and especially DVDs now sport reserve lists of hundreds of cardholders. The library has a "next available copy" matrix that holds copies of items from throughout the library system, thereby filling reserves much faster. It is an ongoing challenge to purchase enough copies to be able to fill the demand with less dollars to spend.

The library continued its outreach efforts, using the bookmobile to make special visits to elementary schools, nursery schools and special community events such as the County Parks system's Touch-a-Truck event. The bookmobile always proves to be a popular draw, especially with children, and helps grow new readers and library users.

As the new year brings additional budgetary challenges, the Hunterdon County Library will continue to strive to stay on the cutting edge of information technology, provide interesting programs for the residents, and do what it does best: be the cultural, educational, recreational, free community resource that it has always been.

-Floyd Saums, Assistant Library Director



Adult Summer Reading Club

To comply with member requests asking for the club to end later in the year, the 3rd Annual Adult Summer Reading Club ran from June 1 through September 7 (Labor Day). The club continues to be a favorite with our patrons. This year, 194 members read 1,811 books.

Adult readers enjoyed submitting titles and reviews as they finished reading their books over the summer. Many enjoyed solving this year's "Word Games Puzzle" as well as the "Database Scavenger Hunt" (new this year). Because of the generosity of the Friends of the Library, we were able to offer modest prizes to 19 club members chosen at random.

Some comments received on this year's feedback form included:

- "I look forward to this every year! It is fun and makes the summer much more enjoyable. Please keep this program!"
- "I enjoy the summer reading club, as I love to read and let others know what I think. I was especially excited to learn that Holland Library had so many patrons join the club!"
- "I'm happy the library goes to this trouble for us."
- "Keep on doing this."
- "I really enjoy this club and look forward to it each summer!"
- "I enjoy the challenge of working towards reaching my goal and all the great books that I have read, that I may not have read if I were not in the club."

Tuesday Night Wii & National Gaming Day

Library patrons continue to enjoy coming in weekly to rock out with Rock Band and to work on their bowling skills on our Wii. One of them donated a microphone to the library when ours stopped working. Another waited in line all night on Black Friday at Old Navy, just to get a copy of Lego Rock Band, which he donated to the library.

Hunterdon County Library (Headquarters, North County Branch, and South County Branch) were three of 1,365 participating U.S. libraries across 49 states and D.C. (Montana being the only state not represented) in the American Library Association's 3rd Annual "National Gaming Day @ your library." All three libraries had board games available for patrons to use. The Headquarters location participated in the live Super Mario Brothers Brawl Wii playoff, as well as in the Rock Band Competition, for which one of our teams placed 5th, competing against 27 other teams nationwide. This feat earned us mention in ALA's National Gaming Day blog:

The Rock Band High Score contest included 14 events on or around National Gaming Day and [70 performances were scored](#). This year, most libraries included the song that each band played, allowing for [per-song leaderboards!](#) The top ten included bands from Skokie Public Library (IL), Hunterdon County Library (NJ), Pittsfield Public Library (MA), Aurora Public Library (CO), and gtsystem's home team in Ann Arbor, MI. ~ <http://ngd.ala.org/>

Affiliated Libraries News

During 2009 the Affiliated Libraries all continued to enjoy a surge of increased circulation and new patrons. The libraries once again participated in the Hunterdon County Library's Summer Reading Clubs for children and adults, and many of the smaller libraries enjoyed storytimes and craft programs presented by librarians from the Hunterdon County Library. Book groups continue to be popular at many locations and all locations have Internet stations for the public to use. Several of the libraries already offer free wireless Internet service, and many more were added during 2009. Remember, your Hunterdon County Library card may be used at any one of these libraries.

Bunnvale Library celebrated their 30th Anniversary on October 17th. Featured speakers included Congressman Leonard Lance and Lebanon Township resident Jeanette Sliker, who presented a historical perspective of the building and its former life as a school where her grandmother taught. Storyteller Ariane Smith offered a program that delighted all ages; Alice Oldford and Sue Dziarama spoke about hiking trails in Hunterdon County. Bunnvale began new operating hours in December.

Frenchtown Library The library now has a reading room, thanks to the Boy Scouts of Frenchtown; they painted our room and made minor repairs. There are new book cases in the room and two easy chairs and paintings of earlier days in Frenchtown. New book cases have replaced the older ones in the big room for the New Fiction and DVDs. There are oil and watercolor paintings of scenes around Frenchtown purchased from Netherfield Gallery.

High Bridge Library The wonderful poetry workshop by Lynn Hughes is always a winner and the storyhours that are held three times a year with Mary Ann Paterniti are always a joy for children and parents alike. This spring the library had the wonderful author and entertainer Daryl Cobb come and play guitar for our patrons; everyone loved it!

Holland Alexandria Library The highlight of 2009 for the Holland-Alexandria Library was the addition of their outside reading grove constructed by the Holland Girl Scout Troop. 2009 also saw the library's first Association Membership Appreciation Day celebration.

Readington Township Library Readington Township Library displayed children's art work from the Whitehouse United Methodist Preschool during the year. The kindergarten classes from the Whitehouse School made a fall field trip to the library. In addition to enjoying a storytime, everyone had a great time exploring the library while looking for a special book to check out with their new library cards.

Tewksbury Library Renovations on the Tewksbury Library continued this year as the second floor made room for a new children's area, complete with a new roof: the Eagle Scout project of one of the young men in the township.

Three Bridges Library Circulation continues to grow at the Three Bridges Library. Many new patrons have discovered Three Bridges. The library would like to thank the Friends of Hunterdon County Library for their continued support. Three Bridges is looking forward to their 25th anniversary during 2010.

Friends of the Hunterdon County Library Highlights 2009

The year began as usual with the Friends gearing up for their 13th Annual Used Book Sale. Once again this popular community event went off without a hitch on April 25th and 26th. The annual Private Sale on April 24 again sold out – 60 people attended this special advance look at the 120,000 items donated from the community.

Proceeds from the 2009 book sale were allocated for program and performance enhancements such as musician stools, wireless microphones, a lectern with sound, track lighting, two DVD players and an electronic movie screen. Funds for curtains for the HQ meeting room to cover the dry erase boards when not in use were approved, as was a display case in the gallery at HQ. Finally, as in previous years, the Friends allocated \$1,500 to each of the seven affiliated community libraries.

Books for the College Bound Scholarships were awarded at the HCL Annual Book Sale Volunteer Appreciation Party on June 4th. In 2009, the Scholarship Committee decided to award five \$600 scholarships (an extra \$100 for each recipient).

HQ Landscaping entered a new phase: John and Cheryl Gulish of Pittsgrove Farms began consulting with the committee: they planned and installed fall plantings of peonies and irises. Also in the fall, seven hearty Friends volunteers showed up in the rain to plant 700 daffodil and grape hyacinth bulbs.

Art played an important role for the Friends in 2009. In July the Friends Conference Room committee attended the Tinicum Art Festival in Bucks County, PA, in search of a painting for the room. They were successful – purchasing oil paintings by diptych artist Stephen Russell (a former Hunterdon County resident). Entitled "Yin and Yang," the two paintings, positioned side by side, depict the Delaware River just below Frenchtown at sunrise, showing both the Bucks County side and the Hunterdon County side. On October 17, the Friends Art Sale displayed over 70 of HCL's discontinued Art to Borrow paintings, most of which were purchased by members of the community for as little as \$10 each.

South County Branch Library News

In 2009 our new South County Book Club really took off with a large group of regular members. An architect spoke to us about Frank Lloyd Wright when we read *Loving Frank*, we attended the movie *The Time Traveler's Wife* after reading the book and a club member showed her photographs after reading *Girl with A Pearl Earring*. South County continues to grow serving the southern part of the county with busy storytimes and summer reading club for children of all ages; every month during the school year East Amwell Township School has been displaying their beautiful student artwork on our bulletin board.

Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile News

Our patrons continue to enjoy the new bookmobile which can now be seen at various community events. This past year, the Bookmobile added a stop at Independence Manor, an assisted living facility.

Budget Highlights

	2008	2009
Salaries & benefits	\$3,985,143	\$3,980,705
Books	\$533,759	\$457,800
Newspapers, magazines, microfilm, indexes	\$63,974	\$58,800
CDs, DVDs, Audio Books, etc.	\$276,854	\$246,735
Online database subscriptions	\$85,030	\$60,000
Furniture, equipment, supplies	\$80,778	\$59,800
Youth & adult programming	\$32,582	\$26,500
Capital reimbursement	\$325,000	\$315,000
Library development reserves	\$20,000	0
Conferences & training	\$4,750	\$3,500
Vehicle maintenance and gas	\$10,051	\$15,000
Total Library Budget	\$6,068,130	\$5,882,825

Circulation Statistics for the Year

	2008	2009
Books	863,321	923,509
Magazines	31,997	33,887
Music (CDs, cassettes)	77,344	84,052
Audio Books	77,038	81,174
Videotapes	44,538	29,815
DVDs	482,803	545,922
CD-ROMs	3,225	2,087

Items Borrowed Per Library Location

	2008	2009
Headquarters	591,045	660,006
North County	579,318	592,108
South County	115,792	116,710
Readington	86,441	87,885
Holland Alexandria	53,378	54,471
Tewksbury	56,705	60,169
Three Bridges	41,724	43,819
Bunnvale	44,605	45,655
Bookmobile	18,615	19,424
High Bridge	13,115	12,085
Frenchtown	7,794	9,153
Total	1,608,532	1,701,485

Adult Programming/Public Relations

Programs at HCL Headquarters (HQ)

HCL Headquarters hosted an incredible 94 musical programs, lectures and workshops in 2009. That's 26 more programs compared to 2008, despite working under a slightly decreased budget from the year before. The Public Relations Committee worked very hard to sustain the library's reputation for offering a variety of quality programming to our patrons. Attendance for the series was nearly 6,000 patrons. The library was assisted in the funding of these events with a grant from the New Jersey Council on the Arts administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission as well as The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library.

Highlights of the 2009 schedule included two very well-attended Festive Fridays. The first was a Summer Block Party held outdoors in July, which included a live scavenger hunt with costumed performers from Franklin Theatre Works, The Beth Coleman Band, tie-dyeing, face painting and much more. In October, the library hosted a Festive Friday Halloween Party, complete with a costume parade and judging, trick or treating, pumpkin painting, and a popular talk about the old time radio "War of the Worlds" broadcast.

The library continued its commitment to helping community organizations in 2009. HCL once again assisted the Hunterdon Land Trust by providing musical acts and activities for children at their Farmers' Market at Dvoor Farm. During National Library Card Month in September, HCL teamed with many area businesses to provide discounts for library card holders. Hunterdon Central High School put on a play at the library and the talented HCRHS Fiddle Club performed their annual spring concert to appreciative library patrons. In December, the library erected a "Snowy Forest" display in the lobby and patrons donated teddy bears that were collected and given to the Hunterdon Medical Center and local rescue squads for distribution to ill and injured children. HCL was again a part of the Community Tent at the Hunterdon County Fair, and the 4-H clubs presented displays at the library in the spring, concluding with a "4-H Day at the Library" celebration.

The new HCL bookmobile really made the rounds in 2009. It is a very popular addition to the county's "Touch-A-Truck" day for kids. It also appeared at the Bloomsbury Art Festival in September and the Flemington Holiday Parade.

The NCB program "Paws to Read" debuted at HQ in 2009 and has quickly become very popular. The annual HCL Amateur Photography Show was also as popular as ever, especially with the addition of author and photographer Walter Choroszewski judging the show and presenting a workshop. The Hunterdon Camera Club was formed by Photo Show entrants and meetings for the group will begin in 2010.

The library hosted an outdoor rock concert series in 2009 featuring a student rock band from the Hunterdon Academy of the Arts as well as two other popular local bands. The library was also visited by one of the top musical acts from Scotland, North Sea Gas, who added HCL to their U.S. tour.

HCL Headquarters continued to make Wii and Rock Band available on Tuesday nights, much to the delight of our patrons young and old!

Programs at North County Branch Library (NCB)

The North County Branch had another successful year with its PR programs. The total number of programs held at NCB was 109, with an attendance of 4188. The dramatic increase from 2008's 64 programs and 3085 attending was in part due to the introduction of the "Paws to Read" program. Held on Saturday afternoons throughout much of the year, this event ran 28 times with an attendance of approximately 830 children (and as many adults)! The numbers were good even excluding the Paws statistics: 81 programs with 3760 attending. This is still a nice increase of 21% in attendance and 26% in the number of programs offered over 2008. Add in the Paws figures and the increases jump to 35% for attendance and 70% for programs offered. NCB continued to present programs for a broad spectrum of interests. Among the more popular were the Ed Saultz Irish Duo, Bat World NJ (with live bats)!, Estate Planning and Elderlaw, WWII Veterans roundtables, classical pianist Alexander Tchobanov, and the popular Charlie Brown Christmas with the Eric Mintel Quartet. NCB continues in its effort to include local authors, musical students, musicians and professionals who share their talents and expertise.

NCB had a milestone anniversary in 2009, celebrating 10 years at the 65 Halstead Street location in July. A large celebration was held, with festivities that included music, a speech by Congressman Leonard Lance, a photo gallery timeline, drawings for books and music, lots of treats to eat, crafts, etc. NCB looks forward to serving the community for many, many more years.

One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries

On Thursday, February 19th, Hunterdon County Library joined hundreds of libraries throughout the state in participating in "One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries." The New Jersey Library Association produced a survey for this day in order to collect statistics for demonstrating to state legislators the essential nature of libraries to their communities.

Over 400 surveys were filled out by patrons who visited Headquarters, North County Branch, South County Branch, and the Bookmobile. Our library's numbers were added to the state's statistics. Many of our patrons added comments to their surveys, which reinforced how much they value the Hunterdon County Library and its services. David M. Kiefer of Raritan Township summed up many of our patrons' comments when he wrote, "This library means a lot to us; we use it for many, many things. We also take advantage of the remote access, like looking for *Consumer Reports* articles and renewing books online. One of the primary reasons we haven't moved is to stay close to this particular library."

Scrabble Club

Upon a patron request, Hunterdon County Library now hosts two Scrabble Clubs – "Hard Scrabble Road" at Headquarters and "NCB Scrabblers" at the North County Branch. Hard Scrabble Road has 45 members, with about 25 players at each monthly meeting. NCB Scrabblers has 10 members, with about seven players at each monthly meeting. Our Scrabble clubs are listed in the "Casual Clubs" section of the National Scrabble Association's website: <http://www2.scrabble-assoc.com/index.asp>