

HUNTERDON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



Prepared at: Hunterdon County Library, 2005
www.hunterdon.lib.nj.us



Ground-breaking for renovations to the
Hunterdon County Library Headquarters
April 27, 2004



Janet S. Friend
April 28, 1944 – April 1, 2004

On April 1, Janet Friend, Director of the library system, died of cancer at the age of 59. After working in the cataloging department of Rutgers University library, she started at the county library in 1979 as head of the Cataloging and Technical Services Department. While continuing in that title, she also became Assistant Director. She was appointed Director in 1994. She oversaw the expansion of the North County Branch in Clinton in 1999, the relocation of the South County Branch in Ringoes, and the introduction of Internet access and online databases for patrons. She will be greatly missed.

2004 Board of Chosen Freeholders

Marcia A Karrow, Freeholder Director
George B. Melick, Deputy Freeholder Director
Nancy I. Palladino, Freeholder
George D. Muller, Freeholder
Frank J. Fuzo, Freeholder

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator

2004 Library Commission

Kenneth Jagel, Jr., Chairperson
Nancy Fuchs
Lucille Hornby
Thomas Valasek
Dr. Peter Craig

Library Director - Janet Friend, January - April
Assistant Director - Floyd Saums

Professional Librarians	17
Total Staff (Full-time equivalent)	50.6

Libraries in the Hunterdon County System

Hunterdon County Library Headquarters

314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3, Flemington, 08822 908-788-1444
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-9:00, Sat. 9-5 [Open Sundays 1-5 in Sept-May]

North County Branch 65 Halstead St., Clinton 08809 908-730-6262
Mon, Fri., Sat. 9-5, Tues, Wed., Thur. 9-9

South County Branch

1108-A Old York Rd., Ringoes 08851 908-782-3564
Tues, Wed. 9-9, Thur., Fri., Sat. 9-5.

Bunnvale Library 7 Bunnvale Rd., Califon 07830 908-638-8884
Wed. 1-8, Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. 10-5

Frenchtown Public Library

29 Second St., Frenchtown 08825 908-996-4788
Mon. 9:30-12:30, Tues., Wed. 3-5, 7-9, Fri. 9:30-12

High Bridge Public Library 71 Main St., High Bridge 08829 908-638-8231
Mon., Wed. 10-12, 3-8, Fri. 10-12, 3-7, Sat. 10-2

Holland Alexandria Free Public Library

129 Spring Mills Rd., Milford 08848 908-995-4767
Mon.-Fri. 9-12, 3-8, Sat. 9-3

Readington Township Library

105 Route 523, Whitehouse Sta. 08889 908-534-4421
Tues, Thur. 12-8, Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-12 (closed August)

Tewksbury Public Library

31 Old Turnpike Rd., Oldwick 08858 908-439-3761
Wed. 10-6, Thurs. 1-9, Sat. 10-3

Three Bridges Library

449 Main St., Three Bridges 08887 908-782-2908
Mon., Fri. 10-5, Wed. 3-8, Thurs. 1-6, Sat. 9-12 (closed August)

2004 Budget Expenditures

Books	331,920
Newspapers, magazines, microfilm, indexes	58,700
Music, DVDs, books on tape, etc. -	165,050
Online database subscriptions -	55,000
Data processing -	102,185
Furniture, equipment, supplies -	103,610
Youth & adult programming -	15,700
Capital reimbursement -	405,000
Library development reserves -	120,000
Due to County assessed costs -	495,000
Salaries & Benefits -	2,955,323
Conferences & training -	7,625
Bookmobile maintenance & gas -	20,500
Miscellaneous -	45,700
Total	4,881,313

Renovation Photo from 2004



2004 - The Year in Review

The year 2004 was an especially eventful one for the Hunterdon County Library system. In January, the long-needed and long planned expansion of the Hunterdon County Library Headquarters building moved closer to construction when the Freeholders approved additional bond funds to pay for the project. Significant other sources of financing included a grant from the State of New Jersey for \$1.22 million and several million dollars that the Library had been prudently setting aside in reserve for a number of years for the anticipated expansion. The final cost of construction, over seven million dollars, will actually require only about \$4.5 million in new bond financing. The Library will repay the bonds from its budget each year.

On Tuesday, April 27, groundbreaking took place for the additions and renovation to the Headquarters Library building. In the spring, bedrock was blasted in areas where construction was to take place. Steelwork and walls went up in the summer, and in November the Headquarters Library closed for one week to allow heating-ventilation-air conditioning work, the first time the Library has been closed for more than a day since its opening in 1972. As construction progressed, more and more of the collections have had to be closed off and packed up. Patrons are very understanding, but more and more services are being provided at the other libraries, especially the North County Branch, and through online services provided by the Library.

Even though the Headquarters Library lost some business due to the fact that much of the collection was unavailable, the library system as a whole continued to increase in use. The North and South County branches each experienced significant increases in use, and many of the affiliated libraries did as well. For the third year in a row, circulation system-wide exceeded one million items!

Among other library projects, the Three Bridges Library expanded its space this year with a beautiful new room. All of the shelving in the building, all new carpeting, and several pieces of new furniture were provided by the Hunterdon County Library.

To keep up with demand for new technology, several new PCs were added to the North County Branch for public Internet searching, and several of the affiliated libraries received new PCs from Hunterdon County Library as well.

In late 2005, all areas of the Headquarters Library will be reopened, more shelving will be available for all books, the meeting room will be larger, there will be public restrooms on all three floors, handicapped parking will be closer to the front entrance, and the entire library experience will be much more enjoyable.

The Library looks forward to the completion of its expansion, and also to offering enhanced services and collections to all its patrons.

Friends of the Hunterdon County Library

The Friends have increased their membership, their fundraising, and their gifts in 2004. The membership is now over 680, and the Book Sale took in over \$52,000.

The Friends gave 50-volume sets of *America the Beautiful* to each of the three county libraries and to each of the seven affiliated libraries. In addition, donations of DVDs, and books on CD were made to the North and South County Branches, a digital camera with associated software was given to the Headquarters Library, shelving for videotapes was given to the North County Branch, and financial donations were given to each of the seven community libraries for their wish lists.

Among their ongoing programs, the Friends deliver books to the homebound, carry on informational programs at the libraries, and host a book discussion group.

Youth Services Department

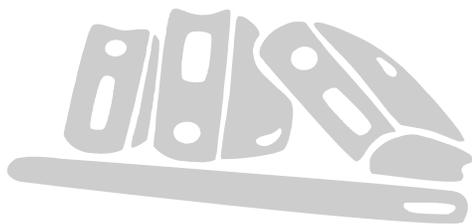
In 2004, the Youth Services Department presented 394 programs to over 6,500 children and young adults around the county. Over 3,300 adults accompanied their children to these programs. The programs presented tours, story times, and special performers.

The 1,477 members of the Summer Reading Club read over 23,000 books!

Adult Programming

With the help of a matching grant from the New Jersey Council on the Arts administered through the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the Library presented 30 musical concerts at the Headquarters Library and at the North County Branch. Because the Meeting Room at the Headquarters Library was taken over to be the Reading area, no concerts were presented there in the fall.

In addition to musical events, there were five speakers at the Library, most notably author Lawrence Block in March.



Databases (Electronic Resources)

Not everything is available for free on the Internet. The Library subscribes to twenty-one databases that provide information that would otherwise be unavailable to the public unless they were prepared to pay for access. The reference librarians now use the databases as a matter of course along with traditional print materials in looking up the answers to questions. All the databases are listed on the green bookmark with this heading:

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES
www.hunterdon.lib.nj.us

In 2004 the library added two databases that have proven to be very popular. 'p4a," or Prices For Antiques, has a very user-friendly front end for identifying antiques, and will bring up full-color pictures of close matches along with the prices that they have brought at auction houses all over the country. This site is kept very up-to-date. It is accessible from your home computer.

Reference librarians, and the patrons who know about it love the New York Times database. It is unfortunately available only in the Reference Rooms at the County Headquarters Library and the North and South County branches. But, it offers full-text searching of every issue of the New York Times from September 18, 1851, to December 31, 2001, and is an invaluable resource for searching national news, regional events, obituaries, etc. It is found under the menu of databases at ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times.

Another database, very useful for writing student reports and researching pro-and-con issues, is CQ Electronic Library. This database offers well-researched articles on controversial issues from the editors of Congressional Quarterly. The Association of American Publishers'Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division named its collections on Congress, Voting, and the Supreme Court the Best New Electronic Products in the Social Sciences in 2003 and 2004.

The most popular databases in 2004 were in the areas of genealogy and general magazine and newspaper articles. The genealogy databases, Ancestry-Plus and HeritageQuest, had over 37,000 searches. The databases offering access to magazine and newspaper articles are ProQuest, NJSL Custom Newspapers, and EBSCOHost, which had over 30,000 searches. ProQuest and EBSCOHost each offer access to more than 2,000 publications, while NJSL Custom Newspapers provides access to over 400 newspapers.

Circulation Statistics for the Year

Systemwide, circulation exceeded 1 million items for the third year in a row!

Books - 699,630
Magazines - 25,849
Music (CDs, cassettes, LPs) - 47,037
Books on Tape - 37,700
Books on CD - 15,053
Videotapes - 137,677
DVDs - 91,142
CD-ROMs - 5,981