



PISCATAWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Report to the Community 2007-2008



A Letter from the Director



*James K. Keehler
Library Director*

2007-2008 was a turbulent year for Piscataway Public Library. The budget for the Library was cut 10%, which led to 50% cuts in the materials budgets and the end of Sunday Library service. These budget cuts also led to the cessation of Bookmobile service, and reduction of programs for adults and teens. Library leadership also changed as longtime Library director, Anne Roman, retired at the end of the fiscal year. Piscataway Library had benefited greatly from her leadership over the last 18 years.

Despite the challenges, the Library staff and Board of Trustees worked with dedication to continue to provide superior service to the public. Piscataway Library circulated over 490,000 items, hosted programs for over 13,000 community members, and received over 448,000 visits during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

With the generous donations of funding from the Friends of Piscataway Public Library and private donors, the Library was able to initiate two exciting projects, the creation of a café area as well as a teen area at the J. F. Kennedy Library. The grand opening for both areas is scheduled for December 2008.

The Library continued to act as the learning and cultural center of the Township and provided a wide variety of programming such as National Hispanic Heritage Month programs; Black History Month programs; and a Gala Event for the display of photos from students of the Lakeview School (Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County). Piscataway Library also offered creative writing and acting workshops to teens; ESL Conversation Groups; and a summer reading program which promoted literacy to over 1,100 children and teens.

As library usage increases across the state, Piscataway Public Library will continue to strive to provide the best library service to our Library customers. With continued strong support from the township of Piscataway, the Friends of Piscataway Public Library and private donors, the Library staff and the Board of Trustees have the passion and ideas to make Piscataway Public Library the best library in New Jersey.

Piscataway Library Countdown

490,994	Items Borrowed
448,054	Visitors to Library
196,752	Items Owned
157,312	Visitors to Web Site
33,471	Questions Answered
20,007	Library Cardholders
15,299	New Items Added
13,511	Program Attendees
368	Library Programs
56	Staff Members
2	Library Branches
1	Great Library for Piscataway

John F. Kennedy Library
500 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854
732-463-1633
Fax 732-463-9022

Johanna W. Westergard Library
20 Murray Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854
732-752-1166
Fax 732-752-1951

Web Address
www.piscatawaylibrary.org

24-Hour Live Reference Service through QandANJ
www.qandanj.org

Affiliations
Libraries of Middlesex

Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium

Infotlink Eastern New Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

Highlights of the Year

Awards/Donations

The Friends of Piscataway Public Library received a \$10,000 donation from long time Piscataway resident and Library supporter Julia Plotnick. These funds, along with additional funds from the Friends, were used to re-carpet and furnish the new Teen Scene which will provide Piscataway youth a library space of their own to explore new interests and interact with their peers.

In early 2008, the Snaidas family donated \$1,000 to the Library and established the Al Snaidas Fund to supplement the Library's DVD Collection. In addition to their own generous donation to the Library, the Snaidas family also donated \$500 in a matching grant for DVDs.

Rounding out the year, in the Spring of 2008, the Library was the recipient of two awards from the New Jersey Library Association. The first was a Library Champion Award given to Julia Plotnick and the second was a Journalism Award for a Series of Articles about the Library written by Jared Kaltwasser, a Staff Writer with the Courier News.

2007 Summer Reading Clubs

Over 1,000 children registered for the "Get a Clue @ your library" Summer Reading Club. Also over 60 teens registered for the Young Adult Reading Club, "YNK (You Never Know) @ your library."

Community Activities

The Library continued an active community program participating in the M. L. King School's Senior Reading Buddies program; holding a gala opening and an exhibit for the S.E.E. Program which showcased environmental issues through photographs taken by children with developmental disabilities; and hosting informational tables at the Township's Adult Health Clinic and Street Fair.

The Children's Services Department continued their visits to nursery schools and daycare centers reaching 1,321 children this past fiscal year; provided outreach to Piscataway Schools and hosted tours for 124 second grade students; brought Puppet Shows to 621 first graders; and participated in Martin Luther King School's Career Day.

In other areas, Young Adult Services provided Booktalks to 1,116 Middle School students.

Special Programs

Over 80 Teens partnered with primary grade students to hone reading skills and promote the love of reading when the Teen Reading Buddies program returned to the Library during the summer of 2007 and winter of 2008.

Over 250 people celebrated their cultural heritage at the Library this past year. In September, National Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with a month-long schedule of music, crafts, films and displays from Latin American countries.

Then in February, Black History Month was commemorated with author programs for both adults and children. Visitors were able to meet their favorite author up close and personal when Alpha Langlais author of "Deanna's Delightful Day," and Valerie Wilson Wesley, author of the Tamara Hayle mystery series and Willimena Rules! childrens series visited the Library.

New Collections and Services

In the Fall of 2007, the Library added a new format to its Audiobook Collection — Playaways — pre-loaded MP3 players for adult and juvenile books. Also in the Fall, the Library premiered MyLibraryDV, a unique, on-demand, downloadable video service offering 24/7 virtual access to over 450 classic movies, TV shows and PBS programming.

Books to Talk About premiered in the Spring. A quick, easy and exciting way to hold a book discussion group, these kits contain six to eight copies of one book, along with discussion guides. There are currently 15 titles available.

Piscataway also began offering residents the latest in self-teaching computer courses with the Video Professor. Using the "What-You-See-Is-What-You-Do" style of teaching, Library cardholders are able to learn Microsoft programs at their own speed.

Children's Services began offering a Preschool Outreach Book Delivery Program to day care and nursery schools. These Outreach Kits supplement their curriculum with a variety of reading materials.

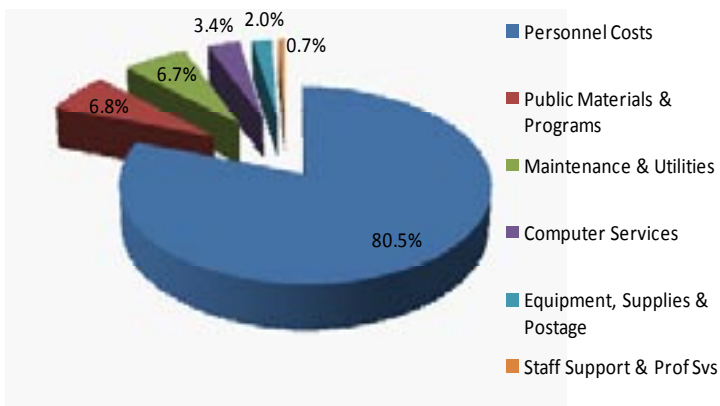
This past Summer, Corfacts, the popular business-to-business directory, was added to the Library's online database offerings. It provides immediate access to up-to-date information on over 56,000 New Jersey companies in services and manufacturing.

And helping busy customers move along, Kennedy Library unveiled a new self-check out unit this year.

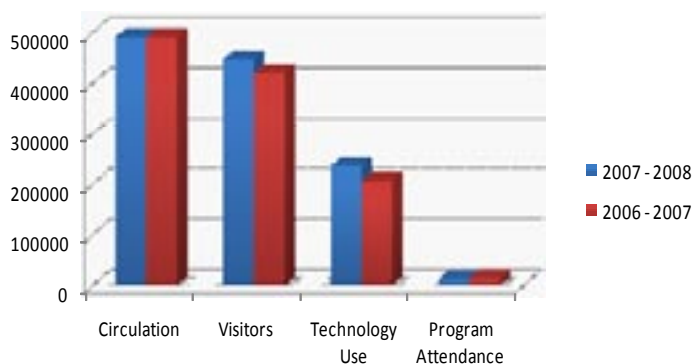


Facts and Figures

2007-2008 Expenditures



Library Activities



Expenditures

2007 - 2008

Personnel Costs	\$2,053,071.00
Public Materials & Programs	173,550.00
Maintenance & Utilities	170,985.00
Computer Services	85,625.00
Equipment, Supplies & Postage	51,035.00
Staff Support & Professional Services	16,700.00
Total	\$2,550,966.00

2006 - 2007

Personnel Costs	\$2,060,539.00
Public Materials & Programs	324,400.00
Maintenance & Utilities	166,725.00
Computer Services	87,500.00
Equipment, Supplies & Postage	81,265.00
Staff Support & Professional Services	31,310.00
Total	\$2,751,739.00

Support from the Friends of the Library

The Friends of Piscataway Library continued their membership and fundraising activities, raising over \$12,800 this past fiscal year and providing needed financial and advocacy support to further the Library's mission to be Piscataway's informational and cultural center.

Book sales reached an all time high this year as the Friends unveiled their Book Sale Room at the J. F. Kennedy Library and an enhanced book sale space at the J. W. Westergard Library. The increased space and visibility make it possible to feature many more items and formats including DVDs, recorded books, puzzles and magazines. These new sale spaces are the perfect partners to the traditional BIG Book Sales, held twice a year, which continue to attract crowds with their array of titles and subjects.

Major support was provided to the Library through the Friends underwriting of the new flooring at Kennedy Library in the main entrance through to the new Book Bytes Café. Julia Plotnick, a long-time Piscataway resident, also generously donated \$10,000 to the Friends and these funds were used to re-carpet and furnish the new Teen Scene Room.

In addition to this major financial support, the Friends

of the Library provided funds for programs for Children and Teens during the Summer Reading Clubs; programs for Adults for National Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month; purchased a portable sound system for the Library; provided two new paperback racks for the Children's Services Department; and supported the cost of printing and mailing the Library's newsletter, "News & Events."



Mission Statement

In response to community needs, the Piscataway Public Library provides free and open access to information through professionally selected resources in a welcoming environment. We are a gateway to knowledge which enables the enrichment and empowerment of our whole community.

A Message from the Board President



*Evelyn M. Hartmann
President
Piscataway Library
Board of Trustees*

The Piscataway Public Library serves a diverse population in a community of over 54,000 residents throughout a 20 square mile area. In order to provide the most meaningful library service to the many ethnic groups within its borders, a Strategic Plan was developed more than ten years ago by the Library Administration with participation by the Staff, Trustees and members of the community. The Strategic Plan, which has been updated several times and is reviewed regularly in terms of whether the designated goals are being reached, has been the foundation for the initiation and enhancement of special collections designed to meet the information needs and requests of those who use the Piscataway Public Library.

The Library offers a collection of Large Print fiction and non-fiction books; CDs; DVDs; and audiobooks on CDs, tapes and the newest pre-loaded MP3 PlayAways. An extensive ESL collection of books and other audio and video materials complements the active ESL program which takes place in Piscataway. World Language children's materials are available in Spanish, Chinese, German, French, Italian, Hindi, Gujarati, Tagalog and Japanese. Adults enjoy extensive World Language holdings in Chinese, Hindi, Gujarati and Spanish including music and films on DVDs. In prior years, the adult programming included a very popular series of foreign films.

An unexpected substantial reduction in the Piscataway municipal appropriations for the Library in the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year resulted in the elimination of Sunday hours, the Bookmobile service and programs for adults and teens. Books and non-print collections could not be replenished at the anticipated level. Nevertheless, the Trustees, Administration and Staff have focused on finding alternative sources of funds to restore materials and other services according to the Strategic Plan, and they remain committed to providing the best quality library service to the citizens of Piscataway.

The Management Team

Township of Piscataway

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Business Administrator

Lyn A. Evers

Director of Finance

Daniel Lamptey

Township Council

Kenneth Armwood

Steven D. Cahn

Michael Griffith

Mark Hardenburg

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Millie Scott

Piscataway Library Board of Trustees

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Eleanor Owens

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Superintendent's Representative

Elise Bieksha

Members

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Harold A. Parra

William Waldman



Administrative Staff of Piscataway Public Library

Director

James K. Keebler

Assistant Director

Molly Newling

Supervisor

Adult/Young Adult Services

Mary Piekarski

Supervisor

Children's Services

Patricia Simmonds

Supervisor

Technical Services/Technology

Jack Xi

Supervisor of Circulation

Kennedy Library

Sharon Lovich

Supervisor of Circulation

Westergard Library

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