

LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS  
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**ANNUAL, 2007**

This year seemed to pass in a flash, despite the fact that no major building change took place. Most of the action was “internal” and it amplifies our existence today—constant change. Change is the constant in all the department reports that follow. I cannot imagine a scenario where we could sit back and say, “aha—we’re done!”

*“The universe is change; our life is what our thoughts make it”*

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, 121-180

*“It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be...This, in turn, means that our statesmen, our businessmen, our everyman must take on a science fictional way of thinking.”*

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), Russian-born U.S. author.

“My Own View” (published in The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, ed. by Robert Holdstock, 1978; repr. in Asimov on Science Fiction, 1981).

*“I’ve been drunk for about a week now, and I thought it might sober me up to sit in a library.”*

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940), U.S. author.

An unnamed guest at one of Gatsby’s parties in “The Great Gatsby,” ch. 3 (1925)

The following figures will give you some idea of the hum of activity ever present in the building. An added event this year was our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Chaired by Debbie Pocci and Fran Fauver, with a great committee to assist them, the day’s events were planned to celebrate the library and include as many of our patrons and supporters as possible. Our “Time Capsule” will be buried in the spring. We can only imagine the scene at 214 Main Street one hundred years from now, when the capsule will be unearthed.

*In 2007, 5,389 patrons attended 296 adult programs/meetings/events.*

*Our 239 juvenile events attracted 5,503 youngsters and adults.*

*The people counter recorded 222,749 persons entering the building.*

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the repair work to be done at the rear of the building. This will stop the water leaking in to the lower level that did so much damage earlier in the year. The contract has been signed and we are waiting for a break in the contractor’s schedule to do this relatively minor task.

We also are looking forward to the planting of two trees, one from each municipality, to honor our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The timing is crucial in the planting of trees.

We had a lightning strike on the building in October which was quite severe. It took out 28 surge protectors and stopped the elevator between floors, trapping a custodian for almost two hours until the fire department was able to free him. Although the surge protectors had to be replaced, they first did their job of protecting the 60 computers we have throughout the building.

## AUTOMATION

Last year the libraries throughout Morris County offered NetLibrary to our patrons. This is an audiobook service which allows patrons to download books to a PC or MP3 player. Over the course of the year, we became unhappy with the service and will be dropping it at the end of January 2008. A new service called Overdrive will take its place. It has more titles, better service, and a cheaper price tag.

We continue to fine-tune our Web page in order to better serve our patrons. Our system also allows patrons to see their accounts, renew materials, and put items on hold. Annotations and book covers of new acquisitions are also available on-line.

In September we had to replace some PCs, monitors, scanners, and printers with cables. These were paid for through the Automation Depreciation account.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends had another totally successful year. Their annual book Sale took place on Friday, March 9, followed by several days of continued book sales. They took in \$20,000 after expenses, which is almost an all-time high. Having the space in the basement to prepare for the book sale pretty much all year long, makes it possible for them to present a wonderful, orderly collection of books for sale.

They were a great help at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. They sold Friends' items at one booth, gave away free books at another (leftovers from their sale), and served birthday cake to the public.

Because the Friends have a healthy treasury, they offered to buy some needed items for the Library for which we had no discretionary funds. These items included \$7,000 for audiovisual materials (\$5,000 for adult and \$2,000 for Juvenile), \$2,000 for Juvenile programming, furniture for the Children's Room, shelving, track lighting, a new map case, etc. These things are greatly appreciated.

John Gardner of the Friends' Board, and his wife Helen, continue to care for the plants around the Library building. Several gardening clubs help in that process. What a difference their work has made to the appearance of the Library.

And, finally, they continued their annual events, including the Volunteer Luncheon in April (Barbara Minor was Volunteer of the Year), school librarians' luncheon with staff members in May, special events for staff and public during National Library Week, and topped off by the annual Holiday party in December.

## GIFTS

December was a banner month for gifts! Jim and Connie McNamara gave us \$500 in memory of Elizabeth P. McNamara (split between adult and juvenile); Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Smith donated \$100; Marion Stickel gave us \$100; Efren Gonzalez set up a memorial fund for his mother, Grace Doherty Gonzalez in the amount of \$1,000; Herbert Pappky's fund was increased by \$50; Greg Wilkinson added \$100 to his mother's fund for large print books (Ellen Wilkinson); \$100 was added to the Woman's Club book fund by Philip Sproul in memory of his wife; the Marshall Family gave their annual gift of \$300 for juvenile books (it will be doubled by a corporate match); and the Eigen Family increased their book fund by \$2,500. The Children's Room received an additional \$500 from the Buesing Fund set up by the Knistrom Foundation. The Friends of The Library passed on \$5,000 for adult audiovisual items and \$2,000 for juvenile AV items. Margaret Nicolais gifted the staff with \$500 for the Sunshine Fund, and \$100 was received from a wedding performed by the Mayor. The grand total was \$12,850. In addition, we received our annual \$2,000 gift from the Charles L. Read Foundation, and another \$2,000 was voted by the Friends to be designated for juvenile funds.

In 2007, actual gifts totaled \$17,150. Over the year, the Library spent \$13,489 on gift books, and \$5,785 in gift funds on periodicals, audiovisual items, juvenile events, and miscellaneous equipment.

### HIGHLANDS REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

This organization continues to hold wonderful meetings during the year. They also led the drive to bring on Overdrive, our new audiobook vendor. They coordinate the State-sponsored ILL delivery system, which becomes more important to us each year.

### MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY

We continue to use the Morris County Library for most large meetings, including the MAIN Planning Council. It has a large meeting room, is centrally located, and has wonderful parking facilities.

### MORRIS-UNION FEDERATION

MUF continues to function effortlessly, due to great cooperation between member libraries. The Annual Advisory Council dinner meeting was held in May and the fall advisory council meeting was also held, as usual. We continue to contribute \$1,500 per year, and in return get a like amount or slightly smaller back to purchase books in our specialty.

### PERSONNEL

In March we lost a part-time circulation library assistant, Evelyn Kolb. She had been with us since 1999, and died of cancer. A sixteen-year veteran of the Technical Services department retired and moved to California; her replacement is Polly Bonasera, and she is working out very well.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Director serves on the MAIN committees of Membership and Finance; is the Treasurer of the Morris-Union Federation; attends Library Board meetings and Friends of The Library Board meetings, and occasional meetings of several service organizations in the community, i.e., Woman's Club, Kiwanis Club, Historical Societies, Chatham Church Women, Jaycees, etc., which regularly give to the Library.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES – Jayashree Chatterjee, Head

The end of December is invariably full of mixed emotions. It is a time of nostalgia for the year that is past and heightened expectations for the year that is commencing. In the Children's Department, we achieved quite a lot in 2007. We organized many special programs; we helped patrons find information and we added new materials to our collection. Playaways, self-contained audio books, are one of these new materials, and they have proved to be very popular. The year past has been a very satisfactory one; but we are also looking forward to the year present and to trying out new programming ideas.

Community Participation In Programs: Happily, both Chatham residents and Chatham-based organizations show a keen interest in our activities. They either sponsor our programs or help us run them. Some of them give us grants to buy materials that we would not be able to buy with our regular budget funds.

Many Chatham residents participate in the running of our programs by being volunteer storytime leaders. With more mothers entering the workforce, in 2007 we did not have as many leaders as we did in 2006, but even so, we were able to provide a large variety of storytimes. In 2007, three of these leaders helped us do special storytimes at the Farmer's Market as well. Five school students also participated in these Farmers' Market storytimes by playing an instrument or singing. They practiced hard and did a great job. We are very proud of them.

There were other areas in which people from the community worked with us. High school student Irene Kim came in throughout the school year and pulled books on the Dusty Book Report. In the summer, Ellen

O'Loughlin made theme-related mobiles for the Reading Club. We used them to decorate the Children's Room. During the Reading Club itself, one of the reasons why we were able to listen to several thousand book reports was that 73 high school and middle school volunteers helped us. Students from Chatham High School also helped us publicize the Reading Club by staging the kick-off play. This is an activity that we organized several years ago and, fortunately, we have been able to find new volunteers every year. In 2007, high school student Diana O'Malley directed the Reading Club play which was performed by her classmates.

Two students from Lafayette Avenue School joined in our list of well wishers in 2007. For their birthday, twins Stephanie and Jackie Crater asked their friends to donate checks to the Children's Department so that we could buy new books. Finally, mention must be made of Ruthann Wichelman who helped us with our day-to-day tasks throughout the year. We truly appreciate everything that she does for us.

Many organizations worked with us as well. The Friends of The Library usually sponsor most of our programs; this year, when we needed extra volunteers to run some of our events, we turned to the Friends. They manned some of our Harry Potter crafts tables in the summer and, in the fall, they helped with the Halloween Parade. The Woman's Club of Chatham paid for our Reading Club incentive prizes. The Kiwanis Club sponsored the end-of-summer picnic. Many of our crafts program were paid for by the James McNamara Family and the Chatham Newcomers' and Neighbors' Club. Also, a very generous grant from the Ann L. Buesing Fund enabled us to hire quality performers. The Chatham students of ECLC sang Holiday Songs for us in December and in the fall, they worked on reading our shelves. Other Chatham-based organizations assisted us in buying materials for our collection. The Jaycees made it possible for us to purchase Playaways. The other organizations that helped in this area were The Mom's Club of Berkeley Heights/Chatham/New Providence/ Summit, the Glasser Foundation, and long-standing donors like The Marshall Family and the MacGregor Fund.

Cooperation between the Public Library and the Public Schools: The media specialists of our school district work well with us. During the school year, they help publicize our programs and we do special book displays for their school projects. Right now, for instance, we are about to begin pulling books for the Lafayette School Science Fair. Also, as in previous years, in 2007, Maureen Stryker of Lafayette School asked us for suggestions for her Summer Reading List and Dr. Kuhn of Washington Avenue School did his kite-making workshop.

It is in May and June, when we publicize the Reading Club, that the media specialists work with us in a very special way. In 2007, at Southern Boulevard, Mike D'Aloia and Mrs. Chatterjee presented a puppet show that was written by D'Aloia and based on the Reading Club theme. At Milton Avenue School, Jennifer Ciffrodella went to all the classes with Jay and spoke about her experiences as a child and a participant in her library reading club. Dr. Kuhn of Washington Avenue School gave us a journal article about keeping reading skills alive in the summer. Also, this year, to our surprise and delight, some of the teachers started reinforcing what we were saying. At Lafayette School, Mr. Cronin told his students that his daughters had always joined the Reading Club; another teacher said that our oral book reports were good practice for the oral book reports she required her fifth grade students to give her, and at Milton Avenue School, a teacher spoke spontaneously on how good she thought our Reading Club was. The media specialists have always felt free to endorse what Mrs. Chatterjee has said. Now it is very satisfying to see the teachers do so, also.

Performances: 2007 was a wonderful year to experiment with different kinds of performers and performances. We were able to do this because The Friends of The Library, the Ann L. Buesing Children's Fund and the Chatham Newcomers' and Neighbors' Club gave us extra funds. We tried to accomplish two different things with our new budget: offer more arts and crafts programs and organize programs for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. To this end, we had eight different arts and crafts programs, two of which were specifically designed for older children. We also had a special yoga program (conducted by Susan Ahlstrom of Yoga Studio in Madison) for this older age group. As our statistics show, our arts and crafts programs for younger children, though limited to twenty children each, were well attended. We did not get a big turn out for our programs for older children--about 10 girls attended each of these events--but given the fact that this age group does not come to our programs, this was a big achievement.

There were other special programs that we were able to offer throughout the year: Meet Mozart by professional musician Dennis Kobray was expensive at \$ 500, but was also very good. Fun with Energy was a science program. We were also able to offer two different kinds of sing-alongs for the preschoolers who form our largest patron base. Miss Candy and Carolyn Dempsey presented programs that were both entertaining and instructive.

Summer Reading Program: We had 582 participants in our Reading Club and they read 9,008 books. 311 of them earned their picnic invitations. Parents had positive things to say about the questions we asked participants and Mrs. Elliot, mother of second grader Thomas Elliot, said our questions stretched her son's comprehension level.

Collection Development: In the year that saw the publication of the last Harry Potter book, it is no surprise that many publishers came out with science fiction titles and that our largest acquisitions were in the fiction category. Apart from buying bestsellers like Un Lun Dun and The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flannel, we also bought old favorites like the Star Wars books. Our next biggest category was picture books, followed by books on science experiments and biographies. We bought books in the last two categories with school projects in mind. We also bought audio books in a new format, Playaways (a gift from the Chatham Jaycees).

Staff News: The Children's Room staff does a great job. The weekend staff members, Alice Roche and Jean Morrissey, work very well, and our main page, Henry Mann, is reliable and hardworking. During the school year, he is assisted by Adriana Tosun, who also works full-time with us in the summer. Jaime Sabonya is both efficient and creative. Our staff makes the Children's Room a welcoming place for patrons where most informational needs are met. One of the best compliments we received in this respect was from Susan Amlin, a visitor from Bayside, Queens, NY. She said, "It's wonderful to see so many happy children using your library and all its services."

ADULT SERVICES: Deborah Fitzgerald, Head

Art Shows: Nine art shows took place this year: The Essex Water Color Club, Frank McDonough (mosaics), the Drew Art Association, Medy Bozkurtian (oils and watercolors), Bridget Bossart Van Otterloo (watercolors), Jill Vandervor-Frank/Elizabeth Weiss/Rosemary Howlett (watercolors and oils), the New Jersey Photography Forum, the Woman's Club Community Art Show, and Don Klein (photography). In most cases, the Friends of The Library host a reception for the artist. Attendance totaled 375 persons.

The Library is the site of many community meetings; in 2007, 192 meetings were held, with attendance of 2,661. Examples of groups meeting here include Friends' meetings, Board of Trustee meeting; Chatham Community Band, Chatham Girl Scouts, local Democrat and Republican Committees, the Sierra Club, the Woman's Club of Chatham, Chatham Community Players, Chatham Boy Scouts, Embroiderers Guild, Newcomers and Neighbors Club, League of Women Voters, Chatham Historical Society, several Garden Clubs, Chatham Soccer United, Little League, the Adult School, La Leche League, Garden State Quilters, and the Fishawack Inc. committee. The Library also offers monthly Blood Pressure Screenings and a Notary Service.

The Adult Services Department plans a variety of programs open to the public: films and film discussions; armchair travel talks, author talks, social services discussions (finances, dealing with Alzheimers, college admissions, depression, writer's workshop, etc.), and special young adult activities. Ninety-five such programs were held in 2007, drawing in 2,353 participants.

Our volunteers help file catalog cards, look for missing titles, repair damaged books, help with weeding (pull designated books from the collection), work on our press files, organize and straighten shelves, staff the blood pressure screening, process books and AV materials, and help prepare overdue notices and look for books that

may have been returned. Despite volunteer numbers diminishing by 12, 127 volunteers contributed almost 2,400 hours of (free) service. We greatly appreciate the time and talents these volunteers have given the staff and public over the past year. Our pages are doing a good job keeping up with shelving.

In 2007, Ms. Fitzgerald added 168 titles to the Young Adult collection and 166 compact discs to the audio collection. We experienced a decrease in meeting room use at the Library by 20%; however, there was only a 2% decrease in meeting room attendance from last year. There was a decrease by 12% in Library-sponsored programs in the past year; however, there was an increase by 28% at these meetings over last year's attendance. There was a small decrease in numbers of people entering the Library; however, this number may not be accurate, as we had several problems with the automatic counting device.

#### REFERENCE SERVICES: Joan Hipp, Head

As we read over the monthly reference reports for 2007, it is nice to see all the positive comments we received from the public. We started off the year with a compliment on our technological resources, "You are so much nicer than Staples. I'll never go there again." This was followed in March with a comment on the collection and reserves, "You have saved me hundreds of dollars. I don't have to buy the books, just reserve them." A patron expressed his delight with our Morningstar database in April; the fact that he could access it from home made him even happier. In May, this comment reflected on our service, "Thank you for your help. I really enjoyed coming here." We received a compliment on the quality of our keyboards and chairs. In October, even though we were down for an upgrade, a patron raved about the convenience of requesting books and picking them up anywhere in the County. He even whispered that he would be willing to pay for this service. Now, that is a happy patron. In 2007, obviously we were doing something right.

Many of the things we do are the same year after year. We start out by providing tax forms; help with school assignments; and get books for book groups. There is always a big push in June and then at the end of August for summer reading list books. There seemed to be an increase in interest in book clubs. The collection of paperbacks for book groups that we put together from donations was heavily used. This is an ongoing project for us. We try to collect donated copies of popular, suitable titles for book groups and provide discussion guides for the books.

We provided one-on-one classes for the public explaining how to use the Library Catalog. We also provided group classes on the Catalog and the Morningstar database. We received very positive feedback from those that attended but attendance was lighter than we hoped.

Our patrons have access to over 30 online subscription databases. MAIN pays for six and the State provides seven. We provided 17 and were able to add three at the end of the year for a total of 20. This is an impressive collection of online resources. The information included in these databases is authoritative, of a high quality, and designed to be user friendly. It is far superior to what one can just google. A wide range of subjects and materials are available in this electronic collection. Types of materials included are full text magazine articles, financial reports, primary sources, and images; subjects covered include finance, science, history, literature, antiques, genealogy, and more.

NetLibrary's collection of downloadable audio-books became available to our patrons. MAIN purchased a subscription. Patrons were initially enthusiastic but seemed to stop downloading books after using a few times. It does not work with iPods because of copyright software, and this is problem. Next year patrons will still be able to get downloadable audio-books but we will be using a less expensive vendor, OverDrive. OverDrive does not work directly with iPods, but it does allow patrons to burn books to CDs and one can use the burned CDs to load a book onto one's iPod for personal use.

The Library's webpage was redesigned in June. Kris Keyser and Mrs. Hipp worked on the redesign. It was well received. Later in the year Mary Kennedy worked with Kris to develop a homework help page for the website. This is a nice addition.

Displays provide an opportunity for us to highlight items in the collection for the public. In 2007 we took advantage of our display space on the shelves across from the park entrance. We had several successful displays. To promote the paperback book group collection, we did a "Bundles of Books" display. Our "Dewey Decimal" display featured items from all parts of the collection. The year ended with a very popular display featuring gift of the Friends of The Library, our personal Santa, grouped around a mock fireplace. Both the public and the staff enjoy the displays. We experimented with "displaying" a puzzle to be put together by the public. It was a resounding success, and for the past few months, we have had one going all the time.

We developed handouts for the public. We put together a flyer highlighting business resources. This would be ideal to distribute at the train station. We created bookmarks of suggested titles, such as "Feel Good Reads" and "Crime in the City."

We had upgrades to SIRSI in May and October. These went fairly well. OLIS learned from the May upgrade; therefore, the October upgrade was smoother and took less than the expected amount of time.

Since more libraries are using the SAM time management software system and the server is over two years old, a new server for SAM was purchased. Unfortunately, the switch to the new server caused a number of problems. We went back to using the old server and were still resolving problems a month after the initial attempt to switch. This led to a meeting of all libraries using SAM. The libraries worked on a list of issues and expectations which were communicated to Comprise, the vendor of SAM. We will attempt the server switch again in 2008 with a firm support plan in place.

The PCs held up well for most of the year. A lightning strike on Main Street took out most of our surge protectors and the motherboard on one PC. The motherboard was replaced under the service contract and we purchased new, high quality surge protectors for all the PCs. We replaced two monitors, one in the children's room and one in reference. The Director's laptop needed new hardware components, which were replaced under service contract. Late in the year we replaced two staff PCs, the technical services office PC, and a circulation office PC. We reused the PCs that were replaced for offline functions.

There are a few new things at the reference desk. Patrons were asking for color printouts, so we added a color printer at the reference desk. This way we can produce a color print for them but we do not need to change our current public PC printer set up. Since we had to get updated barcode scanners for the new PCs, we moved one of the older scanners to the reference desk. We updated all the construction and building code books that we keep at the desk.

Early in the year there were two staff changes for part time positions. Judy Leane resigned from the Sunday afternoon position and was replaced by Cathy Prince, a reference librarian from Summit. Lauren Ryan changed jobs, so we had to find a replacement for her as well. Samina Majeed is now working for us on Saturday afternoons. Mrs. Prince and Mrs. Majeed are working out very well and we are happy to have them on our weekend staff along with Mrs. Sweitzer and Mr. Schriek.

All year our staff tries to improve their reference skills and learn new things. An enjoyable training task occurred early in 2007. The MAIN Access Committee conducted a database scavenger hunt. There were a number of questions that librarians had to answer using the online databases. Two of our staff won top prizes, Mary Kennedy and Jay Chatterjee. In-house, we had ten short database training sessions. Mrs. Chatterjee, Ms. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Hipp attended the NJLA conference in the spring. Ms. Fitzgerald attended a vendor

provided session on the RefUSA database. Mrs. Kennedy attended a workshop on preservation and an open house at Newark Public Library.

Mrs. Hipp continues to co-chair the MAIN Access Committee. In 2007 she reported to the MAIN Planning Council and MAIN Finance Committee. The committee prepared a proposal for MAIN to purchase a subscription to the Facts on File database when the State dropped it mid-year. We are happy to say that MAIN did decide to make the purchase. We also prepared and presented the external budget request for MAIN. At the end of the year we presented a proposal for the purchase of OverDrive audio-books to replace the NetLibrary subscription.

Some interesting numbers for 2007: At the end of the year, there were 62 PCs in the Library, 34 used by the public for a variety of purposes, such as searching the Library Catalog, accessing the Internet, playing children's games, doing word processing, or searching digitized images of the Chatham Courier (we are lucky to have use of a fund set up by Margaret Nicolais to pay for the digitizing service; we have so far digitized five years (1979-2004) at a cost of \$5,000). More will be done each year.

Patrons have access to over 33 authoritative subscription online databases. Of these, 30 may be accessed from their home PCs 24/7 via the Library's webpage. Over 15,800 searches were done in the databases. Of those, over 7,700 were done in databases paid for by Chatham, and over 8,090 searches were done in databases provided by MAIN and the State.

There were 134,453 hits to the Library's webpage, an increase of 34,271 (25%) over 2006. In the Library, patrons logged onto the Library's PCs 34,848 times. There were over 7,330 accesses to the Library Catalog, and over 47,352 accesses to the Internet on Library PCs.

#### TECHNICAL SERVICES, Rosalind Libbey, Head

In 2007 we added a total of 4,840 books to the collection. This was an increase from 2006 of 347 volumes, a greater increase than in the last few years. We deleted 3,100 volumes from the collection, a decrease of 430 volumes from 2006. At the end of the year, we had added 1,740 more volumes than we had weeded. Surprisingly, this increase did not "eat up" as much space as might have been expected; still, we will keep our weeding figures high for 2008, with an eye towards shelf use.

Most of our books were purchased with general budget funds. 267 were purchased using special funds, 123 were general donations, and 756 were specific gifts. Each year, these gifts demonstrate the generosity of our patrons. Gift books are listed as a percentage of each Dewey classification rather than simply as a percentage of total books added; throughout 2007 they averaged 17% of each month's acquisitions.

The audio-visual figures for 2007 were: 1,236 items added, 163 more than in 2006. 221 items were deleted, 157 more than in 2006. The breakdown of audiovisual items added is: 166 music CDs; 99 books on CD; 71 Books on Tape; 37 videos; 840 DVDs; and 23 Playaways, the newest format of audio, which combines a wide variety of content with an easy-to-use player, all contained in one small unit.

The total acquisition figures for 2007 are: 4,840 books and 1,236 audio-visual items for a total of 6,076 items added. Deletions show 3,100 books and 221 audio-visual items for a total of 3,321 items deleted. The net increase to the collection of both books and AV items for 2007 is 2,755, a generous increase, which will nevertheless have to be offset by increased weeding in 2008, except for the AV items. Space in that area is still very available.

Early in 2007 we established a "popular holds" collection of books that are available to patrons on a first-come-first-served basis (other libraries cannot request these particular books, although of course we have other copies of the same title that do circulate). This collection has proven very popular with our patrons. We receive a



report each week which shows what titles are most in demand, and we purchase additional copies accordingly. As these titles wane in popularity, they are weeded and transferred to the book sale collection—this year should be a banner year for people looking for “best sellers” at our annual sale.

The MAIN Technical Services Committee continued with the “nuts and bolts” of the Workflows database through regular meetings. Changes such as the adding of new locations and items types were made; barcode validation, long anticipated, was done last month in preparation for a migration to SirsiNet. Updates from OLIS also took place during the course of the year. Unicorn is a complex database, and learning to work with it efficiently is an ongoing process.

Jean Lamont, a Technical Services assistant for many years, retired in October and moved with her husband to California. We were sorry to lose her, but were delighted that Polly Bonasera joined our department in Jean’s place, and learned the “ropes” very quickly. We have also been extremely appreciative of the help of volunteers who assist with book covering, pulling books from the shelves for weeding, and filing.

The percentage-of-acquisition column on the Additions (Adult) statistics sheet shows the **percentage** of books acquired in a particular category, not funds expended for that category. These figures are similar to previous years; fiction is the most purchased category (37%). Next, and very close to each other, are Reference, Health, Domestic, Social Sciences and History. We keep these preferences in mind when selecting books. Our aim is to purchase what patrons wish, keeping our shelves well stocked across a wide spectrum.

We buy best-sellers on a regular basis, and generous gift funds have enabled us to purchase other items that otherwise might not be included. Three outstanding Oversize volumes purchased with gift funds this year are: America In Space: NASA’s First Fifty Years; Donald Johanson’s From Lucy To Language; and 30,000 Years Of Art: The Story Of Human Creativity Across Time And Space.

DOB/kr

#### Glossary:

MAIN – Morris Automated Information Network

MUF – Morris-Union Federation

ILL – Interlibrary Loan

OLIS – Online Library Information Services

SAM – Time & Print Management Software for Public PC’s