

Director's Report for 2011

Visits and Computer Access

Patrons and visitors came to the library 70,616 times in 2011, a slight increase from 2010. Public computer use was increasingly popular in 2011, with 12,445 computer sessions recorded. In addition to physical visits to the Library, the Library website was visited 44,601 times in 2011, an almost 4 times increase from 2010.

Collection and Circulation

27,344 materials circulated in 2011, including 18,019 books. One of the greatest areas of growth in the collection was electronic content. The downloadable eBooks grew from 224 titles to 1,576 and downloadable audiobooks grew from 872 titles to 1,249.

In addition, 1,745 books were added to our holdings of 22,794 catalogued books. We owe a great thanks to our Adopt a Book participants and to the Friends of the Hudson Area Library for their continued support of our collection development efforts.

Programs

The Children's Programs were especially strong in 2011. In total 202 program sessions were offered for children. Our early literacy program, offered by Janice Scali, increased from 43 to 154 sessions, with attendance increasing from 316 to 849 participants in 2011. Over the summer we offered 33 program sessions with attendance of 693. This is over three times the number of sessions offered in 2010, as well as over three times the number of participants. Marlene Parmentier facilitated the summer reading program and brought in several guest presenters including environmental educators, a musician, and a storyteller.

There were several regularly occurring programs that enriched the library experience for adult and young adult patrons in 2011. Our community partners Questar III and Literacy Connections offered ESL and GED programs throughout the year. The Columbia County Photo Club also began meeting regularly at the Library in 2011. The Library offered regular Spanish language classes, a Library book club, the Hudson Valley Tutoring Program for teens during the spring, and computer classes for adults.

Personnel

I wish to express a sincere thanks to our Library staff, Anne Terwilliger, Tuni Schefano, Janice Scali, Ellen Henderson, and Wendy Kanel, as well as our many volunteers for their commitment, hard work, and spirit. I also want to recognize the passing of our dear friend and colleague Kathleen Hintze, who worked at the Library just about to the end of her life. She was a kind, witty, and hard working lady, and it was an honor to share a tight little office space with her.

Looking Forward

In addition to working with the Board, community, and consultants in planning our future home, we will continue to work towards our mission of enriching the lives of our community members through program offerings, services, and material lending. Goals for 2012 include: 1) improving user access to information, 2) evaluating and developing our collection, and 3) increasing community awareness of and participation in our programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Chameides
March 14, 2012