

Total Library Materials	\$14,874	\$14,700
Telephone	\$1,620	\$1,620
Electricity	\$4,435	\$4,400
Fuel	\$8,400	\$10,700
Water/Sewer	\$790	\$800
Supplies	\$2,300	\$2,300
Postage	\$550	\$550
Professional Activities	\$1,300	\$900
Programs	\$1,000	\$1,000
Furniture/Equipment	\$750	\$600
Elevator	\$1,600	\$1,700
Maintenance	\$4,400	\$4,400
Automation/Cataloging	\$2,400	\$2,500
Computer	\$1,000	\$1,500
Misc Expense	\$200	\$300
Total Expense	\$110,382	\$115,309
\$\$ Change In Expense from 2011		\$4,927
% Change from 2011		4.46%



MERIDEN LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Meriden Library had another year of growth and positive movement on our long term goals. The library was busy, 5751 patrons visited this year, which compared to 4945 in 2010, is approximately a 15 % increase! We served an average of 30 patrons each day we were open—remarkable for a small library. The library circulated 7763 items, a 23% increase over last year’s circulation. In terms of dollar value that would equal \$116,445.00. **

In January we launched a new web site allowing patrons on-line access to library

information. Patrons can now see a calendar of events, access resources through state funded databases, see the library's latest acquisitions and much more. We are enormously grateful to Mike Sutherland for his work on developing and maintaining the site.

We added 584 items to our existing collection of approximately 10,000 fiction and non-fiction books, reference materials, recorded books and videos. In April we applied for and received a *Books for Children* grant from the Libri Foundation, a nationwide non-profit organization that donates new, quality books to small, rural public libraries. Through the grant we added 80 brand new children's books with a value of \$1409. to our juvenile collection. The new titles included picture and chapter books; both fiction and non-fiction.

We offered many programs throughout the year for adults and children. On-going programs include a monthly book discussion, Genealogy Club and weekly Story Time for young children. On-going programs added this year are a weekly Play Group for caregivers and very young children 0-2 and a Fiber Arts group which meets twice monthly for community members to come together to work on projects.

Special programs that we offered for adults included a "Tech Talk" with Bob Raiselis titled "Getting Started with E-Bay", author Thomas Powers gave a book talk on his most recent book, The Killing of Crazy Horse and Donna Beaupre presented a two session rug hooking class. Throughout the year families were invited to holiday themed craft nights; in February for Valentine's crafts, in October for Halloween crafts and in December for holiday crafts. The library also hosted school vacation programs for school aged children.

Summer by far is the busiest time for staff at the library. In the summer of 2011 we offered 4 afternoon summer reading programs around the theme, **One World, Many Stories**. Children enjoyed making hats from around the world with Lori Estey and making books with Joan Burch. The summer reading finale included an afternoon of games and refreshments. We also held three evening "PJ" story times. Each week during the summer, children from the Meriden Community Camp visited the library allowing campers quiet time at the library and the chance to check out books. Also this summer, the Meriden Library participated in the village wide 250th Anniversary Celebration. On that day we were delighted to offer ice cream treats from the Good Humor Truck and had fun making and flying kites in the library yard.

In October the Meriden Library, along with the Philip Read Memorial Library, signed a consortium agreement with the Howe Library in Hanover to join the newly formed New Hampshire Evergreen Consortium. This brings to fruition a long standing goal of both libraries to move to an automated library system. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and are thankful to the Howe Library and the Town of Hanover for their willingness to share resources making this a very affordable option. Work on the process to digitally catalog all of our materials continues and we hope to launch the system in 2012.

The Meriden Library continues to participate in our regional library cooperative, Librarians of the Upper Valley. Through this cooperative we are able to offer our very popular rotating video collection. We also participate in services offered through the state library including consortiums that allows us to offer the Ancestry.com database and The New Hampshire Downloadable Books to our patrons. In September 2011 Kindle formatted e-books became available through the Downloadable Books consortium which now allows even more options for our patrons. We saw a 30% increase in check outs of audio and e-books through the Downloadable Consortium this year.

Another goal of the Meriden Library has been to establish a formalized library Friends Group. Towards that goal a steering group began meeting in the fall to determine the

steps to move forward. The Friends of the Meriden Library will soon be working to support all the efforts of our library.

We would like to thank everyone who helped our library to thrive again this year. We have many volunteers and supporters who donated their time, energy and resources. Thank you for your support again this year.

**Estimate for out of pocket expenses to patrons if books, audio books or videos were purchases at an average retail value of \$15.00

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Making Kites At the 250th Anniversary Celebration

Photo R. Wendt