

MERIDEN LIBRARY

The Meriden Library was as busy as ever in 2012. We again saw increases in both patron visits and circulated items. In 2012, we had 5,787 patron visits and circulated 8046 items and we added 420 books, audio books and DVDs to the collection.

Much of our work this year was focused on preparation for automating the library. Within that work was the process of re-registering all patrons to provide them with the bar-coded library card needed for our new circulation system. By the end of 2012, there were 195 registered patrons.

The greater part of the automation work was centered on our materials collection. Every article that the library holds needs to be cataloged into an on-line database. The work began in March and at year end 4,102 records had been entered into the database. This work provided us with the opportunity to assess our collection and we have withdrawn more than 1,000 worn, under circulated or outdated items. When we have completed the process of cataloging all materials in 2013, we will then have an accurate count of our holdings. Our current estimate of holdings is 10,000 items.

In addition to the materials available at the library, through our paid membership to the New Hampshire Downloadable Consortium, our patrons also have access to approximately 12,000 audio books and e-books. We saw an increase of 60% in the use of this service by our patrons. E-books downloaded to Kindle devices accounted for most of the increased use.

Thanks to the generosity of ARC Mechanical a ductless heat system was installed at the Meriden Library in May. ARC donated their labor and the equipment was provided at wholesale cost. The system kept the building cool in the summer providing a cool place for patrons and has greatly reduced the heating oil expense during colder months.

We offered many programs for both adults and children during the year. Besides our on-going weekly story time, monthly book groups and Genealogy Club we also offered after school craft programs, information sessions for the New Hampshire Downloadable Books and the Evergreen catalog. A program highlight this year was a New Hampshire Humanities Council program that we sponsored, New Hampshire's One Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality. Meriden's own Steve Taylor was the presenter.

Our summer was busy with the summer reading program, Dream Big Read. Through a Kids, Books and the Arts grant from the NH State Library storyteller Simon Brooks performed stories for children and adults. The Children's Museum of New Hampshire came to present "Up All Night in New Hampshire" a program focused on nocturnal animals found in New Hampshire. In August we held "Explore the Night Sky" an evening program for stargazing.

Our most exciting day of the year was December 6 when we finally went live with the Evergreen software. That day we began using the software for all circulation functions

and the Plainfield Public Library catalog was introduced on our web site allowing patrons to access the catalog from home.

Our community benefits from the time and talent of all of the many volunteers who contribute to the library throughout the year. I specifically want to recognize the volunteers that devoted hundreds of hours to move the automation process along by cataloging books. Nearly all of the cataloging has been done by Barbara Wendt, Jeanne Thompson and Fawn Goodrow. I am so grateful for their on-going commitment to move our library forward.

Annamay Chapman a long-time and dedicated employee of the Meriden Library retired on December 31, 2102. Along with the Trustees of the Plainfield Public Libraries, I thank her for her many years of service to the library and the community. She will be missed.

All of the service that we provided and the goals that have been achieved this year would not have been possible without the leadership and direction of the Trustees of the Plainfield Public Libraries. I want to thank Anita Brown, Nancy Liston, Mark Pensgen, Hillary Sundell and Kara Toms for the many, many hours that they devote to our libraries.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary S. King, Director
Meriden Library

Our Numbers by Year

