

Sutton Free Public Library

Annual Report

The Board of Library Trustees and Director of the Sutton Public Library respectively submit a report for July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 to the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Sutton.

The Board of Library Trustees consists of three elected members: Jane Anderson, Chair, Susan Robsky, Secretary and Rachel Tufts, Member-at-Large. The Board and the Library Director meet monthly to ensure that library operations run efficiently and to review and update library policies.

This year there was a change of Youth Services Librarians. Molly Johnson left the position of Youth Services Librarian to accept a similar position at the Charlton Public Library. Carol Geary accepted the position in September 2007.

Carol's previous position was at the Hopkinton Library. Carol has a long career in community and library service working as a coordinator of student programs and a cataloguer at the Walnut Hill School, as a Grant Coordinator in Essex Junction, Vermont, and as a storyteller and freelance writer.

Statistics

Library statistics increased by 16% in FY08 illustrating that the library continues to be an integral part of the educational resources of the community.

	FY06	FY07	FY08
Library materials owned	25,287	26,590	28,828
Total Circulation Transactions*	87,423	91,023	94,854
Interlibrary Loans	7,759	8,930	9,394
Registered Borrowers	2,313	2,661	3,008
Number of Programs	163	184	264
Program attendance	3,711	4,945	5,364
Number of library visits	21,008	22,507	31,597
Number of hits on library website	3,657	8,165	12,387

*Circulation transactions include checkouts, checkins, renewals and patron registrations.

Library Worth to the Community

The spreadsheet below illustrates how much money would be spent in each category by Sutton residents if they had to pay for the services offered free by the library. The amounts are based on actual costs for library materials or services and were formulated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (a federal agency) as well as the American Library Association. The use statistics are based on FY08 counts.

Use	Library Service	Avg Cost of Item	Cost
30,684	Books Borrowed	\$20.00	\$613,680.00
1,764	Magazines Borrowed	\$4.00	\$7,056.00
4,029	Music (CDs) Borrowed	\$14.95	\$60,233.55
2,267	Audiobooks Borrowed	\$50.00	\$113,350.00
13,298	Videos Borrowed	\$19.99	\$265,827.02
163	CD-ROMS Borrowed	\$39.99	\$6,518.37
140	Museum Passes Borrowed	\$24.00	\$3,360.00
4,878	Inter-Library Loans	\$35.00	\$170,730.00
181	Out of state Inter-Library Loans	\$75.00	\$13,575.00
3,640	Internet Use	\$12.00	\$43,680.00
832	Reference Transactions	\$25.00	\$20,800.00
2,184	Database Searches	\$20.00	\$43,680.00
200	Children's Programs	\$10.00	\$2,000.00
64	Adult/YA Programs	\$10.00	\$640.00
	Total Worth of Library		\$1,365,129.94

Grants:

The Circle of Friends Community Partnership Council for Children and the Beginning Years Network provided grants worth \$1,500 to the library. This grant money was utilized to provide quality programs for the children such as the Apple Tree Arts music program, storytellers Aili Paal Singer and Joseph Geary, the Toe Jam Puppet Band, Pumpernickel Puppets and a visit by children's author Susan Lubner.

The library applied for and received a Museum of Science 'scholarship grant' which enabled us to offer a visit from the Museum of Science Reptile show which was very well received by the children.

Children's Programs

An astronomy program offered by the Aldrich Astronomical Society was very well attended. The Society graciously donated \$200 worth of astronomy books to the library. We appreciate their generosity.

The Summer Reading Program for the 2008 calendar year was a spectacular success. Over 477 people participated in the program, a 228% increase in program participants over FY07. Circulation statistics for the summer showed a 64% rise over FY07.

Massachusetts businesses and attractions provided passes or gift certificates as prizes for the program. Cold Stone Creamery at the Blackstone Valley Shoppes, National Gallery, Pleasant Valley Country Club, Target, Circuit City, Breezy Waterslides, The Worcester Tornadoes and other regional businesses donated prizes which were awarded weekly and at the end of the summer reading program to the raffle winners.

Young Adult Programs

Ninety-six teens participated in the Teen component of the Summer Reading Program. Cold Stone Creamery donated weekly prizes as well as a grand prize for this group. Also, we had several teen video game nights which were well attended.

We have started a Teen Advisory Council and a Book Discussion Group. The purpose of the advisory council is to get input from the teens in the community regarding what additional services and programming we can do for this age group. We welcome all interested teens.

Other workshops we offered included a cartooning workshop as well as a jewelry-making workshop. We are already planning for several video game evenings for FY09 as well as some movie events.

Adult Programs:

The Library Director facilitates a book discussion group at the Senior Center library/computer room which meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm. We have read a variety of non-fiction and fiction titles such as: The Great Hurricane of 1938; Dark tide: the Great Molasses Flood of Boston; A Bell for Adano; and Ladies of Liberty.

The library also offered a History Book Discussion Group which met the first Wednesday of the month at 1 PM and 7 PM. We read such titles as Devil in the White City; Holocaust: the Cocoanut Grove Fire; The Wild Blue; The First American Revolution and Dearest Friend: the Biography of Abigail Adams. In addition, we offered monthly genealogy and 'Using the Library Catalog' workshops.

The Friends of the Sutton Library is a non-profit group consisting of individuals, families and organizations committed to supporting the library through an annual membership drive and several fundraising events. Ongoing sale items include the book sale in the library foyer, canvas tote bags and unique greeting cards. The Friends utilize these monies to support the children's programs, buy equipment and other additions to the children's room, such as new shelving for the children's easy readers. The Friends also purchase discounted passes to museums and attractions which are available for use by all Sutton residents. These institutional passes are for Higgins Armory Museum (\$200); Ecotarium (\$200) and Roger Williams Park Zoo (\$115). We encourage you to join the Friends Group; membership forms are available at the library's circulation desk.

The Tower Hill Botanic Garden pass (\$150) is generously donated by the Sutton Garden Club. We thank them for their generous donation.

In addition, we also have the Massachusetts Park Pass (\$35) which enables one to park free at all Massachusetts State Parks.

In FY08 the library continued to participate in the Senior Tax Abatement Program. Ms. Jean Sullivan continued this past fiscal year as the facilitator of the weekly knitting group which meets on Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 2:30 pm in the library Reference Room. Mr. Joseph Ballard continues doing some cleaning, routine maintenance, gardening and other projects for the library.

Looking at the statistics of library visits, transactions and interlibrary loans, it is obvious that the library continues to be a center of learning and social interaction for the community. This is due in large part to the excellent library staff: Carole Anderson, Andrea Baker, Carol Geary, Erik Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Judith Peladeau and Laurel Welch. Their welcoming demeanor, helpfulness and humor is appreciated by library patrons.

Library staff member's tasks go beyond checking out, checking in and taking fines. The staff does so much more: placing in and out-of-state holds, registering new borrowers and entering the information into the network database, registering patrons for library programs, providing reference and readers' advisory services and providing library catalog and computer aid to library visitors. Carole Anderson and Pamela Johnson are responsible for finding the correct title records for new materials, requesting the records if they don't exist, assigning the Dewey Decimal Classification number, typing spine labels, entering each item into the CWMARS database as well as reviewing holds and sending overdue notices. Judy Peladeau, Andrea Baker and Laurel Welch receive newly acquired materials, check them off the packing lists, identify the materials as Sutton Library items, cover the books, etc. In addition, they put all the returned materials away (**38,148 items in FY08**), and shelf read, i.e. making sure materials are in order on the shelf. In addition to her regular duties, Andrea Baker also creates our wonderful library displays.

Do you have a talent that you would like to share with others by offering or facilitating a program? We are always looking for ideas for new programs.

Check out the library website www.suttonpubliclibrary.org to see what events are coming up, find out what new titles we have, answer our "Question of the Week" or suggest a title you think we should purchase.

Roberta Rothwell, Library Director
Jane Anderson, Library Board, Chair
Susan Robsky, Library Board, Secretary
Rachel Tufts, Library Board, Member at Large