

Director's Report for March 2010

March circulation (10157) increased by 20% from February's (8482), and 11% from this time last year (9122). At the end of March, the year to date circulation (28040) was 6.4% above last year (26364)



The Perfect Storm - On March 16, the Governor submitted a budget that reduced State expenditures on libraries by 74% in the 2010 appropriation. The proposal would eliminate the regional cooperatives, interlibrary loan, several major databases, inservice training opportunities, and for some libraries the loss of the internet. The proposal reduces the per capita state aid grant by almost 50%. Budget documents also indicated that Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey State Library will merged with the New Jersey State Museum and governed by Rutgers University effective July 1. On the same day the budget was announced, a bill (Assembly No.2555) was introduced to Assembly that would eliminate the 1/3 mil required appropriation. According to the legislation, the governing body for the municipality would determine the amount necessary for the "proper maintenance of the library".

Carolyn T. and Deborah D. will be leaving the library. Carolyn has been doing our storytimes for almost 2 years. Deborah, who had once been the manager of the Cape May County Library branch in Avalon, was lending her cataloguing expertise to our children's collection. We wish both the best of luck and our heartfelt thanks for jobs well done.

A recent update of our Millennium ILS has made it possible for us to automatically send courtesy email notices to patrons for materials that are about to become overdue.

The Library and History Center will be represented at AHLOA's Community Connections 2010 on Saturday, April 10.

The library's Knitter's group is knitting caps and scarfs for soldiers in Afghanistan. The Library is contributing the yarn.

The library will celebrate National Library Week (April 11 – 17) by instituting a the Food-for-Fines program. Each donated item is equal to a \$1.00 reduction in fines.

The Barrier Island Writers, a group formed from the participants of the library's Writer's Workshop lead by Dr. Sue Jacobson are publishing their their 2nd anthology of collected works.

The winners of the Barrier Island Writers / Avalon Free Public Library Poetry Contest were announced on March 6. The contest was open to middle school students who live or attend school in Ocean City, Sea Isle, Avalon or Stone Harbor. Shannon F., a student at the Ocean City Intermediate School, won top honors with her poem titled *Water's Veil*. Olivia P., also from Ocean City Intermediate School, received honorable mention for her poem *Midnight Swim*. Both students received gift certificates to a local book store donated by the library. Podcasts of the poets reading their works are available in the Virtual Exhibits page of our website.



The Governor's Budget Proposal's Impact

Program	Budget	Impact
New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI)	1.449 Million (eliminated) – Includes business and research databases at a stand-alone website.	AFPL does not subscribe to any business databases. There is some coverage in the periodicals of EbscoHost and newspapers of NewsBank. We will probably not attempt to replace any of the resources lost with NJKI.
Network Aid	4.299 Million (eliminated) – Includes regional and statewide services such as courier delivery, databases, Interlibrary loan, and continuing education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The loss of courier service and the possible demise of JerseyCat would end ILL services. Even if the state maintains JerseyCat, some libraries may opt out of ILL due to the expense of mailing material. ILL may become a patron paid for service. 2. The regional cooperatives negotiated discounts from database vendors for member libraries. In the case of Overdrive which provides audiobook and ebook downloads, the Cooperatives managed the account for member libraries. AFPL purchased Overdrive and NextReads through the Cooperative. New database and online services pricing schemes have not yet emerged. 3. Cooperatives also provided low cost, library-specific content inservice training. AFPL utilized the cooperatives workshops and e-training. We also used Lyris and Rockhurst U. which are more expensive
Virtual Aid	1.170 Million (eliminated) – Databases and Jersey Connect Technology system (isp to over 300 libraries)	AFPL will loose access to EbscoHost periodicals. Ebsco is currently developing a pricing scheme. Depending upon the package selected the price could range between \$5,000 – \$10,000
Per Capita State Aid	3.5 Million (3.676 Million remains)	AFPL has received approximately \$1,000 per year.