

Dunbar Free Library

The last few years this report has celebrated the staff and volunteers. This year the spotlight is on things you may not know the library has or can do for you:

- **Downloadable audio-books** for your computer, MP3 player or iPod. Listen to your favorite authors while you work or jog or whatever. We were one of the highest users in the state this year: thanks to all of you who put us there and for the rest of you: ask us how to use it! And, if your home connection is a little bit slow, you can always come to the library to download titles—it doesn't come anywhere near to the half hour of library computer time you can have even if it's busy. Ask us how to use your library card number to access thousands of titles. Don't have an MP3 player and don't know if you'd like one? Well,...
- We have a **Sanza Fuze MP3** player for you to borrow and try out. See if you like it! (Small charge for ear“bud” earphones if you don't have any.)
- **Databases** to get magazine articles, information about your favorite authors, or genealogical help. Most of these we can give you access to at home, a few of you have to be at the library to use it. Looking for the latest *Consumer's Report* on washing machines or computer printers, complete with illustrations? You can always come and photocopy our issue, but if the article is more than 3 months old you can get the whole magazine article online through one of our databases. DFL's patrons used these 81 times in 08/09.
- **Computer help:** Library staff help a lot of people one-on-one, but if you ask us to, we could hold classes.
- **Book discussion groups:** The library borrowed over 302 books, audios and videos for 3 book groups that met regularly from July of 2008 to June of 2009, and individual titles for people in other groups, plus additional titles for book discussions with humanities scholars as discussion leaders that the NH Humanities Council and the Trustees of DFL sponsored. **Don't forget to join us this year for New Hampshire's Big Read of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We are welcoming back Suzanne Brown of Dartmouth College to facilitate the discussion of this timeless classic on March 18, 2010 at 7 PM. Copies of the book are available at the library, it's not too late.**
- Need to **Fax** something? Come to the library. Many of you have discovered this: the first year I was here (05-06) I think I could count on one hand the number of faxes I sent, now it's that many every month. (A charge for this service does apply!) And don't forget the **photocopier** that now can do color. It costs 10 cents for black and white and 50 cents for color.
- Although this does not date back to the 08/09 fiscal year, since October you've been able to access the **DFL catalog ONLINE!** And place your own holds from your home computer. (Staff can still do this for you if you prefer!)
- Need to reduce your energy costs? We can lend you one of our 3 **“Kill-a-Watt”** energy meters. Two were donated by a coalition of NHsaves, partnering with the state library and PSNH, Nationalgrid, NHEC, and Unitil. These handy devices can help you find out exactly how much energy your phantom users are eating up: the TV when it's off, all your battery chargers, etc.
- Want to read/listen to/watch something the library doesn't have? Saw a great review in the magazine at the Dentist's office? **Ask us and we'll either borrow it from somewhere or buy it for the library:** we do our darndest to get you what you want and I think we're successful 99% of the time.

And of course as in years past we did what we did: From July 1st, 2008 to June 30th, 2009 we circulated 55,696 items, took care of 35,338 visitors, gave out 189 library cards to new patrons, lent 985 items to people at other libraries and borrowed 1163 items from other libraries for you (and those book groups), had 11,365 visits to pages of the library website (www.dunbarlibrary.org: have you visited?) and 1780 times that people used the library computers or their own using our wireless service (available 24/7 if you don't mind sitting in the library parking lot). DFL acquired and processed 2082 books, 208 books on tape or CD, and 126 videos, and got rid of 1084, 232, and 114 respectively.

We had 21 programs and 73 story times with 2333 attendees at the library, at Town Hall, and at the Methodist Church. Program highlights? Who can forget Joey's 75th birthday gathering? “Aged to perfection” we tell her! And how about the swarm of pink dresses and feather boas that took over the children's area at our *Fancy Nancy* storytime? Or viewing the stars indoors, when we brought the Montshire's Starlab (a portable

planetarium) to Grantham Village School for a day? All of this with about 5086 staff (including director) and 2022 volunteer hours. Thank you, staff, Thank you, volunteers! We started on the long range planning process again in January of 2009 and profuse thanks to those committee members as we steer through this task.

If you are a library patron or even if you're not, you should know about the Friends of the Dunbar Free Library. Led by President Susan Wren, the Friends give the library funds for new DVDs, a children's book in recognition of each baby born in Grantham and every new child library card holder. They hold an annual meeting each year with a great speaker (last year's well-attended event was New Hampshire humorist Rebecca Rule-such fun!) and fund all the summer reading program events and many of our other programs. Your donations to the Friends organization are husbanded well, and they hold fund-raisers with mailings and the annual cookie walk-YUM! Please ask for an envelope at the library and give what you can.

Dawn Huston
Director/Librarian

Staff: **Joey Holmes, Bobbi Travis, Sandy Noordsy, Katrina McCurley, Terri Heepe**

Long Range Planning Committee members: **Diana Conine, Wendi Grant, Paul Hoffman, Dawn Huston, Ed Jenik, Connie Jones, Katrina McCurley, Susan Mellow, Katherine Reichert, Susan Wren**

Dunbar Free Library Hours		
	Day	Eve.
Monday	9-5	6:30-8:30
Wednesday	9-5	6:30-8:30
Thursday	9-5	
Friday	9-12	
Saturday	9-2	



Joey Holmes—Another year older!