

Report of the Lane Memorial Library 2015

By the numbers

The full collection of the library at the end of 2015 totaled 84,348 titles. Over the course of the year 9,104 titles were added and 3,532 titles were removed. We had 10,844 registered patrons in 2015, roughly 72% of the population.

Circulated materials	186,292	(186,725 in 2014)
Visits	128,871	(132,405 in 2014)
Computer uses	16,476	(18,707 in 2014)
Reference questions	4,596	(4,469 in 2014)
Programs	472	(374 in 2014)
Program attendees	8,065	(8,598 in 2014)

General

We strive to create a vibrant, active library for the Hampton community. As such each year is full of activity, change, successes and failures, and a genuine sense of joy that we all have the opportunity to serve. With the support for warrant article #23 at the polls in March and additional funds, 2015 was a year of much needed building improvements.



2015 Lane Library staff behind the new circulation desk

We have dramatically reduced the size of our main circulation desk and flipped its orientation within the building. In so doing we give the public a more open and larger shared space while we gain a better vantage point within the building to provide service. Behind our new, trim desk we added supervisory offices allowing the public more immediate access to decision makers when it is needed. Under all of these changes we added beautiful new carpeting across the entire main floor. The carpet makes the whole first floor feel new and allows the incredible beauty of our interior to shine.

One change the public is more likely to feel rather than see is to the climate control within the building. The primary need for funds from the warrant article was to address the aged fan coil cabinets that produce our chilled and heated air and the thermostats that control them. During the replacement process we learned startling things about how poorly the old fan coil cabinets were functioning and discovered quickly that the old pneumatic thermostats were not controlling the heat but rather overheating the space. We are eager to discover more efficiencies once the cooling season begins.

New and Notable

In 2015 the Library, through the statewide consortia, added downloadable magazines to the already impressive digital offerings available through the service Overdrive. Our downloadable content continued to be popular in 2015 as well, increasing in circulation nearly 24% over 2014.

In the Children's Services Department we said goodbye to Nicole Cico, Children's Services Associate and leader of our baby lap sit storytime. Nicole completed her Master's degree while working at Lane and left to pursue her career in social work with children and their families. In her wake we welcomed a familiar face back to Lane Memorial Library. Kathy Faulkingham, library substitute in 2012 and 2015, became a permanent regular employee within the Children's Service department in the Spring.

Programs



Pure bliss at the Summer Reading Programs finale

Programs at the library enrich Hampton residents reading and viewing experiences. Throughout the year book groups, story times (held both at the Library and at area preschools), and movie showings allowed patrons to share books and films with their friends and neighbors. Every Summer we challenge kids and adults to keep their brains sharp with thematic Summer Reading Programs.

A wide variety of special events this year invited patrons to experience reading and writing on a deeper level with author book talks, such as Anthony Amore. Author of "Stealing Rembrandts: the untold stories of notorious art heists" who spoke in the Spring courtesy of the Seacoast Areas Libraries, and with writing workshops lead by Portsmouth author Tamara J. Collins for teens. For our youngest patrons in 2015 we offered the chance to attend story times lead by childhood celebrities, Princess Ariel from "The Little Mermaid" and Queen Elsa from "Frozen". In 2015 we also taught teens how to build mini projectile toys using the books of toy designer John Austin, developed their fine art skills with workshops led by local artist Len Hoover, and taught them the 4-H/Army teen babysitter curriculum.

Teens weren't the only patrons learning at the library in 2015; all patrons were encouraged to sign-up for one-on-one technology instruction with a librarian during one of our new weekly Tech Times. For those patrons that value visual media we screened two local documentary films and hosted Q&As with the filmmakers. We also gave the kids of Hampton a taste of the past with a drive-in movie for cardboard box cars.

A new program launched in 2015 bridged Library departments and the patrons who participated. "Reading Buddies" gave teens the opportunity to volunteer in their community helping their young neighbors develop their emerging reading skills. Offered in sessions, teens (trained in literacy assistance) and elementary aged students meet to read in a fun, supportive atmosphere.

Volunteers

In 2015 volunteers donated 1,207 hours of their time, for which the library cannot thank them enough. In shelving and processing books, in indexing the *Hampton Union* for our database, and in various special projects these volunteers have given \$13,277 worth of labor.

I am very proud to be called the Director of this staff and incredibly proud of all of their efforts. It is our pleasure to serve the Hampton community and to work with the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda L. Reynolds Cooper, Library Director