

# Delaware Libraries

## Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

**Library: Corbit—Calloway Memorial Library**

**Address:**

P.O. Box 128  
115 High St.  
Odessa, DE 19730

**Contact Information:**

(302) 378-8838  
(302) 378-7803 FAX

**Library Exterior:**



**Estimated Size:** 6,100 SF

**Hours:**

Monday	1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Thursday	1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Estimated Hours Open 2003:**

2,266 hours



Corbit-Calloway  
Interior

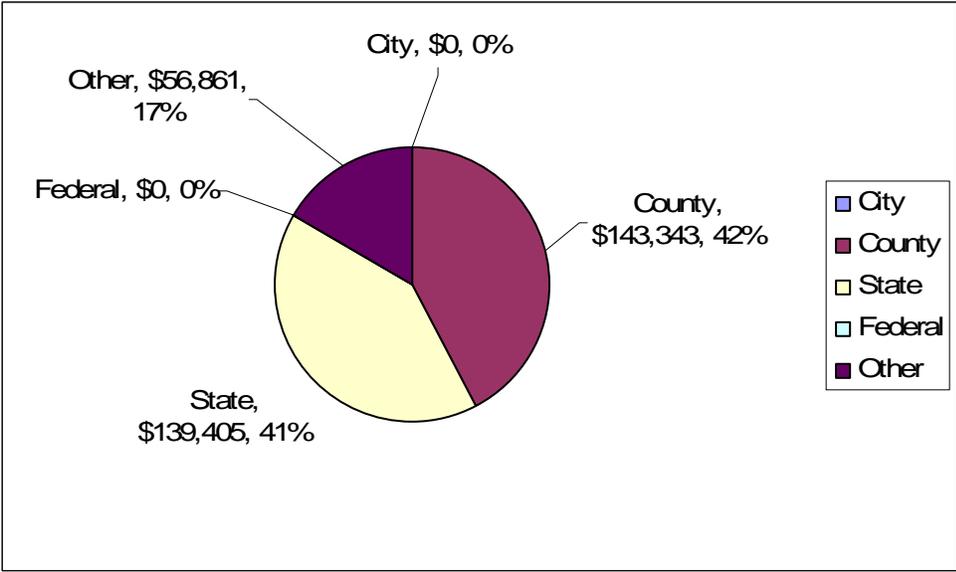


Corbit-Calloway  
Children's Area



Corbit-Calloway  
Adult Area

**Financial Breakdown – Income:**



**History:**

In 1846, Cantwell’s Bridge (now Odessa), was a thriving shipping center. It was also the year that one of its prominent citizens, Dr. James Corbit, died and willed \$950 to the area residents to establish and endow a public library. In May 1848, the Corbit Library opened with 593 volumes, supported in large part by local tax revenues received from the school district.

At the beginning of the 20th century, despite the decline of the town, the library had become one of the most successful public libraries in Delaware. By 1920, the library’s collection had grown to 7,200 volumes and hours of service were increased. The library moved to new quarters in 1924 at the Wilson Museum on Main Street.

In 1967, Mrs. Leslie Calloway offered a new facility to the library in memory of her late husband, Clifford Calloway. And in 1968, Odessa celebrated the opening of the new Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library at 2nd & High Streets. Under the leadership of Susan Jamison, the Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library entered into a contract for funding with New Castle County’s newly formed Department of Libraries in 1975.

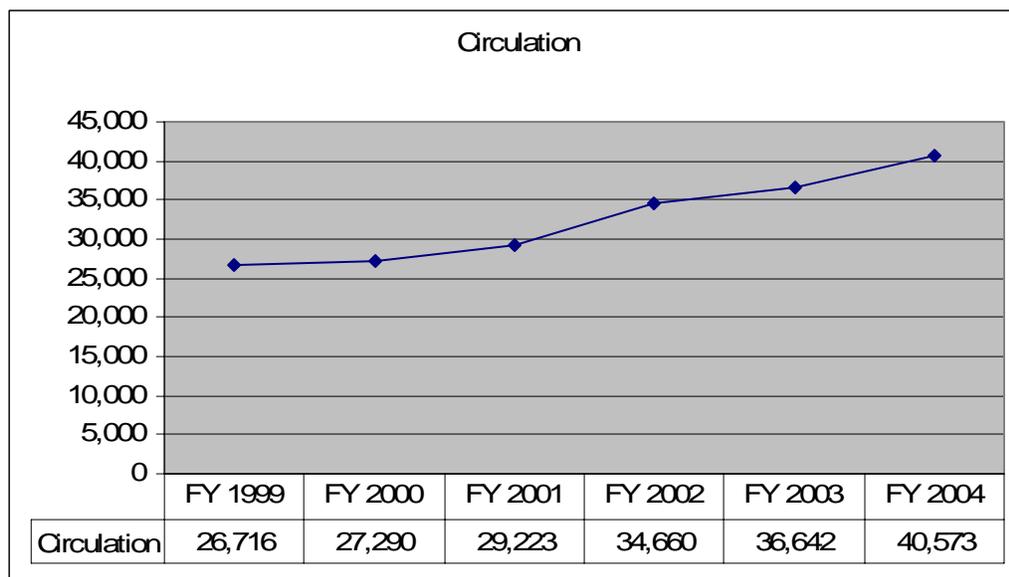
In the last quarter of the century, the library has seen a steady increase in circulation and membership. It has become an active community center, presenting new and innovative programs for children and adults. The library is part of the TIPCAT network in New Castle County. And the Library's ever-growing Delawareana Collection of 9,000 plus items attracts people from in and out-of-state for genealogy and regional historical research.

Since 1991, the library has served as the headquarters for the NEW START Council of Laubach Literacy Action. This volunteer tutoring organization provides help with reading, math, and GED preparation for adults in lower New Castle County.

**General Description:**

The Corbit-Calloway Library is housed in a brick structure built in the 1960s. The building is extremely crowded. Both the street level and the facility's basement are used. The lower level includes a meeting room/museum area and an active literacy program. The Corbit-Calloway library has an extensive Delaware history collection as well as a large number of artifacts.

**Six Year Circulation History:**



**Six Year Circulation History:**

FY 1999 – 26,716  
FY 2000 – 27,290  
FY 2001 – 29,223  
FY 2002 – 34,660  
FY 2003 – 36,642  
FY 2004 – 40,573

**Six Year Circulation Trend:**

Circulation increased fifty-two percent (51.9%) between FY 1999 and FY 2004. There has been an increase in circulation during each year of the six year period; the largest increase, nineteen percent (18.6%) occurred between FY 2001 and FY 2002.

**2003 Library Visits:** 26,655

**2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)**

Total Holdings	35,465
Audio Holdings	584
Video Holdings	507
Periodical Titles	119

**Holdings per Capita:**

6.5 items per capita  
New Castle County mean is 3.2; Delaware mean is 2.8  
State target is 3.09

**2003 Circulation Breakdown:**

Total Circulation	36,642
Juvenile Circulation	18,668
Adult Circulation	17,974

**2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)**

Turnover	1.03
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**Total Operating Expenditures:** \$ 336,866

**Estimated Service Population:**

2004/05 (Estimate)	5,440
2009/10 (Projection)	6,223
2015 (Projection)	6,448
2020 (Projection)	6,639
2025 (Projection)	6,791

**Operating Cost per Person in Service Area:** \$ 61.92 per person

**Cost per Circulation:** \$ 9.19

**Cost per Hour Open:** \$ 148.66 per hour

**Circulation per Capita in Service Area:** 6.7 circulations per capita

**Circulation per SF:** 6.01 circulations per SF

**Circulation per Hour Open:** 16.17 circulations per hour

**SF per Person in Service Area:** 1.12 SF per person    State target is 1.0

**Library Visits per Capita:** 10 visits per capita

**Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population:** 31.80%

**Total Units of Service\*:** 77,979

**Total Units of Service per capita:** 14.33

\*Total Units of Service includes circulation, library visits, reference transactions, and number of persons attending programs.