

# Delaware Libraries

## Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

**Library:** Kent County Department of Libraries

**Address:**

2319 South. DuPont Hwy.  
Dover, DE 19901

**Contact Information:**

(302) 698-6440  
(302) 698-6441 FAX

**Library Exterior:**



**Estimated Size:** 3,000 SF (Will soon expand to 6,200 SF in same building)

**Hours:**

Monday	8:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM – 9:00 PM
Wednesday	8:30 AM – 9:00 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM – 9:00 PM
Friday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Estimated Hours Open 2003:**

2,600 hours (2004 hours have been expanded considerably to approx. 3,350)



Kent County Library  
Adult Area

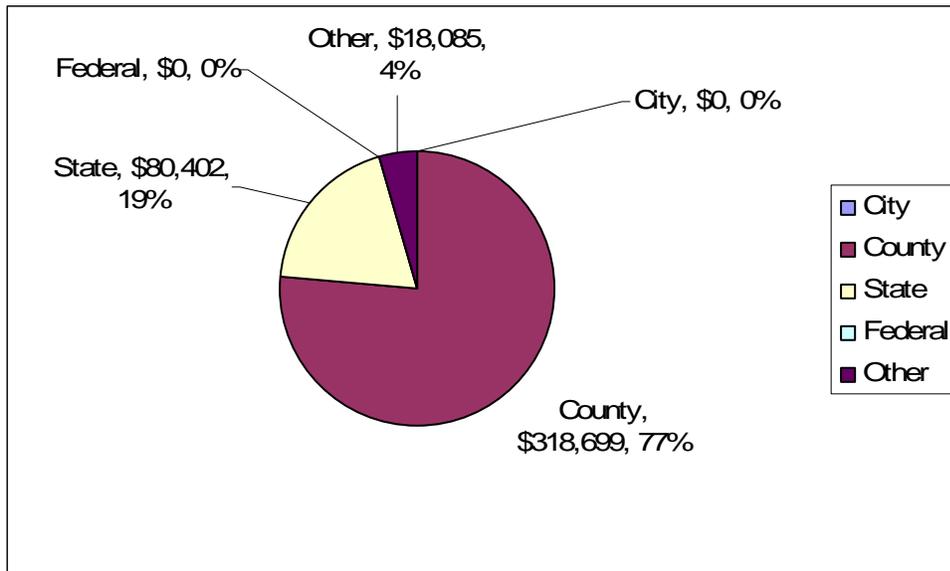


Kent County Library  
Circulation Desk



Kent County Library  
Children's Area

**Financial Breakdown – Income:**



**History:**

In 1988, the County Department of Libraries was formed and the State Library bookmobile was transferred to Kent County to provide services to its rural areas. The bookmobile was used until 1991, when a new mobile library trailer was purchased.

The introduction of the KentNet automated computer system in 1995 helped intra-library delivery increase dramatically. Thus, the first Kent County van was purchased to deliver materials among the libraries. This new sharing of resources required a vehicle solely devoted to delivery and made additional materials available to county residents.

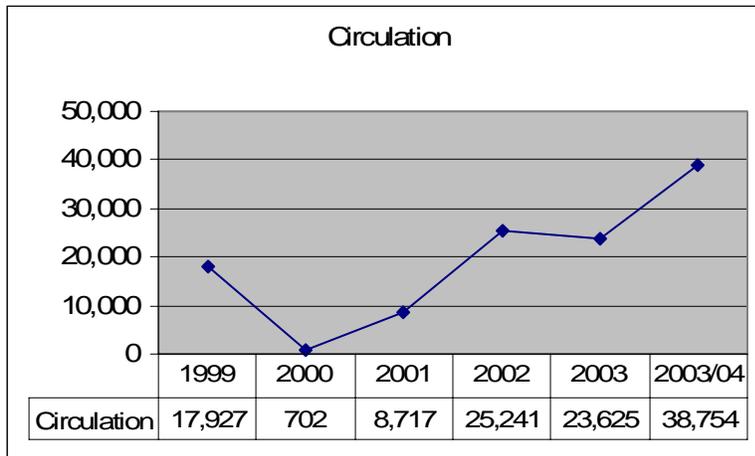
Today, increased membership, attendance at special programs, and bookmobile interest are all evidence of the lasting impact of the library on the local community. A special interest in children’s events, including a summer reading program, has greatly expanded the scope of the library’s offerings. Several after-school and evening programs have also been successful.

**General Description:**

The Kent County Department of Libraries is located in a rented property on DuPont Highway a short distance south of the City of Dover. The building is a long and narrow rather undistinguished appearing brick veneer structure with limited frontage on the highway. The facility currently houses the County’s Parks and Recreation Department

offices in addition to the Library; however, these offices will be moving to the new County building in the near future. This will allow the Library to more than double its space. The move will also provide the Library with an opportunity to widen some of the public service areas by removing a corridor of offices that now contribute to the linear character of the public space. A good amount of off-street parking is available as is a small meeting room facility.

**Circulation History:**



**Four Year Circulation History**

- 2000 – 702
- 2001 – 8,717
- 2002 – 25,241
- 2003 – 23,625
- 2003/04 update - 38754

**Four Year Circulation Trend:**

The Kent County Library is very new in comparison to other libraries in the State. In some ways, it is still “finding its service population.” The updated 2003/04 circulation figures represent a 60% increase over the previous fiscal year’s circulation.

**2003 Library Visits:** 11,838

**2003 Registered Borrowers:** 2.334

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

- Total Holdings 12,978
- Audio Holdings 784
- Video Holdings 390
- Periodical Titles 16

**Holdings per Capita:**

0.4 items per person in service area  
Kent County mean is 1.5; State mean is 2.8  
State target is 3.09

**2003 Circulation Breakdown:**

Total Circulation	23,625
Juvenile Circulation	4,601
Adult Circulation	19,024

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

Turnover 1.82  
Kent County mean is 1.99; Delaware mean is 2.43

**Total Operating Expenditures:** \$ 353,886

**Estimated Service Population:**

2004/05 (Estimate)	33,647
2009/10 (Projection)	35,620
2015 (Projection)	37,212
2020 (Projection)	38,719
2025 (Projection)	40,004

**Operating Cost per Person in Service Area:** \$ 10.52 per capita

**Cost per Circulation:** \$ 14.98

**Cost per Hour Open:** \$ 136.11 per hour (includes bookmobile)

**Circulation per Capita in Service Area:** 0.7 circulations per capita

**Circulation per SF:** 7.88 circulations per SF

**Circulation per Hour Open:** 9.09 circulations per hour

**SF per Person in Service Area:** 0.09 SF per person (will be 0.19 when the Library is expanded) State target is 3.0

**Library Visits per Capita:** 0.4 visits per capita

**Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population:** 6.97%

**Total Units of Service:** Reference data was not available

**Total Units of Service per capita:** Reference data was not available

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