

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: New Castle Public Library

Address:

424 Delaware St.
New Castle, DE 19720

Contact Information:

(302) 328-1995
(320) 328-4412 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 6,525 SF

Hours:

Monday	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Wednesday	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Thursday	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,525 hours

New Castle
Adult Area



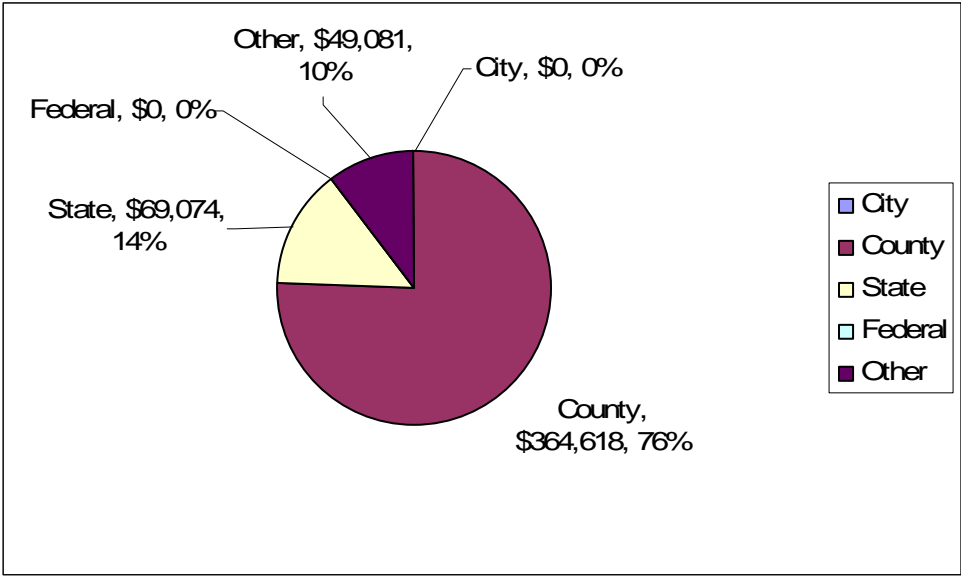
New Castle
Reference Area



New Castle
Children's Area



Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

The history of a library in New Castle dates back to 1812 and the New Castle Library Company, a private subscription library. The library was housed in the Academy Building, but it wasn't until 1892, some 80 years later, that a separate library building at East Third Street was completed.

In 1931 a branch of the New Castle Library was opened in the Parish House of the Immanuel Church. In 1939 books from the New Castle County Library were combined in the Amstel House Museum. Finally, in 1942, the merger became official and the building on East Third Street reopened as a public library.

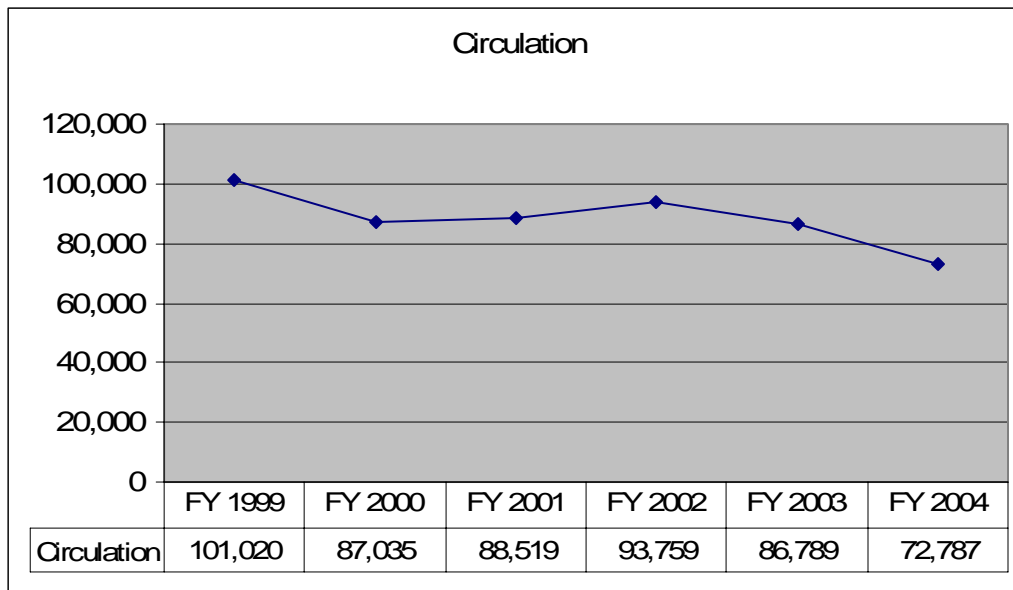
A newer, larger, and better equipped New Castle Library building on Delaware Street was opened in 1965, where the library remains today.

Many changes have occurred in the City of New Castle since 1812; yet the New Castle Public Library remains an integral part of the community. The library helps to promote a desire to read among patrons, both old and young. Children's programs include Wee Readers, storytimes, tours for school children, and Chapter-By-Chapter. Families can get involved with programs that include singing, dancing, and storytelling. And today's adult programs include training in using the library catalog system and individualized Internet training. Community meeting rooms are available upon request.

General Description:

The New Castle Public Library is located in a residential area of the historic section of the Community. The building's style is sympathetic with the architecture in the area. The interior of the building has been changed little since the 1960s and appears dated. The Library has a relatively large reference collection for its size and maintains a separate adult reference desk. Off-street parking is provided.

Six Year Circulation History:



Six Year Circulation History

- FY 1999 – 101,020
- FY 2000 – 87,035
- FY 2001 – 88,519
- FY 2002 – 93,759
- FY 2003 – 86,789
- FY 2004 – 72,787

Six Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation decreased by twenty-eight percent (27.9%) between FY 1999 and FY 2004. There was an increase in FY 2001 and another in FY 2002, but the decrease between FY 2003 and FY 2004 was sixteen percent (16.1%).

2003 Library Visits: 59,631

2003 Registered Borrowers: 9,811

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	35,213
Audio Holdings	1,517
Video Holdings	730
Periodical Titles	69

Holdings per Capita:

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

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	86,789
Juvenile Circulation	27,476
Adult Circulation	59,313

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

Turnover 2.46
New Castle mean is 2.71
Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 439,910

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	28,189
2009/10 (Projection)	28,639
2015 (Projection)	29,677
2020 (Projection)	30,555
2025 (Projection)	31,254

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 15.61 per capita

Cost per Circulation: \$ 5.07

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 174.22 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 3.1 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 13.30 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 34.37 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.23 SF per person

Library Visits per Capita: 2.1 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 34.80%

Total Units of Service: 160,518

Total Units of Service per capita: 5.69

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