

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Newark Free Library

Address:

750 Library Ave.
Newark, DE 19711

Contact Information:

(302) 731-7550
(302) 731-4019 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 26,500 SF

Hours:

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

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,980 hours



Newark
Adult Area

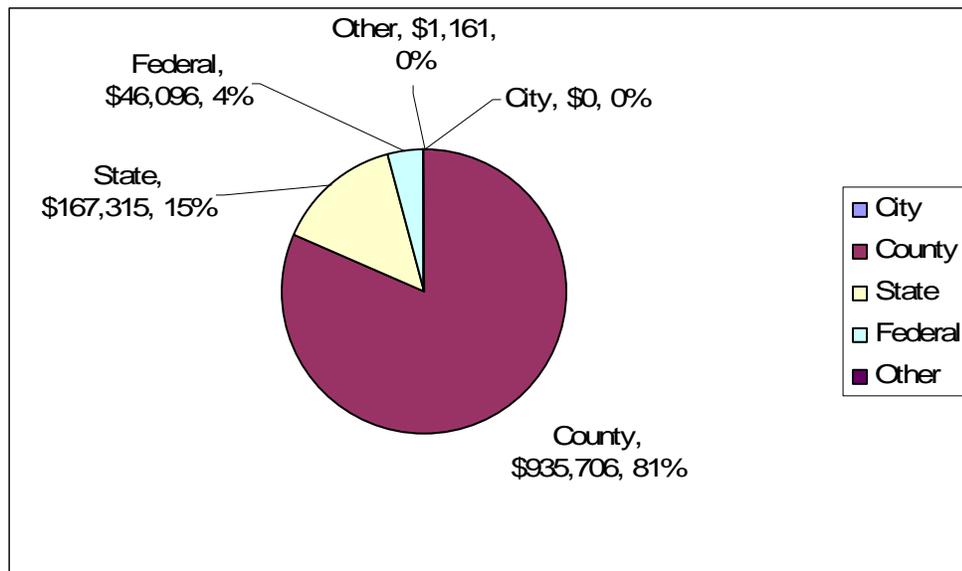


Newark
Children's Area



Newark Media
Materials

Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

The earliest record of a library in Newark is contained in a book of minutes dating from December 14, 1858 to March 18, 1862. This subscription library was called the Newark Library and Literary Association. In 1878 the library was located in a store owned by Mr. Wilber T. Wilson. And in 1897, a committee was appointed by the Newark New Century Club to investigate the library. As a result, Mr. Wilson offered the club a second story room in his building and turned over the existing collection, renaming it the Newark Town Library.

In 1917, when the Newark New Century Club House was completed, the library moved there until 1920, when it moved again to a room in the Academy Building. In 1934, New Century Club Library Committee Chairman Mrs. Jean Sinclair proposed a City referendum to gain tax support for the library. The first referendum passed in May 1935, ensuring that the library would be tax-supported.

With the growth of Newark's population, more library room was needed. In the fall of 1957, the library purchased and moved into the renovated St. Thomas Episcopal Church building. Later the home located next door was acquired by the Library Commission and, after extensive repairs, was opened as a separate children's library in 1964.

The library collection and library usage continued to grow and a professional librarian was hired in 1966. Just two years later, the Library Commission began

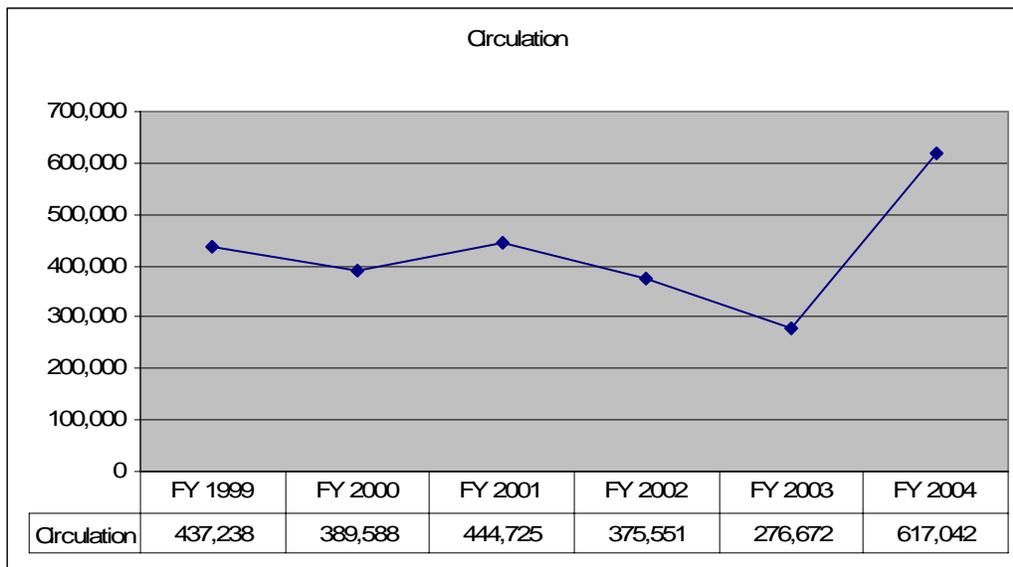
planning for a new library building at the intersection of East Main Street and Delaware Avenue, where the library continues to operate today.

The Newark Free Library offers many and varied services to the town of Newark including providing an introduction to the pleasures of reading to young children and helping parents ensure their children are school-ready. The library also makes available materials to support elementary and high school students in their studies and provides materials for leisure reading, listening, and viewing to all members of the community.

General Description:

The Newark Public Library is located on a highly visible site on a major highway in the City of Newark. The modern building is the result of a major addition to an older facility. Although the resulting library is somewhat long and narrow, it is nevertheless attractive and reasonably functional. The Library has off-street parking, meeting facilities, a café area, and a variety of nice features such as a quiet study area and a separate storytime room.

Six Year Circulation History:



Six Year Circulation History

- FY 1999 – 437,238
- FY 2000 – 389,588
- FY 2001 – 444,725
- FY 2002 – 375,551
- FY 2003 – 276,672
- FY 2004 – 617,042

Six Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation was at an all time high in FY 2004, following a low in FY 2003 caused by the library's being closed for six months. Overall circulation increased forty-one percent (41.1%) between FY 1999 and FY 2004.

2003 Library Visits: 133,170

2003 Registered Borrowers: 34,636

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	103,693
Audio Holdings	8,083
Video Holdings	3,770
Periodical Titles	350

Holdings per Capita:

1.4 items per person in service area
New Castle mean is 3.2; Delaware mean is 2.8
State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	276,672
Juvenile Circulation	104,428
Adult Circulation	172,244

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

Turnover 2.67
New Castle mean is 2.71
Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 1,127,953

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	76,277
2009/10 (Projection)	75,503
2015 (Projection)	78,239
2020 (Projection)	80,555
2025 (Projection)	82,399

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 14.80 per capita

Cost per Circulation: \$ 4.08

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 378.51 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 3.6 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 10.44 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 92.84 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.35 SF per person State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 1.7 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 45.44%

Total Units of Service: 440,595

Total Units of Service per capita: 5.78

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