

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Bear Public Library

Address:

101 Governor's Place
Bear, DE 19701

Contact Information:

(302) 838-03300
(302) 838-3307 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 25,000 SF

Hours:

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

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,704 hours



Bear Interior

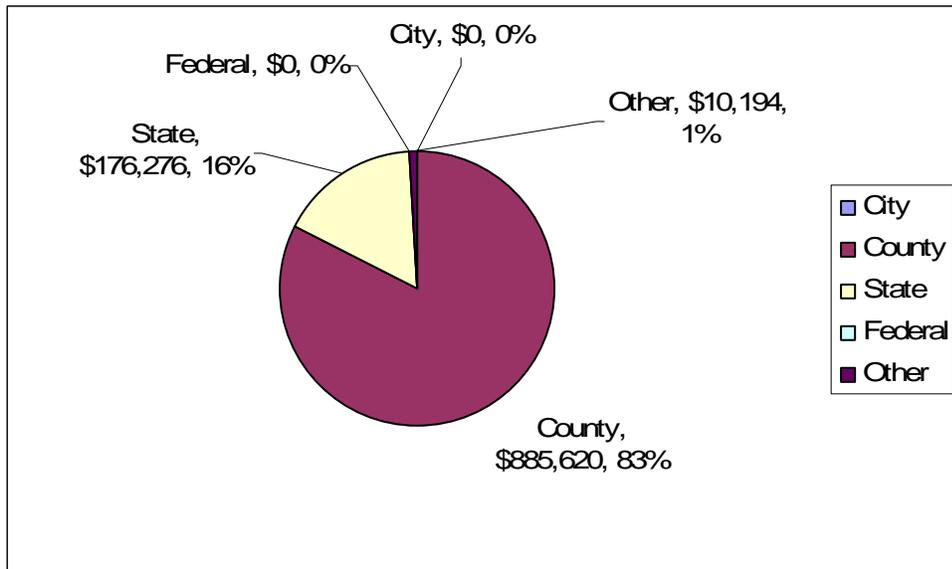


Bear Children's Area



Bear Adult Periodical Area

Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

In 1991, the Friends of the Bear Library incorporated, enabling them to work with the county to establish a new library serving the Bear, Christiana, and Glasgow areas. By 1993, the Bear Library Building Program was developed and capital funding for the project was authorized.

Leadership for the building of the new library came from the dedicated group who founded the Friends of the Bear Library. Spearheading the effort was Carol B. Harrington, who served both as president of the Friends and as chair of the Bear Library Capital Campaign Committee.

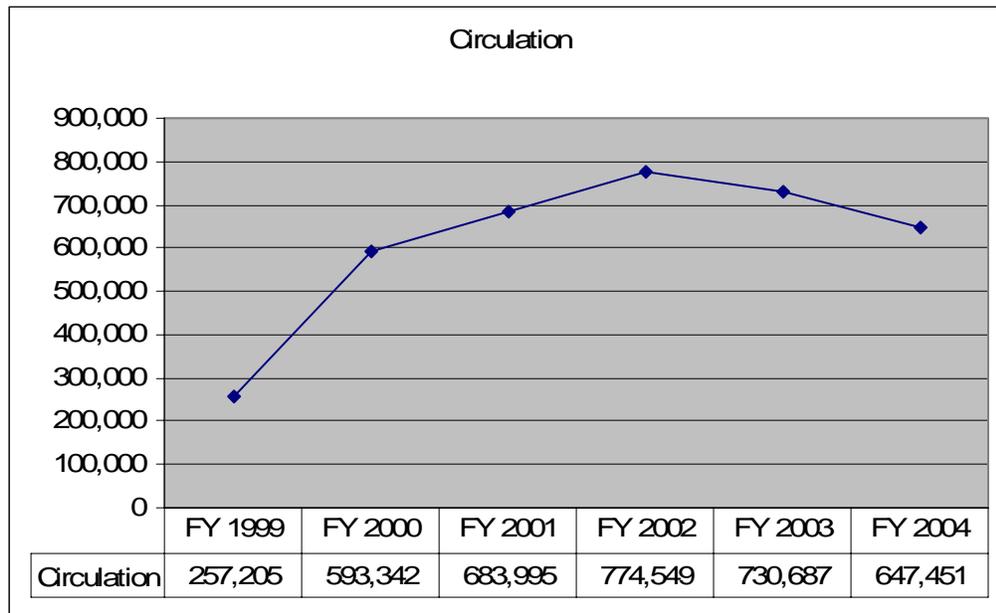
The community response and support for the Bear Library continues to be tremendous. Within the first year of operation, the Bear Library circulated more items than any other library in the state, and issued over 14,500 new library cards. A second community meeting room was opened in October 1999 to accommodate the many groups and organizations requesting meeting space. And during the first two summers of operation, a total of 4,452 children registered for the Summer Reading Program.

General Description:

The Bear Library is located in an “out-lot” of a major shopping center very near one of the State’s busiest intersections. The facility is modern and attractive and has ample parking. The building was an instant success when it opened and, until the opening of

the Brandywine Hundred Library, had the highest circulation of any public library in the State. The Bear Library draws its clientele from a broad area and has the largest service area population (approximately 12% of the Delaware's total) and, in 2003, it accounted for 15.6% of the State's total public library circulation. Bear's library facility is not nearly large enough to support the collection necessary to serve such a large population. The children's area is extremely small given the demographics of the area and adult seating space is somewhat limited.

Six Year Circulation History:



Six Year Circulation History:

- FY 1999 – 257,205
- FY 2000 – 593,342
- FY 2001 – 683,995
- FY 2002 – 774,549
- FY 2003 – 730,687
- FY 2004 – 647,451

Six Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation peaked in FY 2002 and has decreased in FY 2003 and again in FY 2004. Overall circulation increased over 151 percent (151.7%) between FY 1999 and FY 2004. It decreased by sixteen percent (16.4%) between FY 2002, its highest point, and FY 2004.

2003 Library Visits: 316,993

2003 Registered Borrowers: 38,490

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	103,783
Audio Holdings	7,758
Video Holdings	6,489
Periodical Titles	247

Holdings per Capita:

1.0 items per person in service area
New Castle mean is 3.2; Delaware mean is 2.8
State target is 3.0

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	730,687
Juvenile Circulation	347,962
Adult Circulation	382,725

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

Turnover 7.04
New Castle mean is 2.71; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 1,039,951

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	101,819
2009/10 (Projection)	112,684
2015 (Projection)	116,767
2020 (Projection)	120,224
2025 (Projection)	122,976

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 10.21 per person

Cost per Circulation: \$ 1.42

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 384.60 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 7.2 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 29.23 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 270.22 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.25 SF per person State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 3.1 visits per person

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 37.80%

Total Units of Service*: 1,103,154

Total Units of Service per capita: 10.83

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