

# Delaware Libraries

## Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

### Library: Claymont Public Library

#### Address:

3303 Green St.  
Claymont, DE 19703

#### Contact Information:

(302) 798-4164  
(302) 798-6329 FAX

#### Library Exterior:



**Estimated Size:** 3,600 SF

#### Hours:

Monday	12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Tuesday	12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Estimated Hours Open 2003:**  
**2,335 hours**



Claymont  
Interior

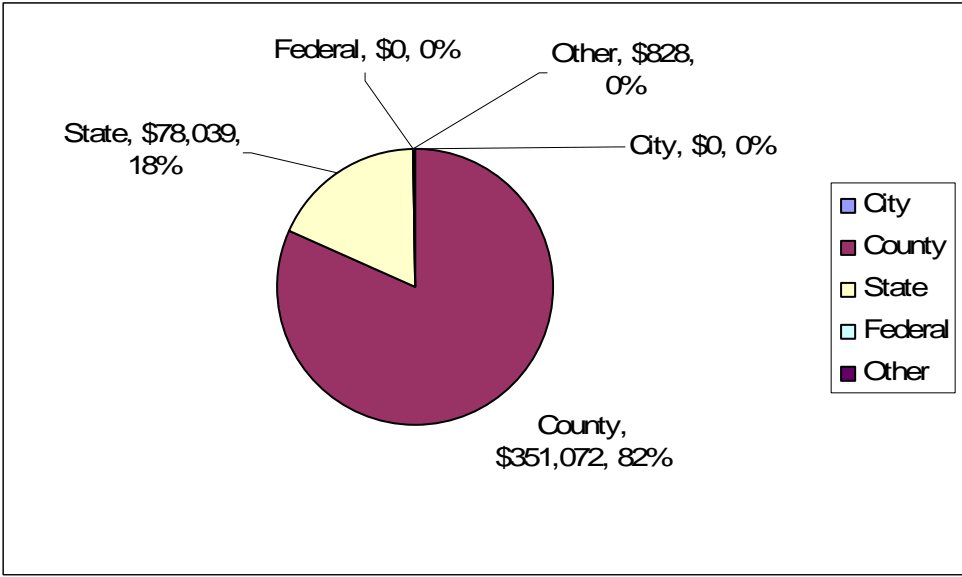


Claymont  
Computer Area



Claymont  
Children's Area

**Financial Breakdown – Income**



**History:**

In 1929, Mrs. Ethel A. Carty Woman’s Club of Claymont began the first library in Claymont’s Stone Schoolhouse with approximately 600 donated books. By 1945, the library officially became the Claymont Public Library.

Initially, volunteers staffed the Claymont Public Library, until 1975, when the New Castle County Department of Libraries assumed responsibility for the library and a professional staff was hired. But, it was not until 1988 that the Library was moved from the Stone School to the Claymont Community Center.

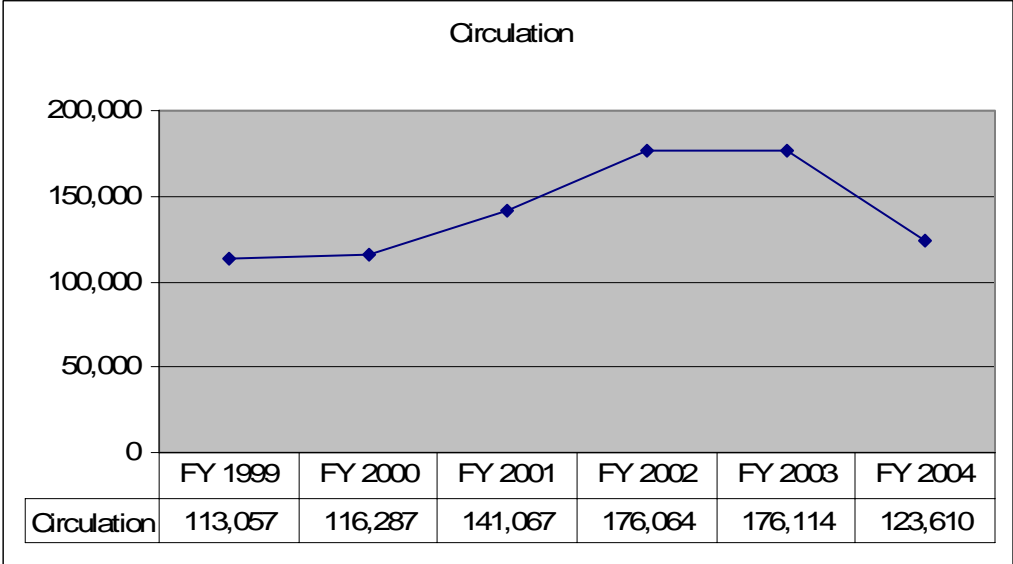
In May 1997, a tragic arson fire destroyed 32,000 books, almost the entire collection, just as the library was about to relocate. Later that same year, the Claymont Public Library reopened in its present, larger, 65,000 square foot facility in the southeast corner of the Claymont Community Center. After the fire, the Claymont community came forward and overwhelmed the library staff with their generosity, donating books from their own shelves. Many in Claymont refer to the library as the Phoenix Project, because out of the ashes of the old library has risen a new, expanded library — one that exists because of the goodwill, support, and dedication of the surrounding community.

Most recently, the Claymont Public Library was joined with the Concord Pike Library under one library manager.

**General Description:**

The Claymont Library is located in a former school building that has been converted into a community center. The Library shares the facility with a number of community services including the Boys and Girls Club, a Head Start program, and Family Health Services. Off street parking is provided although competition for parking spaces is stiff due to the large number of agencies residing in the building. The entrance to the Library is not highly visible. There is very little natural light and, in spite of efforts to brighten the interior by having white walls and light color wood finishes, the Library still seems a bit dark. The density of shelving units leaves relatively little room for user seating.

**Six Year Circulation History:**



**Six Year Circulation History:**

- FY 1999 – 113,057
- FY 2000 – 116,287
- FY 2001 – 141,067
- FY 2002 – 176,064
- FY 2003 – 176,114
- FY 2004 – 123,610

**Six Year Circulation Trend:**

Circulation increased significantly between FY 2000 and FY 2002, stayed steady in FY 2003 and then dropped by thirty percent (29.8%) in FY 2004. The increase in circulation happened during the time that Concord Pike was closed and Brandywine Hundred was not yet open. FY 2004 circulation is a return to a more representative ongoing circulation for Claymont. It represents a six percent (6.3%) increase over FY 2000 circulation.

**2003 Library Visits:** 129,371

**2003 Registered Borrowers:** 11,632

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

Total Holdings	49,751
Audio Holdings	3,954
Video Holdings	2,221
Periodical Titles	150

**Holdings per Capita:**

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

**2003 Circulation Breakdown:**

Total Circulation	176,114
Juvenile Circulation	62,397
Adult Circulation	113, 717

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

Turnover 3.54  
New Castle County mean is 2.71; Delaware mean is 2.43

**Total Operating Expenditures:** \$ 411,239

**Estimated Service Population:**

2004/05 (Estimate)	20,085
2009/10 (Projection)	19,944
2015 (Projection)	20,667
2020 (Projection)	21,279
2025 (Projection)	21,766

**2003 Operating Cost per Person in Service Area:** \$ 20.47 per capita

**2003 Cost per Circulation:** \$ 2.34

**Cost per Hour Open:** \$176.12 per hour

**Circulation per Capita in Service Area:** 8.8 circulations per person

**Circulation per SF:** 48.92 circulations per SF

**Circulation per Hour Open:** 75.42 circulations per hour

**SF per Person in Service Area:** 0.18 SF per capita    State target is 1.0

**Library Visits per Capita:** 6.4 visits per person

**Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population:** 57.91%

**Total Units of Service:** 348,635

**Total Units of Service per capita:** 17.36

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