

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Dover Public Library

Address:

45 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

Contact Information:

(302) 736-7030
(302) 736-5087 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 17,090 SF

Hours:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM |
| Tuesday | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM |
| Wednesday | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM |
| Thursday | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM |
| Friday | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM |
| Saturday | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM |
| Sunday | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM |

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

3,464 hours



Dover
Children's Area

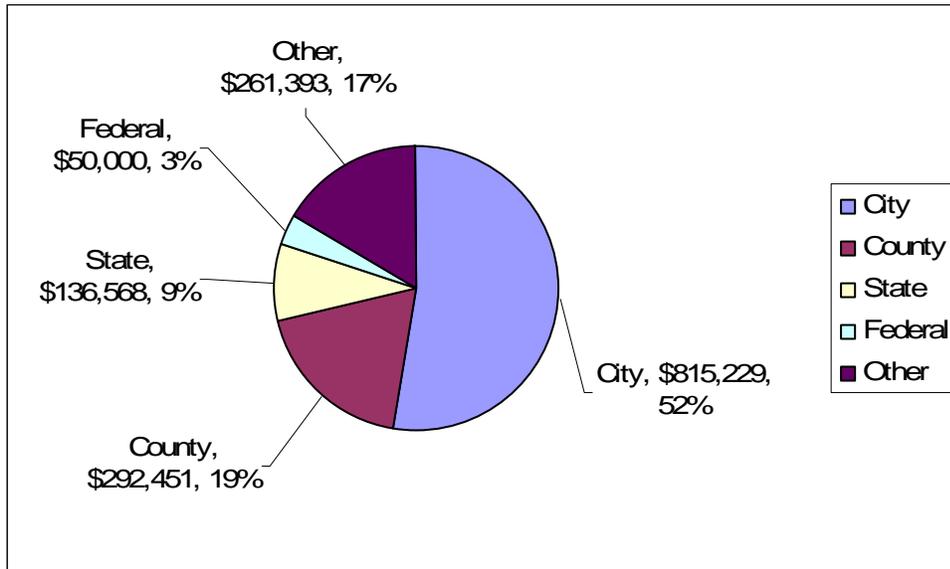


Dover Children's Computers



Dover
Adult Area

Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

In 1885, the Dover Public Library was established as a private subscription library. A group of Dover citizens, led by Manlove Hayes, served as founders. The library continued to attract many of Dover's most prominent citizens, including then 16 year-old William Duhamel Denney, who served as the second director of the library and was later Governor of Delaware.

As membership grew, Mrs. J.P. Saulsbury of the Dover Century Club (and daughter of Manlove Hayes) led the fight to create a tax-supported public library. Under a new state law in 1902, the Century Club of Dover sponsored the creation of a publicly supported library in Dover; hence, the Dover Public Library became Delaware's first tax-supported public library. One year later the law was changed yet again to make Dover Public Library a school-district library.

By 1961, the collection was so large that a new building was needed. It was constructed at the corner of State and Budd Streets. This replaced the old library on the top floor of City Hall, which was reached by a circular stairway of 39 steps. In 1975, the Dover Public Library came under the control of Dover City Council. Expansion continued and, in 1993, new meeting rooms were developed in the basement. In 1994, the library became a part of the KentNet automated library system and discarded its old card catalogs. And in 1998, the Dover Library began its plan to add a branch library in the Schutte Park area on the west side of the city.

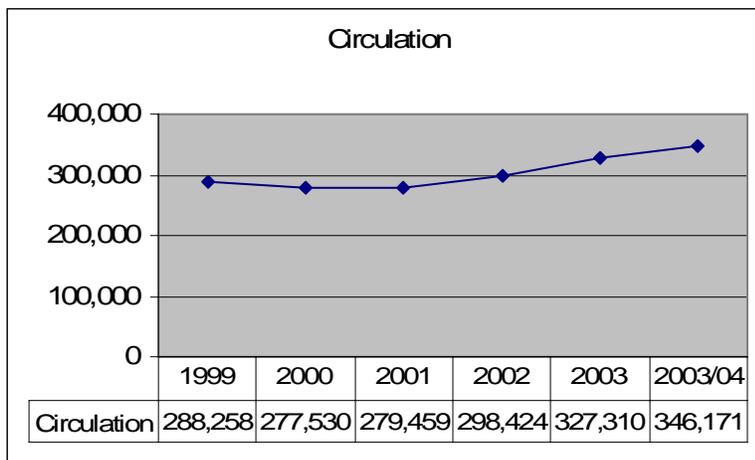
The Dover Public Library is a cultural and educational center for central Kent County and serves over 60,000 individuals. Over 600 individuals pass through its doors on a typical day.

General Description:

The Dover Public Library is housed in a colonial-style brick structure designed as a library in the 1960s. Adult services and collections are housed on the first floor and children’s services, a meeting room, and the director’s office are located on the basement level. A partial second floor provides some additional staff space.

The entire building is extremely crowded with almost all shelving filled to capacity, Public access computers are clustered closely together. User seating is limited. Parking is also a significant issue. While some off-street parking is available, it is extremely limited.

Circulation History:



Five Year Circulation History

- 1999 – 288,258
- 2000 – 277,530
- 2001 – 279,459
- 2002 – 298,424
- 2003 – 327,310
- 2003/04 update – 346,171

Five Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation increased thirteen percent (13.5%) between 1999 and 2003. There was a decrease in 2000, but there has been a steady increase since then.

2003 Library Visits: 188,378

2003 Registered Borrowers: 42,581

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Total Holdings | 105,990 |
| Audio Holdings | 4,415 |
| Video Holdings | 3,241 |
| Periodical Titles | 368 |

Holdings per Capita:

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

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Total Circulation | 327,310 |
| Juvenile Circulation | 113,008 |
| Adult Circulation | 214,302 |

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

Turnover 3.09

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 1,284,358

Estimated Service Population:

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 2004/05 (Estimate) | 68,843 |
| 2009/10 (Projection) | 72,327 |
| 2015 (Projection) | 75,560 |
| 2020 (Projection) | 78,620 |
| 2025 (Projection) | 81,229 |

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 18.66 per person

Cost per Circulation: \$ 3.92

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 370.77 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 21 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 19.15 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 94.49 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.25 SF per person State target is 3.0

Library Visits per Capita: 2.7 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 61.85%

Total Units of Service: 548,385

Total Units of Service per capita: 7.97

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