

# Delaware Libraries

## Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

### Library: Rehoboth Beach Public Library

#### Address:

226 Rehoboth Ave.  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

#### Contact Information:

(302) 227-8044  
(302) 227-0597 FAX

#### Library Exterior:



**Estimated Size:** 11,000 SF

#### Hours:

Monday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

#### Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,246 hours



Rehoboth Beach  
Children's Desk

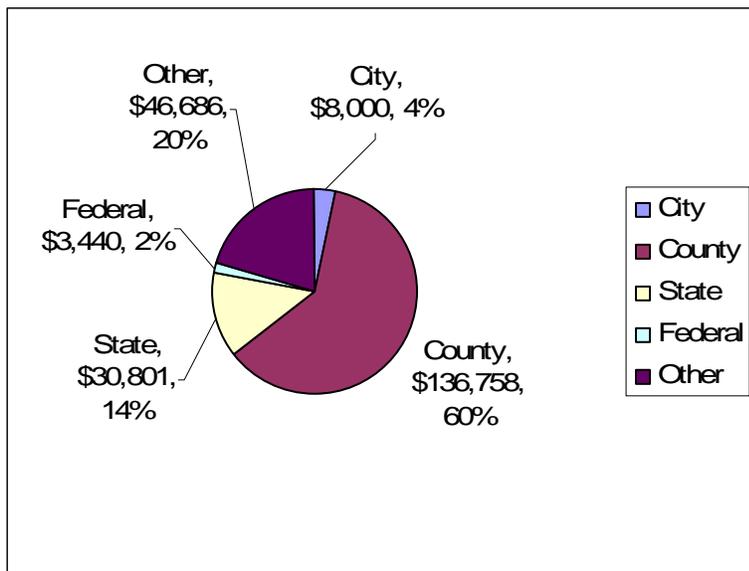


Rehoboth Beach  
Interior



Rehoboth Beach  
Young Adult Area

## Financial Breakdown – Income:



## History:

In 1912 the State of Delaware recognized the Village Improvement Association's establishment of the Rehoboth Beach Library. The small collection grew quickly. To house an expanding collection of materials, the library was first moved to an old school house and prior city hall in 1942; then to the City Municipal Center in 1965; and finally, to a former telephone company building in 1985. A capital campaign helped renovate and refurbish the building.

In 1986 Naon Craft donated a lot east of the existing building to the library and, in 1992, the city of Rehoboth gave the building to the library. The Board of Trustees then kicked off a \$1.26 million building fund drive in 1995. December 9, 2000 marked the dedication of the new, completely refurbished and renovated Rehoboth Beach Library.

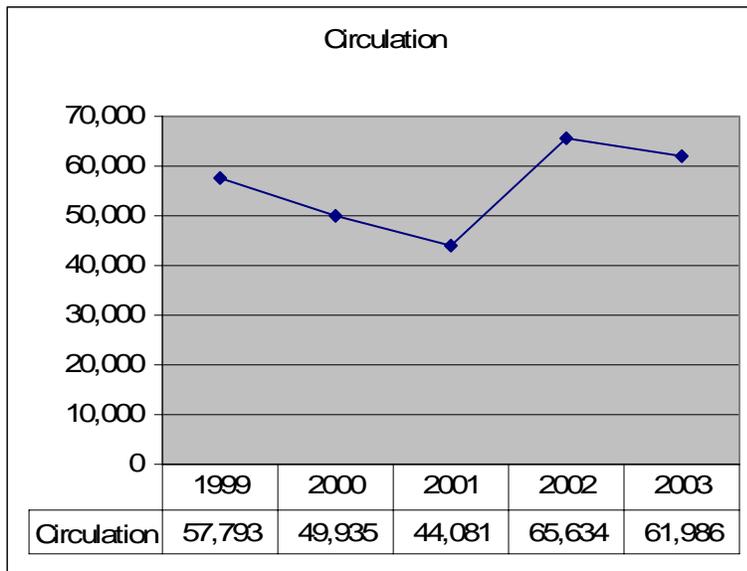
The Rehoboth Beach Library serves 5,000 active families and more than 11,000 regular patrons. From its humble beginning with fewer than 500 books, the Rehoboth Beach Public Library now boasts more than 29,300 books, 1,700 audio and video items, and 80 plus periodicals. The library also provides liberal public access to the adventures and learning offered by cyberspace.

## General Description:

The Rehoboth Beach area is served by a recently built brick library located in the heart of the "downtown" area only a short walk from the shore. The Library's interior design features are exceptional. Unfortunately, the building is landlocked and offer no

dedicated off-street parking. This is a significant drawback “in season.” The Library features a second floor meeting room serviced by an elevator in the entrance lobby, and a reading room with ample natural light. The children’s area, while well equipped, is very small.

**Five Year Circulation History:**



**Five Year Circulation History**

- 1999 – 57,793
- 2000 – 49,935
- 2001 – 44,081
- 2002 – 65,634
- 2003 – 61,986

**Five Year Circulation Trend:**

Circulation increased seven percent (7.3%) between 1999 and 2003; however, the increases have not been steady. The years 2000, 2001, and 2003 each saw a decrease in overall circulation compared with the previous year.

**2003 Library Visits:** 90,637

**2003 Registered Borrowers:** 9,114

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

- Total Holdings 36,136
- Audio Holdings 1,461
- Video Holdings 1,024
- Periodical Titles 89

**Holdings per Capita:**

3.9 items per person in service area  
Sussex County mean is 2.8; Delaware mean is 2.8  
State target is 3.09

**2003 Circulation Breakdown:**

Total Circulation	61,986
Juvenile Circulation	15,682
Adult Circulation	46,304

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

Turnover 1.72  
Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43

**Total Operating Expenditures:** \$ 193,356

**Estimated Service Population:**

	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Residents &amp; Non-Residents</b>
2004/05 (Estimate)	9,220	13,068
2009/10 (Projection)	9,503	13,469
2015 (Projection)	10,385	14,733
2020 (Projection)	11,203	15,878
2025 (Projection)	11,884	16,843

**Operating Cost per Person in Service Area:** \$ 20.97 per person

**Cost per Circulation:** \$ 3.12

**Cost per Hour Open:** \$ 86.09 per hour

**Circulation per Capita in Service Area:** 6.7 circulations per person

**Circulation per SF:** 5.64 circulations per SF

**Circulation per Hour Open:** 27.60 circulations per hour

**SF per Person in Service Area:** 1.19 SF per person      State target is 1.0

**Library Visits per Capita:** 9.8 visits per person

**Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population:** 98.85

**Total Units of Service\*:** 340,941

**Total Units of Service per capita: 36.98**

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