Delaware Libraries
Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Seaford District Library

Address:
>402 N. Porter St.
>Seaford, DE 19973

Contact Information:
>(302) 629-2524
>(302) 629-9181 FAX

Library Exterior:

Estimated Size: 9,536 SF (plans to expand to 20,000 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	CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:
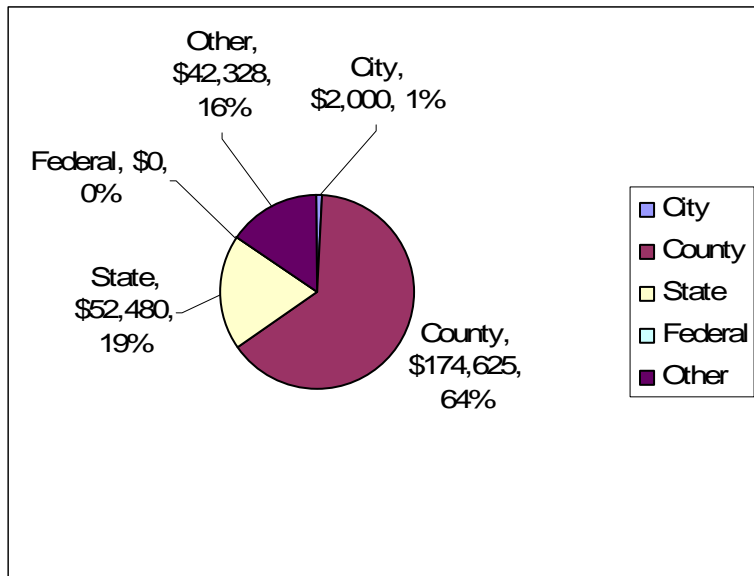>3,120 hours

Seaford Adult
Stack Area

Seaford Public
Computers

Seaford
Children's Area

Financial Breakdown – Income:

History:

In 1902, there were very few libraries open to the public. In Seaford, a group of women formed the Acorn Club as a vehicle through which they could improve their community. Their first goal was to establish a public library. The first meeting of the Acorn Club was in a rented room to which each member brought a chair, a book and a cup and saucer. They voted to start a library with books from their own homes as well as materials borrowed from the traveling library available through the State Library in Dover. Each member served as librarian for a month until a part-time librarian was hired for $1 a week. And by 1909, there were 404 books in the library's collection.

Service to Seaford's surrounding rural community was met by one of the State's first bookmobiles in 1912. Seaford Librarian Mary Hopkins purchased a touring car, stacked books on the car seats, and visited nearby farms loaning books and magazines.
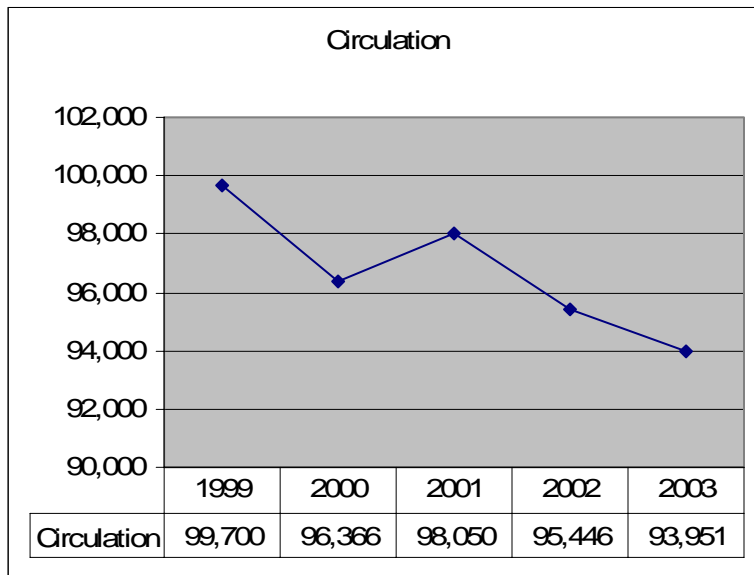
The Seaford Library continued to grow and was moved several times. The first move was from the room over Milligan's store at the corner of King and Pine Street to the Acorn Club House on Hall Street in 1939. The library moved again to the old Henry White brick building on Pine Street until the completion of the present North Porter Street building in 1963. An addition to the building in 1967 almost doubled its size, adding more room for book shelves and offering a large meeting room for community use.

As of 2001, the library boasts a collection of over 56,000 books, videos, tapes and magazines. Library services include outreach programs to local schools, daycares, nursing homes, and children's organizations. In-house presentations and programs include storytimes, an annual children's summer reading series, plus various children's and adult's programs. The library provides free word-processing capabilities, meeting space, and Internet accessibility to library members.

General Description:

The Seaford District Library is housed in a building constructed as a library in the 1960s. The building is dated and extremely crowded. Bookstacks overwhelm user seating and very little space is left for public access computers. The facility does include a large meeting room. The Library, which is located in a residential neighborhood, has no dedicated off-street parking, although on-street parking is usually available.

Five Year Circulation History:

Circulation

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Circulation	99,700	96,366	98,050	95,446	93,951

Five Year Circulation History
       1999 – 99,700
       2000 – 96,366
       2001 – 98,050
       2002 – 95,446
       2003 – 93,951

Five Year Circulation Trend:
> The general circulation trend is downward. Circulation decreased by six percent (5.8%) overall between 1999 and 2003. The changes have been up and down, with the last two years showing a decrease each year since 2001.

2003 Library Visits: 92,347

2003 Registered Borrowers: 11,209

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)
Total Holdings	63,842
Audio Holdings	1,817
Video Holdings	2,027
Periodical Titles	112

Holdings per Capita:
> 2.3 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	93,951
Juvenile Circulation	28,924
Adult Circulation	65,027

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)
> Turnover   1.47
> Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: $ 240,764

Estimated Service Population:
2004/05 (Estimate)	27,195
2009/10 (Projection)	30,866
2015 (Projection)	33,763
2020 (Projection)	36,390
2025 (Projection)	38,603

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: $ 8.85 per capita

Cost per Circulation: $ 2.56

Cost per Hour Open: $ 77.17 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 3.5 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 9.85 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 30.11 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.35 SF per person   State target is 1.0
        Planned building of 20,000 SF will yield approximately .65 SF per capita in 2010

Library Visits per Capita: 3.4 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 41.22%

Total Units of Service*: 202,246

Total Units of Service per capita: 7.44

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