Delaware Libraries
Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Smyrna Public Library

Address:
107 S. Main St.
Smyrna, DE 19977

Contact Information:
(302) 653-4579
(302) 653-2650 FAX

Library Exterior:

Estimated Size: 4,918 SF

Hours:

Monday	9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday	11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM – 8:30 PM
Friday	9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

Smyrna Popular
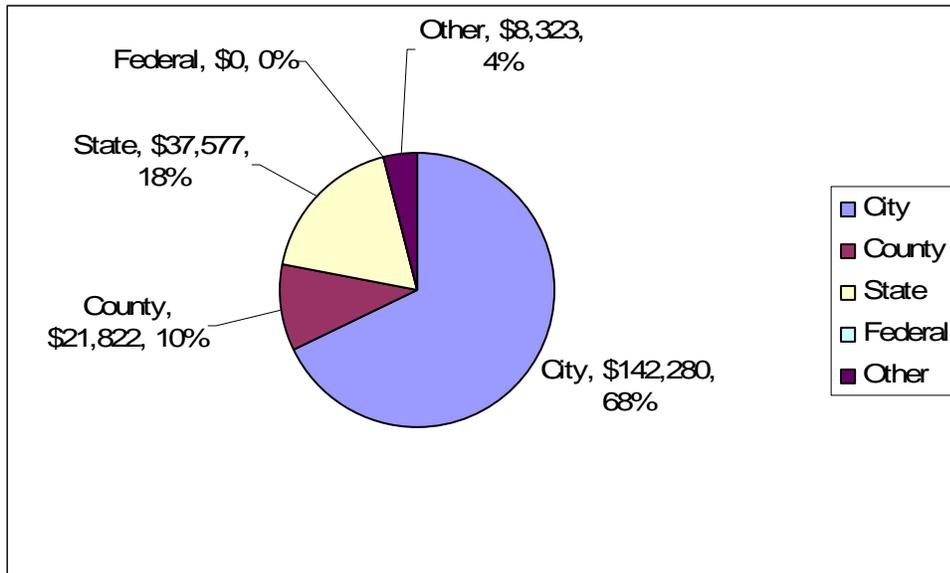Materials Area

Smyrna Adult
Reading Room

Smyrna
Children's Area

Estimated Hours Open 2003:
   2,652 hours

Financial Breakdown – Income:

History:

The Smyrna Library Association, a subscription library, was formed by a small group of Smyrna residents in 1858. The library was first located in Odd Fellows Hall; then in 1869, it moved into the firehouse section of the Old Town Hall Building on South Main Street.

On June 8, 1940, the subscription library became a Free Public Library for the citizens of Smyrna and the Smyrna School District. Then tragedy struck on Christmas Day, 1948, when Christmas decorations caught fire and burned the third floor of the building, causing extensive smoke and water damage to the first floor of the library. Books were carefully moved to the Parish House of the Episcopal Church, where sorting and repairing were done. The library operated from the church until October 1949, when it moved to its original location on the corner of South Main Street.
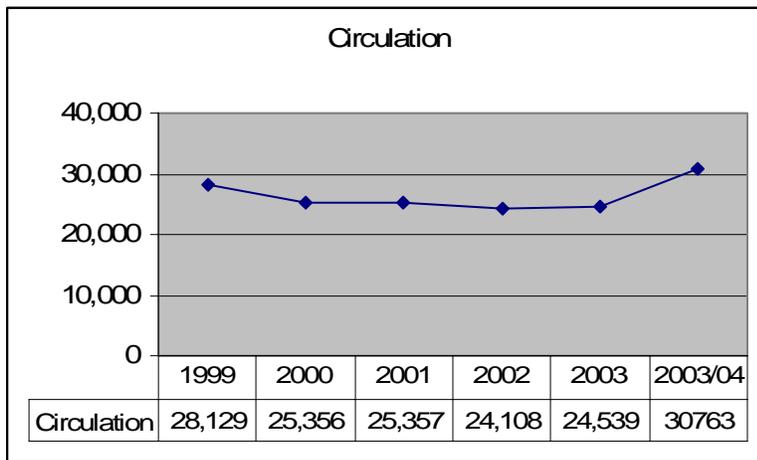
In 1989, the library moved yet again, into the Police Department section of the Town Hall. The library now occupies the entire 2,700 square foot first floor of the building.

General Description:

The Smyrna Public Library is located in an historic brick structure in the heart of the old commercial district of the community. The building includes a recently restored opera house (under separate management) that is a center for community events. The Library portion of the building is really a combination of several storefronts that have served a variety of purposes (including firehouse) during the long and storied history of the facility. This means that the Library is broken into a number of distinct rooms and that the Library has several different levels.

The Library has been expanded and was also renovated recently. The result is a charming, while small facility. The children's area is particularly small, although it too is bright and cheerful. Meeting space and some storage space is located in the basement of the Library.

Circulation History:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003/04
Circulation	28,129	25,356	25,357	24,108	24,539	30763

Circulation History
>   1999 – 28,129
>   2000 – 25,356
>   2001 – 25,357
>   2002 – 24,108
>   2003 – 24,539
>   2003/04 Update – 30,763

Five Year Circulation Trend:
>   Circulation decreased by thirteen percent (12.8%) between 1999 and 2003. Circulation in 2003 represented a slight rebound from the 2002 totals, but 2002 was a decrease from 2001. However, during the last year circulation has increased significantly.

2003 Library Visits: 33,018

2003 Registered Borrowers: 7,072

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)
    Total Holdings   17,059
    Audio Holdings   545
    Video Holdings   514
    Periodical Titles   67

Holdings per Capita:
    0.8 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   24,539
    Juvenile Circulation   12,374
    Adult Circulation   12,165

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)
    Turnover   1.44

Total Operating Expenditures: $ 203,103

Estimated Service Population:
    2004/05 (Estimate)   20,809
    2009/10 (Projection)   22,426
    2015 (Projection)   23,428
    2020 (Projection)   24,377
    2025 (Projection)   25,186

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: $ 9.76 per person

Cost per Circulation: $ 8.28

Cost per Hour Open: $ 76.58 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 1.2 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 4.99 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 9.25 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.24 SF per person   State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 31 visits per person

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 33.99%

Total Units of Service: Missing some data (reference)

Total Units of Service per capita: Missing some data (reference)

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