

Highlights | Mid-Hudson Library System

Mid-Hudson Library System staff works hard everyday to help bring value to member libraries, enhancing the services they are able to provide to local communities and maximizing local budgets. We focus on providing cost-effective and efficient resource sharing and promoting professional library services.

2007 Highlights:

Millennium & OPAC Enhancements

- New Kids OPAC interface & Kids Pick readers' advisory page created
- "Pay Online" option launched (E-commerce)
- Reading History option launched
- Teleforms implemented, saving hundreds of hours of work for member library staff.
- WebPAC Pro initiated, adding spell check and relevancy ranking to the OPAC

HOMEACCESS

- New brochure and database bookmark suite introduced; added to the Online Material Request Form
- New databases added:
 - HeritageQuest
 - Chiltons Auto Repair
 - Price IT! Antiques & Collectibles
 - Rosetta Stone
 - Practice Tests
 - TumbleBooks

Continuing Education

- Reaching Out: Serving the Spanish-speaking Community (Spanish-language Outreach) offered in all counties.
- Quarterly Director's Series Launched
- 1st year for Tips & Tricks / Advanced Training for Front Desk Staff
- Endowing Your Library Workshop
- Black Belt Librarians Workshop

Trustee Resources

- Over 80 library / board consultations
- Trustee Resources web page redesigned and enhanced
- Focus on "Smart Growth" for libraries through Advanced Trustee Education
- *Across the Board* two-part feature on fiscal responsibility

Public Library Vote Toolbox launched

- Product of the *Getting To Yes* Project: <http://midhudson.org/vote/>.
- Highlights of the toolbox: A sample *Campaign Material Gallery*; Explanation of "who does what"; *Five Phases of the Campaign*: structured, manageable segments; and *Tools* for developing effective messages, gathering statistics, creating a timeline and developing a public relations approach.



Quick Answers Web Site Launched

Over 100 member library staff helped us create *Quick Answers for Library Patrons on the Go!* [<http://midhudson.org/answers/>], a repository of answers to questions patrons frequently ask library staff.



Battle of the Books

The 2007 Battle saw 120 kids from 14 member libraries, representing all 5 counties served by MHLS, competing.

Hudson Valley Connections

- The MHLS Outreach Department produced this resource guide for ex-offenders – distributing over 6,000 copies so far.
- "Thank you very much for providing this service to people in my situation. Remember, the best crime fighters are those people who make provisions to help people to have options other than crime. For that I tip my hat to you and your staff. Thank you." – *Inmate request for the MHLS publication, "Hudson Valley Connections 2007"*

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EZ Library Program Database

- Over 100 programs were added to the database, bringing the total over 620, helping staff connect with relevant programming for their communities. [<http://support.midhudson.org/ezprogram/ezprogram.htm>]



Book Club in a Bag

This program now boasts over 80 titles to choose from.

Advocacy Success

- One-time System Aid and Construction Aid increases included in budget.
- Enabled MHLS Board of Trustees to
 - Suspend the \$6 ILL fee;
 - Partially underwrite Fall '07 semester of Public Library Administrator's Certificate Program for members; and
 - Increase offerings available to members through the MHLS Incentive Program.

2008 Advocacy: Message to Legislators: *Make the increases permanent!* | Save the Date: Library Lobby Day in Albany, Tuesday, March 11th

2006 Highlights:

2006 Advocacy: This year the NYS Legislature broke the decade-old pattern of flat funding for libraries, although two* of the three funding bumps are temporary:

- Use of the 2000 Census in the library funding formula
- *Additional funds for library systems (\$71,000 for MHLS)
- *\$14 million bond for public library construction (\$540,000 for member libraries)

Getting to Yes: This year the *Getting to Yes* (GTY) LSTA Project worked with member libraries to assist them in building up their ability to win votes.

- Twenty-eight out of thirty-one votes were successful this year.
- Fifty of our sixty-six member libraries now have their budgets voted on.

The GTY Project has generated some new tools in 2006:

- 5-Phase Campaign timeline and related resources
- Return on Investment Calculator
- Campaign Materials Gallery

All available from: <http://www.midhudson.org/GTY/target.htm>.

Book Club in a Bag (BCB) Pilot Program: BCB provides a self-contained bag with a minimum of ten copies of a title, discussion questions and discussion leader tips.



- 47 bags currently in circulation
- 24 participating libraries
- Over 115 requests (April – December)
- 13 more bags planned for early 2007

Learn more at <http://midhudson.org/program/BCB/staff.htm>.

Battle of the Books: The 2006 Battle was a huge success – we moved the event to a larger venue to accommodate all the teams and their supporters (representing 12 member libraries). Red Hook emerged as the winner and a great time was had by all.



Orientation for New Staff: In 2006 all *Orientation for New Library Staff* sessions were bundled with an optional companion session of *Circulation Essentials*.

- Begun in September of 2005
- Curriculum overseen by the MHLS Continuing Education / Professional Development Advisory Committee
- Over 50 people have attended Orientations for New Library Staff so far. Comments from participants include:
 - *So glad this was offered.*
 - *Feel much more relaxed about this new adventure. There's lots of support! Great!!*
 - *You did a great job! The program was extremely worthwhile and really gave the sense of what we're all about and that we're a part of a larger community.*
 - *Overall wonderful workshop – well worth the time.*

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Plan of Service: MHLS staff met with over 200 member library stakeholders: directors, staff, Trustees and Friends to help craft our next five year Plan of Service.

The focus of the 2007-2011 Plan of Service is to assist member libraries in providing quality library service that meets the needs of our changing communities.

The plan retains what is working while addressing what is needed to ensure the healthy future of our member libraries. The potential for further growth and development of library service in our area is strong and by working together under the new Plan of Service we can continue to fulfill that potential.

The full plan is available on the MHLS web site: <http://midhudson.org> → Services → Full Plan of Service.

[Direct link: http://midhudson.org/plan_of_service.htm]

2005 Highlights:

New In 2005:

- Downloadable Audiobooks
- Battle of the Books
- Friends Recognition Event
- Orientation for New Library Staff Workshop
- OPAC:
 - Syndetic Solutions features: Book Jacket Covers, Reviews, etc.
 - "2-Minute Tutorials"
- *Getting To Yes* Grant
- Smart Access Manager (SAM)

Delivery:

- 21,873 delivery stops in 2005
- Sorting over 3,000 items a day at MHLS headquarters

Continuing Education (CE):

- 66 programs
- 934 attendances
- Trustee Education: 11 programs; 148 trustees attended

Youth Services:

- 1,162 program support items were borrowed, a value of \$172,471, by 73% of member libraries.
- Battle of the Books Event
- Summer Reading Program Support: workshops and online support

Health Information Project:

- 433 videos/DVDs added to member library collections (worth \$51,960)
- 90 hours of outreach to local schools and agencies
- Employed 30 teenagers at local libraries, a value of \$10,560

Consultations On-Demand:

- Total visits: 234
- Total hours: 548
- Selection:
 - Automation & Technology: 68
 - Funding & Governance: 62
 - Youth Services: 49
 - Physical Plant: 14
 - Marketing/Publicity: 14

Online Services:

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- Online Catalog interface
- HomeACCESS authentication
- Downloadable Audiobooks authentication for Columbia, Greene, Putnam and Ulster counties

Incentive Program:

- \$9,504 or 11 Scholarship grants
- \$6,400 in Trustee Training grants
- \$8,686 in matching funds for Programming
- \$16,832 in Continuing Education/ Professional Development & Conference grants (*through 11/15*)

Print Services:

- 467,800 delivery slips
- 23,900 library card registration forms
- 6,950 Check Your Record / Request-a-Title bookmarks
- 5,475 *Your Library Card* brochures
- 4,220 Home**ACCESS** brochures
- 2,340 Saving Favorite Searches brochures
- 1,250 Public Libraries & Patron Confidentiality bookmarks

Friends Group Support:

- Friends Recognition Event
- Consultations: Assisted six “nascent” member library Friends Groups
- Friends & Fundraising Listserv: 126 subscribers; 217 postings of grant opportunities and fundraising tips