

HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



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Another Exciting Year For The HCLS

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Once again your library system has had another exciting operational year. In FY 2002 (our fiscal year runs from October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002) the Harrison County Library System saw an increase in circulation and in the number of library visitors! Our system wide circulation was a robust 768,332 items (which is a 7.6% increase over last year). This works out to approximately four items per capita for Harrison County. We also experienced an increase in the number of library visitors this past year. We had 591,336 visits compared to 561,748 last year. This represents an increase of approximately 5%. Our current active list of registered borrowers is 88,101, which is approximately 45% of our countywide population. Additionally, we also experienced an increase in public computer usage of 16,120, which gave us a very impressive total figure of 98,020 computer sessions for the year. All of these increases came in spite of the fact that we had to unexpectedly close all of our facilities for six and a half days because of the two storms and the upgrading of our computer system.

We also managed to add 20,363 items to our collections last year. After subtracting our withdrawals (i.e., 16,643 items) we ended the year with a total system wide materials count of 295,593. This represents approximately 5000 more items than we collectively held last year.

Perhaps the biggest story of the past year concerns the upgrading of our computer system. This upgrade primarily involved moving from a host-based system to a Windows environment that provides a multitude of Web-based features and has made the Harrison County Library System, in my opinion, the most technologically sophisticated public library system in the state of Mississippi. With this new technology (called the Horizon Sunrise System) the library user will, from any computer station in any library in our system, be able to access not only the library's resources, but also an impressive collection of databases and sites via the Internet. This system is easy to use and will be continually fine tuned by our highly trained library staff. This new "Horizon" system is providing an information resource unlike anything seen before in Harrison County.

FY 2002 also witnessed the completion of the planning stage for the new Margaret Sherry Library expansion project. In September the building contract was awarded to Lloyd T. Moon Inc. and we had our groundbreaking on December 10, 2002. As you probably know, we have been pressed for space in that facility for some time and this 7,500 sq. foot addition will go a long way toward insuring a better quality of service. This project is being funded by a combination of City (Biloxi), State and County monies and should be completed by next July or August.

We were also able, this past year, to do some long needed repairs to our headquarters library building in Gulfport. With the help of additional funding from Harrison County (the owners of the Gulfport Library Building) we were able to reattach the loose tiles that covered the facade of the building, install an automatic door for our handicapped patrons, and repaint the other outside areas. We were also able to redo the landscaping and install a state of the art sprinkler system to help keep the grounds in good order. Now we need to find funding to spruce up the interior of this thirty six year old building.

At the D'Iberville library we were able, as a result of additional County funding, to put in new carpeting and to install an automatic door for our handicapped patrons.

In closing, I would like to mention that we were also able, this past year, to completely redo the internal ceiling of the main Biloxi Library. It was expertly painted and the old, inefficient lighting system was replaced as well. This project was funded by the City of Biloxi and now the inside of that library is infinitely brighter and much more inviting to our patrons.

As you can see, your public library system continues to provide the citizens of Harrison County with the resources they need to expand their opportunities and to enrich their lives. My staff and I have all worked hard this past year to maintain a high level of service and we will continue to do so as effectively and efficiently as possible. Please continue to support us.

Robert Lipscomb
Library Director

Harrison County Library System

Director:
Robert Lipscomb

Board of Trustees:
Ms. Mary Buchanan, Chair
Mrs. Nancy Sneed, Vice Chair
Mr. Gordon Burton
Mrs. Gerry Morgan
Mrs. Ramona Peresich

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Melissa Saucier



Teen Contest Winners!

As many of you know the HCLS sponsored a Teen Web Page Design Contest.

In August we awarded the prizes to our winners. Our winners are bright and talented and we are very proud of them.

When the teen page is designed all the winners' entries will be part of the teen site.

Picture above with our Director Robert Lipscomb and our Outreach Coordinator Gen Thompson, the winners in the top row left to right are: Alison Saucier, Christopher Stull, and Elizabeth Maloy. Bottom row left to right are: Kenny Van Alstynne and Swathi Bhargav.

Please note that Kristina West who won a 2nd place prize is not pictured because she is in Tennessee attending college. Her prize was mailed to her home address.

*Gen Thompson, Outreach Coordinator
Gulfport Public Library*

Horizon Sunrise

September 12, 2002, the library implemented the final phase of the project to bring in a new automation system. The name of this new system is Horizon Sunrise. Pictured is Charlotte Lamb, the first borrower to use the new system. Also pictured is the old server as it was taken out of commission.



Thank you Gulfport Public Library!

About two weeks ago, I had to write a thirteen paragraph report on one word. When I got the assignment I thought I would never finish the research in one week. I came to the Gulfport Public Library everyday after school for three days in a row. The wonderful assistance of the librarians and the help of the card catalog helped me finish it in less than a week. Thank you so much Gulfport Public Library for helping me with my report, I never could have gotten it done without you!

*Madeline Malone, 9th Grade
Gulfport High School*



Pass Christian Library Donation

The Friends of the Pass Christian Library have pledged \$3,000 toward payment of the new circulation desk at the library. Presenting a check representing the first installment of \$1,500 to Bob Lipscomb (right), director of the Harrison County Library System is Friends Treasurer Bob Mintz.

Photo by Carolyn Johnson

A New Item to Checkout!

Retailers are predicting another big holiday season for DVD sales, and the Harrison County Library System just added another reason why one should be on your list. The Gulfport & Biloxi branches now have DVD movies for checkout, while D'Iberville & Pass Christian are in the ordering process. They circulate for three days, may be renewed once, and may be requested at any branch.

*Celia Barrett, Head Librarian
Gulfport Public Library*

*The Staff of the Library System would
also like to wish you and yours a very
Happy and Safe Holiday Season.*

Homeschooling and the Library

Home schooling is becoming more and more popular in our country. As a branch manager and children's librarian in a small library branch in Biloxi, MS, I am seeing more and more families that are choosing the home school route. I must admit that many years ago when I first heard about home schooling I was skeptical. Today it is a different story. The parents that I am seeing are very dedicated to what they are doing. My library has become their resource and I their resource person. It has been exciting to hear and see the enthusiasm and commitment that these parents have to their children. The parents that I see are not interested in keeping their children from other children, or other people, quite the contrary. These parents schedule group field trips and activities, the children participate in 4-H, dance, and Karate, horseback riding, swimming just to mention a few things. The children are well adjusted, normal kids who are happy and who are getting the best of both worlds, in my opinion..

In observing these children and their parents I began to think about other ways that I could help them. I feel that Public Libraries are here to serve the entire community, so meeting the needs of these patrons has become just as important as meeting the needs of any other. This means learning what their needs are. As I see it the primary needs of home schoolers are information, help in accessing that information, and support and encouragement.

I decided to investigate the possibility of doing some special programming geared toward this group specifically.

I have since started a home schoolers group that meets at the library about once a

month. I try to schedule special activities that will fuel their interest and also spur reading enthusiasm.

So far we have done book talks, (first I spoke to them and then each of them speaks to the group. They did a great job with them, and it helped me to learn a little about their interests. We are working now on a puppet show, which they will perform for my Preschool story-time during Summer Reading Program. They are practicing and are making their own props and designing the puppet stage. This group is a joy to work with. They get excited about almost everything we do. Whatever activity is planned for them they jump right in and give it all they've got! This week I arranged for Bob Brooks from the George Ohr Arts and Cultural Center to come out to conduct a photography workshop with them. They each brought a disposable camera, and after some instruction, they were sent outside to take pictures, of each other, the landscape surrounding the building, and anything else that might catch their eye. In one month Mr. Brooks will come back, and at that time will critique their photos and tell them what they can do to take better pictures in the future.

When asked why they chose to home school several of the parents stated that it was not just one reason, but stated that there are many reasons. They find that they can provide character training that just isn't present in the public school environment. Mostly because the teachers just don't have time. There are so many restrictions on a teacher's time, the paperwork and just the sheer number of students that he/she must teach eliminates the possibility that each and every child will get individualized attention. Home schooling provides the parent time with their children that they

otherwise would not have, and that time is of a higher quality because they are not both tired from a long day at work and school. Some of the Moms that I spoke with said that there was so much more that they can do because it is one on one. With every study or project something tangible can be figured in like a field trip to an art museum for an art lesson, or a trip to an anti-bellum home in conjunction with a Mississippi history lesson. The world becomes the classroom of these children. The learning is such an ongoing process that everywhere they go they notice something that can be incorporated into what they are learning. I think the answer that I was given to the question of why home school that sticks out most in my mind was that "time" was the one word that best describes the reason for home schooling. There is flexibility with home schooling that provided both parents and children the opportunity to learn about things that interest them. No pre-designated schedule pushes them forward or holds them back. These children learn about the world by being a working part of it. Home schooling provides the latitude for children to receive a superior education that is geared specifically to their own needs, personalities, interests, and learning styles.

Not every parent can home school, and not every child can be home schooled. I do not believe that all parents should home school. However, I would like to take my hat off to those dedicated parents who do. I look forward to assisting the group that I work with in any way that I can.

*Kathy Sparkman, Branch Manager
Margaret S. Sherry Memorial Library*

Congratulations to Staff

Sheila Peters, Children's Librarian at the Biloxi Library, will become the new Head Librarian for the Pass Christian Library in January.

Loretta Robinson, Reference Asst at the Gulfport Library, will become the new Children's Librarian for the Biloxi Library.

Sherrell Dedeaux, (pictured to the right) part-time employee at the Pass Library was the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship to study art from the officers of the Collage Group in Pass Christian.



Harrison County Library System

Administrative Offices
1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Phone: 228-868-1383
Fax: 228-863-7433

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www.harrison.lib.ms.us



Libraries and Their Hours

Biloxi Public Library

139 Lameuse Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-4298
(228) 374-0330 FAX 374-0375
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

D'Iberville Public Library

10391 Auto Mall Parkway
D'Iberville, MS 39532-3750
(228) 392-2279 FAX 396-9573
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Division Street Study Center

595 Division Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-2303
(228) 435-2435
Mon-Fri 3:30—7:30
Sat 1:00—5:00
Summer Hours: 1:00—5:00

Gulfport Public Library

1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501-2081
(228) 863-6411 FAX 868-8413
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

Isiah Fredericks Study Center

3312 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-7149
Mon - Thu 2:30—7:00
Fri 2:30—5:30
Summer Hours
Mon - Fri 9:00—5:00

Margaret S. Sherry Memorial Library

2141 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532-4251
(228) 388-1633 FAX 388-0920
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Orange Grove Public Library

12031 Mobile Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39503-3175
(228) 832-6924 FAX 832-6926
Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00—5:00
Tue, Thu 9:00—8:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

Pass Christian Public Library

111 Hiern Avenue
Pass Christian, MS 39571-4311
(228) 452-4596 FAX 452-3247
Mon-Thu 8:00—6:00
Fri 8:00—5:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

West Biloxi Public Library

2047 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531-3125
(228) 388-5696 FAX 388-5652
Mon-Wed 9:00—8:00
Thu - Sat 9:00—5:00

Holiday Hours : All Libraries will be closed: Tuesday, December 24th & Wednesday, December 25th for the Christmas
Will close at 12:00pm Tuesday, December 31st, Closed Wednesday, January 1st for the New Year