2014 Year in Review

By the Numbers

◊ GCLS branches recorded 449,696 patron visits.
◊ GCLS branches circulated a total of 502,629 items.
◊ Library staff answered 33,555 reference questions.
◊ The library webpage was accessed 226,349 times.
◊ GCLS provided meeting room space for 1,519 community programs and 3,376 library programs, with a total attendance of 77,891.
◊ GCLS benefited from 3,304 hours of volunteer service.
◊ Over 1,019 recreational, cultural and educational programs for adults were offered at GCLS branches. More than 9,438 people attended these programs.
◊ Library staff provided 2,357 children’s programs in 2014, attended by 39,821 children and their caregivers.
◊ The GCLS Summer Reading Program registered 1,770 children and teens. They read 18,659 books during the six-week period. There were 290 special programs with 7,159 attendees.

Grants and Awards

GCLS received the following grant and award funding in 2014:

◊ GCLS was awarded $12,500 from the NJ State Library for the creation and implementation of the MakerStudio@GCLS. This was the highest award amount in the state.
◊ GCLS was awarded a collection of 25 nonfiction books from the NJ Council for the Humanities. The books are by New Jersey authors or about New Jersey-related topics, and were nominated for the 2014 NJCH Book Award.
◊ McDonalds Corporation selected the Youth Services Department to be part of the Ronald McDonald Summer Library Tour, which included a live performance by Ronald McDonald and a $1,000 donation to support services for children.
◊ Target Corporation provided a $2,000 grant to fund special programs for children.

Inside:

Accomplishments 2
Special Recognition 2
MakerStudio 3
Literacy Programs 4
Contact info 4
2014 Year in Review

Accomplishments

◊ Over 260 people attended the Grand Opening of the MakerStudio@GCLS at the Mullica Hill Library on Saturday, July 26, 2014.

◊ GCLS received a 2014 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for our Library Online Public Information Guides, or “libguides”, which provide timely, accurate information on environmental, health, and other current issues.

◊ Every GCLS branch library has been designated as a “Job Seeker Library” by the NJ State Library. Every branch offers specialty databases and other resources designed to help job seekers, and staff able to assist.

◊ Ten state-of-the-art self-check kiosks were installed system-wide. They are now being used for well over 50% of library material checkouts. The kiosks also allow customers to view the status of their accounts and check in items being returned.

◊ BELIEF (Building Education, Leadership, Individualism, and Esteem in Females), a program created by librarian and Head of Youth Services Jennifer Schureman, was selected through a competitive process to be a partner in Google’s Maker Camp program in the summer of 2014. The program, open to young women in grades 7-12, is designed to build self-esteem and encourage young women to embrace technology.

◊ GCLS was one of 30 libraries chosen by the NJ State Library to help build a national data set for the Edge Initiative, a tool that helps public libraries assess their current technology service and make improvements to better serve their communities.

Special Recognition

GCLS staff accomplishments:

◊ Ralph Bingham, Head of Reference and Digital Services, was recognized for his participation in the NJSL Leadership Academy. Nancy Polhamus and Director Anne Wodnick were joined by Dan Angelucci from the GC One-Stop and Les Vail from the GC Chamber of Commerce to present a program on community partnerships at the NJLA Conference.

◊ Ralph Bingham was appointed to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council.

◊ Library Assistant Stephanie Smith was awarded a New Jersey Library Association Members Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. She is pursuing her Masters in Library Science degree at Clarion University.
2014 Year in Review

**MakerStudio@GCLS**

GCLS is very excited to be able to offer this collaborative community learning space – the first of its kind in Gloucester County. Tools and equipment in the MakerStudio range from the very basic to the latest cutting-edge technology. Partners include the Rowan University College of Engineering, GCIT, Home Depot of Mantua, area high schools, local artists and small businesses. All GCLS branches are equipped with Mobile MakerStudio Carts as part of the MakerStudio@GCLS initiative.

**Why a GCLS Makerspace?**

Aligned with the recent Educate to Innovate government initiative, a Makerspace provides opportunities to engage both young and old in creative-thinking and encourages community-based innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mechanics (STEAM).

A goal for the Gloucester County Library System as stated in the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan is to create a Makerspace, the first in Gloucester County. Establishing a Makerspace supports the GCLS mission, which is to provide welcoming community spaces where people gather to learn, create and have fun.

**MakerStudio Jr.**

The MakerStudio Jr. in the Children’s section of the Mullica Hill Library is designed for young makers ages 4-12. Fun tools like Makey Makey, LEGO WeDo Construction Kits, and LittleBits allow children to experiment with circuitry, mechanical models, and devices that can interact with computers.
**Gloucester County Library System**

**Branch Libraries**

- **Glassboro Branch**
  2 Center Street
  Glassboro, NJ 08028
  Phone: 856-881-0001
  FAX: 856-881-9338
  Manager: Loretta Lisowski

- **Greenwich Branch**
  411 Swedesboro Road
  Gibbstown, NJ 08027
  Phone: 856-423-0684
  FAX: 856-423-1201
  Manager: Patricia Collins

- **Logan Branch**
  241 Beckett Road
  Logan Twp., NJ 08085
  Phone: 856-241-0202
  FAX: 856-241-0491
  Manager: Carolyn Oldt

- **Swedesboro Branch**
  1442 Kings Highway
  Swedesboro, NJ 08085
  Phone: 856-467-0111
  FAX: 856-241-0594
  Manager: Marge Dombrosky

**Literacy Programs**

- **Every Child Ready to Read** is a research based early literacy program that promotes the importance of early literacy and provides information to parents and caregivers of young children.

- **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** challenges parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books to young children before they begin school.

- **The First Book Program**, a partnership with 6ABC and the New Jersey Library Association, provided 2,500 new books to GCLS branches for distribution to children at our story time and outreach programs.

- **FURever as Friends** gives young “reluctant readers” a positive reading experience by reading aloud to therapy pets.

- **Workforce Learning Link**—Free help with preparation for the GED is provided by the WIB with instructors from Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC), offered twice each week at the Glassboro Branch.

- **Digital Literacy for English Language Learners (ESL)** - RCGC offers this free ESL program for adults, with a focus on digital literacy, incorporating essential computer skills for job searches, work skills, and staying safe online. Offered every Saturday at the Glassboro Branch.