

More than Dewey...the Numbers of the Library

2009 was a very busy year at your library. We are very proud to report that for the first time ever the Bartholomew County Public Library circulated over 1,000,000 items (1,056,274 to be exact). That number is up 8% over last year's total circulation!

Hitting the one million mark puts us in the company of just a few libraries around the state. We are very proud of all of our staff throughout the system that have worked long and hard to accomplish this feat. However, we are most proud of what this represents. This means that you, the citizens of Bartholomew County, use and appreciate the resources that are available to you. Thus, we want to thank you for using the library and hope that you will help us make 2010 even better.

Have you ever wondered how many items the library has? System-wide we own over 180,000 books, over 12,500 DVDs and Videos, over 6,500 CDs, and over 12,500 audio books! In 2009 alone, we added over 14,500 books and over 3,000 DVDs.

While all of those numbers are fantastic, I hope that everyone knows that we have more services than just our collection. In 2009, over 47,000 of you called, emailed, or stopped in to the library for us to answer your burning reference questions. Also, over 15,000 of you took advantage of our online databases from the comfort of your homes and businesses. We also saw many of you inside the library using our public computers to file unemployment, create job resumes, check email, do homework, or just play games. We registered over 97,800 logins to our computer system and this number does not include the thousands of people who were able to use our free wireless internet.

As we also aim to be your lifelong learning partner, we had some fantastic programs for both children and adults in 2009. You were able to hear Lee Hamilton, Anne Ryder, Morton Marcus, and John Walter speak. We had standing room only when we held a panel discussion about the life of J. Irwin Miller. You also had the opportunity to learn about memory, autism, Bigfoot, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the restoration of Zaharakos, and the whole suite of Microsoft Office programs. The Children's Department was busy with storytimes, Webkinz, and many things for the Winter/Summer Reading programs. All in all, we provided more than 1,000 programs that were attended by more than 32,000 of you.

It is our goal to continue to build upon these successes for 2010. However, we can only do that with your help. Make 2010 the year you come see what your library is all about!

Jason Hatton is the Library Services Manager at the Bartholomew County Public Library.