

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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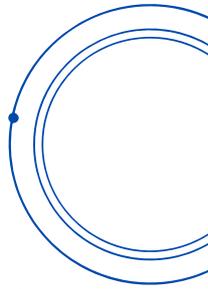
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Heartfelt thanks to the Friends of the Library for their dedication, generosity, and continued support.

FOTHL 2025 Officers:

Carol Hawkes, President

Jodi Brigman , Vice President

Gayle Bodine, Secretary

Director's Message

"Your library: open all year, open to everyone."

On behalf of everyone at the Hamilton Township Public Library, I am pleased to share our 2025 Annual Report. It has been a privilege to be your Library Director for the last three months of 2025.

We continue to work for the Hamilton community towards our mission... Hamilton Township Public Library enhances the quality of life in our community by providing the resources and services for lifelong learning and enjoyment, the space and opportunities to gather and connect, and by fostering a love of reading.

Thank you to the dedicated efforts of the library staff, along with the support of the Board of Trustees, Hamilton Township, and the Friends of the HTPL.

Laverne Mann, MLIS
HTPL Director



2025 Cardholders: 39, 248

2025 Circulation: 115,169

Website views 158,966

Ebooks, Eaudio: 60,731

50 Year Anniversary 1975-2025





Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading Theme - Color Your World

Children's: July: 26 programs - 1226 attendees

Outreach 2 nursery schools (85 people)

Most attended program was the Touch a Truck event then The Kids Carnival for Ages 2-6, Tim Hoh, and Mr. Jim from Key of Awesome Music. 235 people at the Touch a Truck event & 100+ people at each of the other events.

August: 19 programs - 911 people. Outreach to 53 preschoolers & a record-breaking 223 people at Tim Hoh's music show.

Our 2025 **Teen** Summer Reading Program had 47 teens registered, over 670 hours read, six programs (four craft programs, a passive/asynchronous program, and an end of summer party), with 38 attendees, and 22 teen volunteers who filled 67 spots and served 146 hours. Compared to 2024, a 31% increase in registrants, a 23% increase in hours read, 153% increase in program attendance, and 144% increase in teens who volunteered.

Children's

The library added to its roster of recurring music programs in 2025 with the addition of Ukulele with Miss Amanda. Amanda performed during the months of January, March, May, June, and July in to full capacity. Tim Hoh's Music for Kids continued to shine as the most well attended program with Mr. Jim of Key of Awesome music a close second. All will be returning in 2026 courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Out of our homegrown programs, Drop-in Play consistently saw the highest program attendance numbers. The informal nature, large age range, opportunities for socializing and rotating early learning activities make this program appealing for both children's and adults. We also finally gained some traction offering a monthly Saturday Storytime and volunteer-run STEM program.

We also introduced some new one time programs that are likely to become recurring activities. Our first tea party was held in October with a teddy bear theme and at least two more parties are planned for 2026. The SJ Lion Dance group performed for our littlest patrons during Lunar New Year and are schedule to do a program for the whole community for Asian American Heritage Month in May of 2026. We also plan to increase our offerings of Itty-bitty Baby Time and Baby Rock n Rhyme from once to twice a month.



Reference



REFERENCE QUESTIONS
 2025 – 22,409 2024 – 21,471
 Increase of 4.4%

RESERVES
 2025 – 2,135 2024 – 1,822
 Increase of 17.2%

Total queries: 1482
 Reserves for items not owned by library: 164
 Guest passes: 494
 Movie Program: 17 attended (5 Movies on 9 Occasions)
 Notarized items: 86 (up 9%)
 Meeting room reservations: 206

The following groups use the Teen Room on a regular basis:

- Hamilton Township School District
- Board of Education
- For the Love of Reading Book Club
- Literacy New Jersey Mercer County
- Hamilton Creative Writer’s Club and Poet Group
- Nottingham Garden Club
- New Jersey/Pennsylvania UFO Paranormal Study Group
- New Jersey Black State Trooper Association
- Hamilton Library Crochet Group
- Social Skills Classes
- Hamilton Coaches Association
- Professional Life Coaches and Clients
- Tutors
- Students
- Patrons working “at home” instead of at the job site
- Patrons owning their own business who require a quiet place to work
- Patrons taking practice MCATS, medical license tests, and nursing tests
- Patrons interviewing for jobs

Circulation



ILL Stats
 Borrowed 418
 Loaned 940

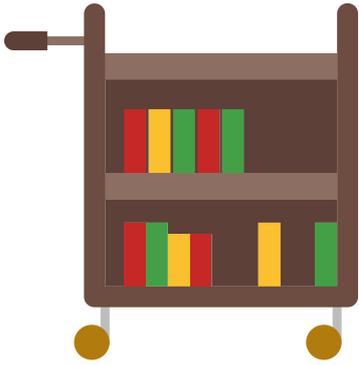
The circulation department is the welcoming front line of the public library, connecting people with materials, managing checkouts and returns, and ensuring access for the entire community.

Library Cardholders

65 OVER NR 29
 HOME BOUND 9
 HIGH SCHOOL 787
 HAMILTON WORKER 584
 JUV NR 263
 JUV RES 7273
 NON-RESIDENT 39
 RESIDENT 30121
 STAFF 56
 STUDENT NR 8
 TEMP 79
Total 39,248

Cataloging

The acquisitions and cataloging department builds, organizes, and maintains the library's collection, ensuring materials are carefully selected, accurately described, and easily discoverable by the public.



2025 orders:

Print material: 4404

DVD's: 269

Books on CD: 95

Vox Books for Kids: 63

Kits: 11

Historian/ Archivist

Jeff Guear, Township historian, gave history presentations to local senior citizen groups. He collected, organized, and digitized data and artifacts relating to the history of Hamilton Township. He assisted patrons with many requests for local historical information.

Due to the rapid growth of our collection of artifacts, a database compatible for museum collections was deemed necessary before the management of said collection became unwieldy. We acquired PastPerfect Web Edition at the starter level for this purpose.

He supplied the information regarding the existence and location of a time capsule in the cornerstone of the library, creating a display of the objects found within. Much research was done for the 50th anniversary of our library building, providing the facts for the signs posted outside the library during the anniversary celebration, as well as assembling a display for the lobby.



Fundraisers

The Library hosted several flea markets and vendor fairs throughout the year, bringing together local vendors, artisans, and community members. These events not only generated valuable fundraising support but also strengthened community engagement, increased library visibility, and created welcoming opportunities for patrons to connect while supporting library programs and services.



Social Media, Marketing

MessageBee

16,523 total notifications: holds, due, check outs, auto renew, welcome info
Library Ledger monthly e-news



Facebook engagement:

2400 followers

648,927 views

2,276 reactions, clicks, shares, comments, saves on posts
<https://www.facebook.com/hamiltontownshippubliclibrary>

Instagram

591 posts

814 followers 58 following

<https://www.instagram.com/hamiltontownshippubliclibrary/>



2025 Statistics

Circulation

Total Adult and Young Adult Circulation: 61,767 up 2%
Children's: 53,274 up 5%

General Circulation

Checkouts: 115,196

ELibraryNJ -*ebooks, audiobooks Libby app*: 44,019 checkouts
Hoopla - *ebooks, audiobooks, music streaming* : 16,712 borrows



**Thank you and visit us
at the Library!**

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