

Hennepin County Library's mission is to nourish minds, transform lives and build community together.

Hennepin County Library is consistently recognized as one of the top library systems in the United States. With 41 libraries and community outreach to those who are homebound, in senior residences or correctional facilities, we serve a diverse population of 1.1 million Hennepin County residents. Priorities are early literacy, out-of-school time, jobs and small business support, lifelong learning and individuals age 55+, weaving diversity throughout each area.

2008 FACTS

Cardholders

- 881,762 people have library cards and are considered active users.
- 103,682 people signed up for cards.

Collection

- More than 5 million books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and other items in more than 40 languages are available to the public.
- About 16.7 million items were checked out, a circulation increase of nearly 2.5 percent from 2007 to 2008. This is an average of 15 items per resident.
- There were 7 million checkouts of children's and teen materials; and 9.6 million adult checkouts.
- Hennepin County Library boasts the 12th largest public library collection in the country, and ranks fifth in the country for circulation volume.

Electronic resources

- In 2008, there were nearly 16 million visits to both the former Minneapolis Public Library and Hennepin County Library public websites, which merged into one in January 2009, www.hclib.org.
- About 1750 public computers offer people access to the Internet, several databases and Microsoft Office.
- 121 subscription databases were used 547,593 times.

Outreach

- Outreach liaisons link Hennepin County Library to Hmong, Latino and Somali residents.
- The At Home Service reaches more than 800 customers who cannot go to a library due to disability, illness or lack of transportation.
- Circulation and information requests are up 100% at the three county adult corrections facilities.
- Services to senior assisted-living sites and residences include site visits and deposit collections.

Reference

- More than 875,000 reference and reader's advisory inquiries were answered.

Programs, events, classes

- Program attendance reached nearly 270,000 participants.
- More than 125,000 children and teens participated in storytimes, programs and tours.
- 602 classes were attended by groups ranging from four to 10 customers.

Community connections

- 1,790 volunteers and Friends contributed 68,350 hours to expand the reach of services.
- 1,420 people are fans of Hennepin County Library's Facebook page.
- 1,716 people are following Hennepin County Library on Twitter.

Resources

- A \$73.6 million operating budget was approved for 2009.
- Hennepin County Library is a department of Hennepin County Government, ultimately reporting to County Administration and the County Board of Commissioners.
- The Library Board is an advisory board that reports to the County Board and helps Library staff define and meet our mission.
- The Library Foundation of Hennepin County, united with the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library in 2008, helps to ensure our libraries are thriving community centers of intellectual discovery and lifelong learning.

Awards

- Hennepin County Library is now ranked No. 5 in American library systems that serve a population of 500,000 or more, according to Hennen's American Public Libraries Ratings 2009.
- Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service named Hennepin County Library a Five-Star Library in March 2009, a ranking determined by measuring per-capita checkouts, visits, program attendance and public Internet use.
- 2008 NACo Achievement Award for World Language Storytime