Previously known as the M.I.S. Department (for Management Information Systems), the NPL’s computer gurus are now I.T. (Information Technology). And they’re on a mission to create a 24/7/365 computer-services platform seldom found in a library environment.

Why?

“Because that is the nature of the demands of the users of our 400-plus networked computers,” explained Luis Hernandez, the NPL’s Assistant Director for Information Technology. “We’re accomplishing this by building a data center and an off-site storage system, and by currently having installed two independent connections to the Internet.”

On a M.I.S.-sion

Luis Hernandez, Frank Costeira, Jonathan Fishman, Angel Hernandez, and Jorge Rodriguez comprise the team and provide differing core functions that encompass telecommunications and security management, software development, and technology support throughout the NPL system and our member Hub libraries. Additionally, Rosalyn Forte and Cynthia Willis support the day-to-day operations of the Library’s online public catalog system.

Their “24/7/365” mission benefits not only NPL patrons, but as one of the I.T. Team: Luis Hernandez, Frank Costeira, Jonathan Fishman, Angel Hernandez, and Jorge Rodriguez.

staff at the Newark Library Hub for their excellent service and help. The Hub libraries,” Ms. Laub continued, “have enabled our library and many others to provide Internet service to our patrons in an effective and economical fashion.”

One of the many advantages of the Hub system is that each member library can mold its Hub link to meet the specific needs of its patrons by receiving customized services.

“We are continually looking to improve the Hub library system to better meet the needs of New Jersey libraries.”

Rob Zangara,
Director of Information Technology for the New Jersey State Library

And our M.I.S.-sion continues.

Luis Hernandez, Frank Costeira, Angel Hernandez, Jonathan Fishman and Jorge Rodriguez.

fourteen New Jersey “Hub libraries,” it also aids the twenty-plus libraries the NPL serves in Hudson, Essex and Union counties.

“I think it was a very wise decision for the State of New Jersey to fund the Hub libraries,” said Barbara J. Laub, Systems Librarian of Maplewood Memorial Library. “I am eternally grateful to Luis Hernandez and his

staff at the Newark Library Hub for their excellent service and help. The Hub libraries,” Ms. Laub continued, “have enabled our library and many others to provide Internet service to our patrons in an effective and economical fashion.”

One of the many advantages of the Hub system is that each member library can mold its Hub link to meet the specific needs of its patrons by receiving customized services.

“We are continually looking to improve the Hub library system to better meet the needs of New Jersey libraries,” said Rob Zangara, Director of Information Technology for the New Jersey State Library. “The I.T. team at the NPL Hub has done a great job with implementing a stable network infrastructure that serves their downstream libraries.”

And our M.I.S.-sion continues.
Preparing a wall for painting takes longer than painting it. Laying a solid foundation is, perhaps, the most onerous job involved in building a house. Unfortunately, properly-spackled walls and well-constructed foundations do not attract much notice.

The tasks to which we have devoted ourselves in recent months are more akin to laying foundations and spackling walls than to installing chandeliers or custom-made woodwork. The success of future undertakings, destined to attract more notice, depends primarily on what we are doing now. Their success depends upon our success in fundraising. Building a fundraising infrastructure is no less onerous than laying a foundation and that is what we are doing now.

Their success also depends upon skillful planning; and we are now devoting much attention to several kinds of planning. We are not dreaming idly. We are, rather, attempting to assess what resources will be at our disposal and to determine how we can use them to best advantage.

The first-fruits of our current efforts will be visible in projects slated to begin soon; and I am confident that before the end of the year, the preparatory work that is engaging us now will have yielded results apparent to all.

The success of future undertakings, destined to attract more notice, depends primarily on what we are doing now.

Joseph Yeadon has served on the Newark Public Library’s Board of Trustees since the beginning of 1998; he was elected Treasurer that June. Mr. Yeadon is a certified public accountant and internal auditor. In addition to owning a licensed check-cashing operation (Rapid Check Cashing, Inc.), he is also one of the managing partners at Yeadon & Ra’Oof, CPAs LLC.

He is a progressive and enterprising African-American entrepreneur who is heavily involved in his community. He has served on many boards; in addition to the Library, he is currently a board member for Essex County College. He is also the founder, president, and chief executive officer of Essex Business & Medical Training Institute, Inc. (EBMTI), a non-profit computer training entity committed to providing comprehensive technical training and hands-on course methods and instructions—with special emphasis on inner city residents who qualify for New Jersey’s Work First Program.

Mr. Yeadon believes that the Newark Public Library is a “significant and outstanding institution that is committed to striving for excellence.” He feels his chief responsibility is to continue working with Library management to ensure the financial integrity of the institution. And he wants to be an integral part of the successful fundraising campaign organized to renovate and expand the Library.

Spiritually rooted, he values his family and friends, and he puts people first.
Close cooperation between the Van Buren Branch and neighborhood schools has been a major factor in drawing children and their parents to the library. For adult patrons, there is an Internet class each Monday morning in the computer room. And the community meeting room has been used for groups such as the Ironbound Community Corporation and the Ironbound Senior Citizen Center.

The success of making Van Buren the “most-visited” branch is due mainly to its dedicated staff: Susan Blake, Branch Manager/Children’s Librarian; Frances Poteet, Principal Adult Services Librarian; Valerie Gores, Adult Services Librarian; Joan Benjamin, Senior Library Assistant; Antonio Silva, Senior Building Maintenance; and Dana Mitchell, Security Guard.

Van Buren Branch, 140 Van Buren Street, (973) 733–7750, located between Ferry Street and Lafayette Street

This Branch began serving the Ironbound community on September 23, 1923. After undergoing a total renovation in 1997, the already well-attended facility began attracting many new patrons—thanks to the addition of computer-based resources, online capability, a parking lot, handicapped-accessibility, new furnishings, and a community meeting room.

It serves the growing diversity of its community with extensive Portuguese- and Spanish-language collections for children and adults—including newspapers such as the Luso-Americano—and by holding classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

The Library’s “Club Success” homework-assistance program is a favorite at the branches.

Eager to assist patrons with finding a good book or navigating the Internet are Delores Evans Whitehead, Western Region Supervising Librarian and Branch Manager; Funmi Songonuga, Children’s Librarian; Shakia Dutton-Bennett, Clerical Assistant; Doris Gadson, Technology Monitor; Edward Lyken, Maintenance; and Rodney Henderson, Security.

The specialized adult/children’s collections are of particular interest to the African-American and Spanish-speaking communities.

The Weequahic Branch is an active participant in First Day with the Newark School District and the Celebrity Read Program. Toddler and nursery schools also enjoy storytime, arts and crafts and other programs.

Two groups that have been meeting monthly at Weequahic Branch for several years are The South Newark Literary Society and The Little/Big Readers—book discussion groups for adults and children, respectively. Since June 1998, the community has participated in Gospel Music Month Celebrations held at the Branch.

Eager to assist patrons with finding a good book or navigating the Internet are Delores Evans Whitehead, Western Region Supervising Librarian and Branch Manager; Funmi Songonuga, Children’s Librarian; Shakia Dutton-Bennett, Clerical Assistant; Doris Gadson, Technology Monitor; Edward Lyken, Maintenance; and Rodney Henderson, Security.

Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Terrace, (973) 733–7751, located between Mapes Avenue and Lehigh Avenue

Opening in 1929 and renovated in 1992, Weequahic is the Flagship Branch for the NPL’s Western Region. Since its renovation, it has become a center for programs and services enjoyed by patrons—from preschoolers to the senior citizens—with computers, public parking, handicap access, and an 80-seat Community Room.

As with all NPL locations, Van Buren and Weequahic offer Club Success homework assistance, free Internet access, and have customized collections and services that make them cultural anchors in the communities they serve. Along with a general description and staff listing, this article discusses information of special interest to the patrons served.

Van Buren Branch, 140 Van Buren Street, (973) 733–7750, located between Ferry Street and Lafayette Street

This is the last of our continuing series of articles that have highlighted two of our Branch Libraries in each issue of The Second Century. It focuses on Van Buren and Weequahic. Subsequent newsletters will cover new developments throughout our Branch system.
There’s a new website to notables mentioned in Newark newspapers and it can be accessed from the NPL’s homepage. It’s the online access to the Cummings Index to the Newark Evening News (1970) and the Newark Star-Ledger (1971-1990). Check it out at hercules.vtls.com/cgi-bin/npl/chameleon?skin=npl.

The staff of the Library’s New Jersey Information Center compiled the index of notable places, events, and people that appeared throughout the pages of the Newark Evening News for the year 1970 and in the Newark Star-Ledger between the years of 1971-1990. The research effort was lead by Charles F. Cummings, Newark City Historian and the Library’s Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach.

All entries in the Cummings Index have had an important connection to Newark, Essex County or the State of New Jersey. Entries usually include newspaper name, article title, date, and page number. Microfilm versions of these newspapers are then available for viewing in the New Jersey Information Center, which is located on the third floor of the Main Library.

The Library has been digitizing this unique and significant index since 2002. The New Jersey Historical Commission has supported the project generously. Currently, approximately 35,500 entries have been digitized. They cover the years 1970-1978. Additionally, all biographical entries from 1970-1990 have been added to this database.

Although not every name or place appearing in the paper is included in the index, the New Jersey Information Center staff selected the individuals, organizations, and activities deemed noteworthy.

Searches can be performed by title or by subject/name. For more information about this project or index please call the New Jersey Information Center at (973) 733-7775.

Looking for a title, but not finding it in the Newark Public Library’s catalog? Your NPL card plus our Interlibrary Loan Services can come to the rescue when using JerseyCat . . . a voluntary network that provides resource sharing to member libraries and the residents of New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Regional Library Cooperatives established JerseyCat. As part of this library network, the Newark Public Library is able to offer free, real-time searching of more than 500 New Jersey library catalogs via the World Wide Web. Your NPL card allows you to initiate requests through JerseyCat’s interlibrary loan system.

Using JerseyCat is easy.

Visit www.npl.org/Pages/Catalog and click on JerseyCat. You may select and search simultaneously as many as 15 catalogs. Once you have found the item that interests you, click “request this item,” then fill out the form, submit it, and the NPL’s Interlibrary Loan System will secure it for you and notify you when it arrives. If you already have an item in mind, click on “patron menu” at the top of the JerseyCat main page and choose blank request.

The New Jersey Union List of Serials is also searchable through this system, enabling users to locate magazines and other periodicals and request photocopies of articles.

For more information or assistance, please call the NPL at (973) 733-7767.
“Transcultural Initiative” promotes diversity

The Library has joined over twenty other New Jersey cultural institutions to mount the first art exhibition program in the country to carry a central statewide theme: cultural diversity. We are presenting two exhibitions through June 15. The second-floor show is entitled *The People of New Jersey: Their Enduring Journey*, curated by Charles F. Cummings, Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach. William J. Dane, Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper, curated the exhibition installed on the third-floor gallery. It is entitled *Celebrating the Vitality and Joys of Multiculturalism: A Century of Print Collecting*.

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities provided the generous funding for the NPL’s exhibitions.

*The People of New Jersey* exhibition is historical in nature and depicts the mosaic of the state’s ethnicity. Included are photographs, graphics, charts, selected current interviews and essays, and information from consulate generals and embassies of the fifty-three ethnic groups who call New Jersey home. In addition to the archives of the Newark Star-Ledger, the basis for this exhibition has been the vast collections of our New Jersey Information Center.

*Celebrating the Vitality and Joys of Multiculturalism: A Century of Print Collecting* is a survey show of major prints by some immigrant artists with international reputation who had an affiliation with New Jersey. Included are John James Audubon, from Santo Domingo, who spent time on the New Jersey coast sketching the state’s native birds, Ben Shahn (from Lithuania), Max Weber (from Russia), and Louis Lozowick (from the Ukraine), as well as prints by artists from other worldwide countries.

For more information, visit the Library’s website: [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org), or call the respective curator: Charles F. Cummings (*The People of New Jersey*) at (973) 733-4870, or William J. Dane (*Celebrating the Vitality and Joys of Multiculturalism*) at (973) 733-7745.

---

Donors make 2003 Annual Fund a banner year

Thanks to an outpouring from past donors and more than 200 new donors, the 2003 Annual Fund Campaign doubled the contributions over the previous year. Our newly created “bookmark profile” series was included in the quarterly mailings and was instrumental in outlining our programs and services while highlighting some of the many dedicated individuals who lend their talents to the Library. Remember, the Fund guarantees continued access to cultural, educational and informational resources—such as books, videos, public programs, exhibits and computer training—to all who seek them. Free of charge!

Authors Jean-Rae Turner (seated) and Richard T. Koles speak with guests about their book, *Newark: The Golden Age*. Not pictured is the third author, Charles F. Cummings.

In October the Library held a Book Signing Reception, giving our 2003 Annual Fund donors the opportunity to meet the authors of *Newark: The Golden Age* and take a personalized tour of the Main Library. The event was well attended—and enjoyed by all.

We are seeking further support in 2004 to continue leading the way in *enriching lives and expanding horizons* for everyone we serve.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today to the Annual Fund Campaign. Your support will go far in ensuring that the Library remains a vibrant center for lifelong learning and a vital repository of information. Your gift (made payable to the Newark Public Library) is greatly appreciated.
Club Success: A true success story

The Library’s Club Success program is in its tenth year of offering Newark students focused and aggressive assistance with their homework. Funded by a grant from The Newark Public Schools, more than 1,500 students from approximately 100 schools participated in last year’s program.

“This makes Club Success the longest-running homework-assistance program in the area,” notes Michele Cappetta, the Library’s Youth Services Coordinator.

The Clubs meet Monday through Thursday during the school year at all NPL locations. A team of Library and school employees, consultants and community volunteers manage the program. The individual Clubs recognize the students’ achievements each quarter. This acknowledgment, plus the relaxed atmosphere of the Clubs, aids student participation.

For more information or to join a Club, call or visit any Newark Public Library Children’s Room.

Library Hours

Main Library
Monday 9:00am to 5:30pm
Tuesday – Thursday 9:00am to 8:30pm
Friday, Saturday 9:00am to 5:30pm

Branch Libraries
Monday, Tuesday 9:30am to 5:30pm
Wednesday 1:00pm to 8:00pm
Thursday, Friday 9:30am to 5:30pm
Saturday 9:30am to 1:30pm

In case of inclement weather, please call (973) 733-7784 to determine whether the Library is open.

Sharpe James, Mayor, City of Newark

Donald Bradley, South Ward, City Council President

Newark Municipal Council
Augusto Amador, East Ward
Charles Bell, Central Ward
Mamie Bridgeforth, West Ward
Hector Corchado, North Ward
Gayle H. Chaneyfield-Jenkins, At-Large
Luis A. Quintana, At-Large
Donald Tucker, At-Large
Bessie Walker, At-Large

The Second Century is published by the Development Department of the Newark Public Library, Dr. Alex Boyd, Library Director, and the Board of Trustees: Trish Morris-Yamba, President; Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, Vice President; Newark Public Schools District Superintendent Marion A. Bolden, Dr. Gayle W. Griffin, Alternate, Secretary; Joseph Yeadon, Treasurer; Alberto Coutinho; Dr. Timothy J. Crist; Mayor Sharpe James, Dwayne Ashley, Alternate; Dr. Clement Alexander Price.

Address all correspondence to:
The Second Century
The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street, P.O. Box 630
Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630
Telephone: 973-733-7793
http://www.npl.org
ISSN 1049-5509

Editor, J. Dennis Papp
Design and Production by Jenkins Graphics
Printed by Mariano Press
Selected photos by Photogelic Studios

The printing/distribution of The Second Century is funded by the Library’s administrative budget.
The URL for this issue is: http://www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/SecondCentury/vol15num1/index.html

Betty Rufalo honored

After more than twenty years of dedicated service, Betty Rufalo retired as a Trustee of the Newark Public Library. Her tenure included appointments as President and Vice President, as well as being the first Development Committee Chairperson. In addition to receiving a parting gift at the December 17 Board meeting, she is pictured with the bouquet of flowers presented to her by President Alberto Coutinho.

Oath of Office Administered to Four Trustees

In a ceremony at City Hall on January 20, Dwayne Ashley and Timothy J. Crist were sworn in as new Trustees of the Library’s Board, and Alberto Coutinho and Joseph Yeadon were sworn in for another term. Pictured above, from left, are Library Director Dr. Alex Boyd, Timothy J. Crist, Dwayne Ashley, Alberto Coutinho, Joseph Yeadon, and City Business Administrator Richard Montelli.
Hooray for Children: quality programs for entire family

The Library’s Hooray for Children series of quality live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups is not just for children: It’s a family affair. Each monthly program is held at 2pm on a Saturday so that the entire family may attend. And each program is free and open to the public.

The series began in October and continues to May. Here’s what’s on tap until May:

- April 17: Beauty and the Beast with The Happy Times Children’s Theatre. Enjoy the timeless tale of a young prince who is turned into a hideous beast and can only be saved by loving someone who will love him in return.
- May 1: Cinderella’s Storyland with Kit’s Kaboodle. Be part of the interactive audience-participation story full of history, music, fun and dance.

For a calendar of the NPL’s children’s programs, visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

F.E.W. Harper Literary Society sets schedule

Dedicated to discussing books on the African Diaspora, the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June, except January. The remaining schedule features:

- April 7: Celebrate Poetry Month by being a part of the program entitled “I Am a Poet!”
- June 2: Celebrate the Black Diaspora with a discussion of The Latin Deli, by Judith Ortiz Cofe

Each of these programs begins at 6:30pm in the James Brown African-American Room, which is located on the first floor of the Main Library. For more information on the Society and its programs, call (973) 733-5411 or visit www.npl.org and select Programs & Exhibits.

Officers of Tyre Lodge #29, Prince Hall Affiliate, Free and Accepted Masons—on behalf of Thomas P. Caldwell, Grand Master, State of New Jersey, and James T. Osborne, Jr., Worship Master—presented the NPL with a copy of Black Square and Compass, 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry, written by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. Pictured in this memorable moment during the Library’s celebration of Black History Month are, from left, Nathaniel Bryant, Enter Apprentice; Ralph Hogan, Treasurer; Kevin Waters, Past Master; Dr. Alex Boyd, Library Director; Wilma Grey, Assistant Director for Community Library Services; Andre Johnson (back row), Senior Steward, Chairman Community Service; Gerald Fitzhugh, Senior Warden; and Darryl Jackson, Junior Warden.
Books are our Friends

The Friends of the Newark Public Library have always been about books, most notably their annual Book Sale. In fact, right now they are gearing up for the 13th Annual Book Sale to be held in mid-April. “Our goal,” said Jerry Caprio, Book Sale Chair, “is to surpass last year’s record-breaking revenue mark of $7,500.”

Equally significant is a new program called A Hundred Books a Branch.

According to Patricia Bender, newly elected president of the organization, “This program will bring books to children and bring children to the Library.” The Friends want to add 1,100 books to the collection for children: 100 books for each Branch plus the Main Library.

For every $20 donation, the Friends will purchase two books for the Library. Donors may dedicate the books in the name of someone special. For more information on this project, email friends@npl.org, visit the website friends.npl.org, or call (973) 733-7793.

Book Sale

The dates and hours for the public sale are 11:00am to 8:00pm on Thursday, April 15, and 9:30am to 4:00pm on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17. The members-only pre-sale will be held on Wednesday, April 14, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Those who are not current financial members of the Friends may join the organization on the evening of April 14 in order to gain access to the members-only pre-sale.

Those individuals and organizations wishing to volunteer to help sort the tens of thousands of items before and during the sale should leave a message for Jerry Caprio by emailing friends@npl.org, or by calling the Library at (973) 733-7793.

Friends have new Board and Officers

The Friends welcome four new members to their Board: Manuel Lavin, Carolyn Jairdullo, Victor Stolberg, and Mark Tronco. They also express thanks to the outgoing officers: Tim Crist, Cynthia Tronco, and Carol Jenkins-Cooper.

The new officers of the organization are Patricia Bender, President; Gregory Loder, Vice President; Jerry Caprio, Secretary; and Anita Crawford, Treasurer.

“We appreciate the hard work of the outgoing officers,” said Friends President Patricia Bender, “and are thankful especially for their remaining on the Board as active and experienced members to whom we can look for guidance.”

At the Friends Annual Meeting in December, when the new officers were elected, the program included a stage reading of the play, The Other Side of Newark. Pictured are the cast members from the Luna Stage in Montclair, N.J.