For the first time, more than 1,000 of the best reference books are available on your computer at home, school, or work: 24/7. Now, through the innovation of electronic books (ebooks), and the recent acquisition of The Gale Virtual Reference Library, patrons may consult many of the same quality sources that were available previously only in hardcopy at the NPL.

Among the many valuable, fully searchable titles included in this resource are the most recent editions of:

- Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History (6 volumes)
- Business Plans Handbook (10 volumes)
- Literary Themes for Students (2 volumes)
- American Men and Women of Science (8 volumes)
- College Blue Book (7 volumes)
- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine (5 volumes)
- Encyclopedia of Philosophy (10 volumes)
- Encyclopedia of Sociology (5 volumes)

The Gale Virtual Reference Library provides authoritative information from digitized encyclopedias, almanacs, and specialized reference sources. Consult them for research in the arts, biography, business, environment, history, law, literature, medicine, multicultural topics, nations, religion, science, social science, and other subjects. This powerful tool enables patrons to read, explore and conduct research on a topic in a single respected book or in a group of books on a particular subject. You can also search across all of the materials scanned into the database, thus enhancing the dynamic nature of the Library’s reference holdings.

To access this remarkable resource, simply visit the Library’s Internet and Electronic Resources website page at www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/. Once there select “G” under the alphabetical list and click on “Gale Virtual Reference Library.” Then either type a word/phrase in the Basic Search area or select a publication from the list.

There is even an Advanced Search feature that enables focusing of what you find so that you can require that articles include pictures, that they be written for a particular audience (academics, children, professionals, trades people, for example), that they be from a selected publication date, and more.

Please phone a librarian at 973-733-7820 or email reference@npl.org should you require assistance with this powerful database.

The Newark Public Library will participate along with many other cultural and social service agencies in the Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the 1967 Newark Riots. The Library will post our plans on our website as details become available. For updates visit www.npl.org.

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**In this Issue**

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Recently, the U.S. Department of Education released data indicating that the reading skills of U.S. high school seniors have declined in the last 15 years. While this may not be a cause for immediate alarm, in this age of technology that demands ever greater reading proficiency, we must find ways to elevate these skills.

The Newark Public Library, like most other libraries, promotes literacy by providing countless opportunities for both children and adults to improve their reading abilities.

Our Children’s Rooms contain collections of board books and picture books that parents may use at home with their infants and toddlers to develop language awareness. In addition, story hours are presented for preschoolers and young children to create excitement about reading and literature. Children and young adults are encouraged to attend programs designed to expand their imaginations and interest in books. In the summer, reading activities are not only fun, they also ensure that reading skills developed during the school year are not lost over the long vacation.

Adults and teenagers who want to learn to read may ask librarians about where they can receive literacy instruction. (One such opportunity is with the Newark Literacy Campaign, which has offices and classes at our Main Library.) They may also practice and improve their skills independently by using a collection of books written expressly for adult new readers. Individuals from other countries, who are learning to read and write English, may benefit from the Library’s ESOL classes.

Literacy is an important path to career success, personal fulfillment and economic independence. We hope that our patrons are aware of and utilize all available Library resources to help develop and hone their reading skills.

Dr. Poussaint presents King Lecture

The Library celebrated Martin Luther King Day with a number of programs. The Main Library event, funded by The Prudential Foundation, featured Dr. Alvin Poussaint, noted Harvard University professor and psychiatrist, who explored the media’s impact on children and society.

“In one of Dr. King's last public appearances before his untimely death,” noted Library Director Wilma Grey, “he came to Newark and spoke to local students, imploring them to stay in school and study hard.”

These timely issues that affect the youngsters growing up in our city and Dr. Poussaint’s commitment to create a positive environment for our children made him an ideal speaker in celebration of Martin Luther King Day.
With the advent of summer, all Children’s Rooms are gearing up for the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, which runs from June 25 to August 4, as well as preparing for other Summer Fun activities.

The theme for this year’s Challenge is Get a Clue @ Your Library. A festive rally—Tuesday, June 26, 10am to Noon, Centennial Hall—will kick off this ever-popular summer program that has seen children read more than 140,000 books since the program’s inception. The rally will feature Jay Mankita, acoustic guitarist and songwriter, presenting “The Day the Library Went Wild,” refreshments, and a free gift. Corky, our Kids’ Place website mascot, will be there to meet and greet the children.

In addition to the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, all of the Children’s Rooms will host numerous Summer Fun activities. For more information, stop by any of the Children’s Rooms or visit www.npl.org/Pages/KidsPlace/src.html.

The Design-A-Bookmark contest, held during National Children’s Book Week, was another resounding success. The top-three winners, with their branch-library affiliation, were Diane A., 1st place, Vailsburg; Ana G., 2nd place, Van Buren; Stephanie S., 3rd place, Vailsburg. Selected bookmarks are posted on our website at www.npl.org/Pages/KidsPlace/cbw2006.html.

Ms. Valentin (top right) and Mrs. Aseron (teacher aide/top left) join their First Avenue School class in displaying the craft the children made during a “Learning About Myself” visit to the North End Branch Library.
**Irish Exhibition: A Tremendous Success**

Thanks to the dedication of many, *The Irish in Newark and New Jersey* exhibition was a tremendous success. The Library extends a special thank you to Thomas P. Giblin, Honorary Chairperson, and to the Honorary Committee members, as well as to the individuals, organizations and businesses for their support of the exhibition’s Opening Reception.

Should you wish to view images of the exhibition and the brochure, they are available online at [www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/Exhibits/irish07.html](http://www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/Exhibits/irish07.html).

**Honorary Committee:**
- Thomas P. Giblin (Chairperson)
- Elizabeth Burke Del Tufo
- Honorable and Mrs. Brendan Byrne
- Brother Patrick Byrne
- John T. Cunningham
- Don Gilmartin
- George W.C. McCarter, Esq.
- Sean McGovern
- Brendan O’Flaherty
- Marion O’Neill
- Barney Rafferty
- Kevin Shanley
- Julius J. Spohn
- Patricia A. Tumulty

**Opening Reception Donations:**
- Bragman’s Deli
- Cryan’s Beef & Ale House
- Friends of Brian Boru, Inc.
- Giblin Association
- Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin
- Hobby’s Deli
- Kilkenny Ale House
- George W.C. McCarter, Esq.
- The McGlone Family
- McGovern’s Tavern
- Metropolitan Plant Exchange
- New Jersey Council for the Humanities
- Newark Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee
- Peerless Beverage Company
- Schade Academy of Irish Dance
- Skipper’s Pub
- Julius Spohn

**Schade Academy of Irish Dance**

Sue Pai Yang, New Jersey Council for the Humanities; Dermot Quinn, Guest Curator; Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, Honorary Chairperson; Wilma J. Grey, Library Director; and Brad Small, Curator, gathered for a photo during the opening reception.
During the 19th and 20th centuries, poster art reached new levels of wide appeal on an international basis. The visual messages used typogaphy, calligraphy and colors joined with imaginative contemporary design to produce stunning and varied works of poster art.

Numerous posters from the Special Collections Division of the Library will be on view in The Art of the Poster, an exhibition to be installed on the 2nd- and 3rd-floor galleries from June 4 to August 4 (selected works will remain on view through August 25 on the 2nd-floor gallery). This brilliant ensemble of posters covers a dozen major visual themes, such as Music, Sculpture, Travel, Architecture, Puerto Rico, Illustrators, World Wars I and II, and prize-winning posters from Japan. Also included are books relating to the history and development of poster art.

As with all exhibitions, this show is free and open to the public during Library hours. For more information, call William J. Dane, Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper, at 973-733-7745.

Two major exhibitions will be on view in the coming months:

- The Art of Matching Picture to Text: An Exhibition to Celebrate the Art of Illustration, 3rd-floor gallery, August 20 through October 19. It will comprise a number of memorable images from scores of great illustrators from the 19th century to today.

- A Gala Showing of Original Prints, 2nd- and 3rd-floor galleries, from November 14 through January 12, 2008. The show will feature a selection from the remarkable collection the Library has acquired since 1896.

For more information, call William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper, at 973-733-7745, or visit www.npl.org.
Hispanic Heritage Celebration Planned

Keep your calendar open for another exciting Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Library. This year’s exhibition and public programming at the Main Library will showcase the presence and history of the Ecuadorian community in New Jersey as seen through its art, music, literature, news accounts and communications. The celebration will feature information on immigration, community leaders, festivals, oral histories, civic organizations, and much more.

- **Opening Reception**: Thursday, September 13, 6pm, Centennial Hall.

For more information, call the Sala Hispanoamericana at 973-733-7772, or visit www.npl.org and click on Servicios en Español.

Maria DeCastro Blake Awards Dinner

The Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center held its annual Maria DeCastro Blake Awards Dinner and Silent Auction on May 4 to salute four outstanding individuals for their service in improving the lives of the state’s Hispanics. This year’s honorees were Raúl Dávila, actor and community activist (awarded posthumously); María “Charo” Juega, immigrant rights advocate; and Eliu Rivera, executive director, Puerto Rican Association for Community Organization (PACO). The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Hilda Hidalgo, Professor Emerita in Public Administration, Rutgers University-Newark Campus. Dinner sponsors were Prudential Financial; The Foundation for the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research & Development; PSE&G; Berkeley College; Anheuser-Bush; and Provident Bank. Please visit www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/PressReleases/MDB07/photos.html for more photos and details from the event.

Honorees display their awards: María “Charo” Juega, Isabel Perez Dávila (Raúl Dávila’s widow), Dr. Hilda Hidalgo, and Eliu Rivera.

Summer Hours

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The Second Century is published by the Development Department of the Newark Public Library, Wilma J. Grey, 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; Mayor Cory A. Booker; Alberto Coutinho; Dr. Timothy J. Crist; Dr. Clement Alexander Price.

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The Library is most appreciative of the many benefactors who provide support in a variety of ways.

The Special Collections Division has formed a valuable partnership with The Brodsky Center for Innovative Print and Paper at Rutgers University. This unique relationship has flourished for more than a decade since Judith K. Brodsky founded the Center. And in February, the Library was the fortunate recipient of another gift of contemporary prints.

Each year, five or six professional New Jersey artists are invited to create a print while in residence at the Center in New Brunswick. This ideal arrangement, plus interest in the Library’s collection by Rutgers faculty and students, has resulted in a total of more than seventy notable prints given to the NPL’s collection.

“The iconography of these gift works is frequently nonobjective and the variety of techniques is remarkable,” stated William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints.

A major print exhibition is scheduled to begin November 14 (refer to “Forthcoming Exhibitions” article on page 5). Selected prints from The Brodsky Center’s gifts will be part of this memorable project that salutes the world of printmakers, collectors and graphic art enthusiasts.

Thanks to the generosity of Carol Greene Duncan, the Library will institute a Summer Theatre Workshop during 2007. This program will offer Newark children, ages ten to fourteen, the opportunity to experience the dramatic arts. The theatre-based activities will not only serve as a recreational opportunity, but will also increase self-confidence and problem-solving skills.

Through this summer program, which begins in early July, Newark students will be able to study and gain knowledge of performance and technical production. The end result will be a short production by the students. For more information on this fun/educational workshop visit www.npl.org.

Ms. Duncan is an author, lecturer and professor emeritus of art history at Ramapo College. She is currently in the research phase of a book about John Cotton Dana. Support from Ms. Duncan was given in memory of her beloved sister, Ina Walker.

We are grateful for the generosity of donors, such as Ms. Duncan, who are committed to assisting us with enhancing and improving our programs.
The Friends of the Newark Public Library held another successful Book Sale in April. Proceeds will benefit the Library’s collections and programs. Jerry Caprio, Book Sale Chair, expressed sincere thanks to the volunteers who helped with the sale, and to the hundreds of patrons who visited the sale and added their support.

One recent example of the Friends’ support was the $5,000 donation (in memory of Charles F. Cummings) to The Robert Treat Endowment, which provides for the purchase of Newark and New Jersey materials. Another was a $3,000 grant to the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center for the preservation of historically significant maps.

Pictured here is an example of a map of Newark that details the socio-economic status of our city during the 19th century. Once it is restored it will be available for use by patrons and academics to provide valuable insight into the structure of Newark, Harrison, and Kearny more than a century ago.

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Maps such as this one provide insight into past socio-economic conditions and are valuable research tools.

Shoppers found many bargains at the 16th Annual Book Sale.