

The Newark Public Library
Annual Report 2009



POETRY ○ FICTION ○ PHILOSOPHY ○ THEOLOGY ○ MEDICINE ○ HISTORY ○ ARCHITECTURE ○ PAINTING ○ SCULPTURE ○

"I think this library is very important because it is like a big information factory and everybody needs it." Cameron



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THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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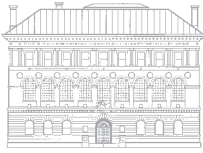
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A Message from the Director

Libraries are among the most enduring institutions in the world. They can be traced back to civilizations that existed thousands of years ago. They have evolved through the centuries to serve in particular ways the many cultures and societies that value literacy, education and knowledge.

The transformation of libraries into the public library as we know it today is a great American achievement. Beginning in the mid 19th Century, and for the first time in history, the vast store of human knowledge was made available to the general public—to everyone, regardless of their station in life, their formal education, their religion or gender. The democratization of access to information and knowledge is sacrosanct to public librarians. It is the foundation upon which our library services are built.

Even in the face of difficult fiscal challenges, we take pride in finding ways to provide vital services to the diverse individuals and groups who utilize them. This year was no exception. The economic downturn has affected the residents of Newark as much as it has affected the nation as a whole.

Many people came through our doors seeking help with their resumes and job hunting. Our public internet access allowed them to search for positions and connect with employers both through email and online applications. Computer classes and resume clinics gave people additional skills and support. Aspiring college students came in droves looking for information about financial aid. Just about every category of service saw an increase including circulation, reference questions, and programs for adults and children.

In addition, we were very pleased that we were finally able to re-open our Special Services Room after a three-year hiatus, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. The room now offers new equipment, training, materials, and programs for our blind, visually impaired, deaf, and hard of hearing patrons.

As you peruse this annual report, I hope that you will get a sense of the breadth and depth of services offered to our Newark citizens. Our many successes this year, often under difficult circumstances, were possible because of the dedicated staff, Board of Trustees of the Library, and the support of the City of Newark.

As the city, state and country continue to struggle economically, we must be sure to protect and preserve the proud American tradition of public libraries. The Newark Public Library has kept this tradition alive for well over a century, and as the quotes from our customers that are interspersed throughout this report reveal, the Library is an essential community resource. Your support of the Library is needed more than ever so that we can continue to provide needed services and so that we can grow and evolve, in the tradition of all great libraries.



Respectfully,

Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library

“The librarians are like family and they help me with anything I need. I love reading and the library is a place where I can do that. It is fun here and there is ALWAYS something to do.” Jacob, Grade 9

Programs and Exhibits

A regular schedule of programs, special events, and exhibits highlights the diversity of both the Library's collections and the communities that it serves.

Black History Celebration

The opening reception for the exhibit, *Dear and Glorious Physician: The History of Black Doctors, Nurses and Hospitals in Newark and Places beyond the River*, featured talks by Dr. Clement Alexander Price, Rev. John K. White, and Linda Kenney Miller.

Other programs included:

Say It Loud, Jordan Coleman, filmmaker

Lecture and book signing: *The History of Harlem Hospital* by Robert Hayden

From Birmingham to Botswana, a memoir sung by Gwen Moten

Remembering My Dad, the Doctor: a panel discussion with Carole Darden-Lloyd, author; pediatrician Dr. Edwina Verner; and retired librarian Barbara Polk-Riley. Caryl Lucas moderated the conversation.

With Love, Lorraine: Elizabeth Van Dyke in a one-woman play for the 50th anniversary of *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

Wellness Day:

An afternoon of healthy living classes



At the opening program for the Library's Black History Celebration, Linda Kenney Miller discusses her grandfather, Dr. John Kenney, and the hospital he inaugurated.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Dr. Carlos López Cano Vieira, professor at the Algarve University in Portugal, gave the keynote speech at the opening reception for the exhibit, *A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey*. The exhibit showcased the history, cultural traditions, and American experiences of the Peruvians, one of the fastest growing Latino groups in the state.

Other programs included:

Dances from the Land of the Inca—
Peruvian Arts and Folklore School

Ballet Folklórico Perú

Film screening: *Soy Andina*;
Mitch Teplitsky, director and producer

Film Screening: *Waiting for Miracles*,
a documentary by Ulla Dalum Berg



Tino Mirabal & Melina Quispe, winners of the 2007 NJN Hispanic Youth Showcase, dance a traditional Peruvian "marinera" during the opening reception of the Library's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

“This library is cool.” Jeremy, college freshman

An Evening of Peruvian Prose, Poetry and Music: three contemporary Peruvian poets; *Las Luces del Retorno*, memoir by Tony Escudero, introduced by journalist/writer Liliana Bringas; guitar performance by Pablo Canela

Tahuantinsuyo: Music of the Andes

Peruvian Journalists' Day: Challenges Facing Peruvians Abroad: What is the Role of the Press? Presenters: Blanca Rosa Vilchez, Univision; Néstor Ikeda, Associated Press; Miguel Vivanco, correspondent, *El Comercio de Lima*; Pedro A. Espinoza, former Director of El Chasqui; and Carlos Bernales, Peruvian socio-political cartoonist

The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC) staff provided information and activities at the City of Newark's Latino Family Festival.

More Entertaining and Educational Programs

Music

On My Way to Heaven: 300 Gospel Legends — documentary film presented by Dr. Albert Lewis

Music on Mondays: Historic Jazz Videos from the from the Ralph Gleason Jazz Casual Series

Gospel Month Celebration at the Weequahic Branch

Literature and History

Celebrating the Dream: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., original theater project

Newark Will Get There First: The Legacy of Mayor Ken Gibson, panel discussion co-sponsored by the Newark History Society — moderated by Guy Sterling, retired *Star-Ledger* reporter; panelists: Thomas Banker, former City of Newark Budget Director; Robert Curvin, former Head of the Newark Chapter of CORE; Carol Graves, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages and former President of the Newark Teachers' Union; and Gustav Henningburg, former President of the Greater Newark Urban Coalition

From Homer to Hip-Hop: Reinventing the Classics — book discussion group sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and presented by New York's Aquila Theatre's Page + Stage



Baraka Book and Birthday Bash — in honor of Amiri Baraka's 75th birthday

Writers at NPL Reading Group, co-sponsored by the Rutgers-Newark Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) Program and English Department

The Color Purple: A Community Discussion led by Tayari Jones, Rutgers MFA faculty member; co-sponsored with NJPAC and the Rutgers MFA Program

Poetry Night — Elijah Brown and local area poets

Author Appearances

Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism, 1883-1918, Jeffrey B. Perry

Poetry for the Spirit, the Mind, and Yes, the Soul, Grace McQueen

Moments, Ebony Dawn

“This library is awesome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” Jonathan

“The library is good because it’s a fun place to be after scho

You Buy the Peanut Butter, I’ll Get the Bread: The Absolute True Adventures of Best Friends in Business, Kirsten Poe Hill and Renée E. Warren

Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present, Dr. Deborah Willis

It’s All Love: Black Writers on Soul Mates, Family and Friends, Marita Golden

Faces of the Gone, Brad Parks—introduced by Mark Di Ionno, *Star Ledger* columnist; co-sponsored by the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University-Newark

Exhibits

Just In and Out Again: New Original Prints, Posters, Artists’ Books, Pop-Up Books and Visual Art Surprises

A Celebration of the Bicentennial of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln

The Revival of Professional Baseball in New Jersey

Collecting the History of Printing: Building upon the Richard C. Jenkinson Collection

Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark’s Legendary Neighborhood curated by Linda Forgosh (on loan from the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest)

The Global Artistry of Leo and Diane Dillon: A Retrospective (on loan from the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature)

A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey

New Jersey through Artists’ Eyes: Garden State Iconography



Dear and Glorious Physician exhibit

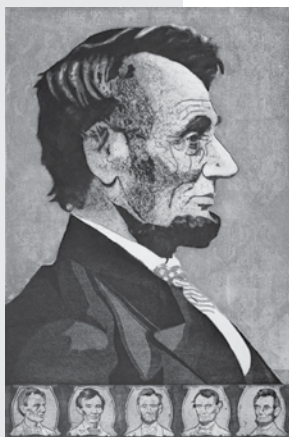
Programs Corresponding to Exhibits

History of Fine Printing:
The Machine That Made Us, film

Examining the Importance of Printing and the Book — panel discussion with Michael Joseph, Rutgers University Libraries and Jerry Kelly, partner, Kelly/Winterton Press

The Revival of Professional Baseball in New Jersey, documentary by Bryan Persons, Rider University student

The New Jersey premiere of the documentary, *Antonia: ¡Pantoja i Presente!*, Producer/Director Lillian Jiménez, hosted at the Newark Museum and sponsored by The Support Network of the NJ Hispanic Research and Information Center



Lincoln: 1861-1865
by Tomas Lasansky,
intaglio print. Gift of
Daniel Czeszochowski
in honor of
William Dane



Weequahic Memoirs exhibit

“Great service. And always a peaceful place to be.” Vera

ol and to me sometimes it feels like home.” Tamira, Grade 5

Opening reception for Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark’s Legendary Neighborhood; panel discussion Weequahic Then and Now: Bridging the Years, moderated by Sandra King, producer of NJN’s *Due Process* and a graduate of Weequahic High School; panelists: Warren Grover, Judy Bennett, Paula Borenstein, Wilbur McNeil, and Carl Sharif



“I don’t know how I would manage without this library.”
Unsigned

The Special Services Room

New Jersey through Artists’ Eyes: Garden State Iconography, opening reception and gallery tour

Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society

The Society, chaired by Dorothea Moore, is dedicated to discussing books on the African diaspora. Special programs included:

- A book discussion and signing for *The Bandana Republic: A Literary Anthology by Gang Members and Their Affiliates* with co-editor Louis Reyes Rivera, host of Perspectives on WBAI radio
- Celebrating National Poetry Month: “I Hear the Call of the Poets”

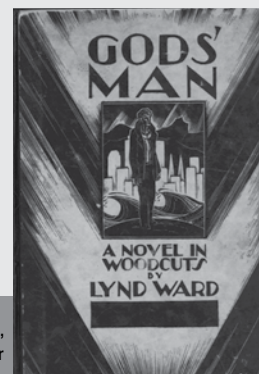
Collections and Services

The **Special Services Room (SSR)** reopened on the third floor of the Main Library. The SSR offers books, classes, training, specialized equipment, and programs. New equipment made available to deaf and hearing impaired patrons includes the Assistive Listening Devices Loan Program, TTY, and the SVRS Video relay. Technology to aid blind and sight impaired patrons includes computers with JAWS read aloud software and Magic Reviewer screen magnification software. These resources and services were made possible by the contributions of TD Commerce Bank, The Friends of the Newark Public Library, and the Estate of Florence Miller.

The staff of SSR again gave the very popular **American Sign Language Classes**, including “Baby Talk — ASL Classes for Babies, Toddlers, and Parents.” They also offered English

as a Second Language materials and classes. Classes ended abruptly in June after funding cuts.

In addition to handling the traditional variety of reference and research questions from patrons in Newark and around the State, librarians in the **Reference Division** helped the public with a great number of requests about negotiating contemporary life tasks such as installing digital television boxes, choosing Medicare plans, and identifying agencies that offer programs and services to immigrants. Librarians also created two pamphlets for job hunters: “A Helping Hand from the Newark Public



Gods' Man: A Novel in Woodcuts by Lynd Ward, signed copy. Gift of Daniel Schecter

“I feel that this library is very well organized and very helpful because it helps me to fulfill my needs from job searching to just making me feel comfortable asking a question.” Shaana



Library: For Job Seekers” and “Résumé Resources at The Newark Public Library.”

The Division introduced **Text-a-Librarian**, allowing patrons to ask questions requiring simple answers via their cell phones.

The Library subscribed to **ListenNJ.com**, a project of InfoLink and the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperatives, that provides hundreds of downloadable digital audiobooks to our public.

The **Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center** (CFCNJIC) had requests for information and/or photos from the National Park Service, Turner Publishing, PBS, Channel 9, the Newark History Society, the Newark Housing Authority, the Newark Planning Office, TD Bank, and reporters from the *Star-Ledger* among others. Stanley B. Winters donated a large collection of materials relating to Newark’s Clinton Hill Neighborhood and Nancy Zak donated the archives from the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods and the HUD Tenants coalition to the CFCNJIC.

Special Collections staff handled reference requests for photos and works of art on paper and met with authors, curators, reporters, gallery owners, students, and artists.

“I have been coming here since I was a little girl; now I bring my nine year old son. I love this place still! I love Newark’s libraries! Lots of great books & stuff!” Crystal

Youth Services



Sir Topham Hatt, of *Thomas the Tank Engine* fame, visited the Library and read a story to the children who were then treated to a special ride on the Newark Light Rail.

The Newark Public Library’s Main Library and branches provide a wide variety of programs and activities for children and teens.

Hooray for Children, a monthly series of live performances, included: *African Folk Tales*, *Fire on the Mountain*, *Super Circus Stuff*, *Transformation Show—Stories for Earth Day*, *Reading Is Cool — The Magic of Books*, *Latin American Journey*

featuring Taino, *Native American Songs*, featuring Tchin, and *Big Ideas for the Holidays* With Patricia Shih.

Among the presentations in the **Programs @ the Branches**, sponsored by the Newark Public Schools, were: *Doctor Electro’s Science Party*, *The Jungle of Jersey*, *Bubble Trouble*, *The Lizard Guy*, and *The Cat in the Hat*.

“The library is very important and I think the library is a great place for books, reading, and a lot more.” Jadaya, Grade 3

College Fair at the Springfield Branch



“This library is amazing! Mr. Brown’s SAT Prep classes and such are a wonderful help!”
unsigned, Grade 12

Films shown from the **Newark Black Film Festival for Youth** included *Global Wonders*, *Chato and the Party Animals*, *Incredible Voyage of Bill Pinkney*, *I Lost My Tooth in Africa*, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, and *Garrett’s Gift: The Story of Garrett Morgan*.

Learning about Myself and My World introduces pre-K and Kindergarten students from the Newark Public Schools to their community and strengthens early literacy learning. Story time and other activities introduce the children to books and libraries.

The **Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge** provided activities that kept children reading in July and August. The children’s theme was “Be Creative @ Your Library” and the teen theme was “Express Yourself @ Your Library.”

Among the contests sponsored by the Library were “Create Your Own Book” during National Library Week, and a poster competition on the theme “It’s Not Cool to Steal from the Library.”

For the sixteenth straight year, teachers in **Club Success** helped students with homework assignments at all Library locations. Funding was provided by the Newark Public Schools through June.

Homework Help NJ provides online tutoring in all subjects. Powered by tutor.com, the program is underwritten by PSE&G in partnership with the NJ State Library.

Students from Technology High participated in **Write on Sports**. The program, co-sponsored with the NJ Devils and the Newark Public Schools, gave the students an introduction to research and writing skills through interviews with local black athletes and writers.

The Springfield Branch again offered free classes in SAT and HSPA preparation for teens. Volunteers Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson organized college fairs and assisted students with applications for college, scholarships, and financial aid. The Charles Emil Thenen Foundation funded the program.

Family Week at the Theatre featured performances of *Oz* by Young Audiences of New Jersey and *Happily Ever After (A Cinderella Tale)* by the Pushcart Players. The productions were cosponsored by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

All of the Children’s Rooms offered story hours, arts and crafts, cooking, movies, board games, and book clubs on a regular basis. In addition, special celebrations for many holidays recognized international cultures and provided unique learning experiences.

Our young patrons continued to develop their love of books and libraries.



Awards and Accomplishments

Wilma Grey received the Literary Lion Award from the New Jersey Center for the Book.

Heidi Cramer served as President of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA).

Paul Pattwell was elected President, for a third term, of the NJLA Urban Library Section.

Leslie Kahn served as President of the NJLA Administration and Management Section.

Joseph Casale served as a Board member for both the Rotary Club of Newark and the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity. He was also an Ambassador of the Newark Regional Business Partnership.

Heather Rivera served as Membership Secretary for the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants.

Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson received the NJLA Service Award for a Group for the High School Academic Support Program held at the Springfield Branch, each volunteering more than 200 hours.

Samantha Johnston and Rosie Uyola, Rutgers-Newark students, received the NJLA Public Relations and Marketing Award for New Technology for their film, *Art for All: The Special Collections*, featuring the Library.

Paula Baratta served as Exhibits Chairperson on the NJLA Conference Committee.

Nadine Sergejeff was the co-author of "On the Eagle's Wings: Textiles, Trenton, and a First Taste of the Industrial Revolution," *New Jersey History*, Fall, 2009.

Jane Seiden was cited by QandANJ as a top answerer of questions.

Ingrid Betancourt was appointed to the NJ State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Chad Leinaweaver chaired the NJ Studies Academic Alliance Author Awards.

Leslie Kahn spoke about reference and collection development at the NJ State Library/Infolink program, Serving GLBT Communities.

Lolata Greggs received the Community Support Award from the Newark Parent Volunteer Academy of the Newark Public Schools.



Library Board President Jeffrey Vanderbeek (second from left) with President's Award recipients Lyndon Brown, Erika Jackson, and Wilhelmina Holder at the Booked for the Evening Gala

The Special Services Room staff participated in, and was recognized by, the NJ Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind at their Annual Convention.

Nicole Signoretta served as a Graduate Student Ambassador at the Kay B. Faigler Children's Book Festival.

The Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions honored William Dane.

Sandra West wrote "Black Book Clubs" and "Triple Crown Publishers" for the *Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature*, Greenwood Press, 2009.

"The Newark Public Library is a vital part of our community. The staff has always been a godsend! The Library helps keep me sane." Maria

The Friends of The Newark Public Library

The Friends sponsored the 2009 John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecture given by William J. Dane, *A Cool Trip to the Newark Public Library for an Awesome Journey: 1947-2009*. Mr. Dane, the Newark Public Library's Keeper of Prints, Posters, and Works of Art on Paper, retired from the Library after sixty-two years of service.

The Friends held another successful Annual Book Sale in April. They contributed more than \$6,000 for the purchase of books for young adults and for educational and career materials.

Jerry Caprio was elected President at their annual meeting.



At the end of the year one of our most erudite and esteemed librarians, William J. Dane, retired after a remarkable sixty-two-year career. Noted for his expertise in the fine and graphic arts, he served as Supervisor of the Art and Music Division and later as Head of Special Collections and Keeper of the Prints. We thank Mr. Dane for his outstanding service, commitment, and generosity.

Notable Gifts and Grants

The Newark Public Library's collections, programs, and services continued to benefit from generous restricted gifts and grants from state and local agencies, individuals, corporations, and foundations.

William J. Dane — Marcelle Frebault Fund
Special Collections materials — \$10,000

Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund — NJHRIC,
Puerto Rican Community Archives — \$3,000

Essex County Local Arts Program —
Hispanic Heritage Celebration — \$4,950

HSBC in the Community — NJHRIC and children's
programs, Hispanic Heritage Celebration — \$2,500

New Jersey Council for the Humanities —
NJHRIC — \$10,000

New Jersey Historical Commission/Department
of State — General Operating Support Grant — \$58,432

New Jersey Historical Commission/Department
of State — Project Grant, CFCNJIC — \$7,877

Newark Public Schools — Kindergarten and
pre-K trips to the Library — \$26,000

PNC Bank Foundation — Black History Month Exhibit
and Public Programs — \$20,000

Prudential Foundation —
Capacity Building Grant — \$30,000

Prudential Foundation —
Summer Youth Program — \$25,000

“One of the children I work with had difficulty reading/writing and she joined successfully the Summer Reading Program which enhanced her self-esteem and made her mother proud.” Fabio

Fundraising Special Events



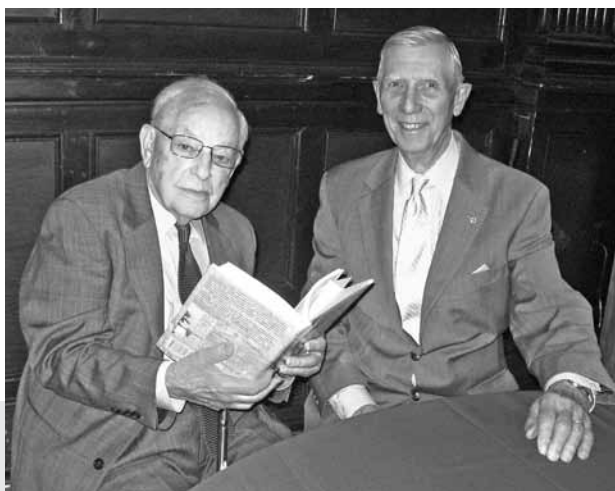
Dinner Chair Donald Katz, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, and Library Director Wilma J. Grey at the Booked for the Evening Gala

Booked for the Evening

On Thursday, November 5, 2009, the Newark Public Library held its annual fundraiser, Booked for the Evening, at The Newark Club. The Dinner Chair was Donald Katz, Founder and CEO, Audible.com. The Event Committee Co-chairs were Artie N. Collins, PNC Bank, and Frank E. Ferruggia, Esq., McCarter & English, LLP. Honorees included: Donald M. Karp, Esq., Special recognition for Individual Support; PSE&G, Special recognition for Corporate Support; Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Granato, Special recognition for Community Service. The President's Award was presented to Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson, volunteers who have been providing SAT prep classes and organizing college fairs

at the Springfield Branch for the last ten years.

Raising over \$230,000, Booked for the Evening 2009 was the Library's highest grossing gala to date.



John Cunningham and George Hill at the Donor Reception

Patricia McDonald Endowment Fund

As a memorial to Pat McDonald, an administrator in the Department of Teaching and Learning for the Newark Public Schools, the Library has established an endowment fund to enrich children's programming. Ms. McDonald was a liaison between the schools and the Library for many successful joint ventures.

Donor Recognition Reception

Donors enjoyed a private reception that featured author and historian John T. Cunningham, the founding president of the Friends of the Newark Public Library.

Donors

The Newark Public Library wishes to extend sincere gratitude to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations listed here for their generous support throughout 2009. These donors have made contributions toward one or more of the following areas: the Annual Fund Campaign, the Friends of The Newark Public Library, the Booked for the Evening Gala, the Hispanic Research and Information Center, the Hellenic Heritage Fund, the Gertrude Fine Prints Endowment Fund, the Robert Treat Endowment Fund and various other restricted endowment funds.

Thanks to the generosity of these thoughtful benefactors, the Library is able to continue enriching lives and expanding horizons. We apologize in advance for any misspellings or omissions. Please contact the Development Office at 973-424-1832 to report any errors.

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Estate of Charles H. Gillen

OVER \$20,000

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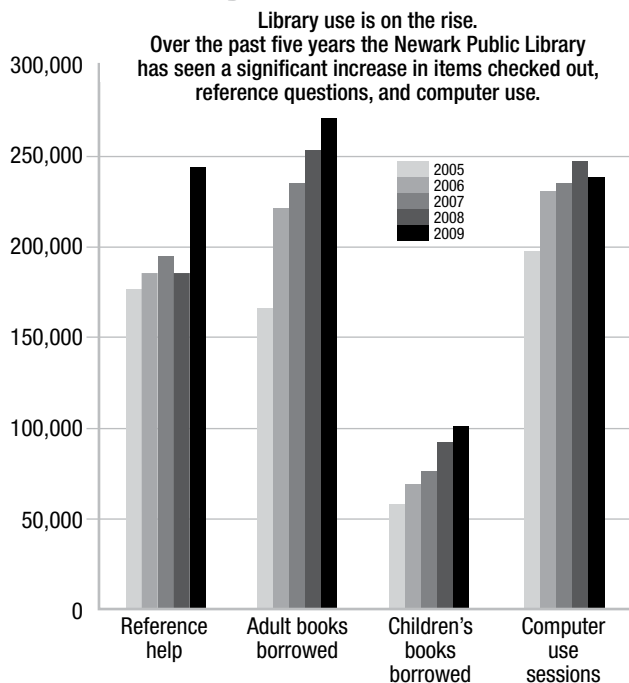
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Investment Income	25,575
Fines and Fees	70,009
Other	43,673
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$15,845,396

Expenditures

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