

WAVELENGTH:

• A LOOK BACK AT 2015 •

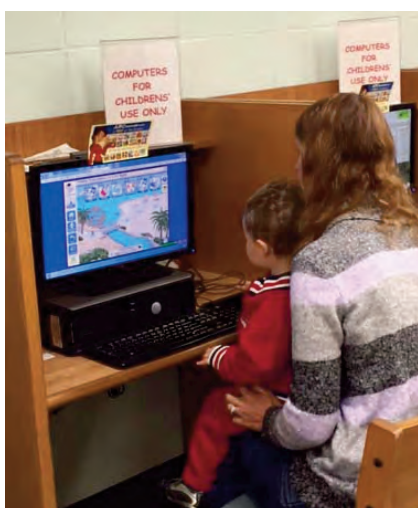
ACLS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SNAPSHOT DAY



Snapshot Day, an annual effort to bring attention to the importance of libraries, took place in October. A variety of statistics were tallied to give a glimpse into a typical day at the library system. Over 2,369 people walked through the doors of our branches, 27 new library cards were issued, 2,785 items were borrowed/downloaded, 233 reference questions were answered, and 32 Books by Mail packages were sent out. During the day, comment forms asking “tell us why you use your library” were handed out, and 208 people took time to share their thoughts. The comments were overwhelmingly supportive with many specifically mentioning the great service they get from helpful staff members, along with appreciation for the selection of books and movies, free Internet access, interlibrary loan, and programs for all ages. Some of our favorite responses were:



I use my library for so many reasons, one being that they always have the latest book that's come out available to borrow. I love that I can request books online. I have choices in regards to how I want to read my books—either hard copy, ebook, or audio. My library branch has the best staff, too. The librarians are extremely friendly and willing to help. When I can, I donate books & I also encourage friends and family to support their local libraries.

It is our family's "happy place"...

I've always used libraries, from the time I was a child, to high school, college & grad school. I'm just thankful it's still HERE! Free public libraries are extremely important for a society.

...always enjoy people that work there, they kinda make my day

The reason I use the library is because it's important to have a place in the community where knowledge is at your fingertips to grab and not just simply by use of the internet. Here I'm not distracted by the confines of my home, it is here I can truly focus on reading and writing, it is here where the only distractions are not being able to choose a book or the creative thoughts in your own mind. It is here where you can get a great start on anything and that is a proud feeling.

CELEBRATING 1,000,000+

The Atlantic County Library System had its biggest year ever last year—at least in one aspect of its history. Libraries across the world track how many items are borrowed each year, and we're no exception. For several years, we've been flirting with the 1,000,000 mark but just haven't reached it...until 2015, when **1,124,147 items were borrowed!** Part of our success was due to the increasing popularity of our digital media—books, audiobooks, music, and movies—that can be downloaded or streamed from the convenience of home. Check out (pun intended!) our digital media resources at www.atlanticlibrary.org and become part of our success story.

BY THE NUMBERS*

- 1.8 MILLION VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE
- 1,124,147 ITEMS CIRCULATED
- 810,746 IN-PERSON VISITORS
- 450,385 VOLUMES OWNED
- 346,365 PAGES PRINTED BY COMPUTER USERS
- 170,231 COMPUTER USERS
- 151,550 DIGITAL MEDIA DOWNLOADS
- 100,767 HITS ON OVER 25 SUBSCRIBED DATABASES
- 61,654 WIFI SESSIONS
- 53,443 CARD HOLDERS
- 27,398 REFERENCE REQUESTS
- 7,489 BOOKS-BY-MAIL TRANSACTIONS
- 3,119 MEETING ROOM RESERVATIONS
- 971 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
- 774 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
- 142 PUBLIC COMPUTERS
- 122 PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

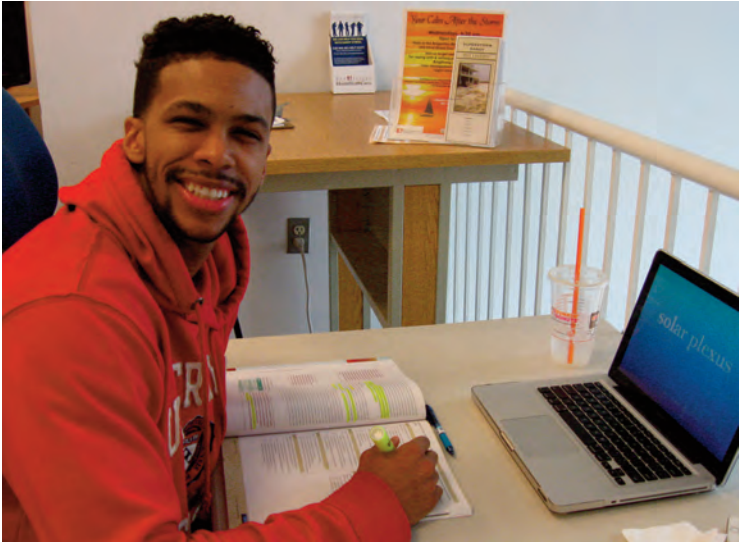
* During 2015

The library has been far more to us than the books which it contains. Friendships have been forged with other moms and children in storytime. The kids and I love the librarians and their approachability to ask questions. Even when we're not browsing for books in person or attending events, I have begun to use their online services with ebooks and emagazines.

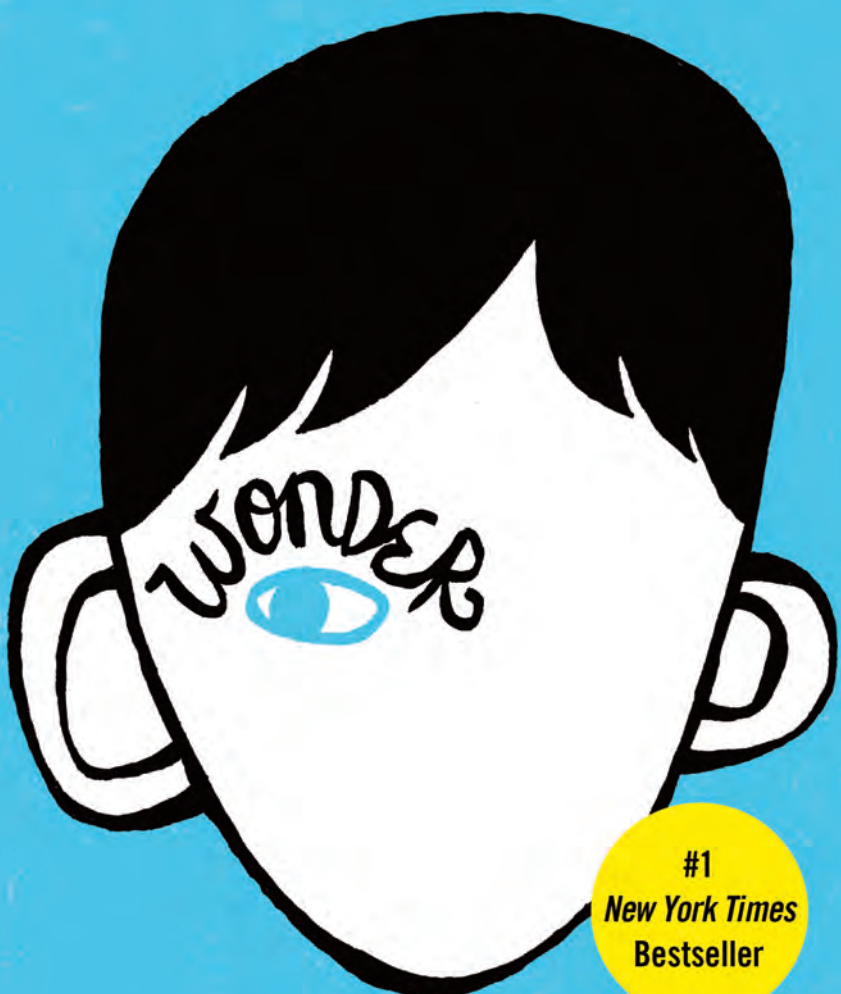
The library is my 2nd home. Here, I do my engineering assignments online with Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach and Virginia Tech, VA. I review mechanic repairs on You Tube before I perform my customer's cars repair....

GET CAUGHT READING

Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. What are you reading?



"A beautiful, funny and sometimes sob-making story of quiet transformation."
—The Wall Street Journal



EVER WONDER

...what Atlantic County residents read during the summer of 2015? Over Memorial Day weekend, the library system announced the kickoff of One County, One Book which encouraged the community to read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The compelling book for all ages promotes awareness of diversity and illustrates the power of kindness through the story of 10-year-old Auggie Pullman. Born with a facial deformity, Auggie may look different on the outside, but he's just like everyone else on the inside. Book discussions and other activities allowed readers to explore the world Auggie, his parents, sister, teachers, classmates, and friends as they learn what it is to be kind and what it is to be courageous.

VETERANS MUSEUM

After years of planning and preparation, the [Atlantic County Veterans Museum](#) will be dedicated in 2016 in the historic [Estell House](#) located in the County's Estell Manor Park adjacent to the veteran's cemetery. Artifacts and memorabilia donated by local veterans and their families comprise the exhibits and displays planned for the museum and will be available for research by historians, authors and students, among others. The Atlantic County Veterans Museum Committee continues to look for artifacts with good stories and local connections. Artifacts with direct connections to local veterans, including photographs, supporting service documentation, and personal accounts are of particular interest. Information on the types of items being sought and preservation tips for specific types of artifacts are found at www.aclink.org/vetsmuseum. If you have questions about donations, call the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 609-646-8699, x 6341 or visit www.acvmf.org.



IN MEMORY OF RITA BENEDETTO



The [Atlantic County Library Foundation](#) honored Rita Benedetto in October 2015 for her many years of service to the library system as [supportive patron](#), [tireless advocate](#), and [loyal and long-time member](#) of the Atlantic County Library Advisory Commission. Through a generous donation from Massarelli's, a bench was dedicated to Rita, and two matching planters were purchased and installed at the entrance to the Hammonton branch.



EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

Atlantic County Library System
2015 Summer Reading Programs

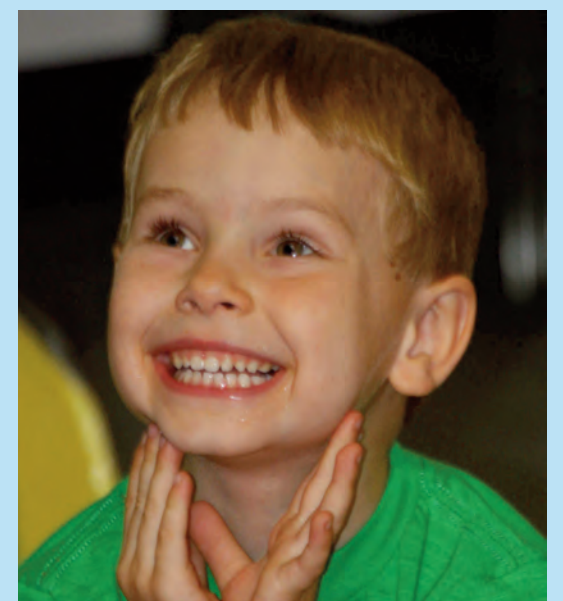
1,917 participants read 7,262 books and 4,963 people attended 272 events



The 2015 summer reading program themes—[Every Hero Has a Story](#) for kids, [Unmask!](#) for teens, [Escape the Ordinary](#) for adults—examined heroes of all shapes and sizes, some real and some imaginary. Community heroes, such as local fire fighters, veterans, service dogs, and police K9s were highlighted while anime, comic book, and movie superheroes received a share of attention as well.

SEEN AROUND THE LIBRARY

Atlantic County Library System locations present a **wide range of programs for all ages** throughout the year. To view the schedule of upcoming programs, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Calendar of Events.



MULCH ADO

Volunteers from Rutgers Master Gardeners of Atlantic County deserve the credit for the refreshed look at the Mays Landing branch entrance. Planning for the self-sustaining garden habitat began in January 2015 with work beginning in earnest in the spring. The garden attracts and provides nutrition for butterflies, birds, bees, and other pollinators and establishes a safe place for them to reproduce and lay eggs. New trees and shrubs, such as holly, yellow dogwood, and bayberry, along with columbine, serviceberry, spicebush, and sweet peppercorn were selected for the habitat because they are native to the eastern United States and are expected to grow bigger and better every year.

ART OF “HIS”STORY



Area artist [Maryann Cannon](#) worked several months on the [Richard Somers Mural: The Art of “His”story](#) on the exterior walls of Atlantic County Library System/Somers Point. The mural, measuring approximately 17 feet tall and 90 feet long, tells the story of Master Commandant Richard Somers from his birth in Somers Point in 1778 to his death in Libya, Tripoli in 1804 while fighting for the United States Navy in the Barbary War. Images of his home, travels, war adventures, contemporaries, and the cemetery in Tripoli, Libya where he is buried are portrayed in the mural. The public was able to watch Cannon’s progress on the mural while driving, biking, walking, or riding the bus along Shore Road before the official “unveiling” on Richard Somers Day, September 20, 2015.

The mural was a project of the [Somers Point Arts Commission](#) who partnered with the [Somers Point Historical Society](#) in raising funds for the project. Major funding was received from Art and Maggie Major, Shore Medical Center, Cape Bank Charitable Foundation, AtlantiCare Healing Arts Program, the New Jersey State Council of the Arts through the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, and many private donors.



A HUGE LEAP FORWARD



The Atlantic County Library System was selected in 2015 to be one of three libraries to participate in the [Library Equal Access Program \(LEAP\)](#), an assistive technology training program that is a partnership between the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NJCBVI) and The New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC). Dignitaries gathered to celebrate the opening of the [LEAP lab at the Mays Landing branch’s Reference Center](#) in February 2016. Providing access to assistive technology and training enables those with vision loss to learn new technology and skills in order to promote greater independence.

NJCBVI placed eight computers and eight iPads at the library. [The computers are enabled with assistive technology software that provides magnification and text reading.](#) Advancing Opportunities, a nonprofit organization, offers training on these software programs through a contract with NJCBVI. Registration is required for the training classes by calling Advancing Opportunities at 888-322-1918, extension 595.

ARE YOU A MAKER?

You may not call yourself that, but if you enjoy DIY projects or crafting of any kind, then you’re a maker. The library system invited everyone to take part in the creative process and be a part of maker culture with the first annual [NJ Makers Day](#) in March 2015. Makers Day was a statewide single-day event that celebrated, promoted, and in some cases introduced maker culture, as well as the values associated with making, tinkering, and STEM-based learning. Activities ranged from 3D printing at the Hammonton branch to sewing basics at the Longport branch to duct tape crafts coordinated by the Outreach Services Section and the Jersey Shore Children’s Museum at Hamilton Mall.



ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

www.atlanticlibrary.org

Brigantine, 201 15th Street South, 266-0110
M, T, F & SAT: 9 am – 5 pm, W & TH: 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Elizabeth Bliss, BrigantineBranch@aclsys.org

Buena Community Reading Center, Buena Regional High School, 125 Weymouth Road
Hours may vary according to school schedule.
Please call (856) 697-2400, extension 8231, or (609) 625-2776.

Egg Harbor City, 134 Philadelphia Avenue, 804-1063
M, W, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T & TH 12 pm – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Maura Monte, EggHarborCityBranch@aclsys.org

Egg Harbor Township, 1 Swift Avenue, 927-8664
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Ruth Conrad, EggHarborTownshipBranch@aclsys.org

Galloway Township, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Road, 652-2352
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Jane Stanwood, GallowayTownshipBranch@aclsys.org

Hammonton, 451 South Egg Harbor Road, 561-2264
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Catharine Ostrum, HammontonBranch@aclsys.org

Longport, 2305 Atlantic Avenue, 487-0272
M – SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Summer: M, T, W, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Kathryn Gindin, LongportBranch@aclsys.org

Mays Landing, 40 Farragut Avenue, 625-2776, 646-8699
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Donna Cameron, MaysLandingBranch@aclsys.org

Outreach Services Section, (609) 625-2776
for information on Books by Mail and Bookmobile services.
Section Manager: Mary Beth Fine, OutreachServices@aclsys.org

Pleasantville, 33 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, 641-1778
M – TH 9 am – 8 pm, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm
Branch Manager: Pamela J. Saunders, PleasantvilleBranch@aclsys.org

Reference Center, 40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6310
Section Manager: Clare Bebbington, askref@aclsys.org

Somers Point, 801 Shore Road, 927-7113
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Kevin McCabe, SomersPointBranch@aclsys.org

Ventnor, 6500 Atlantic Avenue, 823-4614
M, F & SAT 9 am – 5 pm, T – TH 9 am – 8 pm
Branch Manager: Kimberly Strenger, VentnorBranch@aclsys.org

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Chairperson: Stephanie Sanchez
Freeholder Member: John L. Carman
Luann Amodeo, Don Morgenweck, Susan M. Sless, Jody Turner,
Grant W. Wilinski, Michelle Wilson

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Karen L. George, Director
Gair Helfrich, Assistant Director
Regina Bell, Chief Librarian
Ellen Eisen, Librarian 4
Carolina Ramos, Supervising Accountant

ATLANTIC COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS

40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, 625-2776, extension 6314
Administrator: Cynthia Mason Purdie, cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org
www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs

CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson: June Gray Sheridan
Freeholder Member: Richard R. Dase
Aurora Boyette, Vonnie Clark, Michael Cool, Cynthia M. Domino,
Gabriel J. Donio, Gary Giberson



All locations are accessible to the handicapped

SHOW US YOUR SMILE

Your purchases from Amazon.com can help support the Atlantic County Library System. When you shop through AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and select the Atlantic County Library Foundation as your charitable organization, Amazon automatically donates—at no cost to you—0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the foundation.

The Atlantic County Library Foundation raises and administers funds to enhance and expand the resources of the Atlantic County Library System. Donations to the foundation help support events, services, and collection development for the library system's branches. The foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency.

To learn more about the foundation, go to www.aclf.us

amazonsmile



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