The library system’s popular Books by Mail Service celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012. When the service began in 1982, there was a small collection of paperback books that could be mailed directly to someone’s home. Today, the service offers thousands of current items.

To mark the anniversary, Books by Mail users were asked to share a personal story about their Books by Mail experiences. Here are two of those stories:

Marie of Egg Harbor Township explained, “I have been a regular member of Books By Mail since it was created. I have enjoyed this service for 30 years...Through books you can travel the world and get an insight of different customs and livelihoods.”

Dorothy of Absecon said, “I look forward to the mailman bringing me books. I have a computer but only use it for email. I like to hold my book in my hands. I hope the library will always be there for me and the Books By Mail program.”

Books by Mail adds about sixty or seventy new items each month. Large print books and audiobooks are the most frequently requested items. Best sellers, paperbacks, DVDs, CDs and Playaways are all available for the asking. In fact, just about every item owned by the library system may be requested—the exception is Reference materials that must be used in the library.

The Books by Mail service works the same way as when it was introduced. Library materials are mailed directly to a person’s home along with everything that’s needed to mail them back. Postage is paid and shipping supplies are provided.

To find out more about Books by Mail, call the Atlantic County Library System Outreach Services Section at 609-625-2776, extension 6324 or go to www.atlantic-library.org/booksbymail.
Due to continuing flood remediation work as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Atlantic County Library System/Brigantine was forced to temporarily relocate to a spot in the Brigantine Beach Community Center at 265 42nd Street. Christened the "Outpost", it opened in December, providing island residents convenient access to library services, a small collection of materials to check out, and a few computers to use. Outpost visitors find books, movies, audiobooks, newspapers, and magazines on site. Storytime programs and occasional special events are held in another room at the community center. Initially, the Outpost was open during the day Monday through Saturday, but in mid-January it began opening and closing later on Thursday in order to add evening hours.
BY THE NUMBERS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>871,790</td>
<td>ITEMS CHECKED OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800,229</td>
<td>VISITORS</td>
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<tr>
<td>489,686</td>
<td>VOLUMES OWNED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157,883</td>
<td>INTERNET APPOINTMENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>92,401</td>
<td>CARD HOLDERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>38,251</td>
<td>MUSIC/BOOK/MAGAZINE DOWNLOADS</td>
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<tr>
<td>26,435</td>
<td>WIFI SESSIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>954</td>
<td>PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN</td>
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<tr>
<td>413</td>
<td>PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS</td>
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<td>PROGRAMS FOR TEENS</td>
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<td>BRANCHES</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY READING CENTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TEMPORARY OUTPOST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BOOKMOBILE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* DURING 2012

A PIRATE’S TREASURE

First graders at the Port Republic School received colorful pirate-themed backpacks in November as part of the Atlantic County Library Foundation’s “First Grade... First steps begin at the library” program. In March, first graders in the Egg Harbor Township School District were given their backpacks. The idea behind the project is to encourage first grade students to be involved in reading, and the goal is for all of the students to obtain library cards and become regular users of the library. For more information on the Atlantic County Library Foundation, visit www.atlanticlibrary.org/aclf or ask for details at your local Atlantic County Library System branch.

A VIRUTAL NEWSSTAND

The Atlantic County Library System now offers over 100 free digital magazine titles that can be read on a Mac or Windows computer or downloaded to an Internet-enabled device. Through Zinio for Libraries, you can select as many digital magazines as you want, read them on as many devices as you want & keep them as long as you want.

You’ll need your library card and an email address to set up an account to view the library’s collection of free magazines, then you’ll need to create a Zinio account (using the same email address) in order to read and manage your selections. There is a step by step guide to help you get started, and there are apps available for Android, Blackberry Playbook, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch & Kindle Fire. To learn more about downloading magazines, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org/services/zinio.
The 2012 summer reading program featured unique themes tailored to three different age groups—Dream Big, READ! for kids, Own the Night for Teens, and Between the Covers for adults. Over 300 programs and activities drew 1,734 participants throughout the library system. A grand total of 13,290 books were read with the Brigantine and Mays Landing branches again tallying the highest numbers of books read.

Summer Reading Program

The Atlantic County Library System now offers TumbleBookLibrary, a collection of about 550 animated, interactive eBooks specifically for young children. Tumble-Books can be viewed on a PC, MAC, or iPad. The collection of titles includes storybooks, read-alongs, non-fiction, language learning books in French and Spanish, and videos from National Geographic. Each book has puzzles and games to help reinforce the concepts introduced in the book. Most of the books allow the sound to be turned off so that kids can practice reading aloud or to themselves. The story can be stopped at any time to review unfamiliar words or to go back to a previous page. TumbleBookLibrary may be accessed by currently registered library users. To try it out, go to www.atlanticlibrary.org and click on Homework Help, and then select TumbleBookLibrary.

EBOOKS FOR KIDS

Landing Even More Jobs

Thanks to continued funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (more commonly known as BTOP) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Atlantic County Library System was able to present even more It’s Time to Land that Job and We Can Help! workshops during 2012. Four branches hosted nineteen of the job readiness workshops which were led by an Atlantic Cape Community College instructor who focused on skills to help job seekers improve their computer and job search abilities.

In addition, five branches scheduled job help seminars presented by the Atlantic County One-Stop Career Center. These seminars introduced participants to free services to help them find a job, including the state’s new online job search tool, jobs4jersey.com, which has specialized resources for those looking for a job, exploring a new career, starting a business, looking for training, or reentering the work force as a veteran.

PUT THE LIBRARY IN YOUR POCKET!

The Atlantic County Library System app puts the library in your pocket! Introduced in the summer of 2012, the app lets you quickly and easily search the library catalog, check your record, renew the things you have checked out, and put items on hold with the app. Wherever you are, downloading audiobooks and eBooks; locating, calling or emailing a library branch; or accessing the library’s calendar of events, Facebook or Twitter pages are simple to do. The free app is available for Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod) and Google Android devices (Nook, Kindle Fire, LG, Samsung, and more) through your app store. For more information about the app, visit www.atlanticlibrary.org/app.
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.

Artistically Inclined

The Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs continued its partnership with member organizations of the Art District of Hammonton to produce the annual Teen Arts Festival on Thursday, May 3, 2012. More than 1100 teens from 10 high schools and middle schools showcased their talents in dance, theater, vocal music, instrumental music, film, photography, creative writing, and the visual arts. Professional visual, performing, and literary artists led workshops and reviewed the performances and submissions from teens. For information on the 2013 Teen Arts Festival, go to www.aclink.org/culturalaffairs
Recipe Collection

Has your church, school, family, community group or civic organization created its own cookbook? If so, the Atlantic County Library System would love to have a copy of it. Donations of local cookbooks may be dropped off at any Atlantic County Library System location or the Bookmobile. Library branches are located in Brigantine, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Galloway Township, Hammonton, Longport, Mays Landing, Pleasantville, Somers Point, and Ventnor. For a schedule of Bookmobile stops, call the library’s Outreach Services Section at (609) 625-2776, extension 6338. You can browse the collection in the Mays Landing Reference Center.

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Recipe Collection

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

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All locations are accessible to the handicapped