

## Morris County Library Timeline

**1921** Following passage the year before, by the NJ State Legislature, of a bill to permit establishment of county libraries in the state, the people of Morris County vote to establish a county library.

**1922** The County Library Commission meets for the first time, officers elected & by-laws adopted.

The library opens its headquarters in Morristown in a building adjoining the county courthouse with Edith L. Smith as librarian and director. 10,087 books cataloged, 99 library stations established, book car purchased.

**1925** New York Public Library School and Pratt Institute of Library Service spent a day visiting the libraries of Morris County

**1927** First Professional children's librarian hired; year ended with every juvenile book out in circulation.

**1928** MCL provided assistance to the State Hospital at Morris Plains [Greystone] in the initial cataloging of the medical library

**1930** Old book car [bookmobile] was replaced by a converted delivery truck.

**1932** Library received as a gift through Congressman Eaton volumes of the 15<sup>th</sup> census

**1933** MCL relocated to the County Clerk's former office; 73 books were placed in the camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps; 212 books were sent to the county jail.

**1934** 10 workers under the statewide library project of the Emergency Relief Administration were assigned to MCL.

**1936** MCL became a member of Morris County Social Planning Council

**1937** 13 educational films and 2 sets of lantern slides were borrowed from the NJ State Museum for use of Morris Junior College.

**1939** WPA assistants were employed under the statewide library project administered through MCL.

**1941** Anticipating public demand, MCL began collecting materials on US Defense.

**1942** MCL becomes one of the 1200 War Information Centers making it a depository for federal government publications; the Library cooperates in the collection of books for the Victory Book Campaign.

**1944** MCL distributes posters and information from the federal government & establishes a deposit account with the Superintendent of Documents.

**1946** Audio-Visual Aids Department was created to handle the growth of demands in that area; by the end of the year MCL owned 723 recordings, 12 moving picture films, 8 filmstrips and 8 slides.

**1948** 50% of MCL's collection is children's materials; demand continues to outstrip supply.

**1949** MCL begins promoting programs and services on a WMTR.

**1955** MCL moves into temporary quarters at the County Services Building on West Hanover Ave. pending remodeling of the Courthouse.

**1959** MCL's new bookmobile is exhibited at the Morris County Fair.

**1961** MCL opens on Saturdays; bookmobile initiates night hours.

**1962** Truck purchased to deliver books to local libraries.

**1964** MCL hours expanded: Monday-Friday to 9AM-9PM and Saturday to 9AM-5PM.

**1965** Reference Services provides information for 5,400 high school students and 1,200 college students.



**1968** Morris County Library moves to its current location at 30 East Hanover Ave, Whippany, NJ; NJ State Library designates the Morris County Library as a New Jersey Documents Depository.

**1969** Freeholders dedicate building to Matilda Frelinghuysen who donated the land on which the library was built.

**1970** MCL prepares for state-of-the art automated book catalog and circulation system.

**1972** 24/7 Reference Service initiated, citizens invited to leave reference requests during off hours on voicemail; State Telefax Pilot Program initiated to transmit interlibrary photocopy requests.

**1973** MCL awarded Project Live (Libraries in Video Education) state grant to record moments of local history.

**1974** MCL designated Regional Film Center serving 6 counties in Northern NJ; audio cassettes now offered.

**1976** Books-by-mail program funded by a grant under the Older American Act initiated; Original Arts Project initiated to collect and lend artwork created by Morris County artists.

**1979** Vendor selected to automate MCL catalog; OCLC national cataloging services subscribed.

**1980** Automated circulation launches; electronic book ordering system now used to order materials.

**1982** M.A.I.N. (Morris Automated Information Network) automated circulation system expands to include municipal public libraries; videocassettes are now available.

**1984** MCL designated Regional Service Center by the NJ Library for the Blind and Handicapped

**1986** Compact discs are available at MCL.

**1987** Bookmobile cut; library upgrades library's computerized catalog.

**1988** Morris County freeholders back a plan to build a new library.

**1989** MCL receives 1989 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for the entry "The Grand Connection" which traced the development of M.A.I.N.

**1991** Architects unveil a plan for a new library.

**1992** MCL designated the Deaf Resource Center for Morris, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon & Somerset counties; TDD equipment installed permitting deaf people to call the library; job seeker seminars launched.

**1993** MORENET project hosted Bellcore, NJ Bell and MAIN, Morris County residents are among the first with access to the Internet at home (dial-up); new library building plans iced.

**1994** 4,000 people have logged into MORENET, access doubled. Freeholders reconsider building new library.

**1995** Morris County Library Foundation incorporated; Joan Bramhall president; MCL launches a Web site.

**1997** E-mail Reference Service launched; MCL librarian creates book discussion group; Freeholders approve \$11 million expansion & renovation.

**1999** Groundbreaking ceremony for library construction; Library remains open during construction. Syracuse University Virtual Reference Desk project presents Morris County Library its exemplary service award, for remote reference.

**2001** New building is dedicated by the Freeholders; first computer classes are offered in training lab; group study rooms and public meeting rooms in heavy demand; first children's poetry contest held.



**2002** MCL Reference librarian was named New York Times Librarian of the Year (for helping people find jobs).

**2003** Handicapped entrance with swipe card access installed. A second MCL Reference Librarian was recognized by the New York Times, librarian donates cash award to install ADA compliant computer station.

**2004** MCL reassigned from County Dept. of Community Affairs to Human Services; cardholders can access their library account from home.

**2005** Library focuses on community partnership: County Youth Shelter, Chinese-American Assn. Books for Kids, Literacy Volunteers; Westlaw (legal research) & Ancestry (genealogy) databases available for citizen research; Web counter confirms 122K "hits" in 6 month period; Computer classes expanded to include MS Office.

**2006** MCL hosts Chinese New Year festival; partners with local schools by offering tours, exhibits at 4-H fair, begins hosting Friday afternoon film series, expands large print books to serve vision impaired citizens.

**2007** County Library now reports to Information Services. MCL launches Writer's group and Open Mike Night; Morris Authors collection established; online events notification launched; proctoring and notary services in heavy demand, MCL Web marks 1 million visitors.

**2008** Museum pass program established; MCL partners with County Aging Dept. to spread word on homebound services, MCL coordinates and hosts Veterans Information Day.

**2009** EventKeeper software permitting online class/event registration. Open Sundays cut from 36 (12-5) to 28 days (1-5) per year.

**2010** MCL wins state diversity grant and partners with County Office of Hispanic Affairs to host Feria de Latinoamericana; Joint Free Library of Morristown and Morris Twp closed 6 months, after underground explosion, MCL serves those patrons and assists colleagues.

**2011** 262,000 people visit; 521,000 items borrowed; 64,000 reference questions answered; 492,000 use MCL Web, 7,000 items loaned to homebound/nursing homes/schools; 7 public meeting rooms used by 26,500 citizens; computer classes upgrade to MS Office 2010; MCL offers 35 information/article databases.

**2012** Local postcard collection scanned in conjunction with Library of Congress; Authors day celebrated Morris County writers, MCL hosts Volunteers of Morris County Senior Art Show; VITA free tax assistance offered.

