

**James E. Nichols Memorial Library
Librarian's Report**

In Appreciation: Sandra Pickel, librarian of the Nichols Library from 1993-2004, passed away last July. Sandy was much beloved by library patrons, her co-workers and fellow librarians in the region. While Sandy was librarian, the Nichols Library added its first public access computer (1996) and automated its circulation system and catalog (2002). Also, a long range plan was completed, building upgrades were made and library use increased dramatically. As important as these accomplishments were, Sandy will be remembered by those who knew her for her friendliness and her ability to connect with people. One of her fellow librarians remembers her as “a lady, a professional, and a truly caring person who was an asset to her craft and to her community. Knowing Sandy? Priceless!”

Community Use of the Library. In 2014, the library recorded 13,153 circulations. In addition to borrowing materials from our collection, our patrons downloaded 961 eBooks and audios from the NH-overdrive collection and borrowed 480 books from other NH libraries. The library loaned 735 items to 158 NH libraries.

Adult reading	5,631
Youth reading	1,428
Audio CDs, DVDs etc.	5,460
Inter-library borrowing	480
Other (passes, kits, unclassified)	<u>154</u>
Total circulation, 2014	13,153
Library Circulation, 2014	

Special Programs and Projects. In October, the Nichols Library participated in a community read of Rebecca Rule's *Live Free and Eat Pie*. A book discussion and an evening with Don Watson, who performed songs from his CD *Welcome Home NH*, focused on the themes of storytelling and local lore. The Library became a member of the Meredith Village Savings Banks Book of the Month program, which funded two new books each month. The Library partners with Bayswater Books to provide a discount on new bestsellers for library card holders.

Programs for young readers. Our pre-school story time continues to be a popular program, as visitors to the library on Friday mornings can attest. Thanks go to Eloise Coudert for serving as a substitute story leader, and all the families who have participated. A shelf extension was added to the teen section to accommodate more materials.

Other Services for Patrons. During the year, there were 6,519 recorded visits to the Library. Seventy-three new library cards were issued. The library staff responded to 267 requests for reference help, book advisory, and assistance with electronic resources. We borrowed 480 materials from other libraries for Center Harbor residents. Our guest passes to the Squam Lake Science Center, Castle in the Clouds, the Currier Museum of Art, and the Wright Museum were used 53 times. Our email newsletter keeps patrons up-to-date on new materials and events. We reach out to community through our weblog, Facebook page and column in the *Meredith News*

Collection Development. The Library held 16,137 titles at the end of 2014. The library added 902 new holdings and removed 281 dated, damaged or seldom used items from the collection. Among the items withdrawn were the last remaining VHS tapes in the collection.

Adj. Total Volumes, end of 2013	15,516
Titles added, 2014	+ 902
subtotal	16,418
Titles removed, 2013	-281
Adj. Total Volumes, end of 2014	16,137
Library Holdings at the end of 2014	

Computer Services and Digital Media. The library added a Kindle eReader, gifted by one of our patrons, to our collection. It contains both new releases and classics and circulates for two weeks. Our participation in the NH Downloadable Books remains a popular service. Patrons downloaded 962 titles (643 eBooks, 318 audios) in 2014, up from 667 last year. Other digital resources offered by the library included Mango online language lessons, Ancestry Plus genealogical resources, Consumer Reports Online and Ebscohost reference databases. The library's public access computers were also used heavily (880 desktop workstation users and 287 wifi users); staff provided 128 cases of technical support for these users.

Building and Grounds. A new rail and gate for the library's rear stairs was installed in December. A sugar maple was planted on the main street side of the library, taking the place of the one that was taken down earlier in 2013. The town highway crew repaired our outside benches. The Meredith Garden Club filled our planters with colorful arrangements all year. George and Susan Gurney pruned the library's beds and plantings.

Staff and Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees deserves special thanks for the many hours of service given to Nichols Library. Glenn Walter continues as our library assistant. Kim Anderson helped out at the circulation desk during the summer season. Librarian Jon Kinnaman attended trainings at the NH State Library, sat on the Town's Joint Loss Management Committee and chaired the Scrooge and Marley regional library coop.

Friends of the Library. Among the many people who contributed to the well-being of the Library this year were the Center Harbor Selectmen, Jeff Haines and The Center Harbor Highway Department, and Bob Beem. We thank Altrusa's volunteers for book deliveries, the Meredith Garden Club for taking care of the planters and their subscription to Garden Gate, The Meredith Village Savings Bank for providing their book of the month grant. We also thank the many friends of the library who donated materials and made gifts to our general fund. Finally, we thank the people of Center Harbor for their ongoing support of this historic library.

Jon Kinnaman, Librarian
submitted, January 21, 2014