

**Russell Library
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Arthur S. Meyers

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Strategic Plan 2014-15

**Annual Report to the
Community**

June 2015



Photo by Jason Neely.

Russell Library

123 Broad St.

Middletown, CT 06457

860-347-2528

<http://russelllibrary.org/>

Russell Library

Mission

Russell Library is a *Bridge to the Future of Middletown*, dedicated to providing the diverse community with the highest quality of library service, reliable information, and lifelong educational, recreational and cultural resources for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

We help children explore the world around and within them, enable teens to grow towards new understandings, and ensure that adults have access to the fullness of human experience.

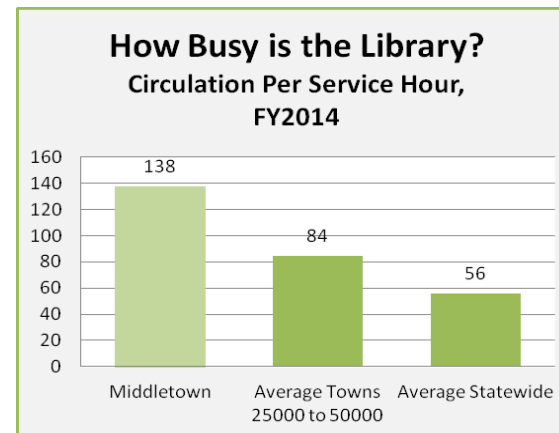


Chart from Connecticut State Library

Russell Library

Quick facts ...

21,444 adult card holders

4,362 children's card holders

170,427 print books

253 magazine subscriptions

17,302 DVDs

9,117 music CDs

6,989 eBook downloads

18% over last year

Streaming video was used

544 times, a 449% increase

25,575 inquiries at the Info

Desk

922 children participated in

the 2014 Summer Reading

Club, 45% over 2013

How Russell Library realized its Strategic Goals in 2014-15:

Community Leadership

Some activities of Library staff members:

- Advocate to restore State library services funding
- Connecticut Library Association Board of Directors
- Early Literacy Committee
- LION eBook and LUX Committees
- Middlesex Area Interagency Council Board of Directors
- Middlesex County Historical Society
- Middletown Rotary Club
- One Book, One Middletown
- Preschool Information Fair
- Riverfront Encounter - Feet to the Fire
- School Readiness Council

Grants pursued:

- City of Middletown Health Grant: *Mental and Physical Well-Being Alternatives*
- Community Development Block Grant, for the Job and Career Program.
- With Middlesex Community College: *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*

Distinctions:

- Arthur Meyers was recognized for civic engagement, and his book, *Democracy in the Making*, was published in paperback
- Bob Carlson, Denise Russo and Pat Tully received Connecticut Library Association awards

In 2014, Russell Staff contributed

593 lbs.

of food to **Amazing Grace**

enough to fill a month of shopping bags for 24 families

Effectiveness & Efficiency



Personnel:

- Board of Trustees began planning the search for a new Library Director after Arthur Meyers retires in 2016
- Robb Prchal hired as Facilities Manager, after Danny Richmond's retirement
- Rolande Duprey hired as Community Services Librarian after Suzanne Elliot's retirement
- Pat Tully hired as interim Assistant Library Director after Vince Juliano's retirement
- Shane Grant hired as Facilities Maintainer in March, after Augie Eichert's retirement

Facilities and collections:

- Conversion of the Library's firewall to an open source computer security system
- The Friends of the Russell Library donated \$22,353 for programs, materials and continuing education
- Improvements to the Library's security system
- Reorganization of New Adult Fiction by author's last name

Inventiveness

- Children's Services adding five Early Literacy Station computers for children ages 2-8—three of them bi-lingual
- Library events are now publicized via a digital slide show on the lobby kiosk
- Lynda.com provides a wide range of instructional video courses
- Mortensen Foundation gave \$4,000 for sign language interpreters and adaptive technology, enhancing access to Job and Career programs
- The Staff Building Team has developed and is implementing low-cost, high-impact building improvements.
- The Teen Area has been enhanced and expanded, and a search is underway for a full-time Teen Librarian
- Videos now available as streaming media via Hoopla

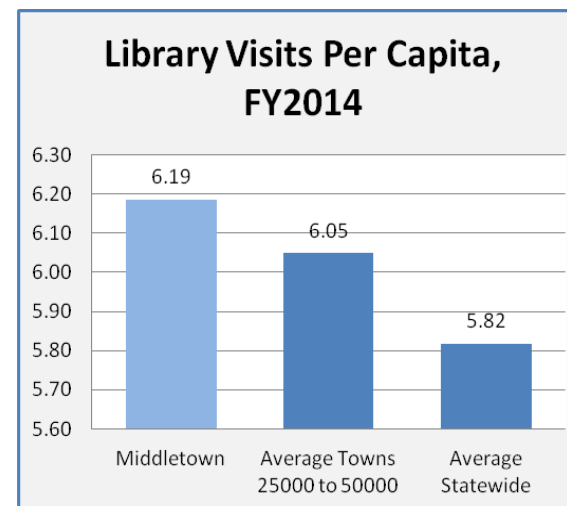


Chart from Connecticut State Library

Russell Library as a Place

ATTENDANCE AT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS INCREASED 39% THIS YEAR!

Cultural programs:

- The 6th International Film Festival had the highest attendance in the series' history
- Indian Cultural Heritage Month was celebrated in April with exhibits, programs and performances
- The proceeds from the Friends of the Russell Library book sales funded many Library events and programs throughout the year
- Two performances in the "Jazz Up Close" series, created by Noah Baerman and funded by the Middletown Commission on the Arts, took place this year
- Volunteer Chantal Foster coordinated the Russell Readers book discussions
- Volunteer Michele Rousseau began online Russell Writers Forum

Physical spaces:

- City Council approved \$93,080 for repairs and improvements through Local Capital Improvement Program funds from the state
- The Library received a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant for 2nd floor energy efficient windows in the Annex.
- Middletown Garden Club re-created the corner garden at Broad and Court streets
- *Russell Library 2020 Vision Statement* was prepared by Board Building Committee with input from staff