

Barrington Library continues to be a state leader in per capita circulation of library materials. Only the tiny island community of Block Island leads Barrington in per capita library use. The big news at Barrington Library in fiscal '12 was not book circulation; however, it was the circulation of E books.

Barrington Library participates in the Ocean State Library (OSL) E Zone Book program shared by all public libraries in Rhode Island. Using the E Zone, reached through our library website, a library user can access free downloads of E books or recorded books. All that is needed is a valid OSL library card, available free at the public library.

The reaction of the public to the free E Books has been impressive. At Barrington Library alone our downloadable E book circulation went from 1,157 downloads in FY '11 to 4,980, an increase of over 300 percent! OSL is pouring thousands of dollars into the E Zone, so we expect circulation to more than double in the coming year as well.

Library programs continue to bring in the crowds at the library. You know a program is successful when you have to turn people away because room capacity has been reached, and that occurred several times with successful movies, children's programs, and lecture series. Our total program attendance was 11,208 compared to 8,043 in the previous year. There was something for everyone, of every age, with offerings that included Middle East discussions, nature programs, film making, creative writing, classic and new movies, and world music.

The library's website www.barringtonlibrary.org is the springboard for discovery to the library and for many other sources of

information. Use of our website continues to grow with 56,595 hits this past year compared to 40,377 the previous year. Although many

more people own computers these days that does not stop the increased use of the library's public Internet computer use which rose from 112,842 hours in FY '11 to 143,630 hours in FY '12.

Barrington Library has been able to thrive even in these economic times due to the hard work of our dedicated staff and the unflagging support of the community. In addition to the generous Town budget

allotment, Barrington Library benefits each year from other financial sources. The Champlin Foundations through OSL gave many tens of thousands of dollars to public libraries, including Barrington Library, for the purchase of computers and related hardware. The Barrington Library Corporation gave \$13,798 for the purchase of books, AV, and equipment. The Friends of the Library gifted \$25,635 to the library for museum passes, 75 percent of the library's public programming expenses, books, AV, E books and equipment. The Friends gave additional funds for the purchase of

library furnishings and equipment, including a table and chairs for the Teen meeting room. The Friends also purchased a new streamlined art hanging system for the first floor gallery, allowing us to finally dispose of our old system which was the bane of many a local artist!

We were also fortunate to receive legislative grants of \$2,000 each from both the RI State Senate and RI House of Representatives, sponsored by our local legislators, which we used for the purchase of AV and E Books. Last but not least, we wish to thank the many people in the community who made dozens of impromptu gifts of various amounts to the library throughout the year, as their way of saying "We love our library!"

